

Submissions on the Birdsey Reserve Landscape Plan

Submission ID	First name	Last name	Organisation	Comments
41630	Michele	Dyer		Would like to see more shade in the form of native planting in the dog park areas. It gets hot in the summer and shade for both owners and dogs would be great
41632	Olivia	Burge		Sounds great but can you make the big dog area a bit bigger? It's not much bigger than the small dog area but big dogs cover ground much faster + my assumption from dogs I see is that there is more of them around, so it will be busier. But you could test that with the council dog registration data maybe? Also an extra gate at the north end of the dog park would be great to avoid bottlenecks.
41633	Damian	Simpson		I fully support this proposal. I often travel to Victoria Park or The Groynes to socialise my dog with others so having a local option would be fantastic - less driving is better for everyone. I love the idea of increasing the number of fruit trees in the area and would be keen to be involved if volunteers are needed.
41634	Sarah	Stanley		All looks fantastic! Now to get the dogpark built.
41635	Angus	Mulligan		*Having a dog park within the local vicinity would be great! *Extending the parking seems a bit unnecessary considering the available road parking available at all hours of the day. * Community based native planting is always a positive!
41637	Donne	Leonard		Great idea! A dog park is much needed in the area
41638	Elena	Collings		Currently there is no fenced off dog exercise area on the south/south east of Christchurch which is terrible considering how many dog owners live there . It is really needed and should be able to accommodate all sizes of dogs
41652	Heath	Degarnham		Please ensure the dog parks are fast tracked to move the professional dog walkers away from Woodhill area, now a very popular stop off for professional dog walkers. The wetland areas adjacent are home to native bird life and is under constant pressure from too many dogs with no other options in the valley. I am a dog owner in the valley and would use regularly as an option.
41653	Kathryn	Gibson		It's really important to have a small dog park, it's not safe with all those big dogs barrelling around, so important for owners of smaller dogs to have a safer option. I was bowled over by a big dog in Victoria Park and my leg broken so I don't go to dog parks anymore unless there is a park for small dogs.
41655	Julian	Brown		Hello there. The inclusion of 3-5 modern bicycle/ebike spaces with the car park extension should be considered. A traffic-calmed pedestrian crossing across Bridal Path road, ideally from the Heathcote Valley Community Centre to the proposed amenities should be considered. Thank you.
41658	Regan	Stokes		This all sounds fantastic! We live in Lyttelton and would definitely utilise a dog exercise area in Heathcote, also I really support the native planting proposals, food forest/trees and collaboration with the kura. Tino pai.
41684	Cherry	Daly		Hello—a safe and dedicated dog exercise area for Heathcote and nearby suburbs is clearly overdue. This looks like a brilliant use of taxpayers money and as such I support it wholeheartedly. Cherry Daly
41689	Marshall	Sarah		There are so many dogs in the area and would be great to have an area for them to play.

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41692	John	Bailey		<p>This was meant to be a reserve.</p> <p>This means no development by definition</p> <p>Leave the dog park out</p> <p>I purchased my property 23yrs ago and no development on this reserve was one of the reasons why I bought here.</p> <p>I already have had problems with dogs barking sometimes in the evening.</p> <p>This area is unique and it does not need a dog park.I and other residents do not want there property devalued by this ridiculous idea .</p> <p>As a rate payer how about spending my money on fixing the roads and getting rid of the Chlorine.</p> <p>Another bloody waste of money.</p> <p>Yours Sincerely</p> <p>John Malcolm Bailey</p>
41707	Bronwyn	Ward		<p>Would be awesome to see a dog park here with separate large and small dog areas. How about a bootable area (or first in first served) where you can have sole use of an area for say 20 mins</p>
41708	Uli	Frank		<p>I have a medium dog to walk in a safe, dedicated area. I also appreciate diversification and a dog park combined with a food forest/fruit trees appeals also.</p>
41713	Jane	Vinnell		<p>I am very keen on all of the above, especially the dog area as we have no local dog park. There are many dogs in Heathcote who would benefit from it, saving their owners having to drive elsewhere. Thank you.</p>
41723	Agatha	Private		<p>Firstly, the landscape plan is far too small so it is hard to see the details of this proposal.</p> <p>Who will manage the food forest/fruit trees/food garden - while it is a nice idea, you are also providing food for rats, possums, wasps and other pests. Will there be trapping and pest control. Is there a long term plan to manage the food aspect? These things often start with a hiss and a roar and quickly fall into disrepair as there is a lot of work associated with proper management of these areas.</p> <p>How will you stop overflow parking from the bridal path using this carpark?</p> <p>Are the proposed tracks walking or shared with cycling?</p>
41724	Mark	Smith		<p>I think it would great to have a large dog walking area on this side of town</p> <p>Which can be used for walkers too</p> <p>It would be a safe area away from the main roads</p>
41726	Elsa	Truscott		<p>I think a dog park would be amazing, as well as making use of the land to grow more fruit trees vege gardens etc</p>
41734	Nicole	Randall		<p>I support all the features of the proposed landscape plan. The dog parks will be well used.</p>
41735	Elyssa	Harris		<p>I think it would be a good idea to put a little play area for kids to play in.also i think it's a really good idea to plant some native trees and plants.</p>

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41757	Mark	Pickering		<p>I disagree with the suggestion of a dog park at Birdsey Reserve. The reserve should be kept as a forested and quiet enclave. There are no such areas in Heathcote.</p> <p>Birdsey is really too small for a dog exercise area, and judging by the popularity of other dog zones the carpark would have to be large. And the road is busy and the entrance awkward.</p> <p>There is already a popular park opposite Birdsey Reserve for dogs to exercise.</p> <p>Lastly I suggest that the red zoned area in the old Bexley suburb would be a superb dog exercise area. The riverside can be fenced off and there are extensive grounds for large, small and anxious dog areas. Good car parking here. Ample space for future toilets and cafe.</p>
41760	Kimberley	Evans		Please attempt to include planting of large growing native trees and not just low scrubby planting
41786	Josh	Flores		Would love it to remain as a natural as possible and for native wildlife.
41789	Kathleen	Randall		I fully support the proposals
41793	Gabrielle	Sato		<p>I live in the beautiful Heathcote Valley and have three children at the local school adjacent to Birdsey Reserve. For the last couple of years, my family and I have loved being a part of the core group developing the food forest at Birdsey Reserve and see it as an asset and area of beauty that sits well in our scenic location. Our children both join us in the maintenance and further planting of this area and love roaming, creating huts and playing in the area. My children, along with the active Environment Group at the school, have put a lot of time and effort into planting native trees in the reserve. This has been, and will continue to be, a valuable learning experience for the children of Heathcote Valley School. As part of a local collective vision, we see the further planting of native trees and plants right along Birdsey Reserve as a valuable and crucial component of bringing back the native birdlife into the valley and area / city as a whole. Not marked on the above map is an area already planted out in native trees and shrubs by the school children and local volunteers. We need to be planting more trees for the health of our city. At a meeting this year we had the opportunity to talk to members of the council and gave our feedback on the proposed dog park at Birdsey Reserve. I believe the message was strong that we were opposed to having a dog park at this location due to the above reasons. Bridle Path Road is a busy road and one in which unfortunately some people speed along after exiting the road tunnel. On weekends, parked cars of Bridle Path walkers line the sides of the road, as well as those of seasonal sports players at the cricket grounds. Placing dog parks in this area will add to the congestion. We are opposed to the council removing trees to lay down concrete for an extended car park next to the food forest - obviously this goes against our environmental belief in planting trees, not removing them. With more people coming into the area to park and exercise dogs brings with it the additional problems of littering, dog poo left behind, not sticking to the designated areas, and potential damage to the area we have worked so hard to plant and protect, and disruption to the birdlife we are trying to encourage back into the area. While I am not against having a dog park in the eastern part of the city, I am opposed to it being in Birdsey Reserve. At the previous meeting, we talked about the possibility of a dog park being in the area next to the motorway at the end of Scruttons Road. It is flat land, has space for parked cars and plenty of room for dogs to run around. Likewise, there is a lot of available land on the eastern part of the city that is now red zone - perhaps an ideal location for a dog park.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my views on this proposal.</p>
41809	Michelle	Pierre		I have a small dog and love the idea of a dog enclosure for our dogs to be social , Interacting with other dogs and there owners. this is wonderful for our community and animals alike. so great that i can walk to the sight by myself and my dog in hand. this is great for other people who dont have animals but have somewhere to go to also be involved with the interaction of dogs and see the fun they have. I also have had my dogs in agility through the years and is great to have equipment there for everyone to share. Community gardens is also well appriciated .
41811	Jo	Knowles		<p>I strongly oppose the plan to make birdsey reserve into a dog park. This area needs to be restored into native bush amd fruit forest.</p> <p>My daughter age 10 wanted to add to this. In her words "new zealand native plants will be cut down and I thought that we were supposed to protect them also people put their time, effort and money in to protecting the wildlife and trees".</p>

