

Submissions received on Purau Reserve Landscape Development Plan, April 2024

Organisations / Businesses

ID	Submitter feedback	Name - Organisation
17152	See attachment	Quetin McDonald - Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network

Individuals

ID	Overall, do you support the plan for Purau Reserve?	What do you like about the plan for Purau Reserve and why?	What don't you like about the plan for Purau Reserve and why?	Is there anything else we need to know?	Name
17141	No	I like the hillside native plants proposed. Some of the gully plants suggested may be OK but some of the fern species will be very difficult to establish. Native orchids are normally spread by seed - I am not aware of them being able to be 'planted'	Purau Reserve is a small reserve in a shady gully. It should be planted in indigenous vegetation only - as that is what will survive there, and will help reduce erosion and sediment flow in rain events. The proposed plan is more suited for a flat, grassed urban park. Rhododendrons and Azaleas are not appropriate species Fruit trees and the other suggested specimen trees will not thrive - there is not enough light, and as they say in the plan the higher slopes are dry. Planting trees in Purau with the assumption they'll need watering is an unsustainable approach. Fruit will attract vermin.	I really really hope this will not become a template for our riparian reserves in the Ōpāwaho catchment	Chrissie Williams
17140	Somewhat	It is great to see this significant ecological corridor, which strategically joins the Heathcote river reserves to the greater Cashmere Hills, finally being freed of the invasive and damaging exotic tree species such as Sycamore, Oak, Wattle etc. This can only be a good thing and can't happen soon enough. Well done.	There is no justification for having exotic fruit trees in this space where the fruit will simply continue to be ammunition for youths passing through and spawn further exotic trees; all homes in the area have enough space for their own dwarf fruit trees. This park must not be allowed to stealthily become a pseudo-community garden. That function should be divorced from a native green space, and in this case a critical corridor. The plan does not include enough of a timeline or sequence for the initial removal of large exotics and subsequent planting. The large exotic tree removal will clearly disturb what is already there so care must be taken not to plant in a way that might later be destroyed.	Please remove the exotic species. We don't need them here at all.	ANDREW McGeorge
16918	Yes	I like the idea of mixed planting to enhance this reserve. I also appreciate being considered.	More consideration should be taken when deciding what to plant.....during summer the reserve gets exceptionally dry and there is no water supply (eg Tap) for neighbors to water anything. All neighboring properties are on hill sites thus carrying buckets of water is not an option. would prefer to see Malus (crab apple) planted if any fruit trees are to be considered....they survive most and provide excellent source of food for the birds. I don't see a rubbish bin on the plan!!	Please dont plant prunus....they sucker furiously.	Jo Geary
16917	Don't know / Not sure	Community involvement in the reserve is good for a range of reasons. Planting fruit trees is a good idea	For those whose properties border on the reserve one of the most important criteria for tree selection is whether they are deciduous or evergreen. Where shading of neighbouring properties occurs and is an issue, deciduous trees are much preferred. The plan	For neighbouring properties, sight lines, shading, aesthetic qualities and habitat benefits should be considered alongside native vs exotic	David Evison

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			should take account of this, since it may be much more important than whether a tree is indigenous or exotic. Associated with this criterion is tree height, since this is the other criterion that affects shading. The plan does not seem to discuss the existing forest trees on the site. What is the plan for these? The elms have some benefits in that they are deciduous (see above) and they are providing valuable habitat for birds. The pine is also popular as bird habitat. The plan should be clear about these trees for three reasons 1. They are providing good habitat and aesthetic benefits, they have some benefits for neighbours (deciduous) and their removal would constitute a big change to the reserve.		
16869	No			1. My name is Ian Anderson. 2. I'm the property owner and resident at [REDACTED] 3. My property has the longest contiguous boundary of any neighbour with the Purau Reserve. 4. Our kitchen, dining and outdoor living areas face into the Reserve. 5. I and my family are regular users of the Reserve. 6. I have been advised by Council that although the landscape plan proposed by it shows none of the existing trees in the Reserve, in fact all existing trees will be retained. I do not understand how this is possible as the existing tree canopy covers 100% of the valley area providing neither room nor light for the proposed plan. Hence, my feedback is that the proposal falls short of the standard needed for effective consultation with affected parties and should be withdrawn, amended, and resubmitted for consultation. 7. I also request that the Council examine its expectations and performance of its reserves and aborist teams in regard to managing its reserve and tree assets to avoid creating nuisance to its neighbours. I submit that no matter what landscape plan is adopted, there should be an obligation on these council teams to be considerate of, and respectful to, its neighbours in the way it maintains the trees within the Reserve. My experience is that they disregard those obligations, and I refer to Council ticket numbers H03193008, H03574128 and H03756048 which date back to February and to which no response has been received as evidence of that disregard. 8. I also wish to be given the opportunity to speak to	Ian Anderson

