

10. TREE REMOVALS AND REPLACEMENTS IN RESERVES

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8608
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board's approval for the following:
 - (a) Wigram Village Green detailed tree removal and replacement plans
 - (b) Arcon Stream Reserve tree removals and landscape concept plan
 - (c) Aidanfield Reserve tree removals for Stage 8 stormwater basin

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wigram Village Green – Tree Removals and replacements

2. Wigram Village Green is located on the intersection of Springs Road and Corsair Drive. It is one of the main entrances into the Wigram Heritage Area that includes the Heritage Protected Tower and Hanger Buildings and the Kingsford-Smith Heritage Reserve. It is also the main entrance into the Subdivision of the former Wigram Aerodrome site, now being re-branded as 'Wigram Skies' and owned by Ngai Tahu Property Ltd.
3. On the 29 September 2010, the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board considered and resolved to approve the Wigram Village Green Landscape Concept Plans. (Prepared by John Marsh Landscape Architects on behalf of Ngai Tahu Property Ltd (the Developer), as part of their subdivision application.)
4. As part of these approved landscape concept plans, the Developer proposes to remove and replace specimen trees to enhance the Wigram Village Green, as seen in **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2**.
5. A total of 25 trees have been identified to be removed primarily due to stem damage, die back, disease or poor form reasons. The species to be removed include 14 *Quercus palustris*, four *Fraxinus americana*, four *Alnus glutinosa*, an *Arbutus unedo*, *Castanea sativa* and a *Cupressus sp.* **Attachment 1** documents, the reasons why each tree has been selected for removal.
6. The Developer proposes, as part of the overall landscape shrub planting and enhancements, to replace these trees where appropriate. **Attachment 2** Planting Plan indicates a total of 16 new specimen grade *Podocarpus totara* are to be planted. The species selection relates to the overall theme of the already planted Awatea Stormwater Basin project and the general theme of the Wigram Skies residential development. The removal and replacement of the nominated species can be funded by Reserve Contributions from the new subdivision.
7. The proposed tree planting must comply with the Infrastructure Design Guidelines (IDS) (2010), and the Construction Standard Specifications (CSS) (2010), to ensure that all landscape works meet the Council's standards. All proposed works are to be maintained by the developer for an Establishment period of 12 months (the maintenance and defects period) following council acceptance of construction.
8. After 12 months establishment, the landscape planting will be taken over by the Council and become part of the regular maintenance regimes for the Riccarton/Wigram Parks Maintenance Team.

ARCON Stream Reserve – Landscape Concept Plan

9. Arcon Stream Reserve is located to the western side of Carmen Road, with pedestrian access from Carmen Road, Vanguard Drive and Kintyre Drive. Paparua Stream flows through the reserve and is culverted under Carmen Road. New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) is upgrading State Highway 1 from Yaldhurst Road to the railway line south of Waterloo Road from two to four lanes. The four-laned road will be within the road reserve adjacent to Arcon Stream Reserve, and will require the realignment of Paparua Stream as shown in **Attachment 3**. To enable the stream realignment to go ahead, there is a proposal to remove a number of trees from within Arcon Stream Reserve, as well as riparian vegetation along the stream margins. The trees for removal are shown in **Attachment 4**.
10. A total of 11 trees have been identified for removal because of their location in proximity to the new carriageway or the realigned waterway. Of these, two may be tree spaded and relocated if possible. The species to be removed include single specimens of silver birch, golden elm, ribbonwood, oak, and cabbage tree, along with two hornbeam, four willow, scattered sycamores and underplanting. In addition, there is a pin oak and two ribbonwoods that will only be retained if practical, with earthworks required to retain adequate soil around the root mass. **Attachment 4** documents these proposed removals and shows the existing location of the trees in relation to the road and the realigned stream.
11. NZTA proposes, as part of the landscape concept plan to replace the removed trees with alternative species as indicated in **Attachment 3**. Replacement exotic tree species included in the concept plan are *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, and *Quercus robur*. Council officers have suggested that the tree replacement list should also include copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and golden elm (*Ulmus procera*), because examples of these species are growing well within Arcon Stream Reserve. The removal and replacement of the nominated trees and vegetation will be funded by NZTA.
12. The proposed tree planting must comply with the Infrastructure Design Guidelines (IDS) (2010), and the Construction Standard Specifications (2010), to ensure that all landscape works meet the Council standards. All proposed works are to be maintained by the developer for an establishment period of 12 months (the maintenance and defects period), after which time Council will resume regular maintenance of the site.