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41812	Katie	Ridley		<p>I love all of the ideas relating to planting, food forest especially.</p> <p>I do not support the dog park as I believe it will encourage too much traffic flowing through our quiet community. Parking may over flow to the road which is already crowded on weekends with Bridle Path walkers' traffic.</p>
41816	John	Marks	Heathcote Community Garden	<p>My concerns are that the reserve is for the enjoyment of all and to encourage the introduction of native plantings to encourage the return of native bird-life such as the Tui to the valley. This would not be compatible with dog parks in the nearby areas. A lot of effort has been put in so far by community groups including a huge effort by the school children and staff.</p> <p>The extension of the car park would be good provided that better access to and from the busy road that has poor visibility when exiting. It would still only hold a limited number of vehicles but is suitable for casual visitors and those accessing the food forest area. The improvement of walking tracks with the removal of box-thorn to make it safer for all would be an advantage. I personally believe that dog owners in the valley have plenty of exercise areas already existing with parks, Ferrymead walking tracks and open areas to chose from and at an earlier meeting it was suggested that some of these areas could be considered for the development of dog parks. The dog owners that I know already use these areas.</p> <p>I am in favour of the development of the food forest and fruit tree area for the benefit of the residents of the valley and am also the coordinator for the Heathcote Community Garden located behind St Marys Church and our volunteers are supportive of the food forest.</p> <p>Heathcote Community Garden, https://www.facebook.com/groups/1220815585088673</p>
41820	Jackie	Foulkes		<p>I think having a dog park here is a great idea which would be used by many local dog owners as there is nothing else like this nearby. I love that it can be incorporated near the wonderful native plantings and food forest and will get more people using this awesome resource and engaging with the space. With livestock nearby it will be important to have decent dog proof fencing and sufficient dog poo bins/water taps. This will be a great asset to the community and place for dog owners and gardeners to meet.</p>
41821	Dianne	Browne		<p>Thanks to the council for support so far in establishing a food forest at Birdsey Reserve. I think it is a great idea for a small community like Heathcote and look forward to seeing it expand and develop to involve more of the local community in making it an abundant space in the future.</p> <p>Regarding the proposed dog parks for Birdsey Reserve: I am strongly opposed to this proposal for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I [REDACTED] in the weekends especially, see the traffic congestion that occurs with cars parked down both sides of the road as people use the bridal path, cricket ground and community centre. I think the proposed expansion of the existing carpark at birdsey is likely to increase risk to safety of drivers, cyclists and pedestrians using the road - Birdsey is a small well-defined area that is more accessible for families and other people to access and enjoy easier grade bush tracks. Some people are not physically able to access steeper hilly areas around Heathcote. Keeping the focus of birdsey on conservation and productive forest will enable development of this lovely space for more people to access and enjoy. - I would like to see a 'lower' track in Birdsey made fully wheelchair accessible for disabled members of the community to be able to enjoy this space. - Birdsey is situated opposite Heathcote Valley school and their Enviro group has already completed restoration planting in an area between the proposed dog parks. I think Birdsey is an ideal and invaluable area for school children to be able to continue to learn and invest in a hands on way to conservation, biodiversity, and sustainability in their local area. A girl guides group has also done some planting in Birdsey. I think these kinds of groups, that are especially focused on children learning important sustainability values, need the space of the proposed two dog park areas to continue to be able to expand this invaluable work and learning. - There seems to already be many areas around Heathcote where people walk their dogs, on and off leashes, including around the historic village, the Tamahere area, the bridle path, and Barnett Park. Three local people I have spoken too have intimated that while they may use the dog park at times, they would also continue to use these other areas. Hence there seems to be a lot of spaces already available where people can exercise their dogs. - I have asked council and a community board member for information on how many local people want or would use a dog park at birdsey. This information is not available? Is the request for a dog park coming from only a few people, and are they people from Heathcote or other suburbs? I think a lot more investigation and assessment would be needed before a proposal like this went ahead in birdsey.

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				<p>- Should council record a clear vision and purpose for use of the space at birdsey for future reference, which embodies and protects the work that already seems to be naturally taking shape there (eg. Locals have been clearing boxthorn, reforming walking tracks in the established native bush area, planting food forest, school and girl guides planting and conservation work).</p> <p>Thankyou for the opportunity to make this submission.</p>
41822	Sharon	Crane		<p>We definitely need a dog park in this area without doubt!!.....</p> <p>We need to keep dogs away from the Ferrymead lakes and native birds and roaming around horses, sheep and lamas too. It's a must for this area.</p>
41908	Warren	Scott-Douglas		<p>Being a dog owner in Heathcote Valley there is absolutely no need for a dog exercise area, all this will do is bring those with dogs of a less desirable nature into the valley.</p> <p>This is right opposite our local school and the council are thinking of encouraging dogs that are not under control to the area, I hope the repercussions have been thought through. You have a huge track of land called the red zone, use that and not waste money having to develop a dog exercise area in a neighbourhood that is not lacking in space for people with dogs, who under under control, to exercise their furry family members.</p> <p>We already suffer with excessive speed on this stretch of bridal path and with this plan it will encourage more traffic into the area resulting in more potential conflict.</p> <p>the local community has already planted fruit trees for the local community to enjoy. the native planting is a great idea, we need to regenerate native bush to give native birds a safe pocket, so plant is out as native bush, put paths through it and look long term at the city's regenerated native bush areas.</p>
41939	Sonja	Perrin		<p>Do not agree with the dog parks. Conflict with stock and barking opposite residential area and school. Prefer the area to be native bush with walks. Area around lakes already a dog park with people walking their dogs unleashed.</p>
42048	Teresa	Walton		<p>The proposed dog areas will be a great asset to the community as there are currently no fenced dog parks in the area. It would be good to understand whether dogs are allowed on the proposed tracks (on leash) or if they are limited to the identified dog areas.</p> <p>It is understood the dog areas will not be constructed until funding is available in the Long Term Plan. I would be good for the community to understand when this funding may be allocated.</p>
42067	Cristy	Yonetani		<p>It would be great to have fenced dog areas in Heathcote Valley. Currently, we drive to Bexley or Victoria Park for our dog to be able to run off leash. We would be much happier to walk to somewhere local.</p>
42070	Margaret	Jenkin		<p>I [REDACTED] have appreciated the rural aspect with the natural environment being such an asset within an urban setting. In the springtime the lambs on the hills are a welcome addition adding their voice to the bird songs. The hills act as an amphitheatre and the lambs' bleating is audible through the whole valley, even down on the flat by the Heritage Park where I live. I do not want that to be interrupted or added to with barking from the proposed Dog Park.</p> <p>I note all the other city dog parks are in rural locations and are not close to housing. I believe that this should be taken into account with any new proposal. While a dog park at Birdsey Reserve would not be immediately adjacent to houses the geography of the hills and proximity to neighbouring streets would be impacted by the noise from a dog park. Post earthquake a number of community meetings were held and through our appreciative enquiry format the vision for the Valley was frequently discussed. Of particular note was the appreciation of our rural aspect and the natural environment.</p> <p>To achieve this end extending native plantings and adding to the food forest, another post earthquake initiative, is great. As you will be aware many local people are already putting energy into this endeavour with little Council input. For CCC to include this in their new landscape plan is good. However, the inclusion of dog parks on the 2 undeveloped pieces of the park restricts any expansion of both the native forest and the food forest.</p> <p>Many of us have been deliberately planting native shrubs and trees on our own properties in order to encourage the native birds. We want them to feel safe being in our area. Dogs are natural predators and should therefore not be encouraged. The development of a dog park would not only limit the area of bush but destroy the peace and quiet usually found in a bush setting.</p> <p>Heathcote is also not far from the city and with further tree development this area could easily become a habitat for other endangered insects and critters. I am sure city folk would welcome a walking space in bush that is maintained as near to possible in its natural state. I am told the school children love spending their play time in the existing bush but in reality this is a very small area. I believe the entire area would be better developed into walking tracks, wilderness bush and a sanctuary for birds. Perhaps it could become something like Zealandia in Wellington with a predator free boundary fence. Bringing birds back into the city would be a much better</p>