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				these and related points if/when the Community Board is considering the current or an updated landscaping proposal for Purau Reserve. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this feedback submission.	
16732	Yes	Fabulous plan to rectify the destruction, we thank the council for attempting to repair & restore the reserve to its original state, it will be great to see flowers, fruit trees & greenery back & have the birds return too!	Can we please request the flaxes & grasses on the paths be removed these are a tripping hazard, especially the grasses & Harakeke flaxes planted on the access ways from number 6 Overdale Drive into the reserve, when these are fully grown this will prevent any access into the reserve & dangerous to have on a narrow hilly & pathway. We have concerns over the supervision of the community work that is to be carried out, it appears there are several different agendas & the damage that has recently caused will not be repaired in our lifetime, this is council's land for everybody to enjoy, it is not an extension of people's backyards that they can do whatever they want to with, without any consideration or effect on other people's property. It should be qualified people doing these works. Our wish is for the community to enjoy this special wee reserve & children can play in there without being approached by neighbours, & again people from all over chch can come & collect fruit.	Can't wait to see ferns & flowers back in the reserve thank you to all the Council Staff for repairing this we really hope there is a stragic plan to prevent this damage from happening again & lessons have been learned.	Lianne Killick
16582	Somewhat	I think the plan is generally very good. Thank you. The extensive planting, including ferns, with a mixture of deciduous flowering and native trees will give it a diversity and interest. Fruit trees in the upper brighter areas - previously have grown well there - would be an excellent food source (as they used to be) for passersby, insects and birds.. A few magnolia would be attractive rhododendron great as they look brilliant in that setting - pleased they are on your list. Like the range of ferns chosen. Not sure the flax would be so good, except near Purau Road itself (but may be too bulky). Have you considered planting kahikatea beside the creek? or even a kauri - they grow well nearby. that would give it real interest. Miro would do well there too. In 50 years it would be fantastic. PLEASE DO NOT DAMAGE THE OAKS ALREADY THERE.	More a suggestion than a dislike: perhaps some detail could be put in around the planting adjacent to the 50 steps from the bottom to the slip access path to the bottom of Overdale Drive (top left edge on your diagram): this is where the fruit trees previously flourished, and having the steps adjacent to them allowed people to pick the fruit (plums, as it was). To have the fruit trees along this edge would be great for several reasons: 1. it restores what was treasured previously 2, provides a food source for insects, birds and humans 3. would not affect the character of the gully and remainder of the reserve 4. gets sufficient light for the trees, whereas deeper in the recess of the valley, that does not apply. You could plant all 4 types mentioned: PLUM, APPLE, PEACH, PEAR, and extend the planting down the narrow path off Purau Road itself, especially near the bottom steps. (PS there is a newly planted pittosporum planted right in front of the Purau reserve sign which will have to go), Also: Suggest stay away from Ngaio - not sure they would thrive well there, and the look pretty straggly after a while - and Gingko stink!! Avoid too much tarata I reiterate my desire for Miro, Kahikatea and Kauri near the stream -	Suggest planting some miro, kahikatea and kauri, thinking ahead for the future. Later generations will thank you greatly. They would do well near the creek. Please do not remove existing aged mature oak. restoring the fruit trees along the 50 steps at the bottom that lead to the lower part of Overdale Drive would be well received by the neighbourhood.	Spencer Beasley

