

<p><b>Officer responsible</b> Parks Manager</p>	<p><b>Authors</b> Area Parks Officer, Robyn Robinson Senior Landscape Architect, Dennis Preston</p>
<p>Corporate Plan Output: N/A</p>	

The purpose of this report is for the Board to identify a park in their area from the short-list provided, to undertake a trial planting of edible fruit and nut trees.

**BACKGROUND**

The Council’s ‘Creativity Team’ has come up with a proposal to plant edible fruit and nut trees on the city’s parks.

A total of \$6,000 has been allocated in the current 1998/99 financial year to provide for plantings within the six Community Board areas including the central city.

Councillors Barbara Stewart and Pat Harrow were given the task to progress the concept and come up with a proposal.

**SITE AND PLANT SELECTION**

In recent weeks the Parks Unit and City Design staff have met and produced a short-list of suitable sites for each Board area to consider. Staff have also developed a broad list of suitable species which are able to cope with a wide range of conditions. A quantity of these plants have already been ordered owing to the time constraints with this particular project.

Each Board will need to nominate a preferred park and then plants suitable to that particular site will be selected from the list.

Because of Christchurch’s unique location and topography a range of plants have been selected that are able to cope with a broad range of conditions ranging from heavy clay to light sandy soils and exposed lowland parks to sheltered frost-free areas on the hills.

**Proposed Short-List of Parks**

Beckenham Park  
Bradford  
Huntsbury

Risingholme  
Centaurus Park  
Leith Reserve

## **Proposed Tree Species**

Arbutus unedo (Strawberry Tree)	Juglans regia (Walnut)
Castanea sativa (Sweet Chestnut)	Olea europeae (Olive)
Pinus pinea (Stone Pine)	Morus nigra (Mulberry)
Hazel nut	Almond
Malus sp (Crab Apple)	Medlar
Quince	Fig
Pecan	Lemon
Peach Black Boy	

### **LONG-TERM AIM**

This concept is a pilot trial to heighten the awareness and demonstrate that our park landscape plantings can have a variety of uses, performing a practical function as well as an aesthetic enhancement role.

Long-term we do not see this as a separate stand-alone project. In the future, opportunities for inclusion of edible species will simply become part of the normal process of landscape design.

**Recommendation:** That the Board identify their preferred park for the planting of edible fruit and nut trees.

**Chairman's Comment:** Board members are invited to suggest any alternatives or additions to the list of Parks provided.