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				<p>goal, given the proximity to Scotts Reserve and other nearby under-developed rural spaces. To achieve this goal ridding Bank Peninsula of such pests is already underway and supported by many local families.</p> <p>I note that in conjunction with the development of the dog parks an extension to the existing car park is proposed. I note on the hillside that there are a number of largish trees. I suspect they would have to be removed. Be they native or not, destroying an existing stand of trees would be disappointing.</p> <p>Currently Birdsey Reserve is a hidden gem known to most locals and very few beyond the Valley. I feel the development of a Dog Park would change all that. Being immediately adjacent to our gardens and food forest would not only expose these areas but everyone who visits would naturally consider appropriate that they help themselves to the fruits of other people's labour. Currently the produce is mostly distributed locally but this would not remain the case if those using the Dog Park come from suburbs further afield.</p> <p>In summary I am against the proposed Dog Park in my backyard.</p> <p>The area is too small and immediately adjacent to native forest areas that would be better expanded to encourage more protected native bird habitats.</p> <p>We have a special community in Heathcote and housing a popular recreational reserve has the potential to destroy this. One off events like the City to Surf and Nostalgia disrupt our community but are not ongoing. The sounds of dogs would be heard throughout the valley every day of the year from dawn to dusk and if not monitored could also potentially be used at night. A Dog Park would forever change our quiet little oasis near the city. We like our village atmosphere (at the end of the road where there is no through traffic) and want to keep our little haven to ourselves where the roads remain quiet and children feel safe on their bikes.</p>
42109	Mark	Penrice		<p>In general it is a great idea to open up access to as much of the land owned by the people of the city to the people of the city.</p> <p>This park would really benefit from having a sealed pump track (none in riding distance), a skate ramp and a way through for mountain bikes.</p> <p>There are challenging mountain bike tracks above the reserve. The tracks are probably not all "approved" MTB tracks, but they are good because they offer some of the only technically challenging rocky trails in the city (MTB is a sport not just a hobby & needs actual MTB tracks suitable for the sport)- I believe there are also paper roads behind the site that can be ridden on a MTB without need for permission/forgiveness.</p> <p>I would also like to see less car parking provided in general across the city as it eats up a lot of money on car storage that could be spent on something people enjoy - the bare minimum parking should be available (also worth noting that the gondola car park is closed off at night to avoid nighttime gatherings).</p>
42111	Steven	Marcham		<p>I do not support the creation of any dog exercise area in Birdsey Reserve.</p> <p>As the native plantings mature, this reserve has the potential to attract native birdlife. Creating an area for lots of dogs to run free will mean this will not happen. This is a reserve, not a dog exercise area, it can't be both.</p>
42114	██████	████		<p>hello ████████ I am 10 years old</p> <p>and I DON'T want a dog park Birdsey Reserve!</p> <p>Because me and my friends have made some really cool and fun huts around Birdsey reserve and I don't you to destroy our huts. We are planting lots of trees to get birds back in to the valley and it is so fun playing there.SO DONT PUT A DOG PARK IN!</p>
42115	██████	████		<p>hi. ██████████ I am 7. I don't want a dog park because it's not called 'Dogsey Reserve' it's called "Birdsey Reserve". This place should be for more birds. I don't like your plan.</p>
42117	Karla	Osmer		<p>██████████ I would like to offer my full support for the proposed dog park/s, fruit trees/food forest, and planting and regeneration of native bush. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and mahi already put into the food forest. Having these can only add to the long term vision of a healthy and sustainable community. Planting community spaces benefits and supports community education and values. I believe it would be wise to include in the budget a water source for the garden/food forest; a necessary addition in this changing climate.</p> <p>Please also include drinking fountains and sufficient rubbish receptacles in the plan.</p> <p>Karla Osmer</p>

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42129	Tasmin	Page	<p>I strongly support any CCC support of, and the components of the proposal that support Heathcote Valley School and members of the community to continue with food forest, food garden and revegetation and restoration efforts and initiatives in this reserve. These initiatives are positive, inclusive, educational, enriching, and grow community connectedness and resilience. Many of these initiatives, including ongoing native planting and predator trapping will contribute, over time, to enhancing the indigenous biodiversity of this area. These existing initiatives are also eminently cohesive and complementary to one another.</p> <p>"Stepping stones" of native habitat woven into the wider Christchurch urban and peri-urban area are vital to supporting existing wildlife, and to, hopefully, restoring a greater diversity of native wildlife within our city and environs.</p> <p>Just as our world is facing a Climate crisis, we are also facing an equally significant biodiversity crisis. Both of these issues require 'big', government-level action and initiatives, as well as smaller, local and individual action and initiatives. Birdsey Reserve, and the community initiatives within that space, is an important local focus for actions that contribute to improving our native biodiversity, while at the same time, contributing to the bigger picture, which will require networks of reserves and spaces, as well as changes in actions and behaviours.</p> <p>However, for places like Birdsey to make a meaningful contribution to biodiversity restoration, activities enabled and encouraged within and near to those spaces must be compatible with this outcome. Spaces interspersed within the revegetated areas that are dedicated to the exercise of dogs are not in any way compatible with this outcome. Barking and free-running carnivorous animals within metres of restored native wildlife habitat is hardly a recipe for the successful reintroduction of native birds and other wildlife. The ongoing disturbance created by dogs running around on both sides of bush areas will disrupt behaviour and breeding of wildlife. Furthermore, encouraging and inviting dogs into an area brings with it the very real, and sadly, very common, risk of unleashed dogs also being walked in the adjoining bush areas.</p> <p>Owning a dog is a privilege, with many responsibilities. Unfortunately, many dog owners do not seem to understand, acknowledge or meet many of those responsibilities. Instead, as the rate of dog ownership grows in NZ, there seems to be also, a growing sense that these dogs have rights similar to or greater than, the human and native wildlife citizens that share our public spaces. I appreciate that dogs need spaces to run. However, our biodiversity crisis, and our communities' needs for nature spaces, and spaces where community interaction, resilience and 'togetherness' can be grown are far more important. And in this particular space, are not compatible with dog exercise areas.</p> <p>Furthermore, one of the significant issues currently occurring within the Heathcote/Ferrymead area is the unleashed exercising of dogs along the estuary edge and at the tidal stormwater ponds adjoining the estuary. The estuary is an internationally significant habitat for birds, and the stormwater ponds immediately adjacent to the estuary provide an important supporting area of habitat. There is daily disruption of birdlife in these environments by multiple unleashed, free-running dogs. I live immediately above these spaces and can unreservedly state that although recent additional signage in the area is commendable and important, it has had minimal if any impact on the numbers of unleashed dogs in these areas, which continue to also be frequented several times a week by professional dog-walkers with groups of 6 to 15 unleashed dogs at a time. Although I find the ignorance and righteousness infuriating, I do understand the attraction of the water and the opportunity for dogs to swim and splash. Places for dogs to do this are not particularly common. Given the importance of wetlands, estuaries and coastal areas and the wildlife they support, this is not surprising. And, to be frank, as it should be. Access to 'recreational water' is not essential to dogs' needs. However, I believe that this means it will be very difficult to alter the behaviour of dog owners and dog walkers in this area, to stop exercising their dogs in these areas and move to Birdsey, as there is not water at Birdsey. The outcome then, would be unleashed dogs at the estuary and adjoining wetlands and ponds, as well as dogs at Birdsey. Definitely a lose-lose outcome!</p> <p>A number of alternative spaces within the wider Heathcote and Ferrymead area were suggested as potential dog exercise areas by the community at previous discussions with CCC staff. These spaces would be more compatible with dog exercising, less disruptive of adjoining activities and initiatives, and most importantly, less disruptive of wildlife.</p> <p>As difficult as it can sometimes be, it is time to be brave about conversations around the priorities that we must adopt - our indigenous biodiversity and the resilience and inter-connectedness of our communities, and spaces and initiatives that support these, are far more important than our dogs.</p>
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42137	Janet	Wright		Picnic areas. I think the proposals are excellent
42148	Malcolm	Long		<p>Small/medium Dog areas: These facilities are necessary but this is not the proper location for them. Dog exercise areas should be down in the Ferrymead Park Area where there is already established parking and recreational activity. Instead, areas marked for dog areas in this plan should be planted for native bush to help stabilise this land, reduce run-off and assist with climate change.</p> <p>Proposed Native Planting: This should be vastly bigger, taking in all of the available land to create sufficient bush to attract permanent habitat for birds. Skinny little areas may be visually pleasing, but do not provide sufficient protection for nesting birds and territory ranges.</p> <p>Fruit trees: Who will maintain them, spray them, prune them? This is not a good idea at all. Better if this area was planted in native bush.</p> <p>Food forest: Idealistic but foolish waste of money. Who will maintain them, spray them, prune them? Better if this area was planted in native bush.</p> <p>Food garden: OK</p> <p>Extension to car park: Not required if dog areas abandoned.</p>
42205	John	Marsh		[see attached submission]
42212	Alyson	Rooney		<p>For the last couple of years my daughter [REDACTED] She loves making huts in the long grass, dragging old sticks and flax to make huts. As a family we often walk up to the top of the reserve and play on the rope swing – I know a lot of local teenagers also hang out up at the swing which has a great view over the valley and a cool hangout place for them.</p> <p>Not marked on the above map is an area already planted out in native trees and shrubs by the school children and local volunteers including the Girl Guide club my daughter attends they come up to the reserve to water the trees they have planted. She is also a native bird lover and I have learnt a lot from her about the birds she sees up at Birdsey Reserve. The native plants are a crucial component of bringing back the native birdlife into the valley and area / city as a whole. We need to be planting more trees for the health of our city.</p> <p>I am strongly opposed to the dog park. Birdsey Reserve has a real connection with the school and Girl Guides – [REDACTED] – we feel like it is a safe area as it is frequented only by native loving locals.</p> <p>We also don't want more people frequenting an area that is also really busy on the weekends with the Gondola and Bridle Path walkers – the road is busy which unfortunately some people speed along after exiting the road tunnel.</p> <p>I feel so very sad that the council are thinking of removing trees to lay down concrete for an extended car park next to the food forest - obviously this goes against our belief in planting trees, not removing them – as well as the love and care that the locals have committed to those trees.</p> <p>As a community we don't need a dog park as we are happy to walk our dogs around the lakes or up the Bridle Path. With more people coming into the area to park and exercise dogs brings with it the additional problems of littering, dog poo left behind, not sticking to the designated areas, and potential damage to the area we have worked so hard to plant and protect, and disruption to the birdlife we are trying to encourage back into the area. I am not against having a dog park in the eastern part of the city, I am opposed to it being in Birdsey Reserve. At the previous meeting, we talked about the possibility of a dog park being in the area next to the motorway at the end of Scruttons Road. It is flat land, has space for parked cars and plenty of room for dogs to run around. Likewise, there is a lot of available land on the eastern part of the city that is now red zone - perhaps an ideal location for a dog park.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my views on this proposal.</p>
42215	Steve	Rooney		<p>I am dead against a dog park being located at the Birdsey Reserve area, we and our children have spent many hours up at the reserve planting natives in an area that is not even marked on the map. This area is for young children play and enjoy without being frightened by dogs that cannot be trusted in an unfenced area or in general public. We do not need more traffic on Bridle Path road which is already busy with fast cars going to and from the gondola. There plenty of space at the far end of the valley near Scruttons Rd for a dog park on the flat away from the main valley area.</p>


