

7. LAKEWOOD RESERVE - TREE REMOVAL

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the need to remove 12 trees from the corner of Lakewood Drive and Yellowstone Crescent, and to seek the Board's support to distribute the draft Lakewood Reserve Landscape Plan for public comment.

BACKGROUND

In October 2002 the Parks and Waterways Unit undertook some minor tree removal work at Yellowstone Crescent, Westhaven. At the time the Arborist identified a number of trees further down the road, at the corner of Lakewood Drive and Yellowstone Crescent, that had poor form, were structurally weak and would require removal and replacement in the very near future. Residents and the Community Board were informed of the situation, and were told that a landscape concept for the replacement planting, and consultation with neighbouring residents, would be arranged for later in the year.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

Tree Removal, Retention and Replacement Planting

A draft landscape plan has been circulated separately to Board members. The plan highlights those trees designated for removal, replacement trees proposed and trees that will remain. The plan also shows an area of proposed groundcover, beneath the current stand of mature gums, designed to add volume and texture to the street corner. A park seat, made from wood retained from the felling project, is also proposed.

No notable or protected trees are located within the project area. However, it is acknowledged that the stand of five mature gums (refer to numbers six to ten on the landscape plan), which are up to 30 metres in height, are a local icon and if removed will be deeply missed. It is therefore proposed to replace this stand with a group of new young trees, approximately three metres in height at the time of planting, to help minimise the space that remains.

Funding is available from the maintenance budget for the tree removal during late summer/early autumn. Replacement planting will be carried out during the 2004 planting season.

RELEVANT CURRENT POLICY

Trees - Powers delegated to the Community Board are as follows:

1. The planting and removal of trees on parks.
2. To adjudicate on the removal or retention of significant healthy trees in consultation with any Units affected and contentious matters relating to the planting of trees on any reserve of land administered by the Greenspace Unit except the following:
 - Any trees protected by the City Plan (resource consent procedure required).
 - Trees immediately dangerous to persons or property, subject to the Chairperson of the relevant Community Board being advised of any removals.
 - Trees currently causing or likely to cause immediate significant damage to buildings, services or property whether public or privately owned.

CONSULTATION

A copy of the draft landscape plan will be circulated to neighbouring residents and key stakeholder groups inviting responses via prepaid envelope. Feedback will be sought on the proposed landscape planting plan and tree species list. An on-site public meeting will also be organised for residents to discuss the forthcoming tree removal and landscape plan with Council staff involved in the project.

CONCLUSION

Due to concern for public safety, and standard parks and reserves tree maintenance procedures, the Greenspace Unit recommends the removal of 12 trees from the Lakewood Reserve area. With replacement planting, some minor landscape work, and the benefits of using new trees with some height, the overall visual impact should be less severe.

Consultation results and a final landscape plan will be presented to the Board prior to carrying out any tree removal and landscape work.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board approve the recommendation to remove all 12 trees from the Lakewood Reserve site because of concern for public health and safety.
 3. That the Board accept the draft Lakewood Reserve landscape plan for consultation.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.