

5. AVON RIVER – MILL ISLAND

Officer responsible Parks and Waterways Manager	Author Warwick Scadden, Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-6614
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The purpose of this report is to obtain approval from the Board for a programme upgrading the planting on Mill Island by the Christchurch Beautifying Association.

BACKGROUND

Mill Island is an island area of approximately 300 square metres within the Avon River, immediately north of the Hereford Street bridge.

The Christchurch Beautifying Association has had a long involvement with the site. The island was first planted by the association in 1898 and during subsequent years members have been involved in planting programmes of refurbishment and renewal. To commemorate the centenary of the association in 1998 a water wheel was installed to replicate what was in existence during the early 1900's.

PROPOSAL

The island planting has become overcrowded and a number of the trees and shrubs are in poor condition, with fungal disease evident in two of the specimens. The plan is to retain the most prominent of the trees and remove the poor specimens, namely a Cabbage Tree, Cherry, Holly, Maple, Euonymus and a Pyracantha. Removal of these will allow the remaining good specimens to continue to grow uncrowded and more light will penetrate to the lower shrubs and bulbous plants. Additional under planting of Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Fuchsia, Agapanthus, Hebe and Chatham Island Forget Me Not is planned and an irrigation system is to be installed.

RESOURCE CONSENT

A Resource Consent Number RMA 20009062 has been obtained.

The site is listed in the Proposed City Plan as a Group 3 heritage site and therefore any alterations are a discretionary activity with the discretion restricted to effects on the heritage area. The reason for these rules is to protect heritage areas of significance to the city. The Proposed City Plan states that alterations to a Group 3 heritage place shall not require written consent of other persons and shall be non-notified.

CONCLUSION

The Christchurch Beautifying Association has been involved with the planting and refurbishment of Mill Island since the initial establishment of plants in 1898. The current proposed work is a continuation of the ongoing involvement of the Association.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the proposed selected tree and shrub removal on Mill Island and additional planting be approved in accordance with Resource Consent number RMA 20009062.
 2. That a letter of appreciation from the Board be sent to the Christchurch Beautifying Association for their ongoing interest and financial support for the Mill Island plantings.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the recommendations be adopted.