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42282	Sue	Piercey		<p>Climate change is the biggest challenge facing humanity in my opinion and underpins a lot of my opposition to the landscape plan for Birdsey Reserve. I do not think the Council, which has recognised the climate emergency, should be encouraging people from outside Heathcote to get in their cars to bring their dogs here for exercise.</p> <p>I am opposed to both the small dog area and the medium/large dog area. I have lived in Heathcote since 1988 apart from 2 years away in New Brighton while our new house was built following the earthquakes. I grew up with a family dog and more recently had a labrador/retriever for many years which died at the end of 2019. We never used dog parks and I consider that our dog got plenty of exercise as well as socialisation with other dogs. There are plenty of places to exercise dogs within the Heathcote Valley and the Port Hills walking from home. This includes having a well controlled dog off the leash in certain areas. However, one of the areas where dogs should be on leashes is around the ponds as I have often seen dogs chasing birds in the ponds and around the edges. This may only be a small number of the dogs that are walked in the area but the lack of their owners' control of their animals spoils it for everybody. There is insufficient signage in this area regarding dogs being on leashes and I would like to see the Council put up more signage in the places where people enter the areas and park their cars.</p> <p>I also oppose the dog areas because of the need for ongoing maintenance such as cutting the grass - which costs council money and uses fossil fuels.</p> <p>Proposed native planting - I support the planting of native trees. I want to see the continuation of the school planting along with community planting over the whole of the reserve apart from areas for the food garden and fruit trees. In fact I thought that was the original plan and I was surprised to read in the consultation document the "the first stage will allow the community to be able to continue with revegetation planting". I am opposed to any existing planting that has been done being removed ie the area where the small dog area cuts back in a triangle towards the swale. I voluntarily work in a number of reserves planting and caring for native plants and now that I am living so close to Birdsey caring for the plants in this reserve will become higher priority for me. (as well as the new planting beside the Bridle Path). Birdsey Reserve is one of the closest areas of native bush for Heathcote residents to walk to (Duncan Park being the other) and if the sections of planting are interrupted by dog areas it will compromise the benefits of having a reasonable area of native bush for birds to live and breed and for natives to seed. It is likely with forthcoming changes to the Resource Management Act, allowing people to build up to 3 houses, 3 stories high without requiring a resource consent, that there will be more intensification of housing in Heathcote and consequently more existing trees cut down. The role of trees in purifying the air and the cooling effect they have will become increasingly important as the climate changes. This is apart from the health benefits to people of being able to walk among trees.</p> <p>Fruit trees and food garden - I support the planting of fruit trees and the food garden but believe they should primarily be for the benefit of Heathcote residents as it will be the Heathcote community looking after them.</p> <p>Proposed car park extension - I am opposed to this due to cost(I think there are higher priorities for council spending) and because some existing big trees will need to be removed (yes the fig is not native but it will be removing a lot of carbon dioxide from the air at the present time). I am also opposed to extending the car park because I think it will compound existing traffic problems. At the weekends it is becoming increasingly difficult to get out of Kairuri Lane because of car parking on both sides of Bridle Path Road mainly due to people walking up the Bridle Path. Would the Council please stick some yellow lines within a certain distance of the Lane so that it is safe to exit from the lane. People are already parking cars in the Birdsey reserve carpark to go up the Bridle Path or walk in the reserve. It is not an easy exit from the reserve carpark onto Bridle Path Road when it is busy because the Olearia hedges obscure the view to some extent and some traffic goes very fast down Bridle Path Road. Also when there is cricket or other sports on both sides of Bridle Path Road have cars parked especially opposite the Heathcote Community Centre . An added attraction such as dog exercise areas will only compound existing traffic problems (try going down Port Hills Road from Bridle Path when there is children's sport on a Saturday plus people enjoying the playground).</p> <p>Other - Although I personally do not want to access a dog park and don't believe people should be encouraged to get in a car to go somewhere to take there dogs for a walk I understand that the Community Boards have asked for options for dog exercise areas to be investigated for a number of years.</p> <p>I was told when talking to the team at the Heathcote Valley Community Centre that all other options for a dog exercise areas that would serve the Waikura and Te Pataka o Rakaihautu Community Boards had been investigated without success. Unfortunately I didn't ask for a full list and only discussed where the Tamaki village used to be and part of where the pony club is at Duncan Park (lease currently up for renewal) which are both unsuitable options for a variety of reasons.</p> <p>I wonder if the following possibilities have been investigated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Down the end of Scruttons Road by the Macrocarpas. 2. Areas up Morgans Valley currently red zoned but mowed regularly by the Council. The Lane I now live on used to be red zoned and somehow got changed to green and we all know this will happen to other areas as time goes on. Where the Redcliffs school used to be is now going to be used for recreation. Recreation is different than having permanent residences on a place. There is already roading accessing these areas in Morgan's Valley (albeit a padlock on the gate at present) . Some of the spaces are relatively flat - easy to develop as a car park. Easy to fence around for dog exercise areas.
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Submissions on the Birdsey Reserve Landscape Plan

