

10. REDWOOD PARK TREE RENEWAL

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

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Shirley/Papanui Community Board for the Redwood Park Tree Renewal Plan following consultation with the local community, as **attached** (LP321505 – Issue 1).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Redwood Park is located in Belfast and is designated as a sports 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 a focus for tree maintenance, removal and planting in order to maintain and improve upon the general amenity of the park.
3. This tree renewal project resulted from the need to consider replacement planting for the two large Poplars that had failed during high winds and had to be removed from the Sturrocks Road entrance.
4. A tree removal and replacement plan was prepared and circulated to the affected community. The key features of the plan are:
 - (a) Replacement planting of declining Redwood trees along Sturrocks Road.
 - (b) Sustain an effective and attractive screen along Western boundary, near the railway line and around the clubrooms.
 - (c) Maintain an appropriate planting along the Eastern boundary.
 - (d) Maintain an appropriate planting along the boundary with residential properties and the school to the South.
 - (e) Maintain safe planting in the centre of the park between the school and tennis courts.
 - (f) Remove and replace the trees around the Library, Kindergarten and car park adjacent to Main North Road.
5. Some of these trees need to be removed as priority, due to poor or declining condition, and the remainder are to be programmed as part of the current and future LTCCP and as budgets permit. Where trees exist in inappropriate or conflicting locations with residential, school, club or other park areas, they will be considered for future replacement. A mixture of replacement tree species has been chosen for the site. Native, exotic, flowering, nut and deciduous trees were proposed in the consultation plan.
6. The public consultation in March 2010 indicated a good level of support for the proposed concept. The final concept plan, which has been amended slightly in response to feedback from the community, is included as **attached** (LP321505 – Issue 1) and recommended for approval by the Community Board.
7. Implementation of the proposal will take approximately five years to complete. Priority tree removals are scheduled as follows:
 - (a) Priority tree removals and maintenance will commence in summer from October 2010 to March 2011 – Commencing with Areas 8 & 9 and other individuals with a high hazard rating
 - (b) New replacement trees will be planted in winter between May to August 2011 – Commencing with Areas 8 & 9
 - (c) Future work will proceed each subsequent year based on funding availability

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

8. Based on current estimates, staff believe there is sufficient funding in the LTCCP 2010/11 to implement the priority tree removals, maintenance and the new replacement trees in areas 8 and 9 as outlined in the final plan. Future funding will be sought after in 2012-22 LTCCP budgets for other work proposed on the plan.

▪ Park Tree Renewal (Capital) Programme	2009/10	\$5,000
▪ Park Tree Renewal (Capital) Programme	2010/11	\$25,000

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

9. All work to be carried out by a Council approved contractor. The Shirley/Papanui Community Board have the delegated authority to approve the proposed plan. No other legal considerations have been identified.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**10. LTCCP 2009-2019****Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways – Page 116**

- (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) Health – By providing areas for people to engage in healthy activities;
- (e) City Development – by providing an inviting, pleasant and well cared-for environment

11. Parks and Open Spaces Activity Management Plan

The 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**12. Safer Christchurch Strategy**

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.

