



The Ngaio School Board of Trustees Update

June 2022

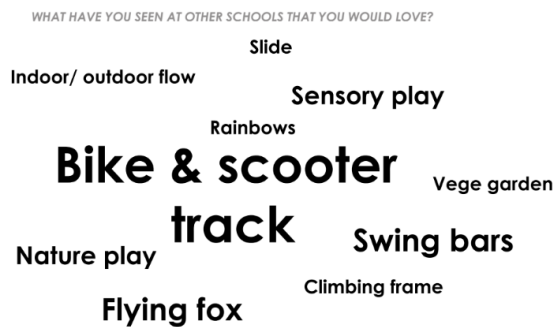
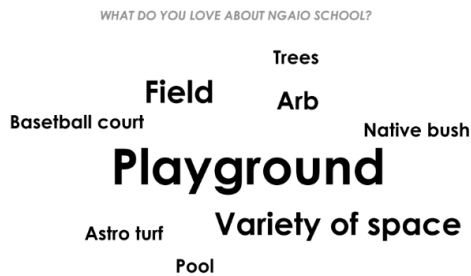
Ngaio School Landscape Masterplan - we'd like your feedback!

Kia ora koutou katoa

The Board of Trustees has recently developed a new landscape masterplan to guide improvement of the school grounds over the long term. The plan has been developed by a landscape architect after consultation with students, teachers and the school community. The draft plan is available here - [Ngaio School Property Masterplan \(draft\).pdf](#) We are now seeking community feedback on the plan before it is finalised.

Background

Ngaio School originally developed a landscape masterplan in 2014. This led to several projects including development of the arboretum and playbank. The Board decided to update the masterplan in 2020 to help guide future projects. Local Landscape Collective, a landscape architecture firm with a lot of experience working with schools and developing play spaces, was commissioned to develop the plan. A 'Masterplan' sub-committee involving Board and PTA members has provided input and there has been consultation with students and also the wider community through a survey sent home in term 3 last year. The outcome of the survey is summarised in the 'wordcloud' below:



Draft Masterplan

The plan includes a number of projects for improving the school grounds over the long term. It is

important to note that this is a long term plan. The timing of projects will depend on funding available and relative priority compared to other school needs.

Some of the key aspects of the plan include:

- A new **nature and sensory play area and slide** adjacent to the existing junior playground - to provide more play areas for the junior school and enhance this area;
- A **forest walkway and treehouse** on the north side of the playing field;
- A **bike and all-weather track** around the outside of the playing field - to be utilised for biking, running/walking and as a path to link different areas;
- An improved **Abbott St entrance**;
- **Outdoor education spaces** around the south boundary/top of the gully; and
- A new **climbing playbank** at the end of the existing playbank beside the courts.

Bike track proposal

Part of the masterplan is the development of a bike track around the outside of the playing field. This track would be developed in line with the Bikes in Schools program (see <https://bikeon.org.nz/>) and could have a number of key benefits, including:

- Assisting Ngaio children to learn to ride a bike earlier and more often to experience the many positive social and health impacts that result, such as increased confidence and resilience. A track would enable bike riding to be incorporated into the curriculum. It would also be used for the Pedal Ready program that the school participates in;
- Create another link between the school and Ngaio community as the bike track would be a community resource (there are limited flat and safe spaces for children to ride bikes in Ngaio!);
- Create an all-weather, multi-use track that can be used for other activities such as cross country, walking and triathlons.

The bike track will use a limited amount of the existing field area, however, because it will follow the perimeter it will not substantially impede on what the playing field is currently used for by children. In the masterplan that track is presented as limestone/gravel, however, it may need to be a different surface such as asphalt to be more durable and require less maintenance.

There is broad support for incorporating a bike track in the Ngaio school grounds from students, teachers and the Board. We welcome your views on this initiative.

Next steps

There are a number of ways you can give feedback on the draft masterplan:

- Email your thoughts to Clinton Geeves, Parent Trustee, at botclinton@ngaio.school.nz
- Chat to Board members at the school's **Matariki evening on Tuesday 28 June** - where there will be a stand with information on the masterplan; and
- Attend a brief presentation on the masterplan being held by the Board on Tuesday **28 June 2022** (7pm in the staffroom) where there will be an opportunity to discuss and give feedback.

Following community feedback the masterplan will be finalised in July to be incorporated into future planning. If you would like to contact the Board about the masterplan you can contact Estelle Jaine (Presiding Member) at botestelle@ngaio.school.nz or Clinton Geeves (Trustee) at botclinton@ngaio.school.nz

Ngā mihi nui me kia pai to rā

Ngaio School Board of Trustees

