

5. NUNWEEK PARK – CANTERBURY ARTIFICIAL SURFACE TRUST - TREE REMOVAL REQUEST

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8608
Officer responsible:	Unit Manager, Transport and Greenspace
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Fendalton/Waimairi Works, Traffic and Environment Committee's recommendation that the Board approve the tree removal request from Canterbury Artificial Surfaces Trust's (CAST) leased area on Nunweek Park, as **attached**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. CAST now have plans in place for the development of their second artificial hockey field, within their extended leased area on Nunweek Park.
3. As part of this development CAST will need to remove 20 trees within or immediately adjacent to their leased area.
4. A report was submitted to the Works, Traffic and Environment Committee on 24 August 2009 requesting approval of their request for an extended leased area with the intention of developing this area into a fenced-off second artificial wet dressed hockey playing field. Subsequent approvals were received from both the Council and the Minister of Conservation.
5. The tree assessments were carried out on 16 June 2010. The majority of the trees are in average condition with two being good and four in poor condition, details on the tree assessment are included in this report (see paragraphs 20 to 23).
6. Nunweek Park is an extensive sports park adjoined the Wairakei Reserve. It provides both formal and passive recreational use and is adjacent to both residential and commercial areas. There are many trees planted throughout but the removal of these twenty would need replacement to maintain the amenity of the reserve, in particular as many of these currently provide shade for car parking and screening of buildings.
7. It is usual practice to undertake tree removals over a summer period when ground access is better and for replacement planting to follow in the autumn/winter season. It should be noted that Council has a proposed project for the Wairarapa Stream upgrade which passes through the reserve to the south of the car park area. It maybe be appropriate to defer any replacement planting until this plan is finalised, which is expected to be undertaken in 2012 – 2013.
8. Staff have proposed that the replacement trees be chosen and located in collaboration with the Council's Park Arborist and the Canterbury Hockey Association as well as other sports clubs that may be affected by their location. Trees are grown by the Council at the Harewood nursery.
9. Subject to receiving approval from the Council, CAST agree to meet all costs associated with the removals and 20 replacement tree plantings within Nunweek Park including their aftercare maintenance for one year, after which this will be put onto the Council's scheduled maintenance programme. Costs are estimated at \$20,000 (based on the current average contract prices).
10. The Canterbury Hockey Association is the organisation that looks after the interests of the CAST. The Association have agreed to make payment to the Council prior to any work commencing on the removals and replacements and they are also aware, and are in agreement, that all work will be undertaken by the Council and will be carried out by a Council approved contractor.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no financial implications to the Council for the proposed tree removals, replacement plantings and their aftercare. This work which is estimated at \$20,000 will be funded by the CAST. The management and coordination of the removals will be covered within existing operational budgets.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

12. The recommendations for the proposed tree removals, replacement plantings and their aftercare will have no impact upon the 2009-19 LTCCP budgets. The management and coordination of the removals will be covered within existing operational budgets.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

13. Work will be undertaken by a Council approved contractor.
14. The lease agreement states that removal of trees within the leased area is subject to the Council's approval.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

15. Yes, as in paragraphs 13 and 14 above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

16. LTCCP 2009-19 Community Outcomes
 - (a) Environment – To protect, enhance and restore our environment for future generations.
 - (b) Recreation – By offering a range of recreational opportunities in parks, open spaces and waterways

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

17. This is in alignment with the Council's Physical Recreation and Sport Strategy, which is to help those organisations involved in physical recreation and sport to move in common direction.
18. The approval of this application aligns with the Council's Recreation and Sport Policy, which is to make a significant contribution to the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the people of Christchurch.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

19. Subject to approval from the Council and prior to work commencing, information will be sent to properties neighbouring Nunweek Park as well as to the following sports clubs that use the park:
 - (a) Harewood Hockey Club – Gary Spence, President
 - (b) Merivale Lincoln University Rugby Club – Barry Ellis, President
 - (c) Canterbury Hockey Club – Heather Steele
 - (d) Nomads United Association Football Club – Kate Kingsland, Secretary
 - (e) Canterbury Cricket – Mike Fisher, Assistant Operations Manager

TREE ASSESSMENT

20. The trees include one large Poplar, eight Cedars, eight Lacebark and three Sheoak. The majority of the trees are in average condition with two being good and four being poor. The poor condition trees include the Poplar, as well as two of the Cedars and a small Lacebark.
21. All the trees need to be removed for the proposed development to work effectively. These are shown as shaded on the plan (see **attached**).

22. The majority of the trees are directly within the leased area. However, there are three trees, the Poplar and adjacent Cedar to the immediate south and a Cedar to the north west corner which are shown outside the leased area . The two trees to the south are in poor condition and it is anticipated that they will need to be removed, especially with the proximity of the proposal as it is.
23. The line of the trees to the east are between the field and proposed building. These are not accurately plotted and exclude two unmarked trees. It is anticipated that there will be a direct conflict between the development and these trees, and they too will need to be removed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Fendalton/Waimairi Works, Traffic and Environment Committee recommend that the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board approve the Nunweek Park tree removal request from the Canterbury Artificial Surface Trust (CAST) as **attached**, subject to CAST making payment to the Council for all works associated with the project. Consideration will be given to the possibility of the replacement tree planting coinciding with the Wairarapa Stream Upgrade.