

29. SISKI PLACE STREET TREES

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Anne Cosson, Area Parks Officer, DDI 372-2510
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The purpose of this report is to inform the City Services Committee regarding the progress made to date by the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board on the Siska Place street trees concept plan and to request a decision by the Committee in respect of street tree planting in Siska Place.

Earlier this year the Board received an application from two residents in Siska Place to have their silver birch trees removed from outside their property. The Board decided that staff consult further with residents about the street trees and also address tree planting on the small reserve situated at the head of this cul-de-sac.

On the even number side of the street there is no footpath, just grass berms, or planting.

A letterbox drop was made of Siska Place and a meeting was held for local residents.

CONCEPT PLAN

1 and 3 Siska Place

The initial request was to remove three silver birches outside 1 and 3 Siska Place. As staff worked through the design of the concept plan, it was discovered that a water main ran along the southern (odd numbered) side of the street. The water main is under the grass berm area. Any trees that have invasive or vigorous root systems could damage the pipe. The silver birches outside 1 and 3 Siska Place have the potential to cause damage to this water main.

To overcome this problem we have recommended the planting of magnolia wilsonii. Magnolia wilsonii is a small sized deciduous tree, which grows to 6-8 metres at maturity, bearing white flowers in early spring.

The attached landscape plan shows the area affected by proposed new street tree planting.

Seven new street trees were proposed along with the removal of the silver birches outside 1 and 3. A few of the residents turned down the option of street trees but on the whole everyone was happy for the silver birches to be removed from outside 1 and 3, and new street trees to go in.

6 and 8 Siska Place

Outside number 8 Siska Place, there are three silver birches planted very close together. The closeness of the planting has begun to affect the form and growth of the trees. It is recommended to remove the centre tree. Number 6 Siska Place has a similar problem, with three trees planted very close together. It is recommended that we remove two trees leaving the centre tree. The centre tree has the best shape. These trees are robinias.

14 Siska Place

The silver birch tree outside 14 needs removal. The top half of the tree is declining. This tree will be removed and replaced with shrub planting.

16 Siska Place

Residents at number 16 requested to have their street tree removed. The tree has been assessed by the Parks Unit Arborist. He believes the tree is in good health and is one of the best trees in the street. It is recommended that this tree remain.

SISKI PLACE RESERVE

A plan also went out to discuss the removal of some of the trees in the reserve. When the reserve was originally planted the trees were planted too close together for their mature size. The closeness of the planting has begun to affect the form and growth of the trees to such an extent that now many of the trees are being suppressed and have very poor form. All residents were happy for this work to be carried out.

COMMUNITY BOARD CONSIDERATION

This report was considered by the Community Board at its meeting held on 1 November 2000.

Recommendation: That City Services Committee agree to:

- (a) The removal of the silver birch trees outside 1 and 3 Siska Place.
- (b) The removal of one silver birch from outside number 8 Siska Place.
- (c) The removal of two trees from outside 6 Siska Place.
- (d) That the existing tree outside 16 Siska Place be retained.
- (e) That new street trees go in to replace the trees removed where possible, and new street tree planting be established on the odd number side of the street.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:**
- 1. That the matter be referred to a subcommittee consisting of the Chairman and Councillor Carole Evans, Ron Wright and a representative of the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board.
 - 2. That the recommendation of the subcommittee be reported direct to the Council.