				I am happy to discuss these matters with the Community Boards when they meet to discuss this proposal.
42347	Paula	Aitken		Birdsey Reserve is a peaceful place and there has been a lot of effort put in to planting native trees. I do not approve of any dog area in Birdsey Reserve. This would not help the native birds increase and takes up a prime spot which could be used for native plantings instead.
42378	Myles	Mackintosh		<p>As a local [REDACTED] and frequent visitor to Birdsey Reserve, I am supportive of most aspects of the landscape plan. I think the existing community initiatives (fruit trees, food forest, native revegetation) are fantastic and support their continuation. The development of a food garden, and further native planting and walking tracks will further enhance the reserve.</p> <p>I agree that there is definitely a need for a dog exercise area in this part of the city, there are many dog owners in Heathcote Valley and the surrounding suburbs, and an area where dogs can safely exercise off lead would be heavily utilised. However, I don't think Birdsey Reserve is the right place for this development. With the native revegetation being implemented currently and in the future, alongside community efforts to trap predators (CCC sanctioned), Birdsey Reserve has the potential to develop into a significant area of native forest habitat. With very little native vegetation cover remaining in this area of the Port Hills, having a reasonable-sized area of indigenous forest in such a prominent and accessible location would be of great value ecologically, and also as a recreational resource for residents. With Heathcote Valley School just across the road, the reserve also has great value and potential as a teaching resource. The proposed dog exercise areas would restrict this habitat to a few small, disconnected patches, of limited value ecologically. I urge the CCC planners to reconsider this proposal, and try to find a more suitable site for a dog exercise area.</p>
42493	Wendy and Graeme	Nottage		<p>The concept of the Birdsey Reserve looks great. I like the idea of 2 dog areas, one for large & 1 for small, However there should be easy access between the 2 as some people have large and small dogs. I'm not sure how steep the area is? Many people are elderly and some families push prams and exercise their dogs at the same time with young ones sometimes on bikes. So will there be walking tracks?</p> <p>I hope the will be rubbish bins like the one at the Ferrymead Soccer Ground which is much appreciated.</p> <p>Generally the concept is an asset to the community with seating added will be a safe place for people and dogs.</p> <p>Thanks of the opportunity for giving us a say.</p>
42501	Amelia	Knight-Bare	Heathcote Valley Food Forest	<p>This submission comes from members of the Heathcote Valley food forest group. We are grateful to be included in the landscape plan for Birdsey Reserve, and to see the Heathcote Schools planting areas remain in the plan. At present, the food forest group meets once a week, where we tend to the food forest area. We have also organised a group to remove boxthorn (a large thorny weed) which has grown in huge clusters within the reserve. Removing the boxthorn has allowed tracks to be re-established, and we hope to plant more natives in its place. Food forest members visit at other times to check on the space, water the plants, remove rubbish and debris, care for the trees, and spend time in the reserve with their whanau.</p> <p>We have met together regarding the landscape plan, and have concerns about the proposed inclusion of a dog park. In summary, our concerns are centered around the potential for the dog park to become very popular, and for this to impact on the conservation of the reserve, and the increased vulnerability of the food forest.</p> <p>Popularity, Parking, and does a semi-rural area need a dog park?</p> <p>We believe this will become a very popular dog park- a destination dog park, which people will travel into the area to use. There are scenic views overlooking the valley from the proposed sites, and people like to visit Heathcote Valley.</p> <p>The size of the proposed car park is unlikely to be big enough, and we imagine there will be overflow parking on the streetside. This area on Bridle Path Road is already home to Heathcote Valley School, the cricket club and bowls club, the Heathcote Community Centre, the Heathcote Valley Domain, and overflow from those walking the Bridle Path track who park down the Bridle Path road. There is no sealed sidewalk on the Birdsey Reserve side of the road, which can make parking safely difficult, and at times, dangerous - cars like to speed down Bridle Path road. To access the car park from Bridle Path road, you are forced to walk on the road straight into the single vehicle entrance driveway. When exiting the reserve car park, we cannot see ongoing traffic coming from the right until we pull out onto the road.</p> <p>As public safety is paramount, we wonder how the council will achieve safe access to the site, and a car park big enough, without incurring huge costs and carving into more of the bush area. While we would like to see the reserve access become safer (which could be as minor as installing a mirror), we wonder if the cost to expand the car park and concreting a sidewalk for safer access, is the best use of scarce council/ratepayer funds. The lone public toilet at the community centre may need to be upgraded.</p>

Submissions on the Birdsey Reserve Landscape Plan

			<p>Furthermore, as Heathcote Valley is a semi-rural area, there is plenty of space to exercise dogs. People use Birdsey Reserve already to exercise their dogs. We are unsure if Heathcote Valley 'needs' dog parks, however much it would be favourable to some dog-owners. As we envisage people travelling to Heathcote to use this park, we wonder if the dog park could be moved to those suburbs that lack dog walking areas? If one is required over in this area, we wondered if there might be a more suitable location as discussed at the consultation meeting. We are unsure if any exploration of other areas eventuated from that meeting?</p> <p>Food forest security:</p> <p>The food forest is situated directly beside the existing car park. Having a community-led food growing initiative in a public space can lead to interference and vandalism. From what we've observed, BIRDSEY Reserve is a little known destination, and used mostly by local people walking with or without dogs. Even with this small amount of use, most weeks we find rubbish dumped in the car park. To date, this has not impacted the food forest, aside from our desire to keep the reserve rubbish free and removing it. Given that dog parks are self-governing, we wonder how the increase in people and dogs will impact the food forest and the larger reserve. Issues regarding dog and food growing spaces include sanitation - dog poo left for the food forest to deal with (we already have a problem with dog poo on sidewalks in Heathcote Valley), and uncontrolled dogs damaging plants. Trees and plants are also damaged by people, and even stolen. In public spaces, fruit and vegetables are often harvested before they are ready, which is an ongoing frustration. Should the dog park go ahead, adequate signage and a way to separate the car park from the food forest would alleviate some of the potential for interference.</p> <p>An alternative future for Birdsey Reserve:</p> <p>We envision the reserve planted with native flora and heritage fruit trees, and visited for its green space and scenic views. The removal of stock fencing and creating tracks weaving up the reserve would allow for people to visit and walk it safely. We imagine our motivated community continuing to take a kaitiaki role in the ongoing conservation and expansion of tree and plant life, and subsequent bird life - and the food forest group supports the Heathcote School children expanding their native planting. We believe allowing the reserve to be replanted is in line with point number 3 of the 'Port Hills Reserves: Future Management Requirements Policy Parks and Recreation Committee', 27 July 1993, "That, in considering an overall goal or objective and/or key objectives for the Port Hills reserves, an overriding factor be the reserves' conservation values, including the protection and enhancement of the native flora, especially as represented in the remnant bush areas, and the expansion of these areas wherever possible".</p> <p>A suitable location for a dog park would be one in which there are fewer conflicting interests, and non-reserve land. We aspire to be a dog friendly neighbourhood, however believe there is a greater potential for loss in this instance, by turning large areas of reserve land into dog exercise areas.</p> <p>Signed - Brian Darlow and Prue Stringer; Roelien deJong, Daniel Keegan and Teorangi Munro, Juniper and Alba Munro-Keegan, Daniel, Amelia, Zia and Serene Knight-Bare; John Marsh, Paul Norton, Gabrielle, Masa, Aika, Hanaka and Sanzou Sato.</p> 
42509	John	Leathwick	<p>[REDACTED] I have serious reservations about the dog park proposed for this site. My observations are that the community has largely taken responsibility for the management of this reserve, which has been long neglected by Council. In particular, it has become the focus both for restoration planting involving the Heathcote School and the development of a community food forest/garden. Local residents have been proactive in controlling boxthorn and other weeds, despite indifference from Council staff. They have also met with Council staff who carried out an earlier 'consultation', although given the degree to which the opposition to the reserve becoming a dog exercise area expressed at that meeting was ignored in this latest proposal, its hard to fathom why that consultation even occurred. As a consequence, I am firmly of the belief that the reserve should be left to be developed both as a biodiversity project by Heathcote School and as a community food garden/forest, i.e., existing uses should have priority over the new proposal for a dog park.</p> <p>If a dog park really is a priority, a much more suitable opportunity for this exists at Barnett Park, in which a large area of flat land is already set aside for dog exercise. Parking would be much more readily provided at this site, given its position at the end of a minor road. By contrast, opportunities for developing parking at Birdsey</p>

