Waitematā Local Board

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>Deputation - Gael Baldock: Western Springs Lakeside Te Wai Orea Park Development Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. Western Springs Lakeside Te Wai Ōrea Park Development Plan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>Deputation - Wendy Gray: Western Springs Lakeside Te Wai Orea Park Development Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. Western Springs Lakeside Te Wai Ōrea Park Development Plan</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>Wendy Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. No Mow Pilot Project</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Board member reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. Member S Trotman verbal report attachment August 2020</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OGR have asked WLBD to postpone their meeting to vote so that the democratic right to attend in person will have the community.
Attachment A

Item 8.4

And flame $1 million of ratepayer’s money while you’re at it...

Western Springs Native Forest is up for the chop.

We’ve understood that urban areas and centres of our new world are... what’s native forest and its unique and intact the life so close to the city centre.

Because beneath their skeleton effect we are exposed to a rich under abundance of nature species like burning millions.

We must save it all down, and start again. We say that’s crazy scorched-earth thinking.

Let’s save the city and work with this precious part of native forest we already have intact. Every tree the public will need it for the safety of the tracks becomes fully native. And at peace with its inhabitants.

We are calling a public meeting on Tree Protection and Saving Western Springs Native Forest.

Facebook: Three Rivers Western Springs
This is exactly the problem with Locals too. Unfortunately there are Councillors and Board Members who believe staff over independent experts. Consultation is just lip-service. ‘The lunatics are actually running the asylum’. This is what has been happening over the Resource Consent for Western Springs Forest, the staff are so determined to ‘win’ rather than doing what’s best for the forest or community. “Workshops” are where councillors get things explained to them by officials and can kick around ideas and questions, away from the glare of publicity. They are entirely legal, and form an essential part of informed decision-making, a theatrics-free forum for improved understanding before open political debate occurs. The problem is – what if all or most of the debate is happening behind close doors in workshops, and the public debate becomes a weary token effort, because the eventual outcome is already clear.”
Item 8.4

And flame $1 million of ratepayer's money while you're at it...

*Western Springs Native Forest is up for the chop.

While we understand that plans are welcome in our new world order, what's not widely understood in this case is their critical role in re-birthing a native forest and its unique bird and insect life so close to this city centre.

The council wants to spend one million dollars of your money to knock down the trees and open a flat track. They have been able to do this because they have already pulled out the trees they had no need for.

Western Springs is a small patch of forest that has been highly valued for the safety of the birds and insects that live within. The council's actions have caused a total and irreversible destruction of the forest's beauty and its unique animals that have lived there for generations.

If you agree with us, please join us for a public meeting on Tree Protection and Saving Western Springs Native Forest. We will hold it at 4pm on August 16, 2020 at Grey Lynn RSC. We will discuss the removal of trees from the area.

Occupy Garnet Road
Kids run free!
or Kids run over?

Western Springs Lakeside Park proposed changes

Keep the simple magic of the Park and save the eel bridge for the kids.
If you are concerned about Auckland Council spending millions
destroying the peaceful tranquility of OUR Park then come to the
Public Meeting.

The Waitematā Local Board’s ‘plan’ changes the Park from a
Recreational Reserve & Significant Ecological Area
into an ‘Entertainment Venue’.

Safe thoroughfares currently used by families (kids learning to ride
their bikes and babies in prams) by widened paths and replaced
bridges to allow large vehicles, fast cycles and scooters to take over.
The plan is also to remove the iconic ‘double hump bridge’ where people are currently able
to get up close to experience an encounter with native eels. The replacement is a high level
bridge far away from the eels, yet this park is called 'Te Waipaoa’, water of the eels.

In short we believe these and other proposed changes represent a critical loss of connection
to a simple expression of living in free open spaces in the city. Where kids, families and
citizens can roam, play and explore without having to dodge the traffic.
Western Springs Park is a rare jewel of open un-urbanised space in
Auckland - let’s keep it that way.

