

9. NAMING OF PARK WALK – EDGAR TAYLOR WALK

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The purpose of this report is to recognise the life work of Mr Edgar Taylor city council landscape architect and horticulturalist who has contributed significantly to the garden fabric of our city through his skilled design and layout of many of our significant gardens, public spaces, and street avenues. It is proposed that his civic work be recognised by naming a walk after him in one of our city parks that he had a major role in designing.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is proposed that a site of significance be named after Edgar Taylor Landscape Architect and the sites recommended are outlined in the report. Approval is sought to name this walkway, “**Edgar Taylor Walk**”. This site was chosen due to Mr Taylor’s design work in this park, which is still evident today.

This proposal was brought to the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee in 2003 by Mr Graeme Stanley, and since endorsed by a group of eminent horticulturists, who trained and worked at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens in the 1950’s and who recently met in Christchurch. Many of these people went on to hold positions of responsibility as directors of parks in other cities, and owned or managed nurseries and landscape companies.

The influence of Mr Edgar Taylor is seen today in many of our mature parks and gardens throughout the whole city. He was employed by the City Council in 1942 and undertook a great number of significant landscape designs for our city until his retirement in 1965 at the age of 79.

The policy process is for the Committee to approve the naming of metropolitan parks and recommend this to the appropriate Community Board for comment. Community Boards have authority to name local parks. Three sites have been chosen for consideration by the Committee. Two are metropolitan and one is local.

The three sites chosen by staff for the consideration of the Committee are;

- Scarborough/ Sumner Esplanade
- Rolleston Avenue, Boulevard
- Beckenham Park, walkway

This information will be passed to the New Zealand Geographic Board for recording.

POLICY FOR NAMING OF RESERVES AND FACILITIES

That the following code of practice be approved for the naming of parks and reserves:

1. All reserves vested in or under the control of the Council shall be given an appropriate name. The procedures to be followed shall be as set out in 2 to 5 below.
2. Proposed names shall be approved, by resolution of the Council, or where appropriate, recommended for approval to the New Zealand Geographic Board. Naming shall be initiated either at the time of vesting or at the latest, when development proposals for the particular reserve are being considered for adoption.
3. For existing reserves, whether previously formally or informally named, and through common usage are accepted by the community, generally these names shall be retained. Where changes are to be sought, the procedures as outlined for new reserves shall be followed.
4. For reserves having local or major status, naming proposals, including options, shall in the first instance be referred to the appropriate Community Board. To the extent deemed necessary, proposals will then be referred to the community for comment prior to format adoption and recommendation, to the Council.

5. For reserves having metropolitan status, proposals shall be referred to the appropriate Council Committee (currently Parks and Recreation) for consideration and recommendation to the Council after having been first referred to the Community Board for comment.
6. Names approved by the Council for reserves having major status or above, shall be referred to the New Zealand Geographic Board via the local office of the Department of Survey and Land Information, for final approval.
7. That the Parks Manager be responsible for organising the format naming process.

Parks and Recreation Committee
27 July 1993

BACKGROUND

Edgar was the son of Ambrose Taylor who arrived from England to be appointed in 1889 Head Gardener of the Government Domain consequently now the Botanic Gardens. The family lived in the Head Gardener's House and from an early age Edgar helped his father in the gardens. While working for Alfred Buxton, a Christchurch firm of nurserymen and landscape gardeners, he studied at the Canterbury College School of Art and was awarded the diploma in landscape design in 1912.

Employed in 1942 by Christchurch City Council as the first city landscape architect, Edgar Taylor laid out a large number of grounds, parks and reserves. The most prominent of these are the banks of the Avon River; the New Brighton and Sumner foreshores; the Christchurch International Airport grounds; Ruru Lawn Cemetery; Woolston; St Albans; English; Barnett; Edgar MacIntosh; Avebury; Addington; Plynilimon; Spreydon; St James and St Leonard's Parks .

He designed the Ballantyne's Memorial Garden at Ruru Lawn Cemetery, the floral clock in Victoria Square, and one of his last jobs with the city was that of designing the new front fence to the Botanic Gardens featuring the McGibbon Memorial Gates.

Many Christchurch factory gardens, renowned for their horticulture splendour and visited by many as Christchurch show pieces, were also designed by Edgar Taylor while in the employment of Alfred Buxton, or while self employed. Best known to this day are the Sanitarium Health Food Factory grounds in Harewood Road.

SUITABLE SITES

Several suitable sites have been chosen by officers given the extensive areas of the public open space in the city that were designed by Edgar.

1. Barrington Park, weeping tree collection and shrub borders design.
2. Beckenham Park, walkway, landscape shrub borders and trees design.
3. Elmwood Park, walkway, landscape shrub borders design.
4. Avebury Park, walkway, landscape shrub borders design.
5. Avon River Central City, river corridor banks landscape design.
6. Botanic Gardens, design of plant collections gardens.
7. Rolleston Avenue, boulevard tree replacement design.
8. Scarborough/ Sumner Esplanade garden design behind walkway sea wall.

The three metropolitan sites are Scarborough/ Sumner Esplanade Walk, Central City Avon River Walks and Rolleston Ave Walk on the Botanic Gardens side.

CONCLUSION

Naming a walk after Edgar Taylor is considered a fitting tribute to his work for Christchurch and the considerable influence he had on our public open space. Three sites have been chosen for consideration of the Committee, subject to comment from the Community Board and local residents' groups.

The three sites chosen by staff for the consideration of the Committee are;

- Scarborough/ Sumner Esplanade
- Rolleston Avenue, Boulevard
- Beckenham Park, walkway

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the chosen site be named Edgar Taylor Walk in recognition of Mr Taylor contribution to landscape architecture in Christchurch.
 2. That the New Zealand Geographic Board be notified of this decision.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Beckenham Park Walkway be named Edgar Taylor Walk in recognition of Mr Taylor's contribution to landscape architecture in Christchurch.
 2. That the New Zealand Geographic Board be notified of this decision.