



Media Release

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New planting and bank development underway at Foster Park

Contractors are now busy developing new banks and sports fields at Foster Park, and native plantings have been added to the park.

Around 600 native plants have been planted in a new 'Green dot' corner in partnership with the Te Ara Kākāriki, a Canterbury trust which supports the development of native planting. Students from Rolleston Christian School and Broadfield School carried out the planting. The Green dots, which can be found at locations across the Canterbury plains, encourage native fauna and generate interest in native plants.

John Reid, Selwyn District Council Major Projects Property Manager, says the native planting provides a point of interest at the park and aims to develop a small native habitat encouraging native fauna such as lizards to colonise the space and birds to visit.

Three more sports fields are being developed alongside those already in use.

New grass mounds are being developed at the southern end of the park, near Dynes Road. Earthworks are currently under way in the area to develop raised banks and slopes, creating a point of difference from the rest of the park which is flat. Mr Reid says this new space will provide a raised landscaped area with seating and trees, where visitors can look over the park and enjoy the informal, relaxing environment.

In the next few months the Council expects to finalise plans for a destination playground at the park, opposite Selwyn Aquatic Centre. Over 80 local children were surveyed to see what attractions were most important to them. Adults were also invited to contribute. The most popular choices included a mouse wheel, a flying fox, and a large slide.

"While we may not be able to fit all of the play options into the park we are looking to accommodate as many of the most popular options as we can comfortably fit into the space available," says Mr Reid.

Work will soon begin on a half-size hockey turf within the park, coinciding with the founding of Rolleston's first hockey club. Also planned to start in the next few months is the development of a 200-space car park at the Broadlands Drive end of the park, and an extension to the car park at Selwyn Aquatic Centre.

"As the park develops there will be a need for more parking, and the planned works are designed to help meet this need," says Mr Reid.

Foster Park is Selwyn's largest sport and recreation park, and is being developed for the district's growing population. When fully developed, the park will have around 20 playing fields where teams from many sports can practice as well as compete. The park will provide a cool place to walk and cycle, or sit under the shade of trees and will become a great location for community events. It will eventually include a large children's play area, a youth recreation area, family picnic spaces and a variety of passive recreation spaces. With the Selwyn Aquatic Centre, future indoor sports facilities and Rolleston College also nearby, the park will be visited by people from throughout the Selwyn and wider Canterbury district.

Foster Park will also host its first major event soon, the Rolleston Community Fireworks on Saturday 5 November.

Photo attached: *work to develop new grass mounds underway at Foster Park, and new native plants have been added to the park*

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