

4. DARESBURY PARK – TREE REMOVAL AND PLANTING PLAN

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment Group DDI 941-8608
Officer responsible:	Transport and Greenspace Manager
Author:	Lorraine Correia, Consultation Leader and Tony Armstrong, Arborist

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Fendalton/Waimairi Works, Traffic and Environment Committee's recommendation to the Board for the Daresbury Park – Tree Removal and Planting Plan as **attached** (LP314301 L04).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Daresbury Park is located in Fendalton and is designated as a local community park. The trees in this park have been surveyed and assessed in order to identify trees for immediate and longer term removal and replacement. Landscape issues such as screening and shelter/shade are also a focus for tree maintenance, to maintain and improve upon the general amenity of the park.
3. This detailed tree renewal project resulted from the Board's approval of the redevelopment plan for the park approved in March 2006. Initial work began on this park in 2006, however there was insufficient funding available to complete the project.
4. A tree assessment was carried out in 2007 and subsequent funding for tree work was made available in 2009/10 LTCCP. Trees that were identified as in poor or declining condition were marked for removal in the plan that was circulated to the community (LP314301 L03). A mixture of replacement tree species had been chosen for the site to ensure the landscape character of the park would be maintained and future trees could develop to their full potential.
5. Tree removals commenced in April 2010 but work has since stopped as one neighbour has approached Council requesting that two trees which can be viewed from his property be retained. Another resident who is also directly affected by both these trees is very happy for their removal.
6. A final concept plan, which has been amended slightly in response to the feedback from the concerned resident is attached (LP314301 L04) and recommended for approval by the Board.
7. Due to the tree work being stopped the new proposal for implementation will be scheduled as follows:
 - (a) New tree replacements for the trees already removed will commence in winter from July 2010.
 - (b) Remaining tree removals and maintenance will continue in summer from October 2010 to March 2011
 - (c) New replacement trees for the remaining tree removals will be planted in autumn between May and June 2010
 - (d) Remaining paths and riparian planting will also be completed in the 2010/11 financial year

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. Funding for the tree removal and replacement planting was available in the 2009/10 LTCCP however in response to a resident's concerns, completion of the project will need to be included in the 2010/11 LTCCP budgets.

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9. Based on current estimates, staff believe there is sufficient funding in the LTCCP 2009/10 and 2010/11 to complete the project as follows:

- Tree removal and replacement planting:
 - Park Tree Renewal (Capital) Programme 2010/11 \$10,000

- Paths and the riparian planting:
 - Greenspace Renewals Programme 2010/11 \$10,000

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

10. All work to be carried out by a Council approved contractors. The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board has the delegated authority to approve the proposed plan. No other legal considerations have been identified.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

11. **LTCCP 2009-2019
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- (a) Safety – by ensuring our parks, open spaces and waterways are healthy and safe places;
- (b) Community – by providing welcoming areas for communities to gather and interact;
- (c) Governance – by involving people in decision-making about parks, open spaces and waterways;
- (d) City Development – by providing an inviting, pleasant and well cared-for environment

Parks and Open Spaces Activity Management Plan

12. Council's objective with urban parks is to provide and manage Community Parks, Garden and Heritage Parks, Sports Parks and Riverbanks and Conservation Areas throughout the city that provide amenity values, areas for recreation and organised sport, garden environments and green corridors, that contribute to the city's natural form, character, heritage and Garden City image.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Safer Christchurch Strategy

13. This strategy aligns injury prevention, road safety and crime prevention under the overarching aim of Christchurch becoming the safest city in New Zealand. One of the goals of this strategy is to enhance safety from crime through preventative and supportive actions, such as:
- (a) Ensure the phased adoption of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles (CPTED) into city-wide planning and policy;
 - (b) To promote CPTED principles for application by owners and occupiers of existing buildings and spaces;
 - (c) Provide active support to locally led initiatives that make significant contributions to reducing the incidence and effect of crime.

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Parks and Waterways Access Policy

14. Improved access to parks and open space will increase equity as promoted by the City Council Policy on Equity and Access for People with Disabilities. Additionally, improved access has the potential to increase park use by enhancing comfort and convenience for all users and providing significant safety benefits.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

15. In October 2009 the tree removal and planting plan (L314301 L03) was presented to the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board for their information.
16. In March 2010 a start work notice together with a copy of the tree removal and planting plan was sent to approximately 176 properties neighbouring Daresbury Park.
17. We subsequently received two calls from directly affected residents. One resident was in support of the plan and was pleased to see the Ash and Maytenus trees scheduled for removal in the South-West area of the park.
18. The other affected resident had strong concerns and wanted the Council to consider the following:
 - (a) Retain the Ash tree for a few years till the new planting of the Kauri tree is established
 - (b) Retain Maytenus tree for at least another five years till the resident gets used to living without the large Ash tree, the resident has suggested that in the interim he was happy to pay for its maintenance and eventual removal
 - (c) Retain the two Pittosporum trees that were highlighted for removal on the plan along Waimairi Stream
 - (d) Plant two new Japanese Maple trees along the path from Harakeke Street adjacent to the proposed new Maple trees
 - (e) The Ash and Maytenus trees are of historic value.
19. The Contractor was requested to stop work on the park due to this resident's concerns over the loss of amenity value of the two trees.
20. On 26 April 2010 Council staff, Arborist, Consultation Leader and Parks Contract Manager met on-site with the two directly affected residents who had opposing views to the Ash and Maytenus trees. A tree assessment is listed below, points 26 - 32.
21. Subsequent to the site meeting a further telephone call was received from another neighbour in support of this proposal and in particular the removal of both the Ash and Maytenus trees.
22. Staff also noted that there were five new Magnolia Grandiflora trees planted in the extension end of Daresbury Park. Three of the Magnolia trees were planted near the Waimairi Stream and two against the boundary fence with 101 Harakeke Street and the footpath. The residents were unsure of who had planted the trees – staff informed both residents that these would be removed as they were inappropriately planted and that they would not develop to their full potential.
23. As part of the discussions with the concerned resident, staff have amended the plan as follows:
 - (a) The two Pittosporum trees which were scheduled for removal will be retained and their condition monitored. They have been pruned for clear sightlines along the path and for the stream

