

Pasifika Community Garden Project Maala Kai – Community Development Proposal Assessment

1. Proposal

Papaioea Pasifika Community Trust (PPCT) is applying for a licence to occupy a portion of Bill Brown Park for the purpose developing an education community garden project. The purpose of the Pasifika Community Garden Maala Kai is to develop the capacity and capability of Pasifika families and community to grow and have timely and equitable access to healthy food, and to enhance food resilience and security.

2. Location

Bill Brown Park, Havelock Ave, Westbrook, Palmerston North). The proposed location is in front of the Pasifika Centre (between the Centre and the existing playground).



3. Reason for choosing location

The location has been chosen due to the proximity of the Pasifika Centre. With ease of access by both the management committee and volunteers for the garden.

Storage of required tools can be stored at the centre if required, although the group would prefer the co-location of a garden shed.

Due to the proximity to the park, there is good access to water, with an external tap on the Centre and PPCT have also purchased two 50 metre hoses for the purpose of watering the existing orchard and the proposed garden.

There are also existing toilet facilities for volunteers.

Council owned Community Centres, which border reserves, are assessed as the most suitable locations to establish community gardens in community neighbourhoods.

4. Strategic direction and alignment

Goal 3 - A connected and safe community

- Support and fund communities and organisations
- Neighbourhoods in PN are home to well-connected communities with a sense of place identity.
- Council takes the lead from communities in understanding how it can support projects and services that are of value to them and where possible provides communities with the resources to deliver their own initiatives.
- Provide support to community groups to increase freely available food crops in the city.

Goal 4 – An eco-city

- Foster sustainable practices and behaviours
- Maximise the proportion of waste diverted from landfill (for example, through recycling and composting)

5. Organisation structure and financials

The lease holder with Council for the proposed garden will be the Papaioea Pasifika Community Trust (PPCT). The Papaioea Pasifika Community Trust are the Charitable Trust that hold the Management Agreement with Council for the Pasifika Centre at Bill Brown Park.

The Pasifika Community Garden will be managed by a working committee comprising of members from Te Fatu O Te Pasifika and The Matua Ola Program, under the Papaioea Pasifika Community Trust (PPCT). The committee is established for the sole purpose of planning and managing the community garden. It shall be accountable to the PPCT board.

Technical support for the project will be sourced from organisations that have already successfully implemented community gardens (including the Manawatū Food Action Network). The overall success of this program will be achieved through partnership and collaborations between the working Committee, PPCT and with families, church, community groups and other providers.

6. Risks/Mitigations

Reputational risk

There is a reputational risk to Council of not supporting this initiative to be established, as the group have developed wide support through the Pasifika Community and the Ora Kōnnect network (through the Kai Security Squad as one of the proposed projects for implementation through the 4412 Kai Resilience Strategy). Council has the opportunity to be a partner in this space, to collaborate with community to achieve their food resilience aspirations.

Impeding access to the sports ground

Careful layout design needs to be negotiated with the Trust to ensure there is adequate ease of access through the site to the wider sports ground at Bill Brown Park.

Future development of a Bill Brown Park and a Pasifika Fale/Community Hub.

At the 31 May 2023 Council meeting, a resolution was passed to fund a feasibility study to investigate the needs and use of some of our community facilities including a Pasifika Hub. The final report to Council with recommendations will be presented before the end of this calendar year. PPCT and the wider Pasifika Community are participating in this study and are aware that if a community garden were to be approved, it may need to be moved in the future to accommodate future planning for the site.

7. Community Development Advisor Assessment

- The Pasifika Community Garden Project Maala Kai aims to address a growing interest and developing need for kai resilience initiatives in the city with a particular focus on supporting Pasifika families to develop skills in growing food (including the passing on of knowledge for growing culturally specific food in New Zealand climate conditions).
- Future plans include expanding the project to support the installation of vegetable gardens in the properties of Pasifika families. Kaiangā Ora are also in support of this approach in state owned houses.
- The group have demonstrated a clear vision and purpose that is assessed by staff to align strongly with Councils goals and priorities.
- The Pasifika Community Garden Project Maala Kai has the support of a strong management group with an existing relationship with Council, sound governance and the ability to seek funding to support the community garden.
- Issues identified in other community garden proposals are not evident in this proposal.
- The benefit to the community is well documented in their proposal and the group also have the full support of the Manawatū Food Action Network, Ora Konnect and the local Palmerston North Community Gardens community.
- An important part of this project is the educational component which aims to develop the capacity and capability of learners from the Te Fatu O Te Pasifika community including parents and grandparents to be able to grow and manage their own home garden projects.
- Advise that any proposed lease agreement considers the current Community Hubs Feasibility study. Within the scope of the study is to investigate the need and community aspiration for a Pasifika Fale (possibly to be located at Bill Brown Park). Any proposed lease agreement should include the potentially temporary location of the garden, with prioritisation to be made for a Pasifika Fale in future development plans for the park.
- Community Development Advisors recommend that the proposal be approved to present to the Strategy and Finance Committee for consideration for public consultation and that Council staff continue to provide support to resolve the issues of the site.