

2. TREE STRATEGY

Officer responsible Liz Briggs	Author Councillor Paddy Austin/Warren Brixton
Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Council the inclusion of Tree Guardians as an integral part of any Tree Strategy.

Arising from the Committee's recent Annual Plan meeting the suggestion was made that the matter of "Guardians of the Trees" should form part of any Tree Strategy developed. If the survival rate of trees recently planted is to increase, and established trees saved from the developers chainsaw, then the appointment of honorary "tree guardians" could provide an appropriate means. Like the graffiti hotline, tree guardians could report instances of vandalism to new trees or moves by property developers on sections where mature trees exist. The guardians may also be willing to carry out some watering of new trees and generally keep an eye on trees in their respective streets, similar to the role of Honorary Wardens.

The use of metal protection cages for newly planted trees would assist in the survival rate and residents or organisations might be willing to sponsor the cost of these devices.

A suggestion has come through from the Mayor's Office, as a result of a visitor to Christchurch's comments, that people or groups be permitted to donate or plant trees in specified memorial places, as a living memory to a deceased person or pet. A plaque commemorating the particular person or pet could be installed with the tree when planted.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Open Space and Water Policy Leader be requested to consult with staff responsible for planting and protecting trees and develop a brief describing the work necessary to prepare a citywide tree planting strategy and covering the range of issues to be included.
 2. That this brief be reported to the July meeting of the Environment, Resource Management and Parks and Recreation Committees for comment and approval.
 3. That the tree strategy when formulated be referred to the Strategy and Resources Committee for approval.
 4. That the Parks and Waterways Manager in consultation with the Community Relations Manager prepare a report outlining a process for involving the community in a Guardians of the Trees project including provision for a database of volunteers or organisations willing to act as tree guardians.
 5. That the Parks and Waterways Manager be asked to report back to this Committee on current practice for the planting of trees donated for specific memorial reasons and the placement of memorial plaques in association with the donation.