Have You Say at WLB Public Meeting
1pm Tuesday 18 August
L2 Auckland Town Hall
Hosted by Occupy Garnet Rd

Western Springs Lakeside Park
Save the eel bridge

Occupy Garnet Road
Attachment A

Item 8.4

WHY DESTROY A NATIVE FOREST TO CREATE A NATIVE FOREST?
**Attachment A**

**Item 8.4**

Proposed Plan 2019

- Slairs
- Existing
- Additional
Proposed Plan 2020

New track
Figure 20: 2014 Western Springs Lakeside Te Wai Orea ecological restoration plan of the native forest.
In 1995, to improve the management practices at the park, Boffa Miskell was appointed by Auckland City Council as a consultant to prepare Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan. It was adopted by the council in August 1995. Since then, the park is maintained by general regular upgrades and renewals. In 2014, Wildlands Consultants prepared the Western Springs Pine Stand Restoration and Accessibility Plan for Auckland Council to address the degrading native forest on the north part of the park. In 2017, Fukuoka Garden was added to the park on the west area, adjacent to the zoo entrance. It replaces the original Fukuoka Friendship Garden built in Auckland Zoo, which was given to Auckland in 1989 by Japan's Fukuoka City in recognition of the sister-city relationship.

Adoption of the 2020 Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan without costing or consideration will tie Auckland Council into another ill considered design wasting more ratepayer's funds following this pattern.
Attachment A

Item 8.4

Park closed

Unlawful entry will result in enforcement action and/or prosecution.

Park closed due to high risk of trees falling

No entry
Western Springs Lakeside Park a safe place for families where kids learn to ride bikes
LET’S KEEP IT SAFE
Imagine if the Playground was Zoo themed instead of THIS!

Western Springs Lakeside Park is next to the Zoo
Western Springs Lakeside Park 'Te Wai Oreta' - Water of the Eda

Western Springs Lake extended in 1974, with a weir system to regularly flush the water.
Attachment A

Item 8.4

Why doesn't the Wildland's design for Western Springs Lakeside Park Plan 2020 include the NIWA water investigation with Coulibaly Consultants, Water Engineers?

Why does a member of the community know about this and Wildlands and WL&B and AC staff don't? Who's doing their homework?
The Lake was extended in 1974, with a weir system for regularly flushing it to keep it clean. AC haven't maintained the system, so the Lake hasn't been flushed in a long time.

No need to lower the Lake and turn it back into a puddle.

A relatively small amount of $$$$ to repair the weirs would get the Lake clean again.

CLEAN the LAKE
Western Springs Lakeside Park
Te Wai Orea - Water of Eel

Lowering the Lake by 1 metre will mean there will be no water here for the eels.
SAVE WESTERN SPRINGS DOUBLE HUMP BRIDGE

It gives joy to many Park visitors because it gives close interaction with NATIVE EEELS.

GIVE THE BRIDGE HERITAGE STATUS

WESTERN SPRINGS LAKESIDE PARK PLAN

on agenda for 16 August 2019 for approval by Waitemata Local Board includes removal of the historical structure.

Wai Te Matā Local Board
18 August 2020

Minute Attachments
Proposed replacement bridge
no eel interaction
Item 8.4

Fish and eel management:

The purpose of the bridge is to provide the presence of the time (the time and its significance to native culture) in the wetland. The bridge will provide access to the wetland and encourage a return to traditional ways of life, including the use of the wetland.

The bridge will include design and construction features that are indicative of the cultural and ecological values of the area.

The bridge will be constructed to ensure the appropriate environmental and cultural considerations are met.
Attachment A

Item 8.4

Teenage NZ Royal Spoonbills visit Western Springs Lakeside Park regularly.

They have comeback from being endangered and may be looking for a new home.
Overdue Maintenance needed URGENTLY

Auckland Council has NOT costed these changes to Western Springs Lakeside Park. Most of the changes are UNNECESSARY especially right now, post-Covid.
Attachment A

Item 8.4

Fake and flawed consultation in 2018
Genuine consultation isn’t selling the design to the public.

A critique giving alternatives is how best design is achieved.
A critique was done by Gael Baldock, and it was ignored.

The Wildlands Plan doesn’t even research the Engineering of the original design from 1974.

LEAVE IT ALONE

It’s a busy spot next to the playground. We’re having great chats with people who are really passionate about the park including the original council designer who worked on the park in the 60’s. Free sausage sizzle. Here until 1pm

YES PEOPLE ❤️ THE PARK
Maintenance NOT Redesign

Don't throw out the baby with the bath water
Thank you to David Barker and the Local Board for the changes that have been made to the Plan over the last year.