Submissions on the Birdsey Reserve Landscape Plan

				are much more limited by the terrain, and are also made problematic by the need for cars to enter from and exit onto a major road on which vehicles often travel at speeds much greater than the speed limit.
42533	Tori	Peden	Banks Peninsula Community Board	[see attached submission]
42543	Bianca	Sullivan		<p>Kia ora koutou, we are a family [REDACTED] who regularly visit Birdsey Reserve. This submission has been prepared with input from my son [REDACTED] and daughter [REDACTED]</p> <p>We have a keen interest in developing the reserve as a native forest to help support native bird species. Coupled with the food forest garden, the reserve is currently a tranquil community space and a safe, fun area for children to play.</p> <p>We support the proposed native plantings, fruit trees, food forest and food garden. These are in keeping with the existing values and uses of the area. We would like to see further native plantings in the reserve. There are few native bush areas on the north eastern Port Hills and we should be taking the opportunity to expand existing areas where possible. These corridors are needed to connect birds from Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour to the city, and would also support the proposal for ChCh to become a National Park City.</p> <p>We do not support the proposed dog exercise areas or the proposed car park extension.</p> <p>- The dog exercise areas are in stark contrast to the existing amenity values of the reserve. The reserve is currently a safe, quiet community space. Our preference would be to further extend the native plantings, perhaps add some adventure playground equipment for the kids and keep the reserve as a community space.</p> <p>As an observation, many people park at the Ferrymead soccer grounds, Matuku Lakes and former Tamaki Brothers sites to exercise their dogs. I understand that the former Tamaki Bros site is a HAIL site, but this would be an ideal dog exercise area. It's within a larger recreation area, could be a larger site than Birdsey, is not as steep, would likely get dogs off leashes away from the Matuku Lakes (and disturbing the birds), and has ample parking in the vicinity. I would guess that a dog exercise area at Birdsey Reserve wouldn't be well used and dog owners would still use the Ferrymead area to exercise their dogs.</p> <p>- Most users visit Birdsey Reserve on foot and there are seldom cars in the car park (except for garden events). A car park extension seems unnecessary. In addition, entry and exit could be dangerous with cars regularly coming in and out of the cricket club/community centre car park, and a lot of cars parked along this stretch of Bridle Path Rd in the weekends (for cricket games and people walking up/down the Bridle Path). This stretch of Bridle Path Rd is also a commonly used cycling route for recreational and competitive riders.</p>
42551	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		<p>Birdsey reserve Dog Park.</p> <p>Hi city council, [REDACTED]. I'm 10 yrs old and i'm here to write a submission letter.</p> <p>I go to birdsey reserve [REDACTED] with my friends [REDACTED] and we roam birdsey reserve and do a bit of planting in the food forest. It's the highlight of my week. With a dog park there'd be loads of people and it would change everything. For example loads of people would come and pick the fruit and veges and dogs would take over our roaming space.</p> <p>I dont want a dog park at birdsey reserve.</p> <p>Haiku</p> <p>laughter in paddocks</p> <p>endless roaming through trees</p> <p>at birdsey reserve</p>
42552	Gill	Scott-Douglas		I have lived in Heathcote Valley for 15 years, [REDACTED] and we have a Labrador. We love Heathcote, it's environment, people and it's little slice of rural life in Christchurch.

Submissions on the Birdsey Reserve Landscape Plan

				<p>Birdsey reserve is 2 mins from our house and over the years we have used this space off the beaten track which only locals really know about. The kids have enjoyed also planting natives here [REDACTED] and spitting the local wildlife - it's a special spot and I certainly agree that additional native planting will enhance the area. I do not however agree with the proposed dog parks, as a dog owner myself this is totally the wrong spot here and we would not use them - Bridle path road is a very busy road, with speeding cars and a large amount of cars parking at the weekend. We do not believe the area is sustainable for more cars, and as it is almost opposite the school would cause increased congestion. I also do not think putting a dog park opposite a school, residential and recreational area is ideal - it is not that big and unfortunately causes additional issues such as littering, noise, and dog poo bags etc. being left. There are much better areas for this. You also have a lot of grazing sheep in the adjacent fields so I am surprised you would want to increase the number of dogs visiting this area, as I would be concerned that dogs would get out or they would worry the sheep and lambs. I am also opposed to the additional car parking - this is a beautiful spot so I do not understand why you would need to take down trees and expand the area - pulling out on to Bridle Path is a problem with a steep drive and fast cars so increasing the number of cars would be a safety issue.</p> <p>Thanks for considering my views on this.</p>
42618	Marie	Gray	Summit Road Society	[see attached submission]
42933	Janette	Greenwood		No dogs. This is a native reserve and not a dog park. The proposed carpark extension means you have to remove established nature bush - No. We are trying to preserve this unique area not destroy it with barking dogs. "Preserve this area"

SUBMISSION BY JOHN MARSH ON CCC LANDSCAPE PLAN REVIEW

BIRDSEY RESERVE, BRIDLE PATH ROAD, HEATHCOTE

November 14 2021

1.0 INTRODUCTION

My name is John Marsh.

I have lived in Heathcote Valley [REDACTED] and have been involved in ongoing community planting projects since then.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The land was largely leased to the neighbouring farmer for grazing and I suspect many residents were totally unaware that it was a reserve.

2.0 BACKGROUND TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESERVE FROM 2000

2.1 DESIGN PHILOSOPHY. In consultation with CCC Parks planner Chris Freeman, we considered that there were already significant opportunities for people to recreate in the Heathcote neighbourhood, both with structured sports fields and less structured passive or active recreation spaces. Beyond the “village” area the landscape consisted almost entirely of grazed open grassland on the steep hills and valleys that surrounded Heathcote. This was a human modified “cultural landscape” which left minimal habitat for the native bird population that originally lived here.

It was agreed that Birdsey Reserve would be an ideal site to re-establish a small pocket of the lowland dry bush habitat that originally existed, with the primary objective of encouraging biodiversity. It would complement the other reserve types nearby and could be the starting point for further revegetation projects in the future. I note that the adjacent Scott’s Valley Reserve was at the time still a privately owned sheep and cattle farm.

2.2 ORIGINAL PLAN. The Birdsey Reserve plan was drawn up, put out for public consultation, approved and then progressed to the implementation stage. It was at this time that the reserve was given its current name.

It was intended as a two stage development with the three blocks of now almost established bush to be planted in the first stage and the remaining two paddocks to be infilled after 10 to 15 years. These two paddocks would be grazed in the interim. There was a small car park and passive recreation space in the south west corner. This gave access to a walking trail leading up to the south east corner where a seating area taking advantage of the view was intended. The trail was then planned to continue down the east boundary back to Bridle Path Road at the north corner.

Over the next five years the first stage of planting was completed and the benched track through the southernmost block formed. By 2010 these plantings were progressing well and it was time to consider the stage two plantings and extend the track.

2.3 EARTHQUAKE ISSUES. Unfortunately the earthquakes happened that year and understandably, in the aftermath stage two was forgotten. Stock were allowed into the two northern most blocks

and plantings were grazed over. Some trees disappeared, other trees were ring barked. Some of the old pines to the south of the reserve fell into the revegetation block causing damage and allowing invasive weeds such as boxthorn, bone seed, fennel and old man's beard to encroach. The walking trail became overgrown and disappeared.

It was unfortunate that at the point when it was about to take another step forward the project stalled. It would seem, according to current staff that any Council record of the plans was also lost in the various office relocations that took place. Council staff moved on, roles also changed and new staff had no knowledge of what was intended.

3.0 RECENT HEATHCOTE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

In 2012 in response to the disruption caused by the earthquakes, concerned and energetic locals formed The Heathcote Village Project. They held a community workshop, "Heathcote Epicentre", attended by over 250 locals with the aim of developing a vision of how they saw the future. This related to the social, environmental and economic aspirations of the community.

These aspirations are displayed on the wall of the Heathcote Valley Community Centre as a reminder. Among these are "native plantings, undeveloped hills, hillside plantings, Birdsey Reserve tracks, public fruit and nut trees and birdsong".

In response to this community grass roots movement the following started to happen, slowly at first, but gathering momentum after several years:

1. In 2013-14 a small orchard was planted at Birdsey Reserve, and a community garden was developed in St Mary's church grounds.
 2. In 2015 the Community Association started planting native trees in Duncan Park and with the assistance of CCC rangers, school groups and other volunteers have since planted approx. 12000 trees on the hills and along Avoca stream. They have also formed a new track and cleared areas of invasive boxthorn.
 3. In 2016-17 the Community Association liaised with CCC rangers to have grazing reduced and fencing fixed in Birdsey Reserve to prevent further loss of trees.
 4. In 2019 the Heathcote Valley School Enviro group with assistance from residents and CCC rangers started replanting in Birdsey Reserve to restore plants lost through grazing. They have continued to plant, mulch, weed and water there over the last 3 seasons and now most of the existing revegetation areas are fully planted.
- At the request of residents remnant macrocarpa's were removed from the native revegetation areas by CCC contractors in 2020.
5. In 2020 – 21 the Birdsey Reserve orchard/food forest group expanded with new trees planted in the south west corner of the reserve. They now have approximately 21 trees in the orchard. The planting configuration is intended to result in a small communal open space for gatherings, etc.
 6. In 2020 when the Covid lockdown occurred, a "zoom" discussion group formed in Heathcote, where ideas for Heathcote's future were again discussed.

