

2. PURCHASE OF RESERVE – KAPUTONE CREEK

Officer responsible Parks & Waterways Manager	Author Bill Morgan, DDI 941-8581 - LD-001-84
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This report is being referred to the Shirley/Papanui Community Board for its consideration and recommendation to the Council.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to consider the acquisition of a parcel of land to enhance and protect Kaputone Creek.

BACKGROUND

Kaputone Creek is a spring-fed stream and is a major tributary to the Styx River. Its source is near the Groynes in Johns Road. From there it flows through residential Belfast to Sheldon Park and then eastwards to Marshland Road and its confluence with the Styx River. Over recent years the Council has purchased part of the property situated at 587 Marshland Road, as well as exchanging part of the land acquired in Radcliffe Road for an area owned by Jorna's Nurseries lying on the western bank of the stream. An opportunity has now arisen to acquire part of the land adjoining 625 Marshland Road in order to extend the river protection corridor along Kaputone Creek.

The purchase of this land is consistent with the Waterways and Wetlands Natural Asset Management Strategy and the development of a large green corridor associated with the Styx River, Kaputone Creek and Smacks Creek.

WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The margins of Kaputone Creek support a good diversity of common wetland birds, including Pukeko, Mallard, Spur-winged Plover and New Zealand Kingfisher.

Riparian habitats (particularly on the bends of the stream) are low lying and offer ideal opportunities for restoration of wetland plant communities and the creation of small ponding areas. Enhancement of Kaputone Creek at this locality can be expected to attract additional wetland bird species.

The existing trees and lower woody vegetation lining the river, as well as the fruit trees and the orchard recently acquired by the Council, support a range of native and exotic land birds. With denser planting along parts of the riverbank and on the terrace, a sizable area of high quality bush habitat could be created.

Trees and wooded areas lining Kaputone Creek constitute an important movement corridor for both native and exotic land birds. The creation of a sizable wooded area on the property (particularly one that holds significant food sources – fruits, berries, flowers etc) will not only become a component of this corridor but will attract birds in its own right. Increases in native bird numbers and species can also be expected in areas adjacent to the Kaputone Creek flood plain at this and neighbouring sites.

PROPERTY DETAILS

The property is located on the western side of Marshland Road, approximately 600 metres north of its intersection with Belfast Road. The area to be acquired is depicted as Section 1 on the attached plan 23907/3 and contains an area of 1.25 hectares. Adjoining properties to the north and south comprise orchards, whilst to the opposite side of Kaputone Creek are lifestyle blocks as well as the Chilton Piggery complex from which the Council has secured an esplanade strip adjoining the stream providing for public access.

The property is level with the road. However it is undulating in contour, particularly to the rear of the site where it is terraced down to the river. At the southern end of the area to be acquired there is a eucalyptus wood lot, which is quite low lying.

ZONING

The property is zoned rural 3 under the City Plan, which permits subdivision down to a minimum of four hectares.

PROPERTY SETTLEMENT

The property was valued for the Council by Ford Baker, Registered Public Valuers, the details of which are included in the public excluded section of this report.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Styx River Waterways and Wetlands Protection page 9.4.85.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council resolve that Section 1 on Plan 23907/3, containing 1.25 hectares (subject to survey) be acquired on the terms and conditions contained within the public excluded section of this report for a Recreation Reserve pursuant to Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977.
 2. That the Council resolve pursuant to Section 16(2)(A) to classify the land as a Recreation Reserve pursuant to Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977.