

11. COMMUNITY PRIDE GARDEN AWARDS - ADDITIONAL CATEGORY

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941-8534
Officer responsible:	Community Support Manager
Author:	Marie Byrne, Acting Community Engagement Adviser

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's support for the implementation of an additional category for the Community Pride Garden Awards for 2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. At the Project Funding Allocation meeting held on 8 May 2006, Board members indicated that they wished to have an additional category added to celebrate sustainable gardens and those that reflected a coastal nature.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 3 The Board has allocated \$2,500 for the Community Pride Garden Awards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Adopt the process and criteria for the Sustainable and Coastal Gardens Category.
2. Nominate a Board member to be one of the judges for this separate category.

BACKGROUND

4. The Community Pride Garden Awards currently operate city-wide and are awarded each March/April. The Christchurch Beautifying Association provides judges for the awards and each Board funds a presentation ceremony. There is no competition involved in the scheme. Judges place cards in the letterbox of recipient gardens, and those garden owners are asked to return the cards to the Council.

PROPOSED AWARD SCHEME

5. It is envisaged that the additional category will recognise gardens that demonstrate a notable contribution to sustainability or the ward's unique coastal environs. These gardens will also be expected to contribute to the wider landscape and the city's international reputation for diverse gardens.
6. As with the city-wide Community Pride Garden scheme it is proposed that there be no competition involved.
7. The Board has set aside an additional \$1,000 for the implementation of this category. This will need to cover advertising, certificate production and presentation ceremony costs.

PROCESS

8. It is proposed that advertising for these awards be done locally and nominations invited for qualifying gardens. Judges would then visit the nominated gardens with certificates being awarded to those most deserving.
9. Nominations can be received from individuals or groups and individuals can nominate their own garden.
10. As this will be the inaugural year of this category, it is suggested that a limit of 40 certificates be awarded for this category.
11. It is proposed that initially there be two judges: one community member and one Community Board member. The Board may wish to invite Sue Cobb from the New Brighton Community Gardens to be the community judge for this year.

SUSTAINABLE GARDENS - CRITERIA

12. Gardens should be well maintained and reflect as many as the following as possible:
 - Convenient food growing
 - Minimal use of chemicals
 - Organic waste practices
 - Water use and low water gardening
 - Companion gardening
 - Weed management
 - Biodiversity and seed/plant selection

COASTAL GARDENS - CRITERIA

13. Gardens should be well maintained and reflect as much as the following as possible:
 - Healthy plant selection
 - Good use of wind shelters
 - Effective plant placement schemes