

**4. RESERVE PURCHASE – HEATHCOTE VALLEY –
ST MARTINS PROPERTIES LIMITED**

RR 8136

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Corporate Plan Output: Capital Outputs – Reserve Purchases	

The purpose of this report is to consider the acquisition of a property lying between Bridle Path Road and Cannon Hill Crescent, owned by St Martins Properties Limited, to provide a walking link and nature corridor between the respective roads. The report has been referred to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board for comment.

BACKGROUND

As indicated, the property concerned is owned by St Martin Properties Limited which is in the process of subdividing the adjoining land into 16 allotments. As a consequence of the subdivision, the Council was approached to determine whether it was interested in acquiring approximately 2.5 hectares of the property as a walkway link and nature corridor. The area concerned is depicted as parcel “A” on the attached plan S3038.



Potential walkway link with planting foreground. Ferrymead and Heathcote background.

The proposed subdivision is being developed in such a way that it will form part of a bush nature corridor along the side of the Heathcote Valley. The company is progressively planting large portions of the properties to be subdivided with native trees and shrubs over which it is planned to place protective covenants to protect the planted areas of the sections when sold. Extensive planting has also been undertaken over about 20% part of the land proposed to be acquired as a reserve. The owner has estimated the value of the planting at \$28,000.

If purchased by the Council, the walkway link will provide an excellent link between the top and bottom of the hill at an easy grade, accessible to most reasonably mobile members of the public. The bottom access point will link with Ferrymead. The area to be acquired also offers several rock bluffs which are of interest to rock climbers and provides a scenic backstop to the Ferrymead Reserve.



View toward Heathcote Quarry Reserve from proposed Reserve

SUMMARY

This proposal will offer off road walking access for residents of Mt Pleasant to Ferrymead and the Heathcote River and will be a useful increase to habitat and wildlife in this area of the city.

The settlement details of this transaction are included in the public excluded section of the report.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Neighbourhood Reserve Purchase – Parks Capital Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That Parcel A on plan S3038 containing approximately 2.5 hectares of land be acquired from St Martins Properties Limited as a recreation reserve on the terms outlined in the public excluded section of the report.

The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board considered the above proposal at its meeting on 5 August 1998.

The Board decided to support this proposal and requested that there be public consultation on the naming of this new reserve.

The Parks and Recreation Committee established a sub-committee comprising the Chairman and Councillors Anderton, Cox and Sheriff to carry out a site visit and report to the present meeting of the Council with a recommendation.

The Sub-Committee, together with Council staff, met on site to inspect the land proposed for purchase. The Sub-Committee unanimously supported the proposal for the reasons outlined in the Parks Manager's report. As well, acquisition of the area will provide the opportunity for further walkway linkages with John Britten Park and the Summit Road thus enhancing the walking tracks on this part of the Port Hills. Walking is an extremely popular recreational activity and the Sub-Committee believes that this opportunity to create a new walking track should not be lost.

Accordingly the Sub-Committee recommends that the land concerned be purchased for reserve purposes.

Recommendation: That Parcel A on plan S3038 containing approximately 2.5 hectares of land be acquired from St Martins Properties Limited as a recreation reserve on the terms outlined in the public excluded section of this report.