13. Parks and Waterways Access Policy

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

Consultation Process & Outcome

14. A seminar was held with the Shirley/Papanui Community Board on 3 March 2010. The publicity pamphlet which included the initial concept plan and a feedback form was distributed to approximately 364 residents and other stakeholders for consultation. The consultation period was open for a three week period from 15 March to 2 April 2010, submissions received until 7 April 2010 were also accepted and were included in the consultation document.
15. The consultation received 38 responses and community feedback was in general support of the proposal with some residents indicating they had mixed views.
 - (a) 23 submitters responded "YES – I support the tree renewal project".
 - (b) 2 submitters responded "NO – I do not support the tree renewal project".
 - (c) 13 submitters responded "MIXED VIEWS".
16. The submissions that indicated that they did 'NOT' support the project thought the money would be better spent on traffic lights on Main North Road and Sturrocks Road or upgrading of footpaths in Rossiter Avenue.
17. Several submitters who agreed to the proposal also made the following suggestions:
 - (a) Would like to see more Copper Beeches planted in the park.
 - (b) Two Alder trees causing issues to residents guttering along Woodfield Lane.
 - (c) Concerns about planting walnut and chestnut trees near railway lines could cause some people to throw nuts at passing trains.
 - (d) Ash and Alder trees cause shading and drop rubbish onto property along Woodfield Lane.
18. The submissions that indicated that they had mixed views cited the following reasons:
 - (a) Concerns about the proposed removal of the Eucalyptus trees in area nine as they are a wintering place for Monarch butterflies.
 - (b) Concern with regards to replacing proposed trees with low allergen species.
 - (c) Would like the Oak tree on Main North Road retained.
 - (d) Would like to see all the trees plus the new plantings limbed to improve sight lines in the park.
 - (e) Too many deciduous trees proposed – would like to see more shade trees in the park.
 - (f) Don't plant Sweet Chestnuts as users of the park will want to help themselves to the nuts and may end up 'bashing' the trees.
 - (g) Suggestion to plant Kowhais or shrubs.
 - (h) Does not want to see all the Swamp Cypress trees removed.
 - (i) Would like to see a hedge planted to cover the Cricket Clubrooms.
 - (j) Suggestion to plant flowering Cherries near School boundary.
 - (k) Concern about the proposed new Copper Beach trees along Sturrocks Road that would shade property and block drains.
 - (l) Tone down the Redwood theme.
19. Following are the project team's responses to the suggestions, concerns and recommendations to the proposal raised in points 17 and 18:
 - (a) Included an extra Copper Beech to the South of the Cricket Club.
 - (b) Two Alder trees along Woodfield Lane have been recommended for removal.
 - (c) We do not consider that these nuts could be problematic to passing trains.

- (d) One Ash and one Alder tree along Woodfield Lane have been recommended for removal and are being replaced with a flowering Cherry tree.
 - (d) The project team have considered the wintering place for the Monarch butterflies, only four of the five Eucalyptus trees have been proposed for removal due to poor health or structure. Consideration will be given to the time of their removals based on the life cycle of the butterflies. We have also considered that there are Eucalyptus trees near the playground and are hoping that the butterflies will find a new habitat in these trees.
 - (e) Trees selected from the Council nursery are currently approved plantings for within Christchurch.
 - (f) The species selected is varied native, exotic, evergreen and deciduous.
 - (g) Fruit and nut trees have been included in this plan as this request has come through from the Community Board. Members of the public are encouraged to help themselves to the fruit and nuts that grow off the trees in the park.
 - (h) We have included the planting of a Kowhai tree in the park.
 - (i) Only the Swamp Cypress trees that are in decline will be removed, the others will be retained.
 - (j) We have included on the plan some replacement trees around the plant bed between the car park and cricket nets as well as a Beech tree on the other side of the building which should help screen part of it.
 - (k) Flowering Cherry trees have been included as part of the plantings near the School boundary.
 - (l) Staff spoke to the concerned resident and advised him that the Copper Beech that is proposed to be planted in this area will take numerous years to reach maturity that would cause shading and as a species tend to pose less maintenance issues than Poplar.
 - (m) The project team have considered that the park being named Redwood Park should have a Redwood theme; the new plantings will mainly replace the existing Redwood trees that are in decline.
20. All respondents have been sent a final letter together with a copy of the revised plan and the consultation document with the project team's response. Details of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board meeting (date, time and venue) were provided to residents wishing to make a deputation to the Board prior to a decision being made; a copy of this letter and consultation document have been circulated separately to the Board members.
21. The final concept plan, which includes the above amendments, is **attached** (LP321505 – Issue 1) and is recommended for approval by the Community Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Shirley/Papanui Community Board approve the **attached** (LP321505 – Issue 1) plan in order to implement the Redwood Park Tree renewal project.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.