

8. EDIBLE FRUIT AND NUT TREES ON PARKS

RR 10109

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Rod Whearty, Area Parks Officer
Corporate Plan Output: Local Parks	

The purpose of this report is to confirm St Albans Park and Rutland Reserve as the two locations for the initial planting of edible fruit and nut trees.

Board members will recall endorsing the proposal to plant edible fruit and nut trees on parks at the 30 June 1999 meeting. The Board also requested a further report to recommend suitable sites.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The concept is likely to be most successful if it is in an area where there is a strong community focus or involvement in the park. Packe Street Reserve is a very good example where the concept is already working well.

ST ALBANS PARK

In recent weeks another group has approached the Parks Unit wishing to have similar involvement in St Albans Park. Already they have planted a small section of shrub border adjacent to the Bowling and Croquet Clubs. When the Parks Unit circulated the landscape plan for St Albans Park approximately 18 months ago, some residents requested inclusion of edible species at that time.

RUTLAND RESERVE

The Parks Unit is currently carrying out development work at Rutland Reserve. Rutland Reserve would be an ideal site for planting of edible species with its peat soils and the fact that the community in that area has universally embraced the purchase and development of Rutland Reserve.

A community planting day with local residents is programmed for 15 August 1999 and the inclusion of edible species could easily be added to the list. The group are aware of the proposal to recommend Rutland Reserve and are very supportive of the concept.

CONCLUSION

Given the above information the Parks Unit believes these two reserves would be ideal sites for the initial planting. The Parks Unit will now include edible species as a normal part of the landscape design when preparing landscape plans for parks in the future. In the future local residents will have a number of opportunities to gather a wide range of edible species from their local park.

Recommendation: That St Albans Park and Rutland Reserve be confirmed as the two sites for the initial planting of edible fruit and nut trees.

**Chairperson's
Recommendation:** That the officer's recommendation be adopted.