

3. MONCKS SPUR RESERVE CONCEPT PLAN

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	Greenspace Manager
Author:	Kathryn Howard, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate Hagley/Ferrymead, DDI 941-6614

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval of the amended concept plan for Moncks Spur Reserve.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Funding has been allocated in the current financial year to landscape Moncks Spur Reserve. Initial suggestions were requested from immediate neighbours to the reserve and a draft concept plan incorporating these suggestions was posted on an on-site noticeboard and distributed to approximately 100 local residential households in February 2005 inviting feedback on the proposal. 30 submissions were received, with 24 supporting the proposed concept plan and 7 opposing it.
3. Submitters were also asked to indicate their support for renaming the reserve Morten Settlement Reserve; 22 supported this renaming and 4 opposed it. Submitters suggested various spellings of Morton, Mortens and with or without Settlement which will require further investigation and consultation.
4. Although there was support for improving Moncks Spur Reserve, many submitters were concerned about its ongoing maintenance and costs, referring to maintenance issues on nearby road reserves and reservoirs with one submitter suggesting sheep could be used to reduce mowing requirements. A number of submitters requested that the reserve should be less developed, particularly the road frontage, so it is more in keeping with a rural lane not an urban park, and to avoid attracting "boy racers" to the reserve. Concerns were raised about realigning the swale to create a widened road shoulder particularly considering the narrowness of Moncks Spur Road. Two submitters requested a playground for children. There were a number of comments on suggested plant species with respect to future height, avoiding underground services and site suitability. There was also a request to plant the triangle of road reserve across the private driveway from the reserve. There was strong support for the footpath, drinking fountain and seating.
5. As a result of the submissions received it is proposed to reduce the ongoing maintenance requirements of the reserve and make the road frontage less formal by the following amendments to the concept plan (as attached):
 - Keeping grass at all one height - no mown path to seating area.
 - Not planting cut flower plants.
 - Removing low planting from the proposed seating area and reducing the paved area around picnic tables.
 - Installing an irrigation system for the planted areas whilst they establish.
 - Not planting large trees along the northern boundary where underground services are located.
 - Delete the steps and reduce amount of low planting required above the footpath by battering back and grassing the slope up from the road side.
 - Moving the drinking fountain closer to the reservoir to reduce piping requirements.
 - Not creating an informal pull in area by widening the road shoulder.
 - Not significantly realigning the swale so avoiding the need for a footbridge.
 - Planting the triangle of road reserve across the private driveway.
6. Due to the site's size and safety fall zones around playgrounds, no play equipment is currently proposed for the reserve. Sheep are not considered appropriate here as the required fencing may deter local people from knowing they can access the reserve. A number of complaints about maintenance of other reservoirs were received which have been forwarded to the City Water and Waste Unit to address.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. \$20,000 has been allocated in the 2004/05 financial year for the landscaping of Moncks Spur Reserve and the City Streets Unit will contribute to the works in the road reserve.
8. The proposed renaming of Moncks Spur Reserve would require further consultation, a report back to the Board then approval from the Council followed by the New Zealand Geographic Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the amended concept plan for Moncks Spur Reserve.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the recommendation be adopted.