

7. CENTENNIAL PARK WALKWAY – TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT PLANTING

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Transport & Greenspace Manager
Author:	Ann Liggett, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to approve a final landscape plan for Centennial Park tree removal and replacement planting programme which will be staged over the next three years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Following numerous concerns raised by the local community over the years, and the declining health and condition of the willow trees to where they can no longer be safely maintained, a tree removal and replacement planting programme has been prepared for the walkway alongside the Heathcote River and playground area in Centennial Park.
3. All trees being removed along the riverbank are willows. They are either small and misshapen or are showing signs of decline and are becoming unsafe (refer **attached** plan).
4. In December 2006 consultation was undertaken with the local community and key stakeholders with approximately 150 consultation documents being distributed.
5. 14 submissions were received, all in support of the plan, however, concerns were raised in relation to the shelter provided to the beach volleyball area by the eucalypt trees (copy of feedback comments **attached**).
6. A site meeting was held with Council staff and a representative of the Canterbury Volleyball Association and as a result of this meeting the following change was made to the original proposal:
 - (a) The majority of the eucalypts alongside the beach volleyball area will remain in the meantime with new planting of a mix of exotic deciduous trees and totara to provide future shelter for beach volleyball. Once this planting has become well established the remaining eucalypts will be removed.
 - (b) The two willow trees behind number 4 Capri Lane are now included for removal.
 - (c) Extra seating included along the walkway.
7. The park has been divided into five stages (or areas) and it is anticipated that the removal and replacement planting programme will be undertaken over a three year period.
8. The new planting introduces groves of large growing iconic New Zealand native trees along the length of the walkway from Sparks Road to Rose Street, providing a unique experience for the park user.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Funding for this project is available in the City Environment Group Capital Works Programme for 2006/07/08/09.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. No trees are listed as protected under the City Plan.
11. All work will be carried out by a Council approved contractor with the appropriate health and safety and work site management controls in place.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

12. Page 123 of the LTCCP, level of service under Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

13. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board approve the tree removal and replacement planting landscape plan for Centennial Park.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be supported.