This group, later known as "Heathcote for Good" continued discussions after the lockdown and one of the key themes discussed were Climate Change issues.

Increased native tree plantings on the bare hillsides (which by now were public reserves), and small scale walkable communities were themes raised.

7. In response to this, in 2020 several of the “zoom” group discussed options for extended plantings on the hills with CCC Regional Parks Manager, Kay Holder and ranger Di Carter. This initiated a new residents planting project at the foot of Bridle Path track in the 2021 season. This will continue for many years.

8. In 2020 the initial Birdsey Reserve track was rediscovered and cleared by residents.

9. In 2021 residents of Morgan’s Valley began planting the reserve at the top of their road after discussion with CCC rangers. Other residents had already been active clearing tracks and planting on private land in this area.

10. In 2020-21 predator traps were set in Birdsey Reserve by the Predator Free Port Hills group, and local students were able to observe and view the tracking stations.

11. In 2021 a small group of residents began controlling the invasive bone seed and boxthorn in Birdsey Reserve with fortnightly working groups.

12. In 2021 the local Girl Guides group, along with CCC rangers and resident began planting in areas of Birdsey Reserve where boxthorn had been controlled.

This is only that part of the community’s involvement that relates to our natural environment. It shows an understanding of our role as *kaitiaki* of our land, concern for biodiversity and our future, as well as a commitment to remedy past degradation.

Heathcote residents are grateful for and acknowledge the co-operation and assistance from CCC rangers and other operational staff in achieving the progress that has been made in these reserve areas since the earthquakes.

4.0 BIRDSEY RESERVE PLAN REVIEW – CONSULTATION

To date I am aware of two meetings with council staff regarding Birdsey Reserve activities and planning.

1. In 2020, residents sought to liaise with CCC staff regarding the extension of the community orchard in Birdsey Reserve. In response to this a site meeting was held between the orchard group and planning staff.

A very sketchy draft plan (on tracing paper) was shown which proposed that the grazed areas would be developed as a dog park. It was advised that the reserve development plan was to be updated in the near future.

It was also unofficially suggested that the orchard group could carry on its progress in the south west corner and they should continue to liaise with CCC ranger Heidi Wilton.

2. In April 2021 CCC staff advised they were consulting on the reserve plan review and a community meeting was held to discuss this. This was attended by approximately 20 people from the school, community garden, community orchard and other interested residents.

Here participants shared their aspirations for the community orchard and garden, ongoing development of the revegetation work and the schools involvement in an educational program around sustainability and biodiversity.

Jocelyn Mahoney (CCC landscape architect) raised the possibility of a dog park being located in the reserve and again displayed the draft tracing plan. This would involve secure fencing and some additional car parking. She asked for feedback on this suggestion.

Quoting from the meeting minutes:

“Comments included:

- Generally people in Heathcote had a lot of reserve area to walk dogs so may not use a designated area, though people from outside the area may drive to it.*
- Concern whether a dog park adjacent to an area with the objective to enhance biodiversity values is a good idea.*
- Concern over the number of car parks that will be needed and the existing dangerous access onto Bridle Path Road.*

Jocelyn asked whether there were alternative sites in Heathcote that might be used for a dog park.

- A site adjacent to the Ferrymead playing fields was discussed.*
- The horse paddocks at the end of Scruttons Road were suggested.*

The plan developed following this meeting was circulated for public feedback in October 2021 with a public drop in/information session held at the Heathcote Community Centre on 1st November.

5.0 COMMENTS ON PROPOSED LANDSCAPE PLAN.

5.1 DOG EXERCISE AREAS.

5.1.1 Site Selection. Notes accompanying the plan release on the City Council website state: “The Waikura (Linwood-Central-Heathcote) and Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū (Banks Peninsula) (for Lyttleton) Community Boards have both requested staff to investigate options for dog exercise areas within their communities for a number of years. Feedback has indicated that Birdsey Reserve may serve both Community Boards.”

It would be interesting to hear what site selection “investigations” have taken place that have led to this feedback. No evidence has been offered to support this, though one would expect that in the council files there will be a survey of reserves and public land identifying possible options in the board area. It is understood that a proposal for a dog park was declined several years ago near the Heathcote River, and it was only then that the focus turned to Birdsey Reserve.

5.1.2 Alternative Sites. It is recognised that there is probably a demand for specific dog exercise areas where dogs can run free without intruding on either people or biodiversity.

I also note that the “Epicentre Heathcote” workshop in 2012 had an aspiration for a “dog friendly community”. Whether this refers specifically to dog parks or the ability for residents to walk their dogs in local reserves as they do currently is a point for further debate.

As discussed at the community consultation meeting, two alternative sites were suggested for dog parks. Of these the Scrutton’s Road site offers the best opportunity.

There is in excess of 27ha. of public reserve land here (excluding the golf course and driving range). This is currently grazed by horses and in the south west corner where a dog park could be located it has a neglected appearance where contractors have left a large concrete pad.

I am also aware that this whole site has excellent potential to extend the saltmarsh wetland habitat that exists along the Opawaho-Heathcote River and to restore the lower reaches of the Avoca Stream. These are further projects that Heathcote residents are actively involved in. There are wildlife values that need to be protected. A plan was prepared for this some twenty years ago but has not been developed.

I consider that there is sufficient space here, with careful design, to include all of these activities. The dog park areas proposed at Birdsey Reserve are approximately 0.8ha in total size. This would fit into the Scruttons site, and could potentially be larger, making use of a currently underused space.

While Heathcote or Woolston residents could walk to this park, those from further afield could drive to it and ample car parking could be offered at the end of Scrutton's Road.



Suggested dog park area. View from Tunnel Road.



North end of Scruttons Rd and potential roadside parking.

5.1.3 Birdsey Reserve as a Dog Park. The two proposed dog exercise areas in Birdsey are approximately 0.77ha. in size and the car park extension a further 270m². Birdsey Reserve is a total 3.32ha (approx.) in size, meaning the dog areas will use 25% of the available space.

This significantly undermines the value of the work that has gone on over the last 20 years, leaving just the 3 smaller pockets of native bush. At this size the revegetation pockets are only large enough to support transient bellbirds and no breeding birds.

Further, the design doesn't appear to have recognised the extent of planting that has been undertaken by the school. It is proposing that the small dog park paddock be extended into a triangle of the recent plantings.

It also proposes an area of "garden beds" to replace native plantings in the central revegetation block. There is little logic displayed by this and it suggests to me that the designers have not carried out a thorough site survey before preparing this concept.

Further planting will be removed by the car park extension.

As was considered at the Heathcote community consultation meeting, it was thought that most locals would not use it, though people from outside the area would drive to it.

This works against the concept of small walkable communities, where people can access most activities they need with a 15 minute walk. The more recreational activities that are instigated

providing car parking will only drive more carbon emissions. I understand that the City Council is required to consider the impact of climate change in all its decision making.

5.2 PROPOSED NATIVE PLANTINGS

The plan proposes several small areas of new native plantings along the east boundary of the grazed paddocks, linking the existing 3 pockets of revegetation. These areas are roughly the same size as areas of planting that will be lost through development of the dog park and garden beds so do not add anything of significance to what is already there.

From an ecological point of view it is known that bellbird and tui need between one and two hectares to support a breeding pair. Twenty years ago there were no forest birds visiting this site. Today there are bellbird, warbler and fantail. In the last month shining cuckoo have also been sighted. Occasional tui have been recorded in nearby valleys. It would seem short sighted to change the objectives of the earlier reserve design just when it is beginning to show results.

A greater vision would be to exclude stock from existing grazed areas, plant them out in eco sourced native species and allow seedlings from existing areas to naturalise throughout.

In addition to this, the CCC planners could take advantage of the newer Scott's Valley Reserve along the east boundary, and extend plantings into the connecting gully above to further enhance its wildlife values. In this way Birdsey will eventually connect with the network of ecological corridor's slowly developing on the Port Hills and the vision of returning the bush to the hills begin to be realised.

The school and guide groups, along with residents who have been involved in native revegetation plantings for several years now, are keen to continue this into the future. From the schools point of view, they have now planted out most of the existing available areas. If they are to continue this project as an educational activity they will soon be looking for new areas to plant. Birdsey Reserve is over the road from the school so provides an easy and logical location for school involvement.

With the Climate Change dilemma we are all facing there is greater urgency both to plant native trees for carbon sequestration as well as foster this habit in the younger generation.

