

Community & Services Committee

16 September 2025

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [1]

Department: Community Services

Title | Taitara: Paererewā interactive art bench seat proposal for Jardine Park

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to consider approval of a permanent art installation in Jardine Park.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Community & Services Committee:

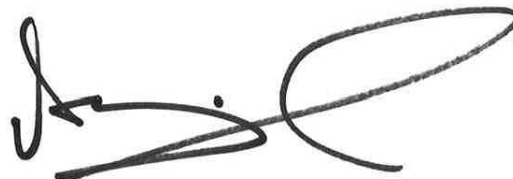
1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** the Paererewā bench seat proposal in Jardine Park.

Prepared by:



Name: Christine Skipworth
Title: Parks & Reserves Planner
19 August 2025

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Name: Ken Bailey
Title: Community Services General Manager
26 August 2025

Context | Horopaki

1. The Paererewā Trust, along with the Jardine Park Trust, has requested approval to install a permanent interactive art 'bench seat' [Attachment A] at a viewing point on Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) recreation reserve, in Jardine Park, Kelvin Heights, Queenstown.
2. The Paererewā Trust proposes to install 1000 such benches at locations across New Zealand. Jardine Park is one of the first locations to be considered. No other bench seats have been installed so far.
3. The bench seats are intended to be sympathetic to their individual site, while not necessarily each being a unique design. They are planned to be designed and constructed for durability in order to endure for '1000 years'.
4. QLDC adopted the Jardine Park Development Plan 2025 (development plan). It identifies several 'Look out points – with bench seating'. One of these has been selected for the bench seat location [Attachment B].
5. The Paererewā Trust presented their proposal to the community, including representatives from Kelvin Heights Community Association (KPCA) Queenstown Trails Trust, Whakatipu Reforestation Trust, Wakatipu Croquet Club and QLDC Parks staff at a meeting in Jardine Park on 8 May 2025. Feedback included support for the placement being an appropriate continuation of the art along the peninsular perimeter and for surrounding planting. Concerns included accessibility for elderly, material of the seat, maintenance and promotion of the seat.
6. The cost of the installation is provided by the Jardine Park Trust. The cost of maintenance is funded by an endowment fund, managed by QLDC. The endowment fund is seeded based on the percentage cost of the seat.

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

7. The proposal aligns with the development plan in terms of establishing a look out point and providing seating. However, art was not a theme that came through in the development plan feedback.
8. This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the approval of the bench seat under section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Option 1 Approve the bench seat proposal.

Advantages:

- Provides an additional outdoor recreation asset and art provision in Jardine Park
- May encourage more people to be active in the outdoors

- No cost to council; funded by external trusts
- May attract additional visitors to the reserve

Disadvantages:

- If it becomes a popular point of interest, it may create more vehicle and pedestrian traffic putting pressure on current facilities, such as parking and toilets
- Potential increase in visitors to the reserve may have negative impacts on the reserve

Option 2 Decline the bench seat proposal.

Advantages:

- Will not create changes to current or anticipated uses of Jardine Park

Disadvantages:

- Does not enlarge the artistic resources of the district
- There is currently no budget for asset improvement provision in Jardine Park

9. This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because the proposal location aligns with the Jardine Park development plan. It also offers an element of nature play, which is anticipated in the development plan.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi i kā Whakaaro Hiraka

10. This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy 2024 because it involves a strategic recreation reserve asset.
11. The persons who are affected by, or interested in, this matter are users of the Jardine Park recreation reserve, nearby residents, the KPCA, the Paererewā Trust, Jardine Park Trust, QLDC Arts Trust and visitors to Queenstown.
12. The KPCA provided feedback that they support the location in Jardine Park and the addition of inclusive features, such as nearby boulders enabling sitting and interacting with the art for those who can't access steps. However, they remain concerned that if the bench seat does become a destination, it could put pressure on existing infrastructure.

13. The QLDC Arts Trust provided feedback that there were no concerns from the trustees.

Māori Consultation | Iwi Rūnaka

14. The QLDC Parks team shared the proposal with representatives of Aukaha and Te Ao Mārama Incorporated. While mana whenua did not provide specific comment on the proposal, they did note that iwi involvement was initiated in the North Island, and there are engagement differences in engagement with different takiwā and rūnaka. Iwi have indicated that they will ask the Paerewā Trust to present to the mana whenua panel to support appropriate engagement on future proposals.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

15. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10005 Ineffective planning for community services or facilities within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high residual risk rating.

16. The approval of the recommended option will allow Council to implement additional controls for this risk. This will be achieved by undertaking a public consultation process and not compromising other work programmes.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

17. The installation and ongoing maintenance (weeding, vegetation control and inspections) would be fully funded by the trusts. Therefore, there are no financial implications, other than staff time facilitating engagement on the proposal to date and to coordinate future maintenance.

Council Effects and Views | Kā Whakaaweawe me kā Tirohaka a te Kaunihera

18. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- Vision Beyond 2050: Aligning with pride in sharing our places.
- The Reserves Act 1977.
- Local Government Act 2002.
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.
- QLDC Disability Policy.
- Kelvin Heights Reserve Management Plan 1977.
- Jardine Park Development Plan 2025.
- Proposed and Operative District Plan.
- QLDC Art in Public Places Policy 2015.

19. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies as art is a permitted activity in the informal recreation zone, the bench seat does not contravene the Kelvin Heights Reserve Management Plan, it is located in an area designated as a viewpoint within the Jardine Park Development Plan 2025 and it has acknowledged the Disability Policy by

including a smaller boulder nearby for seating so that that it can facilitate interaction with the bench seat.

20. This matter is not included in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan. The art is to be funded from external trusts.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions | Te Whakatureture 2002 o te Kāwanataka ā-Kiaka

21. Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. Approving the bench seat in Jardine Park may help facilitate social well-being and environmental well-being and appreciation. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act.

22. The recommended option:

- Does not require funding under the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Proposed interactive art 'bench seat'
B	Jardine Park Development Plan 'look-out point - with bench seating' proposed bench seat location

Attachment A: Proposed interactive art 'bench seat'

ATTACHMENT A Paererewā interactive art bench seat.



Attachment B: Jardine Park Development Plan 'look-out point - with bench seating' proposed bench seat location

ATTACHMENT B Jardine Park Development Plan proposed bench seat location.

