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The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's support for a proposal from Turning Point 2000 to use parts of Ernlea Reserve and the Heathcote River bank for a 'Native Trees Please' planting.

'Native Trees Please' is a Turning Point 2000 project aimed at planting representative native plants associated with each of the community board areas. The Spreydon Heathcote Board has given \$11,000 for the project. The planting is proposed to be carried out in autumn 2000 and will involve local schools.

Project Site Choice

Ernlea Reserve and the riverbank are lowland river terrace areas which would naturally accommodate tall native podocarp vegetation, including totara, kahikatea and matai. Sites of this type that are unbuilt are now very rare in the City. Turning Point 2000 consider that planting of native trees in the residential areas is important to remind local people of their indigenous heritage. This area was also the site of the 1990 native riverbank plantings.

Ernlea Reserve Landscape Plan

A landscape concept plan for this area has already been drawn up for Ernlea Reserve and the riverbank. It was distributed for public comment earlier this year. The response from the public letter drop indicated that the greatest number respondents wanted a mixed native and exotic planting including gradual replacement of the exotic canopy trees with native forest trees. The Board approved the landscape plan (L4203) for the area with a mixture of native and exotic species with the proviso that planting conform to Council's safer parks policy.

Budget for Ernlea Reserve (Parks Unit Budget)

1999/2000	\$15,000
2001/2002	\$8,000
2002/2003	\$5,000

At present there is enough money to develop the landscape plan for Ernlea Reserve. However the extra funding from the 'Native Trees Please' project will allow greater enhancement of the reserve and walkways with a better standard of facilities for the community and increased project viability.

The Proposal

The 'Native Trees Please' project proposes to plant around 800 low growing native plants and 1200 trees and shrubs representative of this location. The 'Native Trees Please' objectives have been modified slightly to reflect community wishes and the safer parks concept. In all places where openness and clear sightlines are important planting will be restricted to tall growing trees and low growing plants which will not obstruct pedestrian vision.

The project aims to fit in with the landscape planting concept with a few amendments of a minor structural nature to the plan. These include fine-tuning of the native species list to better reflect ecological suitability, a wider range of plants for the site conditions, and substitution of a few species that will cause ecological problems in the future. The above proposals are in keeping with public submissions and appropriate to the landscape plan concept. The 'Native Trees Please' planting will conform to the safer parks policy.

Recommendation: That the Board support the use of Ernlea Reserve and adjoining riverbanks for the millennium 'Native Trees Please' project as outlined above.