Aidanfield Reserve – Tree Removals for Stage 8 Stormwater Basin

13. Aidanfield Reserve is a strip of land of approximately 30 metres width, located between Halswell Road and the Aidanfield subdivision. The reserve extends along the road frontage, between Aidanfield Drive and Templetons Road. As part of Stage 8 of this subdivision, a stormwater treatment detention area will be excavated on land adjacent to the existing Aidanfield Reserve and will extend into this existing reserve along part of its length.
14. To enable the construction of the stormwater detention facility, approximately 160 trees and shrubs will need to be removed from Aidanfield Reserve, as shown in **Attachment 5**. These include approximately 24 Common Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), 37 Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), 20 Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra*) and 81 *Pittosporum tenuifolium*. A preliminary assessment of the trees suggests that 20 of the trees will be suitable for transplant. These include 16 Pin Oak, and four Lombardy Poplar. The Common Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) are not considered suitable for transplant, because these trees are too large to be moved with available equipment and this species is no longer planted by Council. *Pittosporum tenuifolium* are not considered to be economical for transplant. The trees in Aidanfield Reserve, adjacent to the proposed Stage 9 of this subdivision will not be removed this year. The Developer proposes to temporarily relocate the suitable trees to Curletts Reserve (shown in **Attachment 5**) while earthworks are completed throughout Aidanfield Stage 8. Once earthworks are complete, the trees will be permanently transplanted to new reserve areas within Stage 8 (also shown in **Attachment 5**). It is expected that the trees will be transplanted to their permanent locations by October 2011. The developer is responsible for ensuring the survival of the transplanted trees, for an establishment period of 12 months.

15. The temporary and permanent relocation of the proposed trees will be funded by the Developer. The proposed tree planting must comply with the Infrastructure Design Guidelines (IDS) (2010), and the Construction Standard Specifications (2010), to ensure that all landscape works meet the Council's standards. The Developer has agreed to use Treotech to undertake this tree work.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

17. The proposed works in Wigram Village Green can be implemented with Reserve Development Contributions funds from the new subdivision for the tree and shrub planting. The proposed works are part of the value of reserves being vested and approved landscaping.
18. The proposed works at Arcon Stream Reserve will be funded by NZTA as part of the SH1 four laning between Yaldhurst and Waterloo roads.
19. The proposed tree works at Aidanfield Reserve will be funded by the Developer Aidanfield Holdings Limited.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

20. The proposed landscape enhancement works for Wigram Village Green are aligned with the Development Contributions Policy 2009-19, refer page 191, which describe the terms of use for Reserve Development Contributions. The proposed works are part of the value of reserves being vested and approved landscaping.
21. The proposed works at Arcon Stream Reserve will be funded by NZTA.
22. The proposed works at Aidanfield Reserve will be funded by the Developer.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

23. Community Boards have delegated authority from Council to exercise the delegations as set out in the Register of Delegations dated 23 July 2010. The list of delegations for the Community Board includes the authority to approve the planting, maintaining and removal of trees on reserves, parks and roads under the control of the Council within the policy set by the Council and to approve the design of landscape plans on reserves, parks and roads provided the design is within the policy authorised by the relevant community board.
24. The Developer must implement all work according to the Christchurch City Councils Quality Control processes, the Construction Standard Specifications (2010) and the Infrastructure Design Guidelines (2010).
25. All work will be carried out by a Council approved contractor with the appropriate health and safety and work site management controls in place.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

26. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

27. LTCCP 2009-19: Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways – Page 116
 - (a) Safety – by ensuring our parks, open spaces and waterways are healthy and safe places;
 - (b) Community – by providing welcoming areas for communities to gather and interact;
 - (c) Recreation – by offering a range of recreational opportunities in parks, open space and waterways;
 - (d) City Development – by providing and inviting, pleasant and well care for environment.

28. Parks and Open Spaces Activity Management Plan

- (a) Council objective with urban parks is to provide and manage Community Parks, Garden and Heritage Parks, Sports Parks, and Riverbanks and Conservation areas throughout the city that provide amenity values, areas for recreation and organised sport, garden environments and green corridors, that contribute to the city's natural form, character, heritage and Garden City image.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

29. Yes, as above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

30. Aligns with:

- (a) Parks and Waterways Access Policy;
- (b) Safer Christchurch Strategy;
- (c) Youth Strategy;
- (d) Recreation and Sport Strategy.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

31. Yes, as above.

consultation fulfilment

32. No wider consultation has been undertaken as it is not considered necessary as all works are tree replacements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board:

- (a) Approve the detailed planting plans for the Wigram Village Green (Attachment 1 and Attachment 2)
- (b) Approve the landscape concept plan and tree removal plan for Arcon Stream Reserve (Attachment 3 and Attachment 4)
- (c) Approve the tree removal plan and the plans for the temporary relocation of trees from Aidanfield Reserve to Curletts Reserve and then the further relocation to other new reserves within Aidanfield Stage 8 (Attachment 5).