

## 7. DOG PARK TREE REMOVAL – HORSESHOE LAKE

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Greenspace Manager
<b>Author:</b>	Kim Swarbrick, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-5314

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval for removal of six pine trees and four poplar trees at Horseshoe Lake Reserve dog park (Landscape Master Plan November 2002).

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The removal of these trees is necessary to implement the next stages of the 2005/06 and 2006/07 capital works programme towards completing the Horseshoe Lake concept plan as approved by Community Board on 18 November 2002 and Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee on December 2002. Community Board members are being asked to accept the proposal for removal of these trees in order to progress the next stage of the plan in creating the new Horseshoe Lake Reserve dog park.
3. On 18 November 2002 the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board received and accepted a report on the Landscape Master plan for Horseshoe Lake Reserve. This plan identified the need for some trees to be removed in the near future when the dog park would be constructed. It is now time for work to begin on the construction of the dog park.
4. Consultation with the community was undertaken prior to the 18 November 2002 report. Consultation included key interest groups and neighbouring community who have guided the development of the master plan.
5. Horseshoe Lake is classified as regional park of high importance. At approximately 31 hectares in area it is the second largest wetland environment still in existence in Christchurch. It is located off Lake Terrace Road, Horseshoe Lake Road and is adjacent to Shirley Golf Course and Burwood Park. The residential area of Westhaven and Dallington are situated to the North and South respectively. A walkway bisects the reserve and is primarily a thoroughfare for passive recreation and runners.
6. There are two locations in which trees have been identified for removal in order to create the new dog park. The first location is a stand of 3-4 poplar trees situated right on the road verge at the entranceway to the new dog park. These trees create a blind spot, restrict visibility and site lines for traffic and could be the cause of potential car accidents. Drivers coming out of the dog park will not be able to see if the road is clear from the north before pulling onto the road. Likewise south-bound traffic on Horseshoe Lake Road would have vehicles coming out of the dog park screened from view until they are on the road.
7. The second location in the Horseshoe Lake Reserve concept plan where trees need removing is the eastern edge of the dog park. Six mature pine trees from a stand of approximately 20 trees. As part of the consultation process it was agreed that the closest point of the dog park to any residential boundary (Tasman Place properties) would be 70 metres away. It was also agreed that a buffer of native planting would be provided within this area to screen the dog park. The best location within the 70 metres to have the maximum benefit for the residents is the high ground next to the dog park fence line. This planting has been carried out over the last three years but requires one more section to be planted. These six pine trees are preventing this last block of planting from being completed and will also create a problem in constructing the dog park fence. The old pine trees are also competing for light and nutrients that the existing native plantings require to become established.

### FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. Funding for the removal and replanting of the trees is provided for in the 2005/06 and 2006/07 capital works programme for the Greenspace Unit. The current budget provision is sufficient to undertake and complete the tree removal operation.
9. Funding for ongoing tree maintenance, pruning and minor works, is provided for within existing operational budget.

10. The trees are not listed as protected under the City Plan and no resource consents are required for this work.
11. Health & Safety, risk management, liability and insurance concerns exist if the tree work at the dog park entranceway is deferred. The intention of the Horseshoe Lake Reserve landscape master plan cannot be successfully implemented without the pines being removed.
12. All work will be carried out by a Council-approved contractor with the appropriate health and safety and work-site management controls in place.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board approve option (b) to undertake tree removal and replacement planting programme for the six pine trees on the eastern side of the dog park in order to meet residents' requirements of a 70 metre buffer zone, and remove the identified poplar trees to create adequate vision for traffic.

**CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the abovementioned recommendation be adopted.

## **OPTIONS**

13. There are two possible options:

- (a) Do nothing or status quo.  
This is not considered a viable option, as it would leave the Council highly exposed to a negligence claim in relation to any subsequent damage to persons or property given our awareness of the traffic obscurement issues at the dog park entranceway. Leaving status quo does not meet the agreed community consultation to provide a new improved dog park facility.
- (b) Undertake tree removal and replacement planting programme for the six pine trees on the eastern side of the dog park in order to meet residents' requirement of a 70m buffer zone. Remove the poplar trees to create adequate vision for traffic.

## **PREFERRED OPTION**

14. The preferred option is option (b).  
This option implements and recognises the Horseshoe Lake Reserve master plan as previously approved with community consultation in 2002.