

Report 99.634
File: R/1/6/6 (sm)
28 October 1999

Report to Wellington Regional Council
From: Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

Millenium Totara Grove Proposal

1. Purpose

To inform Council of my proposal to develop a tree grove in one of our Regional Parks to recognise the service to the Region of all the past, present and future Wellington Regional Council Councillors.

2. Location

This proposal could fit in very naturally at Battle Hill or Kaitoke Regional Park. The Regional Park staff and I favour the Te Marua end of Kaitoke Regional Park (**see attachment 1 - outline plan**). This area has water management, rivers and regional parks – all key activities located together.

It could initially be laid out in a semi-formal manner and gradually fan out and link up with other remnants. The design should allow for some open spaces for picnicking etc.

3. Species

I favour Podocarpus Totara. They grow well in the situation, are strong, long living and durable, i.e., once established they don't tend to die out. They grow well on river gravel terraces as already occurs at Te Marua and look good as groups in a park-like setting. They are relatively slow growing (**see attachment 2 - photo of a memorial tree planted at Te Marua in 1991 gives an indication of the growth speed**).

4. Naming

This could be a simple bronze label mounted in front of the tree similar to that in the attached photo. All the names and locations could be on an information board at the beginning of the grove. As new councils are elected each three years the new councillors could plant their tree and have their name and location added.

5. Entrance/Information Board

I would envisage an entry area and small standard information shelter all developed to a good standard similar in quality to the Keith Spry Memorial lookout area. This development could be left for a few years before putting in place.

6. Planting Date

If the scheme proceeds, a possible date to commence would be Arbor Day 2000 which is 5 June. All the former living Councillors or closest known relatives of deceased councillors could be invited to come and plant their tree. A total of close to 70 have represented Council since 1980.

7. Costs

(1)	Tree – 1.5m high (PB18)	\$25
	Small Bronze Plaque (with name and date)	\$50
	Hole Preparation and Post	<u>\$25</u>
		\$100
	70 Trees @ \$100	\$7,000
	Information Board	<u>\$5,000</u>
		\$12,000
(2)	Possible Future Costs – Information Shelter	\$3,000
	Car Parking, seats, paving, etc.	\$30,000

8. Funding

My suggestion is that we wait until the six monthly financial review to find the most appropriate source of funding.

9. Recommendation

- (1) *That the Council approves as a Millenium Project the Totara Grove proposal to be established at the Te Marua entrance of the Kaitoke Regional Park.*
- (2) *That stage 1 funding (\$12,000) be allocated at the six monthly financial review.*

STUART MACASKILL

Chairman

Attachment 1 – Outline plan

Attachment 2 – Photo of a memorial tree