I have some comments to make about the recommendations and the plan:

1. We are grateful that the plan has removed the circular track as the proposed pathway through the Forest. However at paragraph 34 of your recommendation it is noted that when the question about the paths through the forest is to be raised again “consultation on route options with relevant stakeholders” only is to be undertaken. Throughout the Resource Consent process the residents of West View Road had to fight to be considered as stakeholders. Only Council’s organisations in Western Springs are considered stakeholders. Could you please include the residents of West View Road and the local community as stakeholders to be consulted in this matter? They have fought long and hard to be considered by this Board and deserve to be consulted about this matter as it is they who will be most affected by it.

2. The recommendation at paragraph 35 states that the long term goal for the forest area is to return it to a native forest. The Forest is already a native forest. At the original hearing in 2018 of the Resource Consent application by Council Community Facilities, to clear-fell the Western Springs forest, the vicar of the local St Columba Church gave oral submissions to the Commissioners. He advised the Commissioners he was originally from East Cape and that he had grown up with pine trees and he was no friend of pine trees. However, the Western Springs forest was different. He said he collected his rongoa herbs from that forest and he was happy to do that because it was ngahere, it “smells” like the ngahere he said.

3. Throughout the plan the Forest is referred to as native forest. Can we stop dancing around this pin head. The Forest is a native forest that requires specimen planting to transition from a pine over-canopy to a broad leaf puriri over-canopy native forest. The over-canopy is the protection for the under-canopy and most importantly the forest floor. We now know that it is what happens on the forest floor that determines the success or failure of native plantings. If you clear-fell the pines and destroy 70+% of the native under-storey the important microbial and fungal web of life that is currently active on the forest floor will be destroyed.

4. The climate impact statement at paragraphs 42 and 43 does not address the obvious issue of the carbon to be released by the felling of over 200 90+ year old trees and destruction of native under-storey which will result in significant release of carbon. The felling of all mature climate managing trees in Auckland daily has a cumulative affect on the release of carbon and the management of Auckland’s climate and air cleaning both locally and regionally. There are obvious knock on
health and wellness issues here for future generations of Auckland residents. Auckland Council, its CCOs, departments, co-governance organisations and its planning department are significantly responsible for the clearance of Auckland’s climate managing mature trees and the consequent substantial release of stored carbon in these mature trees. Yet Council is not addressing these issues. Auckland Council’s claimed climate emergency is a sham whilst major tree clearances continue and Council fails to count the release of carbon in its Low Carbon strategies. Climate change is made worse by the loss of our mature climate managing trees. Council’s policies are inconsistent when we have an Urban Ngahere Strategy that talks about increasing the canopy to 30% whilst continuing to reduce it daily. Auckland cannot afford to lose any more mature urban canopy trees. Replanting is a LONG TERM PLAN 30 -50 years before trees reach maturity. What is biodiversity to do when daily they and their habitat are destroyed and will not be reproduced for 30-50 years, if years of expensive maintenance is effective. A forest that plants itself is far more resilient than one that is planted.

5. The recommendation at paragraph 62 claims “The management approach to the forest area mirrors the intent of the old Western Springs Lakeside plan which has been in effect and unchallenged since 1995.” The intention in the 1995 plan was to establish a “Pohutukawa-broadleaf forest” – I believe that the intention in this plan is to establish a Puriri broadleaf forest. Although at page 41 of the plan currently before you it is stated the intention is to establish a kauri forest? I believe that may be a mistake?

6. The 1995 plan does not envisage clear-felling the pines and throughout talks about maintaining the visual values by under-planting the pines with species which “upon maturity will be as equally visually dominant upon this skyline.” Some specimen plantings were done by Council in support of the plan and these trees are now reaching maturity. The 1995 plan does not envisage clear-felling the pines at all. I believe it is a stretch to imagine that the current plan mirrors the intent of the 1995 plan. What is clear both plans envisage a native forest, although they differ in the detail, but their methodology and management of that process is quite different. Clarity about what the plan actually is would be helpful. Meanwhile, nature is getting on with it, and the regenerating forest is lush, varied and strong having survived the most recent drought that would have decimated new plantings.