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- (b) Two more Japanese Maple trees have been included in the plan
 - (c) The Ash tree is in decline and has already lost part of its canopy and major branches. This tree is still proposed for removal
 - (d) The Maytenus tree which has also suffered branch failure and has serious structural defects and decay in the trunk. This tree is also of concern because of it growing suckers into the neighbouring residential property at 17 Rochdale Street. This tree is still proposed for removal
 - (e) Both the Ash and Maytenus trees are not classified as notable trees.
 - (f) One new Kahikatea tree is now included in the plan to mitigate the loss of the Magnolia trees along Waimairi Stream, this will tie in with the riparian planting
24. There is also an element of 'borrowed landscape' from large exotic trees on neighbouring property which will mitigate for the loss of trees, in particular the Ash and Maytenus.
25. The two directly affected residents have been sent a final letter together with a copy of the revised plan with the project team's response. Details of the Fendalton/Waimairi, Works, Traffic and Environment Committee meeting (date, time and venue) were provided to residents wishing to make a deputation to the Board prior to a decision being made.
26. The final concept plan, which includes the above amendments, is **attached** (LP314301 L04) and is recommended for approval by the Board.

TREE ASSESSMENT

27. In April 2010 a number of trees were removed from the park due to their poor condition. These included four cherry, a pittosporum and a laburnum along the Harakeke Street frontage, and, a lacebark, cherry, olearia, maple, liquidambar and a paulownia from within the park. Two other trees were noted for future removal subject to further monitoring of their condition, these are another paulownia and an ash beside the footpath from Harakeke Street entrance.
28. It was proposed to remove two pittosporums and a large ash and mayten tree beside the stream and an adjacent property. These have not been removed due to resident consultation. The pittosporums have been pruned and are noted for future removal, subject to monitoring of their and adjacent tree growth. These (pittosporum) trees have been retained to screen the park and property across the stream but have been pruned to allow for adequate access and visibility within the park. An extra two maple trees have been added to the planting plan to assist in providing more screening between this resident's property and the park.
29. The ash and mayten trees have also not been removed due to concerns from this resident regarding loss of amenity. However, the adjacent resident supports their removal. An assessment of the two trees concludes that they are in a declining condition and should be removed from the park, as soon as possible.
30. The ash has lost a significant part of its canopy and is likely to shed further major branches and continue to dieback and decay. Pruning options for this tree are limited to reactive and remedial work. Pollarding would minimise any risk of branch failure but this is a discontinued practice and would reduce the amenity value of the tree.

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31. The Mayten has also suffered branch failure and has serious structural defects with decay in trunk and 'scaffold' branches. Whilst it remains a healthy tree, its continued growth may lead to a significant branch failure. The consequences of this would then most likely require the removal of the tree. There are limited options to prune this tree to satisfactorily retain it long term. The plant suckers from the roots and eventually forms extensive colonies of stems at some distance from the parent tree. Mayten trees are able to readily colonise areas that are relatively undisturbed and densely shaded. It is bird-dispersed, tall, long-lived and difficult to control.
32. The Mayten tree is also proposed as an 'unwanted' organism and is presently being assessed by Environment Canterbury for the Regional Pest Plan, hence, its amenity value is discounted and its removal supported, especially in a riparian environment.
33. The magnolia trees noted for removal have appeared as a random planting in the park and are considered too numerous, closely planted and out of place, effectively over screening views of the stream. These are therefore proposed for removal.
34. Replacement planting is proposed for individual specimen trees throughout the park as well as riparian planting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Fendalton/Waimairi Works, Traffic and Environment Committee recommend that the Board approve the plan (LP314301 L04) in order to implement the Daresbury Park – Tree Removal and Planting Plan.

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BACKGROUND

35. In September 2005 a Landscape Plan 160601 (proposals for upgrade-Daresbury Park) was prepared for consultation, the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board approved the plan in March 2006 following consultation.
36. As part of this proposal a number of landscape and infrastructure improvements were highlighted, including the transplanting of redwood and totara trees, removal of a small pittosporum (by playground) and planting of trees at the Royds Street entrance.
37. Of the proposed tree works only the transplanting was undertaken and following the need to remove a large willow from the park in 2007, a tree survey was subsequently completed. The result of this was the Landscape Plan (LP314301) which illustrated further trees for removal and replanting. It also included additional riparian planting to complement the original plan.