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The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Native Trees Please! project and to seek Community Board endorsement of proposed planting sites. This follows a presentation to the Community Board in March 1998.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The concept of Native Trees Please! has previously been formally reported to the Boards who have also indicated their support for the project. This has included in most cases a funding allocation. These amounts have ranged from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

By way of reminder, Native Trees Please! is a Turning Point 2000 project based on the concept of re-establishing representative native New Zealand plant species that existed originally on the various flood plain surfaces throughout what is now Christchurch City.

For each of the city's six Community Board areas, site options representative of the various soil types and ecosystems were selected, each of these being located on Council reserves. Lists of appropriate native trees were also compiled for each site. These details were also reported to the Boards.

#### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Since then, Council staff in conjunction with members of the Native Trees Please! Committee, have undertaken a more detailed analysis of each site with a view to determining which is the most suitable in both ecological and practical terms, for each area. Having done this, what is now required is formal endorsement/approval from each Board in respect of the reserve site recommended. Attached is a plan of the Wigram-Worsley/Westmorland Spur Reserve site.

Approximately 2,000 trees and supporting plants are proposed for each reserve site.

#### **FUTURE ACTION**

Once sites are approved, preparations will commence in readiness for planting during the millennium year. This will involve (depending on the site) removal of weed growth, access preparation of planting holes, fencing, wind protection and in some cases, irrigation for initial establishment. Another important aspect will be enlisting the support and assistance for the actual planting of community groups, including local schools. Some initial contacts were made some time ago, and are now being followed up with a view to formulating a definite programme for each Community Board area. Each Board will be advised of progress and input sought once preliminary work is done.

## **FUNDING PROVISIONS**

For case of administration and future disbursement, it is logical in terms of control and accountability that those funds are all held with Turning Point 2000. Funds from each Community Board will be allocated to the sites within their area. Work will be through the Council's Parks Unit who will be assuming implementation of the project, at least in respect of the major components, ie the preparation of sites, purchase of plants, and planting and ongoing maintenance.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Community Board has allocated \$10,000 of 1999/00 Project Funds to this work.

The East Valley Reserve is the site chosen to launch Conservation Week (members have received invitations to participate in the tree planting on Sunday 1 August 1999).

### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.