

9. MONCKS SPUR 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 Manager
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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the recommendation of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board to the Council to change the name of Moncks Spur Reserve to Morten Settlement Reserve.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2. Moncks Spur Reserve is a local neighbourhood reserve of 2050 metres squared situated towards the upper end of Moncks Spur Road on Moncks Spur, Redcliffs.
3. In 2004, local residents suggested that the name of Morten Settlement Reserve be given to the reserve. The Council subsequently undertook consultation on the proposed change of name for the reserve in conjunction with a proposed draft landscape concept plan for its development in 2005, but a decision was not finalised. Given the length of time that has elapsed since the earlier consultation on the proposed change of name, further consultation has been undertaken on the proposal to ascertain the current views of residents prior to reporting on this matter to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board and the Council.
4. A new information letter outlining the proposed change of name for Moncks Spur Reserve was circulated to approximately 145 neighbouring residents and absentee property owners, along with the Redcliffs Residents Association, Mount Pleasant Memorial Community Centre and Residents Association, and the Sumner Redcliffs Historical Society.
5. A total of 29 submissions were received from residents, with 21 clearly indicating their support for the proposed change of name to Morten Settlement Reserve. A deputation on the matter was also made by a resident to the Board meeting of 16 June 2010. Further information is provided in the Consultation Fulfilment section later in this report.

	Number of responses				
	Moncks Spur Reserve	Morten Settlement Reserve	Other suggestions	Not indicated	Total
Support for proposal	7	21	Nil	1	29

Note: The number of submissions received, and the number in support of Morten Settlement Reserve, is very similar in the 2005 and 2010 consultations.

6. Overall, taking into account historical research confirming that Morten Settlement is an early place name associated with this area, along with community views and current parks practice, it is the view of staff that the name of Moncks Spur Reserve should be changed to Morten Settlement Reserve.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. If the name Morten Settlement Reserve 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.
8. Currently there is no specific funding in the 2009-19 LTCCP for the renaming of reserves.

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

9. No. As above.

**LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

10. The Council' Policy for Naming of Parks and Reserves, adopted by the Council in July 1993, states that the Council has the final decision regarding names of parks and reserves. The Councils Register of Delegations 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.*"
11. Moncks Spur Reserve is classified as a local neighbourhood reserve/park for asset management purposes.

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

12. Yes. As above.

**ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

13. 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?**

14. Not applicable.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

15. 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?**

16. Yes. As above.

**CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

17. A letter outlining the proposed change of name for Moncks Spur Reserve was circulated to approximately 145 neighbouring residents and absentee property owners, along with the Redcliffs Residents Association, Mount Pleasant Memorial Community Centre and Residents Association, and the Sumner Redcliffs Historical Society. Residents were presented with three options:
- (a) To retain the name Moncks Spur Reserve, or;
  - (b) To change the name to Morten Settlement Reserve, or;
  - (c) To suggest another name, indicating their reasons for doing so.
18. A total of 29 submissions were received from residents with many offering additional comments. There were seven submissions in support of retaining the name Moncks Spur Reserve. There were 21 submissions in support of the change of name to Morten Settlement Reserve, including three in which the submitters did not indicate their preference but provided written comments that are clearly in support of the change of name. One other submission did not clearly indicate a preference for either. There were no suggestions received for another alternative name for the reserve. One submission was anonymous, and two submissions were received after the closing date, but all have been taken into account. A deputation on the matter was also made by a resident to the Board meeting of 16 June 2010. Note: The number of submissions received, and the number in support of Morten Settlement Reserve, is very similar in the 2005 and 2010 consultations.

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19. Six of the seven submitters who preferred retaining the name Moncks Spur 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 suited the site or had personal meaning for them.
  - (c) The name "Mortens" was known only to a few people.
  - (d) The cost of the change was not justified with better uses for ratepayers' money.
  - (e) Supporting signage providing historical information instead.
  
20. 13 of the 21 submitters who supported the changing of the name to Morten Settlement Reserve also provided additional comments. Several supported changing the name for various reasons including:
  - (a) The importance of naming for historical associations.
  - (b) The importance of preserving historical names especially with the loss of so many others.
  - (c) The place, or the name of Morten, had special meaning and personal history for them.
  - (d) This was consistent with the results of the 2005 consultation process.
  - (e) The Council is not following policy in naming the reserve Moncks Spur Reserve.
  - (f) There are inconsistencies with other parks names, that is, other parks are not named after streets.
  
21. One submitter asked a number of questions in relation to the previous and current consultation processes which have been addressed under the Background (Issues) section of this report.
  
22. One submitter, who did not indicate a preference for a name, provided historical information but questioned the significance of the Morten Settlement. The submitter also expressed concern about potential lobbying for the name of the whole area to be changed to Morten Settlement, providing extracts from Environment Court proceedings describing the area as being Moncks Spur. Formal naming of the wider area or suburb is outside the scope of this reserve naming process.
  
23. The Redcliffs Residents Association, Mount Pleasant Memorial Community Centre and Residents Association, and the Sumner Redcliffs Historical Society all indicated their support for the proposed change of name to Morten Settlement Reserve.
  
24. An aerial photo showing the location of the reserve in relation to the surrounding properties, along with the locations of previous and current submitters, as requested by the Board on 16 June 2010, is attached (refer **attached**).
  
25. 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 report would be presented to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board for approval. Details of the meetings were provided so that any interested people could attend.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board recommend to the Council that the name of Moncks Spur Reserve be changed to Morten Settlement Reserve.

