



9. MERIVALE RESERVE UPDATE AND NAMING

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Area Parks Officer, Rod Whearty
Corporate Plan Output: New Reserve Development	

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of the new reserve as well as formally naming the new reserve and changing the name of an existing reserve.

INTRODUCTION

Board members will recall the open day held on part of the new reserve at 39 Rugby Street in December 1999 as part of the consultation process regarding the development proposals for the new reserve.

The open day was well attended by local residents who also responded enthusiastically with written submissions requiring only one or two minor changes to the original plan. A number of residents provided a great deal of very interesting information regarding the early history and development of the Merivale area. The Parks Unit is currently investigating the inclusion of an information board on the new reserve portraying the early development of Merivale. A copy of the finalised plan is [attached](#).

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Council recently took possession of the adjacent property at 40 Office Road, which was stage 2 of the acquisition programme for the new reserve. The property is currently rented and the existing tenant will remain there until the property is removed sometime in September – October this year.

The Parks Unit has already undertaken some development work on the Rugby Street property to replace the tennis court fence, remove the hedge on the road frontage and transplant some of the large camellias and rhododendrons to other locations within the reserve.

Possession of the Office Road property allows The “street to street” linkage to now be formalised. The development programme for this financial year will focus on removing the existing house and any unwanted vegetation with the cycleway/pedestrian path and resurfacing of the tennis court to be undertaken during the summer months subject to sufficient funding.

NAMING OF THE NEW RESERVE

The current Council policy for naming of local reserves is as follows.

“For reserves having local or major status, naming proposals shall in the first instance be referred to the appropriate community Board. To the extent deemed necessary, proposals will then be referred to the community for comment prior to formal adoption and recommendation, to the Council.”

The consultation process invited local residents to suggest a name for the new reserve. While a range of potential names were put forward the vast majority suggested Merivale Reserve as the preferred name. As members probably aware, the reserve on Papanui Road next to the Brewers Arms is already named Merivale Reserve, however local residents including a number of Council staff have traditionally referred to this area as the “Merivale Village Green”.

In recognition of the feedback and local references to the existing reserve, the Parks Unit proposes to name the new reserve in Rugby Street/Office Road as “Merivale Reserve” and rename the existing Merivale Reserve in Papanui Road to “Merivale Village Green”.

A letter was recently sent to all the residents who commented on the development proposal for the new reserve along with a copy of the finalised plan and details of the naming proposal for the two reserves. The Parks Unit has already received some favourable feedback to the naming proposals and at the time of preparing this report there had been no adverse comments from the community.

Recommendation: The Board recommends to the Council that the following naming proposals be approved:

1. The new reserve at 39 Rugby Street and 40 Office Road be named Merivale Reserve.
2. The existing Merivale Reserve on Papanui Road be renamed “Merivale Village Green”.

Deputy Chairman’s

Recommendation: That the foregoing recommendation be adopted.