The instigation of a dog park will rule this opportunity out for future students at Birdsey Reserve.

5.3 PROPOSED FRUIT AND NUT TREES

The opportunity to extend the orchard area in the south east corner as well as along the Bridle Path frontage provides a logical transition between the Heathcote urban area and hill zone above. It works well with the community's vision and aspirations.

It is also interesting to note that Heathcote Valley was considered one of the leading early fruit growing areas of the city so has a positive connection to our early European heritage.

As mentioned previously, a triangle of food forest garden beds proposed in the central part of the reserve is already planted in revegetation species so it would seem unnecessary to change the function of this area.

5.4 CAR PARK EXTENSION AND ACCESS.

The car park extension is something that would need consideration if a dog park development was to proceed. Currently there is no spare parking on the roadside or at the community centre when sports are taking place or a function is being held. On weekends Bridle Path track users will also park down the road as far as the reserve. I am not familiar with how many parking spaces might be needed for a dog park, but believe the additional parking will have an undesirable impact on the reserve character.

The car park shape shown on the plan would involve the removal of existing bush areas as well as retaining walls to accommodate the slope. The question of installing additional hard surfacing in a park seems to go against the vision to keep the hills undeveloped.

The question of both vehicle and pedestrian access to the reserve from Bridle Path Road is one that needs some careful design. The current “one way only” access has no line of sight to oncoming traffic as there is no footpath to provide set back and a safety margin. There is also a metre high retaining wall and a hedge that obstructs the view. The hedge is shown being removed in the plan, which is a good start, but I consider that additional reconstruction work is needed.

The plan shows a set of steps up to the reserve from Bridle Path Road approximately 50 metres north of the existing entrance. These steps don’t appear to be linked to any footpaths and exit directly onto the road, again with no safety margin provided by a footpath. This needs further thought, and I suggest would be better combined with a new vehicle entrance design, which is needed whatever future use is determined for the park.

5.5 PROPOSED TRACKS

5.5.1 Internal Tracks. The proposed track network connects the different areas of the reserve well, with the originally proposed track along the east boundary and a new track above the road on the west. There are also other tracks from east to west through the revegetation areas. The advantage of having new well formed tracks in the revegetation areas is that it encourages people to stay to a particular route rather than wander randomly through the plantings, so I see this as a useful addition.

The existing benched track in the southernmost planted area of the reserve is not noted on the plan but is replaced by a new track alignment. I believe it would be best to upgrade the maintenance and signage along the existing route rather than build a new track in this area. There are various unofficial tracks in this area created by young people when the main track became overgrown.

5.5.2 Links with Neighbouring Reserves. Linkages to adjoining reserves are important when two reserves have a shared boundary. The opportunity of connecting Birdsey Reserve to and across Scott’s Valley Reserve with the small reserve at the corner of Bridle Path and Morgans Valley Road needs to be investigated.

Formal connections with the existing tracks to the east on the lower slopes of Mt Cavendish should also be developed. These may only involve the installation of appropriate signage and stiles.

5.6 EXISTING TREES

There is a large *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay fig/rubber tree) growing alongside the car park. This is a rare specimen in Christchurch and I imagine is probably one of the largest of the few existing in the city. It has significant buttress roots that would easily be damaged by excavation in their proximity. It would be good to see this tree given full protection and being recognised on the plan.

6.0 SUMMARY

1. I don't believe a dog park is a Heathcote community priority. Restoration of biodiversity is.
2. There is a suitable alternative location for a dog park in the locality.
3. The plan does not grasp the community vision for much greater planting and revegetation of the hills surrounding Heathcote Valley. This is an opportunity for the council to engage with this vision and extend it.
4. The inclusion of the "food forest" in the plan is fully endorsed by the community vision.
5. The car park extension is not well thought out and will be an unnecessary intrusion into the reserve.
6. The entrance onto Bridle Path Road for both vehicles and pedestrians is currently unsafe and needs to be carefully redesigned to address this issue.
7. Walking trail linkages and signage to adjoining reserves will be a valuable improvement.
8. There was already a plan for Birdsey Reserve. This new plan will prevent the completion of that plans objectives, significantly undermining the value of all the work and investment that has been put in over the last twenty years by the council and community.

John Marsh

November 14 2021



Heathcote Valley School Enviro group working at Birdsey Reserve in 2020.

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Submission On: Birdsey Reserve Landscape Plan

By: Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū / Banks Peninsula Community Board

Contact: Lyttelton Service Centre
PO Box 73027
Christchurch 8154
Email: Katherine.Matheis@ccc.govt.nz

Date: 16 November 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

The Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū/Banks Peninsula Community Board (the “Board”) appreciates the opportunity to share its feedback with the Christchurch City Council on the Birdsey Reserve Landscape Plan.

The Board’s statutory role is “to represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community” and “to prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community” (Local Government Act 2002, Section 52). The Board is providing this submission in its capacity as a representative of the communities in the Banks Peninsula Ward – Akaroa, Ōhinehou Lyttelton, Te Waipapa Mount Herbert, and Wairewa Little River.

2. SUBMISSION

With respect to the second stage of the Landscape Plan, the Board appreciates the Council acknowledging that the Board has requested staff to investigate options for dog exercise areas within our community and, in particular, within the Lyttelton community for a number of years. The Board notes that the proposed installation of a dog exercise area in the Birdsey Reserve will present accessibility barriers for many community members due to its location on the other side of the tunnel. While the proposed dog exercise area is accessible for the communities of the Waikura (Lindwood-Central-Heathcote) Board, we reiterate our support for a dog exercise park in Lyttelton that will offer the same level of accessibility for our residents.

The Board would also like to take this opportunity to propose the inclusion of secure bike parking in the Landscape Plan for the following reasons:

- The inability for Lyttelton Harbour residents to cycle through the tunnel;
- To allow for a seamless public transport-bike journey from Lyttelton (and Diamond Harbour via the ferry);
- To reduce the number of bikes using the racks on the buses through the tunnel as there is limited capacity;
- To connect well with the #28 bus, and the proximity of the bus stop to the Reserve; and
- To give Lyttelton Harbour residents the same opportunity to take advantage of the significant investment in cycleways as the city communities.

The Council has been a strong advocate of increasing cycling as a major form of transport and has advanced plans that provide safe and effective infrastructure to support this objective. The Council has further acknowledged that cycling is a key part of its plan to reduce carbon emissions, congestion, improve the health of the city, and build stronger local economies. The Board asks that the Council consider the installation of secure bike parking in Heathcote to serve the Banks Peninsula communities who lack in options for safely and securely cycling into the surrounding communities and city centre.

Yours sincerely,



Tori Peden
Chairperson
Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū/Banks Peninsula Community Board



a passion for the Port Hills

The Summit Road Society was formed in 1948 to further the vision of Harry Ell to preserve and protect the Port Hills and provide for public access. We own and manage four reserves on the Port Hills and also lead the backyard and community project 'Predator Free Port Hills'.

We have a particular interest in the draft landscape plan for Birdsey Reserve as it was one of the sites of our urban parks trapping pilot. It is also very close to Horotane Valley within Linda Woods Reserve.

The Summit Road Society has long advocated for community-led action. We are in favour of initiatives that foster kaitiakitanga of our natural environment. Being outside in nature and participating in efforts to restore it is recognised as beneficial to both the individual and the community. We particularly support a focus on working with children and school groups. The Society has organised Arbor Day activities with local school children for decades. We have seen first-hand the value of involving kids in protecting and restoring our natural environment

We have been working closely with the Christchurch City Council on an urban parks trapping scheme. Birdsey Reserve was one of the parks in our pilot project which started November 2020. Our Predator Free Port Hills volunteers regularly clear seven traps in the bush areas of the reserve. Children from Heathcote Valley School attended hands-on sessions learning about the importance of habitat restoration and predator control.

Our Predator Free Port Hills volunteers are also working with the CCC Red Zone rangers on a trapping programme in Morgans Valley which is adjacent to Birdsey Reserve.

We would like to ensure that trapping efforts are provided for in the Birdsey Reserve landscape plan. Birdsey Reserve provides a key link between the urban suburb of Heathcote and the Port Hills regional park network. Predators are a huge threat to our native biodiversity. In order to restore our native birds, lizards and invertebrates to our local neighbourhoods, we need comprehensive and coordinated predator control across the landscape.



Trapping results in Heathcote including Birdsey Reserve – Predator Free Port Hills website

We would be very happy to provide an update to the Community Boards on Predator Free Port Hills. If hearings are held, we would like the opportunity to speak to our submission.