

5. REALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO RIVERLEA RESERVE

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	Greenspace Manager
Author:	M Hay, Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-5410

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to the reallocation of \$400 from the 2005/2006 Arbor Day project to Riverlea Estates to contribute to the planting plan for Riverlea Estates Reserve.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Community Support Unit has \$1,000 allocated in the current financial year for Arbor Day activities in the Shirley/Papanui area. The Arbor Day programme has been managed on a city-wide basis by the Regional Parks Team.
3. There has been a limited response from schools in the Shirley/Papanui ward to Council's invitation to take part in the Arbor Day programme. Four schools have elected to participate, a level of response that is consistent with previous years. However, this leaves \$400 of Community Board Arbor Day funding unspent. It is considered that the remaining \$400 would be best spent on the development of one of the Greenspace Unit's new reserves.
4. Staff consider it would be appropriate to use this money to contribute to the landscaping of the Riverlea Reserve, which was gifted to the Council in 2004. The condition of this land being gifted to Council was that Riverlea Reserve be developed with a focus on the natural environment. As such, it will require extensive landscaping. It is proposed that this development will be staged, with initial funding provided for the 2006/07 year. The reallocation of \$400 to this project would, in part, acknowledge the gift from Riverlea Estates (Inc) and supplement the planned upgrade to this reserve.
5. Four options to spend the remaining Arbor Day funding were considered; these were:
 - a) Restrict Arbor Day funding to schools. Four schools have accepted this offer, which leaves \$400 remaining. This could be given to the four interested schools but this would be inequitable, given that schools in all wards are only receiving \$150.
 - b) Reallocate the remaining Board funding to Riverlea Community to spend on a planting day for landscaping Riverlea Reserve. The community does not want a community planting day. They would prefer that Council undertake this work.
 - c) Reallocate the remaining Board funding to the 2006/2007 development of Riverlea Estates' reserve areas by the Greenspace Unit.
6. The preferred option is c).

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. \$1,000 is allocated to the Community Support Unit's budget for 2005/06 for Arbor Day.
8. Should the Board recommend the reallocation of \$400 of this fund to the Greenspace Unit's capital budget, the transfer can be actioned under the Community Support Unit Manager's delegated authority.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the reallocation of \$400 from the 2005/06 Arbor Day Project Fund to the Greenspace Unit for the 2006/2007 Riverlea Estates Reserve project.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the officer's recommendation be adopted.

BACKGROUND

9. The Community Support Unit has \$1,000 allocated in the current financial year for Arbor Day activities in the Shirley/Papanui area. The Arbor Day programme has been managed on a city-wide basis by the Regional Parks Team. The offer to schools includes a voucher for \$150, which can be redeemed from Trees for Canterbury, which will provide a free plant for every plant purchased. This allows schools to receive \$300 worth of plants, which they can plant at an Arbor Day planting – up to and between Arbor Day (5 June) and Conservation Week (7-13 August). Council must allocate the Board funding prior to the end of June 2006.
10. There has been a limited response from schools in the Shirley/Papanui ward to Council's invitation to take part in the Arbor Day programme. Four schools have elected to participate, a level of response that is consistent with previous years. However, this leaves \$400 of Community Board funding unspent. Staff have discussed this issue with the Community Engagement Advisor, who is responsible for this funding allocation. It is considered that the remaining \$400 would be best spent on the development of one of the Greenspace Unit's new reserves.
11. Staff consider it would be appropriate to use this money to contribute to the landscaping of the Riverlea Reserve, which was gifted to the Council in 2004. The condition of this land being gifted to Council was that Riverlea Reserve is developed with a focus on the natural environment. As such, it will require extensive landscaping. It is proposed that this development will be staged, with initial funding provided for the 2006/2007 year. The reallocation of \$400 to this project would, in part, acknowledge the gift from Riverlea Estates (Inc) and supplement the planned upgrade to this reserve.

OPTIONS

12. Four options to spend the remaining Arbor Day funding were considered; these were:
 - a) Restrict Arbor Day funding to schools. Four schools have accepted this offer, which leaves \$400 remaining. This could be given to the four interested schools but this would be inequitable, given that schools in all wards are only receiving \$150.
 - b) Reallocate the remaining Board funding to Riverlea Community to spend on a planting day for landscaping Riverlea Reserve. The community does not want a community planting day. They would prefer that Council undertake this work.
 - c) Reallocate the remaining Board funding to the 2006/07 development of Riverlea Estates' reserve areas by the Greenspace Unit.

PREFERRED OPTION

13. The preferred option is c), which is consistent with the views of the key stakeholder, Riverlea Estates (Inc), and Council staff.