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the staff recommendation be adopted.

#### **BACKGROUND (THE ISSUES)**

##### **Acquisition of the reserve**

26. In 1998, the Council purchased land at 183 Moncks Spur Road (being Lots 1 and 2 DP 19708) for the Moncks Spur reservoir and pump station. Part of the site was to be developed for water supply purposes, with an alternative use, or resale, of the remaining portion of land to be investigated.
27. In 1999, a further land exchange occurred at 177-183 Moncks Spur Road between the Council and adjoining landowners to improve the proposed reservoir site and provide an adjacent reserve with a longer road frontage. In September 1999, a proposed Moncks Spur Reserve Development Plan showing landscaping and parking bays was produced for the new local park, but was not implemented.

##### **Previous consultation outcomes**

28. In May 2004, the Council wrote to 15 property owners in the immediate vicinity of the new reserve inviting them to provide their input into the design brief as a first step in the consultation process for the design of the reserve. The letter asked residents *"to please include in your submission what you consider to be important ingredients in the layout of the reserve, planting composition, park furniture, etc."* The letter did not include the issue of the naming, or re-naming, of the reserve.
29. Seven submissions were received, one of which asked for the reserve to be named The Morten Settlement Reserve to reflect local history, and another which asked that the reserve be called Mortens Settlement Reserve. The remaining five submissions made no comment about the name of the reserve.
30. In early 2005, the proposed landscape concept plan for the development of the reserve was produced and further consultation undertaken with approximately 100 households. In response to the earlier feedback, the consultation document also included the statement:  
  
*"It has also been suggested to rename the reserve Morten Settlement Reserve, to reflect the historical name for the area where Moncks Spur Road meets Mt Pleasant Road."*
31. Residents were asked to indicate whether or not they supported the renaming of the reserve Morten Settlement Reserve on the accompanying comment form. No other options were presented. A total of 30 submissions were received, with 22 of these indicating support for the proposed name change, and four against.

Note: The number of submissions received, and the number in support of Morten Settlement Reserve, is very similar in the 2005 and 2010 consultations.

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32. One current submitter has commented that the results of the previous consultation had been misrepresented in the current consultation document with respect to the four submissions against the proposed change of name. A report presenting the results of the previous consultation on the proposed landscape concept plan and the proposed name change was considered by the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board at its meeting on 13 April 2005. This report stated that:

*"Submitters were also asked to indicate their support for renaming the reserve Morten Settlement Reserve; 22 supported this renaming and 4 opposed it. Submitters suggested various spellings of Morton, Mortens and with or without Settlement which will require further investigation and consultation".*

33. Recent re-examination of the 2005 submissions shows that all four of these submitters had answered no to the following statement on the comment form:

*"I/we support renaming the reserve Morten Settlement Reserve".*

34. Two of these four suggested the name be shortened to Morten Reserve, one commented that they would like it called Moncks Spur Reserve, and one made no additional comments.

35. The report also stated that:

"The proposed renaming of Moncks Spur Reserve would require further consultation, a report back to the Board then approval from the Council followed by the New Zealand Geographical Board."

36. The Board considered the report and decided to approve the amended concept plan for Moncks Spur Reserve, however there was no resolution passed to change the name of Moncks Spur Reserve. The report clearly indicated the intention to undertake further investigation and consultation before reporting back to the Board, but the matter was not progressed further at that time.

### Further research and information

37. Morten Settlement is mentioned in the Council publication *Christchurch Street Names – Vanished Streets* (<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/PlaceNames/LostChristchurch>) and various other historical references. It is described as an area of land between Moncks Spur Road between Crest Lane and Mount Pleasant Road. It was named after its developers, Richard May Downes Morten (1877-1950) and his brother, Arthur Roscoe Vernon Morten (1878-1931), who were the sons of Richard May Morten (1823-1909). Morten was the second run holder of the Mount Pleasant Estate which covered the whole of the Port Hills between Heathcote, Sumner, Mount Pleasant and Lyttelton. In 1909 the station consisted of 6000 acres of freehold land. The Morten Settlement was opened up in 1912 by Morten's sons, with a further subdivision in 1920. A survey plan titled Plan of Morten Settlement dated August 1920 shows 13 lots. The properties were much valued by families who wanted a smallholding where they could grow fruit, vegetables and early flowers for the market. Some sections were later offered to World War I veterans.
38. During the 2005 consultation, submitters suggested various spellings of Morton and Mortens, with or without the additional word "Settlement". Additional information has since been provided by residents. Further research has located the historical certificates of title for the land, and an original survey plan dated 1920, which give the spelling of the name as "Morten" and the name of the original subdivision as "Morten Settlement". It is the view of staff that a shortened version of the proposed name "Morten Settlement Reserve" to just "Morten Reserve" would detract from its historical meaning.

**Other issues raised**

39. One submitter has raised questions about the process of naming the reserve as Moncks Spur Reserve.
40. The *New Zealand Gazette* is the official newspaper of the New Zealand government. The name Moncks Spur Reserve was not gazetted, because the New Zealand Gazette is not used for naming of parks.
41. The Board did not resolve to name the park. It was named in accordance with the Council's long-standing practice for naming new parks, 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. The new reserve therefore became known as Moncks Spur Reserve after Moncks Spur Road. This convention of naming a new park after the street has been in existence within the Council for some time. The name is allocated on acquisition of the new park or when it is added to the Council inventories for asset management and maintenance contracts. A Council resolution is required before the adoption of any other name for a park, or to change a park's name.