

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT FUND ALLOCATION

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| General Manager responsible: | General Manager, City Environment |
| Officer responsible: | Michael Aiken, Greenspace Manager |
| Author: | Ann Liggett, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-5111 |

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is for the Community Board to approve \$7,000 of its Project Fund, allocated for an Environmental Enhancement development project, after receiving submissions from the local community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Following a recommendation from the Community Board, an article was placed in the December 2005 issue of the Spreydon/Heathcote newsletter calling for submissions from the community on areas that could benefit from some enhancement planting/landscaping.
3. Eight submissions were received and are outlined below with a staff comment provided for each project:

- (a) **Arahura Christian Counselling & Medical Centre** **\$5,000**
406 Barrington Street
(written application attached)

Spreydon Health and Family Trust – Contemplative Garden

“The goal is to create a small contemplative garden for patients and the general community to be able to stop and ponder. We are aware folk with mental health issues especially those with anxiety and those who have been abused often do not use available parks because they are too large and open or separate from homes to feel safe. The idea is to create a small garden at the front of the health centre so it feels safer for such folk. We have a high number of such clients attending the centre each week but we are also welcoming use by the local community”.

Staff Comment: This is a project that will benefit not just the users of the Counselling and Medical Centre, but the whole community. With the garden being located on the street frontage and open to the street, passersby are able to stop and rest within a relaxing environment. Trees for Canterbury have also shown their support of this project with an offer of plants for the native garden area.

- (b) **Thorrington School** **\$3,000**
Colombo Street
(written application attached)

“The native tree area is in a poor state. The following issues have been identified:

- There are a number of trees that are a hazard. They are either about to fall or have fallen but are held up by branches of other trees. At present the trees are a “no-go” area for children because of the hazards.
- There is an ongoing issue of graffiti on the outside wall of Room 13 in the bush area and of less than desirable activities happening in the area because of the cover it provides.
- Minimal use is made of this area in its present state.

Solution: We would like to firstly make the tree area safe for children. We would also like to see the area “opened up” so that more use can be made of it by the school and perhaps also by the local community. The Donkey Track has recently been enhanced and the tree area may be able to be incorporated into the “flow” of the Donkey Track” enhancement. We hope also that opening up the area will discourage graffiti”.

Staff Comment: Another project which is not just of benefit to the applicant (Thorrington School) but to the wider community. With the enhancement work undertaken recently at the Donkey Track this works in well with opening up the entrance even further at the Sloan Terrace entrance. The school is able to put some funding towards it, and the Greenspace Unit is able to contribute some funding also.

(c) **Heathcote Riverbank
(written application attached)**

“A balance of blocks (large enough to achieve integrity within its genre) of native and non-weedy exotic riparian and associated parkland vegetation. The precise locations of these blocks should be determined from an ecological and landscape survey of the river corridor and build on existing nuclei (such as the private reserve on Riverlaw Terrace downstream of the Tennyson Street Bridge).

One obvious location would be to further develop the plantings that were commenced in a small way by the Heathcote 1990's Sesquicentennial Year Committee around the ponds in Beckenham Park. There are >15 year old kahikatea and pokaka there and a number of other trees and tussocks. This could be done in conjunction with the proposed refurbishing of the pipes. In particular the swampy area between the two ponds would be ideal for establishing further trees of kahikatea and pokaka to ensure there are good outcrossing opportunities for them.

Further effort needs also to be put into gradually eliminating ivy, periwinkle, aluminium plant, tradescantia, stinking iris, sycamore and other weeds along the Ernle Reserve walkway to ensure the millennium project there can fulfil its long term potential. This will allow natural regeneration to occur such as from the 100 year old grove of kahikatea at the upstream end.”

Staff Comment: At present a landscape plan is being prepared for the stretch of the Heathcote River from Colombo Street to Hansen Park, resulting from feedback obtained during the Heathcote River Vision document consultation which will identify areas for tree planting as per the above suggestion. At present no new planting is being undertaken along the Heathcote River until this plan is complete and finalised. The elimination of weeds is achieved through our maintenance programme.

(d) **Victory Drain
Roscoe Street
St Martins
(written application attached)**

“I would like to propose the planting and development of the bridge over the waterway in Roscoe Street, St Martins Valley (opposite and next to the tennis courts).”

This is a completion of a project which was started four years ago.

Staff Comment: Approximately four years ago, Rachel Barker (planner) and Jeff Weston (landscape architect) provided a landscape plan, landscape advice, and plants to enhance Victory Drain at 10 Roscoe St. In this relatively short time, plants have established well on the true right of the waterway, and have softened the concrete drain considerably. A recent site visit revealed a number of toe toe are currently flowering, making the site attractive. Two toetoe are placed in the street berm and provide a landscape connection to the site.

The project is considered complete, and there is no need for further landscaping as the site is well enhanced as it is.

A start was made by a previous Council staff member to get a seat and some enhancement planting undertaken on the bridge. This is being followed up through our roadside landscaping.

(e) **Hillsborough Domain
(written application attached)**

Developed swale area in Hillsborough Domain. Replacement of plants which have died, bare areas which have not been planted, control and keeping the area free of debris.

Staff Comment: This area is in need of attention and will be cleaned out and new planting undertaken by the Greenspace Unit's Waterways Maintenance Team.

(f) **Huntsbury Avenue – Roadside Landscape
Area outside 38-46 Huntsbury Avenue**

Staff Comment: The site has been visited and could benefit from some new planting. This will be undertaken by the Greenspace Unit and funded by the roadside landscape maintenance budget.

(g) **1 Vernon Terrace
Area at 1 Vernon Terrace where there are toilets, old tram terminus and
pumphouse could do with some more enhancement planting.**

Staff Comment: The site has been visited and could benefit from some new planting. This will be undertaken by the Greenspace Unit and funded by the roadside landscape maintenance budget.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. Some of the above projects can be funded through the Greenspace Unit's maintenance budget.
5. Projects chosen by the Community Board will be funded through their project fund allocated to an Environmental Enhancement project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Board funds the following projects:

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| • Arahura Christian Counselling and Medical Centre | \$4,500 |
| • Thorrington School | \$2,500 |

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be supported.

CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

The submissions have raised suggestions that should be discussed.