

2. FERRIER PARK MAJOR TREE REPLACEMENT PLAN

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Michael Aitken, Greenspace Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval of the major tree replacement planting plan for Ferrier Park following consultation with the local community. The report also contains a recommendation to allocate \$15,000 from the Board's 2005/06 Environment Committee Fund for the native planting component of the proposed plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Board members will recall that the concept plan for the replacement planting of Ferrier Park was presented to the Environment Committee on Monday 28 November 2005, prior to the Greenspace Unit carrying out consultation with the local community.
3. The plan was sent out to approximately 400 residential properties around the park in March 2006. There was a good response from the local community with a total of 37 people returning the comment form providing feedback on the proposed plan.
4. Overall we received a very positive response with the feedback indicating a good level of support for the proposed plan. As a result of the consultation, the Greenspace Unit proposes one minor change to the original plan. (See attached plan)

The change is:

- (a) Provision for a pedestrian access point through the tussock planting at the north western corner of the park on Nortons Road. A number of respondents indicated that this is used regularly by parents and children going to Avonhead Primary School.
 - (b) Provision of a sealed pedestrian path going from the north west corner of the park at Nortons Road and linking to the existing path coming into the park from Balrudry Street could be considered in the future if desire lines indicate a sealed pathway is warranted.
5. The second stage tree removals have already been undertaken in preparation for this year's planting programme. This will have completed approximately 80% of the removals, with the remaining 20% to be undertaken progressively over the next 2 years.
 6. The planting season normally commences in May. Due to the very dry summer, however, planting may be delayed for a few weeks until soil moisture and climatic conditions improve to give the replacement trees the optimum chances of establishment and survival.
 7. All respondents have been sent a final reply letter thanking them for their input, including an A3 colour copy of the finalised plan. The letter informed respondents that the plan would be presented to the Riccarton Wigram Community Board for approval. Details of the meeting (Time, date, venue etc) were also provided so that any interested people could attend.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. The local community has been previously advised of the removals and recently consulted with regard to the replacement planting proposal. None of the trees removed to date or any remaining trees programmed for replacement over the next 2 years are protected by the City Plan.
9. The current 2005/06 Greenspace Capital Works Programme has funding available for the tree removal (already completed). Replanting is proposed this planting season after 1 July 2006 (ie next financial year). Further funding is programmed for Ferrier Park replanting over the next three financial years (See table below). This will complete the replacement planting programme for Ferrier Park. **It is important to note that funds programmed in future years are subject to Council confirming budget expenditure for that particular year.**

10. The following table shows details of the proposed development programme.

Project Detail	2005/06	2006/07 (To be confirmed)	2007/08 (To be confirmed)	2008/009 (To be confirmed)
Tree Removal	\$30,000 (completed)			\$15,000
Replacement Planting		\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

11. The proposed plan contains an area of native planting adjacent to and within the boundary of the Avonhead Primary School. The native planting is focused on delivering one of the Board's Objectives, which is to increase the amount of native planting in the Board's area.
12. The above table shows the Greenspace Capital Works Budget where there is funding programmed for the tree removal/replacement programme. There is, however, no Greenspace Unit funding provided for the native planting component of the proposed plan. If the native planting component of the plan is to proceed at this time, then it will need to be funded by the Riccarton Wigram Community Board.
13. The Environment Committee Fund has \$20,719 in the current 2005/06 financial year which is currently unallocated to any projects. The Greenspace Unit proposes that \$15,000 from that fund be allocated to implement the native planting component of the plan.
14. The alternative is to programme the native planting into the Greenspace Capital Works Budget for future years. However, the reality of this option is that the planting would be very unlikely to take place within the next 5 years, given current funding demands and competing priorities.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board:

- (a) Approves the **attached** Ferrier Park Major Tree Replacement Planting Plan and that the Greenspace Unit commence the implementation programme during the current planting season (May – September).
- (b) Allocates \$15,000 from its 2005/06 Environment Committee Fund to implement the native planting component of the proposed plan.