

13. RESULTS OF REVIEW OF RIVERSIDE PLANTING SITES

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the results of the review of riverside planting at two sites chosen by the Board in March 2004.

BACKGROUND

Following a deputation from the Merivale Precinct Society to the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee in February 2004, expressing concerns about the effects of native planting along the banks of the Avon River adjacent to Little Hagley Park, it was decided that all Boards would choose two riverside planting sites in their area for review by an independent landscape architect. The sites chosen by the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board were:

Site 1: Amelia Rogers Reserve from New Brighton Road

Site 2: Blighs Garden, off Evans Drive, South New Brighton

The matters raised for consideration in the review included:

- Many large plants too close to the path.
- Limited views of the river.
- Concerns about pedestrian safety when using the path.
- Poor standard of maintenance along the river edge (between the water level and top of the riverbank).

REVIEW

The review was carried out by Jenny Moore, ANZILA. Jenny carried out a site analysis, including river character, vegetation character and site character. She then proceeded to explore opportunities to mitigate, through design and maintenance, any detracting outcomes of the planting. The report includes photographs of the plantings, with notations.

CONCLUSIONS

Site 1: Amelia Rogers Reserve

The conclusions are stated in **3.0: Opportunities for mitigation through design and maintenance:**

- 3.1 Realignment of the footpath to provide a range of spatial and visual experiences that would make pedestrians feel comfortable and secure.
- 3.2 Identify areas where it is appropriate to take the path close to the riverbank and provide pedestrians with the opportunity to experience the river.
- 3.3 Establish a variety of plant groups which respond to the path alignment.
- 3.4 Use plant combinations to enhance and frame views of the river.
- 3.5 Select appropriate plants for the situation. Plants that will form into small trees should be given enough space to develop into their full potential. Avoid the use of large plants in front of seats.
- 3.6 Use low growing plants adjacent to footpaths and plant them far enough away from the edge of the path so that they do not cause an obstruction as they mature.
- 3.7 Develop a maintenance and management plan for the reserve.

Site 2: Blighs Garden

Community Board issues and concerns:

- Access from Evans Avenue.
- Access to the river.
- Issues of safety along the track.

- Scruffy planting along the riverbank.

The conclusions are stated in **3.1: Opportunities for mitigation through design and maintenance:**

- 3.1.1 Redevelop the entrance to the estuary walk at Evans Avenue to provide legible and safer access for cyclists and pedestrians.
- 3.1.2 Create a boardwalk out from the stopbank to provide access to the river margin and a clear view of the walkway and approaching pedestrians.
- 3.1.3 Remove weed species and establish appropriate planting along the stopbank between the walkway and the existing marginal vegetation.
- 3.1.4 Develop a maintenance and management plan for the reserve.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
- 1. That the information be received.
 - 2. That remedial maintenance work be carried out on Sites 1 and 2 as recommended in the report and funded by the Greenspace Unit.
 - 3. That maintenance and management plans be developed for Sites 1 and 2, funded by the Greenspace Unit.
 - 4. That the Board use some of its 2004/05 Discretionary funds to carry out recommendations 3.1 and 3.2 at Site 1.
 - 5. That the Board use some of its 2004/05 Discretionary funds to carry out recommendations at 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 at Site 2.
 - 6. That the report conclusions be shared with all designers who have an input into riverside planting projects in Christchurch, in order to design more appropriately for future plantings.

Chairperson's

- Recommendation:**
- 1. That a further report be sought to determine specific plans and costs involved in recommendations 4 and 5.
 - 2. That the Greenspace Unit be requested to report on the pedestrian/cycleway through the Amelia Rogers Reserve and proposals for the provision of parking for kayakers/canoists.