

Garden of Tāne play space summary of feedback and project team response

51 submissions. 48 indicated support for the proposal, three opposed

Support comments	Number of comments	Project team response	Follow-up/completion date
Attraction to enhance Garden of Tāne for locals and visitors	23	Thank you for your support.	
The play space supports the overall character of reserve	14	Thank you for your support.	
Supports the nature playground space intention for imaginative play and exploration in natural environment	13	Thank you for your support.	
Commends Reserve Committee and local work/input	12	Thank you for your support.	
Encourages physical and social connection for young people and families	11	Thank you for your support.	
Support for collaboration to include Maori cultural values	7	Thank you for your support.	
Specific recognition and support for role of nature play space in early childhood education, especially for the local Play Centre, and including suggestions for extended activities/features such as interpretation panels and guided walks	4	Thank you for your support.	
Accessibility concerns and suggestions			
Please design play features to be accessible as possible, across a range of sensory experience* see detailed suggestions in relevant submissions below:	4	<p>The Garden of Tāne is a hillside and forested site and the topography of the site makes this a difficult location to be fully accessible without the need of significant earthworks and tree removals.</p> <p>The play area will provide for a wide range of sensory experiences. The concept proposal is to immerse children in nature. They can hear the birds, smell the forest, touch the trees, get their hands in the soil, crawl on the ground, scramble and climb on the logs, play with sound chimes, touch intricate Maori carvings, trace their hands over carvings of insects and Te Reo and English words.'</p>	
<p><i>Canterbury CDHB suggestions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path and deck entrance design to allow wheel-chair access to the folly hut • Consider wind chimes and soundboard at wheelchair height 	CDHB	<p>The design has been adjusted to allow improved access to Folly Hut by upgrading the track from the cemetery car park. A handrail will also be included next to the steps from the Grand Avenue track.</p> <p>The wind chimes and soundboard will be relocated next to the deck and Fully Hut for easier access.</p>	
<i>Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA)</i> acknowledges it is a nature play space as part of the reserve but need to consider disabled children and people esp mobility impaired, blind and low vision –	DPA	<p>In most cases, access on council reserves is generally easy to include. Garden of Tāne by nature is a hillside reserve, forested, and has deep gullies which create limiting factors. There is no open flat area to create a fully accessible play space without undertaking tree removal and significant earthworks and therefore altering the overall nature of this reserve.</p> <p>The following changes have been included in the concept plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addition of a handrail on the steps from Grand Avenue 	

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		2. Improvements to the track from the cemetery car park 3. Move the wind chimes next to the deck	
<i>Access to play spaces</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider alternative to chip pathway and walkway surfaces – all walkways need to be universally accessible and wide enough for mobility devices Include tactile strips at strategic points for blind and low vision All steps should have hand rails 	DPA	<p>The design has been adjusted to allow better access to Folly Hut by improving the track from the cemetery car park.</p> <p>A handrail will also be included next to the steps from the Grand Avenue track.</p> <p>Garden of Tāne by nature is a hillside reserve, forested, and has deep gullies which create limiting factors. There is no open flat area to create a fully accessible play space without undertaking tree removal and significant earthworks and therefore altering the overall nature of this reserve.</p>	
<i>Play equipment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide accessible ramp to folly hut and deck - needs to be relatively low gradient Features such as oak logs and balance rounds should be accessible Inclusion of wooden ramp edges Integrate other accessible play equipment for inclusive play 	DPA	<p>The design has been adjusted to allow better access to Folly Hut by improving the track from the cemetery car park.</p> <p>The play area will provide for a wide range of sensory experiences. The concept proposal is to immerse children in nature. They can hear the birds, smell the forest, touch the trees, get their hands in the soil, crawl on the ground, scramble and climb on the logs, play with sound chimes, touch intricate Maori carvings, trace their hands over carvings of insects and Te Reo and English words.'</p> <p>Comment requesting better access and inclusive play have been passed on to the Council's planning team, asking them to investigate other suitable play locations in Akaroa.</p>	
<i>Seating and furniture</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varying heights and accessible for all ages and disabilities, including the log seat 	DPA	All items are at varying heights. People have the ability to sit on balance logs, rounds or the bench.	
<i>Facilities</i> <i>Accessible toilets and changing areas needed</i>	DPA	<p>Councils generally does not provide toilet facilities in neighbourhood parks.</p> <p>Comment requesting toilet and changing facilities have been passed on to the Council's planning team for consideration.</p>	
<i>Information</i> All information about the park and the Garden of Tane is available on line and in hard copy, in NZ sign language, Easy Read, Te Reo, ethinci languages, braille, and large print.	DPA	<p>This request has been passed on to the Council's Visitor Experience team for consideration.</p> <p>Maori carvings on the folly hut poles, which have traditional Maori patterns, insects and writing carved in Te Reo and English will provide a tactile experience for children.</p>	
<i>Planning and decision-making</i> Requests a co-design process involving disabled people and their representative organisation	DPA	<p>The Council recognises the need to provide for all abilities in playgrounds and would be happy to work in a co-design team for future projects.</p> <p>Location and topography makes this difficult without the need for significant earthworks and tree removals, which would have a major effect on the character of this reserve.</p>	
Other suggestions			

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Please retain existing playground features such as swings, rocking horse and slide in the existing play area	4	This is a separate playground, not affected by the play space proposal. A separate process will consider equipment renewal in the future.	
The rest of the playground is out of date - don't need to retain the old equipment such as the slide	2	As above - this is a separate playground, not affected by the play space proposal. A separate process will consider equipment renewal in the future.	
Please provide seating for adults and tables for Kai	2	The log edging is designed to allow for seating. There are also two picnic tables next to the existing play equipment. The project budget does not currently allow for the addition of tables. This will be considered later if required.	
A need to cater for older children too to fill gap in Akaroa?	2	This design is about bringing children closer to nature with play experiences. It does not exclude older children from using this space. Other Akaroa parks such as the recreation grounds cater for older children and youth activities.	
Please retain all trees	1	The layout of this plan does not require any tree removal.	
Potential CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) issues with enclosed hut?	1	As this is a 'Woodland' park, this hut design is not considered to add further Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) risk to the children in the play space. The hut itself is open at both ends to allow good views through.	
Recommends drinking fountain	1	Generally Council does not provide drinking fountains in neighbourhood parks, however this request has been passed onto Parks Unit staff to consider.	
Area needs to be smoke free	1	Smoke Free is Council policy for all playgrounds.	
Opposition			
Alternative ideas for use of funding to improve Akaroa including upgrading tracks in the reserve	2	Track upgrades in the reserve are completed and ongoing, and along with play space planning, are part of the overall development of the reserve.	
Don't need a new playground - just 'play in the bush', 'keep it natural'	2	<p>This play area allows 'playing in the bush' but also helps to protect the vegetation from damage.</p> <p>The concept proposal is to immerse children in nature. They can hear the birds, smell the forest, touch the trees, get their hands in the soil, crawl on the ground, scramble and climb on the logs, play with sound chimes, touch intricate Maori carvings, trace their hands over carvings of insects and Te Reo and English words.'</p>	
Related suggestions			
Re-gazette to original name - Akaroa Domain	1	Thank you for this suggestion. A park name change would require further consultation and a Community Board decision. This request has been passed on to the Parks Unit for consideration.	
Recognition needed for Arthur William Erickson as playground founder and long term supporter	1	Thank you for your suggestion, which we have passed on to the Parks Unit to consider.	