

8. LAKEWOOD RESERVE - FINAL LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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The purpose of this report is to confirm Board support for the landscape development plan for Lakewood Reserve following community consultation.

BACKGROUND

At the Board meeting on 16 February 2004, the proposed Lakewood Reserve planting plan was accepted for circulation to local residents for their comment and feedback.

The plan proposed to reduce future tree hazard risk by removing six Eucalyptus trees and several smaller tree species from the Lakewood Drive/Yellowstone Crescent corner. The plan also highlighted some replacement planting, an area of groundcover and a park seat made from wood retained from the tree felling.

CONSULTATION

The Parks and Waterways Area Advocate met with the Windsor/Westhaven Residents' Association in February 2004 to discuss details of the proposed plan. In March a copy of the draft landscape plan was circulated to 146 neighbouring residents and the Residents' Association, inviting responses via pre-paid envelope. Project staff held a public meeting with local residents in March. This was well attended and proved to be a useful forum to gauge the level of public support and answer residents' questions about the project.

The consultation process sought feedback on the general landscape design. Four options were presented for replacement tree planting.

RESULTS

Forty-one completed comment forms have been received, a response rate of 28%. Residents were asked to indicate their acceptance/non-acceptance of the plan, their preferred tree species and were given the option to comment. The results are listed below (figures in parentheses refer to the actual number of respondents who commented on that particular point).

Feedback on the proposed landscape plan

- 85% Accept the proposed plan (35)
- 5% Do not accept the proposed plan (2)
- 10% Gave no indication but chose to comment (4)

Main reasons given for opposing the plan were:

- Liking what is already there.
- Area is too dry for any trees to survive.

Feedback on the tree species list

- 63.3% Would like to see a mixture of the tree species suggested (26)
- 7.3% Would like to see Magnolia (3)
- 4.9% Would like to see Scarlet Oak (2)
- 4.9% Would like to see English Oak (2)
- 9.8% Would like to see other trees planted (4)
- 9.8% Gave no indication (4)

The response forms have been analysed and where possible suggestions that tie in with the management of the area have been incorporated into the final plan (see attachment).

These suggestions include:

- Considering those issues related to tree leaves and debris and where possible mitigating against these.
- Choosing the biggest and healthiest tree specimens possible for replanting.
- Planting one additional Magnolia tree along the berm outside 20 Lakewood Drive.
- Responding to enquiries about three trees in the adjacent area (on Council reserve land) that may require an Arborist assessment.

DISCUSSION

In light of the information received, it is apparent the results are clear and give a good basis to proceed with the landscape plan. However, the issue of tree leaves and debris littering the area, as raised by 15% of respondents, requires consideration. A solution is to plant more Magnolia and Scarlet Oak trees than the English Oak (which tend to drop more acorns), and to plant the English Oak on the berm - away from the footpath.

CONCLUSION

Recent consultation on the proposed replacement planting plan for Lakewood Reserve indicates great support from the local community. Feedback on the preferred tree species indicates a majority vote for a mixture of the suggested species. With some careful replacement planting, minor landscape work, and the benefits of using new trees with some height, the area should prove in time to be a pleasant attraction to the area.

Funding is available from the maintenance budget for the tree removal during autumn. Replacement planting will be carried out during the 2004 planting season.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board approve the amended landscape plan for Lakewood Reserve and support its implementation.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.