

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author W Fielding-Cotterell
Corporate Plan Output:	

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board of progress with the tree survey in the Board's area.

In response to Community Board concerns about the progressive loss of significant trees from the landscape of the Fendalton/Merivale area, the Parks Unit has engaged a person to conduct a tree survey under the Employment Services' Ace Employment Scheme. The person engaged for this work is John Thornton who has a post graduate diploma in Parks Management from Lincoln University. John's salary is subsidised by the Ace Employment Scheme, the difference or "top up" is currently being paid by the Environmental Policy and Planning Unit. The Fendalton Waimairi Community Board allocated \$4,500 from its project funds for a tree survey/audit in the Merivale/Fendalton area to determine which trees may be worthy of protection as heritage or notable trees under the City Plan.

John Thornton's report is as follows:

- The Notable Tree survey has covered the inner Merivale and Fendalton areas and has now expanded to the greater Fendalton and Riccarton areas. The total number of proposed notable trees so far is 458, as at 16 March 1999.
- Initially aerial maps are used to help ascertain potential notable trees. This is followed up by using vehicle and footwork to try and visually identify these trees. At times it turns out that the trees identified by aerial map have been removed, subsequent to the time of the map's creation.
- Trees that are rare or large for their species which would not necessarily be seen from aerial maps can be recognised on foot. The existing notable trees are also identified so they will not be unnecessarily re-evaluated. Occasionally, existing protected trees will also have measurements taken due to missing or doubtful existing data.
- The criteria for assessing the suitability of the notable trees were developed by Parks Unit arborculturalist Walter Fielding-Cotterell and uses a system based on the Halliwell (UK) method. However, rather than using a system in which values are multiplied by each other, the values for each category increase exponentially, and the values are added together to get the total score for the tree. The criteria can be found in Chapter 10, Appendix 5 of the Christchurch City Council City Plan.
- The criteria cover such things as historic value, botanical rarity, position in the landscape, size, age and form of the tree. Any cultural/social/recreational/spiritual value associated with the tree is taken into account, as well as its suitability in the setting. Any functional value it may have in terms of soil stabilisation or screening effect is also taken into consideration.

- Upon completion of the greater Merivale, Fendalton and the Riccarton areas, the Beckenhem and Opawa areas which also have older properties containing large trees, will be the next to be surveyed.
- An example of the assessment sheet can be found at the back of this report. A map of the area showing the existing notable trees and those added in the current survey as at 16 March 1999 is also included in the report. Some of the trees identified since this date to the west of the plan are not shown.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That following the completion of the survey, a report be brought back to the Environment Committee on the process of protection of the trees contained within the survey.