

9. CEMETERIES ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2000 - 2005

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Corporate Plan Output: Cemeteries Page 9.4.36 and Capital Asset Improvements Page 9.4.54	

The purpose of this report is to inform Community Boards of the proposed development and landscape enhancement works proposed for the City Cemeteries in their area.

The Cemeteries Enhancement Programme for the next five (5) years was presented to the Special Parks and Recreation Committee in September 2000, as part of the Outputs and Standards Review.

Due to the public perceptions of lower than desirable levels of service in the amenity and landscape quality of the cemeteries, an additional sum of \$100,000 was allocated in the 2001/01 Annual Plan and indicated a further \$100,000 for the following four (4) years in the five (5) year Capital Programme.

Therefore, a co-ordinated programme has been produced to ensure that most urgent needs are attended to first and ongoing works can be targeted to meet our changing cemetery needs. Part of these needs is the purchase of an additional cemetery site.

The Parks and Recreation Special Committee of September 2000 endorsed the recommendations;

- That the Cemetery Improvement Programme continues to improve the quality of the City's cemeteries and as provided in the Annual Plan, be endorsed.
- That the final two (2) years of the General Cemeteries Improvement Works (\$100,000 per year) be targeted to restoration and renewal including a Headstone Restoration Employment Scheme.

The Committee also made the following suggestions: -

- Explore the possibility of providing family tombs/headstones.
- Cemetery design focuses on providing intimate park like landscape at the city cemeteries.
- The Eden Gardens concept is investigated for Christchurch.
- The feasibility of developing a cemetery on the Port Hills is investigated.
- A commemorative publication be provided for the city's historic cemeteries in co-operation with the Genealogy Society to mark the city's 150th Anniversary.
- Greater use be made of the ACE scheme to employ young people to work with experienced tradesmen in restoring headstones and undertaking other cemetery beautification works.
- Make greater use of volunteers to assist with special projects at the city's cemeteries.

Each Community Board may also wish to suggest areas where improvements can be made. For instance, currently a group of "Friends" are submitting proposals for Linwood Cemetery through the Community Board which has also funded \$10,000 this financial year for landscape improvements.

The report (**separately circulated**) sets funding parameters to meet both landscape and development needs, along with community input requirements.

Recommendation: That where relevant, each Board consider areas where improvements may be made to the City's cemeteries.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the Board's Works and Traffic Safety Committee include a visit to the cemeteries in this community with a view to identifying any opportunities for improvement for recommendation, initially, to the Board.