7. During the whole time I have been involved in the Western Springs Forest Resource Consent process from beginning to now I have never seen a hydrology report. At page 92 of the plan there is some comment regarding the general hydrology of the whole park. I draw your attention to this. If the CCF plan to clear-fell the forest proceeds it is quite clear that there will be hydrology issues for storm water run off and Motions Creek which have never been considered. These issues may well compromise the work set out in this plan for cleaning up Motions Creek and preserving the “at risk/endangered” long-finned eel.
8. Give yourself some wriggle room in respect of this plan. Covid has demonstrated that change can happen quickly and we all need to be able to adapt and change when the situation requires it. I also work with Save Chamberlain Park. Council has now registered Chamberlain Park for certification as an eco-sanctuary like Remuera Golf Course. This will take some time to process however this has knock on biodiversity dividends for Western Springs. They used to be joined. If we are to preserve what we currently have in our environment and biodiversity for future generations we will need to make big changes to the way we do things. The opportunity still exists for Western Springs and Chamberlain Park to be joined to create a biodiversity and environmental haven in the middle of Auckland.

9. The process of the development of this Western Springs plan has demonstrated that working with community builds strong outcomes and strong local communities. I ask you to please let the plan remain a living document.

Wendy Gray (8 min)

18 August 2020
The Wild Initiative – No Mow Grey Lynn Park
WLB Public Forum presentation by Wendy Gray
18 August 2020

I am here on behalf of Bruce Sommerville and myself to update you on the No Mow pilot programme in Grey Lynn Park.

First I would like to thank the Board for supporting The Wild Initiative and enabling us to form a community partnership with Council Community Facilities to make this No Mow pilot happen.

We are aware that the Local Board have not actually made a decision on the No Mow proposal for Grey Lynn Park but Council Community Facilities have already lowered the maintenance level of the services for this part of the park and it is not being mowed. The only regular maintenance is edge strimming at present. We are collaborating with Council Community Facilities on an on-going basis to manage this area.

A long term planting plan is being worked on and money has been set aside for signage for which we are grateful to the Board and Council.
We understand that there is a proposal to approve some funding for No Mow at your next business meeting.

We are grateful to the Board for this proposal which we hope will enable us to roll No Mow out across other parks in the WLB area.

Thank you for your attention.

Wendy Gray  
Mob: 021 149 2267
The Owner/Occupier
[insert address]

date

Dear Sir/Madam

PINE TREES IN WESTERN SPRINGS FOREST

I am writing to you regarding an ongoing risk that Auckland Council is managing in your local area. The council has identified a stand of pine trees (the trees) within the Western Springs Forest that are at risk of falling and a zone where the trees could fall. Part of the property you own or occupy is within the fall zone (please see map over the page).

There are differing views about the likelihood of the trees falling; however, the council considers that the risk will remain until the trees are removed.

The Waitematā Local Board is seeking further information before making a final decision on the implementation of the council’s resource consent to remove the trees. Due to interruptions caused by the COVID-19 lockdown and the conditions set under the resource consent, the trees may not be removed for some time yet. It is unlikely that any removals will occur before February 2021.

Accordingly, the council has taken steps to mitigate and manage the risk. This has included closing the forest to the public and suspending all pest and weed control in this area.

By the end of July 2020, fencing and signage will be placed around the fall zone in Western Springs Lakeside Te Wai Orea to restrict public access to this area. We are also working with Auckland Zoo and Regional Facilities Auckland (Western Springs Stadium) to manage any risk to people using facilities within the fall zone.

Given the timeframe involved in removing the trees, you may wish to consider whether you need to take steps to manage or mitigate any risk to you or your property. For instance, you may consider notifying your insurer, seeking expert advice, or altering the way people use the area within the fall zone of the property you own or occupy.

As an affected party, we will keep you informed of any substantial decisions regarding the trees. We will also provide updates to the Western Springs Community Liaison Group, set up as part of the resource consent conditions.

Should you have any queries, or require any further information, please email westernsprings@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and a member of our dedicated team will contact you.

Yours sincerely,

Rod Sheridan
General Manager Community Facilities