

## 8. STARWOOD RESERVE – REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF NAME

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941 8608
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Asset and Network Planning Unit Manager
<b>Author:</b>	Joanne Walton , Consultation Leader Greenspace

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the recommendation of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board to the Council to retain the existing name for Starwood Reserve.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2. Starwood Reserve is a small local neighbourhood reserve of 1269 metres squared, situated on the corner of Panorama Road and Starwood Lane on Clifton Hill. It became a public reserve when it was vested in the Council as a reserve for recreation in 1981 as part of a subdivision of land in this area.
3. The Christchurch City Council has received a request from the Starwood Lane Ratepayers Association to change the name of Starwood Reserve to Adamson Park. The Starwood Lane Ratepayers Association comprises 12 ratepayers residing in the private Starwood Lane on Clifton Hill but is not amongst those residents' groups currently recognised by the Council.
4. An information letter outlining the proposed change of name for Starwood Reserve was circulated to 115 neighbouring residents and absentee property owners, along with the Clifton Neighbourhood Committee and the Sumner Redcliffs Historical Society.
5. A total of 26 submissions were received from residents, with many offering additional comments, but the view on the choice of name was almost equally divided. Although three submitters did not indicate their preference, their written comments indicate that one is clearly in support of the change of name, and two are neutral having no objection to the change. Further details are provided under the Consultation Fulfilment section of this report.

<b>Support for proposal</b>	<b>Starwood Reserve</b>	<b>Adamson Park</b>	<b>Other suggestion</b>	<b>Not indicated</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Number of responses</b>	11	12	Nil.	3	26

6. The Starwood Lane Ratepayers Association has proposed the new name of Adamson Park in recognition of the historical connections of the Adamson family name with the area. Historical titles for the land in this area show that William Percy Adamson, a local accountant, acquired property here after World War I. According to family history, Mr Adamson brought daffodil bulbs to New Zealand from Holland in 1932, and the Adamson family then operated a daffodil bulb farm here for almost 50 years. Ownership of the land was later transferred to other Adamson family members, including a son, Douglas Adamson, a bacteriologist, who continued to pick and send the flowers to market until the land was subdivided into Starwood Lane. The site of the daffodil farm is now occupied by the residential properties on the lower side of Starwood Lane, below the reserve, and some of the remaining bulbs are still to be found flowering in the season on some of these properties. Douglas Adamson and his wife are now both deceased and there are no children.
7. The Council has a current naming practice for new reserves, which is to give them the name of the adjoining road. This convention makes it easy for people, and for emergency services, to locate the parks, since the names match the street names. Council staff have advised that Starwood Lane was named by one of the landowners, apparently in reference to the night sky, and the existing trees in the area at that time. The new reserve therefore became known as Starwood Reserve. As this reserve is subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, its name should also be suffixed by the word "Reserve".

8. Further research has found that the Adamson family were not the original owners of the land in question but were one of various owners over time. Several residents in this area were known to have run small flower or fruit farms, including previous owners who planted pine, poplar and fruit trees, grew potatoes and kept fowls for egg sales. It is the view of staff that all landowners and residents in the area are in their own right notable for all were in some way an integral part of the social history of our communities. It is also the view of staff that a change of name in this case may contribute to setting a precedent for future requests to change the name of the more than 740 parks and reserves throughout the City.
9. Overall, taking into account research, community views and current parks practice, it is the view of staff that the existing name of Starwood Reserve should be retained.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. If the name Adamson Park is proposed, the financial implications (excluding staff time) would be limited to the cost of installing new park signage. The cost of installing a medium sized double post entrance sign in accordance with the new signage standards for park signs is approximately \$4,368. Staff have advised that the replacement of the sign would be a low priority under the current Transport and Greenspace Unit operational budgets.
11. If the name Starwood Reserve is retained, there are no further financial implications.

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

12. Yes. As above.

#### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

13. The Council's Register of Delegations (No. 11, page 2, 10 December 2009) states that the following is a Council decision:  
*"To declare that a reserve shall be known by a specified name and can change the name of any reserve (by resolution): Section 16(10) Reserves Act 1977."*
14. Starwood Reserve is classified as a recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

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

15. Yes. As above.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

16. While the naming of features is not specifically mentioned in the LTCCP, the costs associated with this process are covered within the existing operational budgets.

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

17. Not applicable.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

18. The recommendations align with the Council's Policy Register's code of practice for the naming and re-naming of reserves.

#### **Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

19. Yes. As above.

**CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

20. A letter outlining the proposed change of name for Starwood Reserve was circulated to 115 neighbouring residents and absentee property owners, along with the Clifton Neighbourhood Committee and the Sumner Redcliffs Historical Society. Residents were presented with three options:
- (a) To retain the name Starwood Reserve, or;
  - (b) To change the name to Adamson Park, or;
  - (c) To suggest another name, indicating their reasons for doing so.

21. A total of 26 submissions were received from residents with many offering additional comments but the views were almost equally divided between the names Starwood Reserve and Adamson Park. Although three submitters did not indicate their preference, their written comments indicate that one is clearly in support of the change of name, and two are neutral having no objection to the change. There were no suggestions received for another alternative name for the reserve. Two submissions were received after the closing date but have been taken into account. There were no anonymous submissions.

<b>Support for proposal</b>	<b>Starwood Reserve</b>	<b>Adamson Park</b>	<b>Other suggestions</b>	<b>Not indicated</b>	<b>Total</b>
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22. Ten of the 11 submitters who preferred retaining the name Starwood Reserve, provided additional comments. Several preferred the retention of the existing name for various reasons including:
- (a) Supporting the practice of naming after the street for ease of recognition and reducing confusion.
  - (b) The existing name was well known and established or had personal history for them.
  - (c) That the existing name is more appealing, beautiful or unique.
  - (d) The existing name is descriptive of the natural environment, relates to the night sky, honours the origins of the land, or is consistent with biblical and celestial street names in the area.
23. Five submitters did not support the proposed new name of Adamson Park for various reasons, including not wanting to name after property owners and the name not having any meaning for them.
24. Two submitters suggested a plaque and/or daffodil planting in the reserve to provide historical information as a more suitable way to recognise the Adamson family contribution to the community.
25. One of the submitters who did not indicate a preference did support the naming of the park in a manner descriptive of its location and thought that the existing name was nicer.
26. Five of the 12 submitters who supported the changing of the name to Adamson Park also provided additional comments, with two in agreement with the historical information or remembered the family, three indicating their support without any qualifying comments and one adding it was a delightful idea. The Sumner Redcliffs Historical Society were not able to indicate a preference on their email submission but provided some historical details and noted that the Society would be pleased to have the reserve named after these early settlers on the hill.

**14. 7. 2010**

- 11 -

27. All respondents who provided contact details have been sent a final letter of reply thanking them for their input. The letter has also informed respondents that the final amended plan would be presented to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board for a recommendation to the Council to approve the plan. Details of the meetings were provided so that any interested people could attend.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board recommend to the Council that the name of Starwood Reserve be retained.

**CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

For discussion.