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			all would do well. JUST THINK YOU NEED TO CONFIRM CLEARLY THAT THE AGED OAK TREES ARE NOT REMOVED		
16165	Yes	It sets parameters about what the community will do and what Council will do. Also very happy that the planting proposal will include the dry middle part of the gully and hopefully reduce sediment flow when the stream is running.	I'm surprised that fruit trees would get sufficient light in the reserve.		Maureen McCloy
16120	Somewhat	Native trees being planted so that the land can return more to its natural state.	The current huge trees are staying that block light and moisture from being able to reach the ground, how is the new planting meant to take hold? Non-native plants are being further introduced, rhododendron are not ground cover they can grow very tall. Worried that some of the natives proposed to be planted will not take off as they are not suitable for the area.	Unsure if all the ferns species may grow due to the dry environment, may be more appropriate to plant species native to this area of Canterbury.	Hannah Moir
15967	Yes	Agree with planting natives & think pear & olive tree's would be the best fruit.	Having been one of the volunteers I cannot see how we can water the specimen plants to enable them to survive as it would involve carrying water in buckets from where?	Maintenance of stairways. Is essential especially keeping clear of periwinkle	Barry Noakes
15915	Yes		I like the plan for the reserve ,especially more planting of various fern in the gully,which is basically what the community was already doing. I have reservations about the specimen trees. There is no ready access to water in the reserve and it is a big ask expecting the community to carry water in order to keep these trees alive. I doubt they will survive.		Cheryl Johnstone
15589	Yes	Looks great, thanks for your assistance.			Geoff McPhail
15576	Yes	Thank you to the team for the work you have put into this and picking up on the community ideas. Like making the stream and edge an open feature with low level planting. Planting on the slopes keeps the centre open but retains the shade which in summer is a lovely special feature.		The community has already planted a large number of native plants and it is assumed that these will be retained even though some of them are not on the species list.	Alan Matheson
15572	Yes	Valley planting ideas are good. It's great the community group will not be allowed to remove trees. Hopefully we will keep the big shade trees and let some of those that have been cut down regenerate.	I'm not sure that azalea bushes or fruit trees will be an improvement. They will detract from the wilderness feel. We need big shade trees. In some cases removal of the groundcover seems to have made it grow back with more weed species.		Susan Cambridge
15571	Yes				Kaye Wilson
15570	No	That the Council is doing maintenance to this reserve.	The Christchurch City Council ecologists plan to revegetate using native species erases our English Heritage. The original design of the early settlers plan for Purau Reserve was for exotic trees to match the adjacent Heathcote River exotic tree planting. This was in keeping and to remind them of their English homeland rivers and also matches the exotic tree planting for the Avon River.	Maintain our English heritage with exotic trees please.	Ralph Roden

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15569	Yes	Great mix of plants and trees, including fruit trees. Would enhance a much-loved and heavily-used track. Thank you.	Like it all!	Love the plan. Happy to be involved with watering.	Adair Bruorton
15567	Yes	I'm happy to see fruit!			Annie Radecki
15565	Yes	A good variety of trees and shrubs . Good to have fruiting trees and ornamentals, natives and exotics. O like the idea of plants for beauty eg. Rhododendrons and hebes.	I would prefer not to have tussocks. Yes there are a lot of tussocks around the city but they grow and seed quickly and soon become a hazard. The ones that have already been planted on the walkway from Purau Terrace and the stairs are now huge and seed. I don't like the Cabbage trees that have been planted on the walkway (no consultation for them) they are messy and don't break down blocking drains . Hopefully they will be removed.	Don't plant the fruit near walkways. They make a hell of a mess if not collected and attract wasps. I do like the idea of being able to gather the fruit though.	Noeline Blackburn
15564	Yes	Plan acceptable by me but I have one question The overview-Maintenance or removal of trees by the community is not permitted. Question- Once the trees are planted will the Council Parks Maintenance protect the new plantings from the periwinkle as it is pointless planting any thing unless the periwinkle is kept down or removed			Gail Downward
15563	Somewhat	1. The continual removal of weed tree species like sycamore; 2. Range of native species; 3. Stabilising of stream and paths.	1. Mixing exotic species with native. It look incongruous to have rhododendrons and azaleas in the same area as natives...let's keep it pure natives - a bush remnant - in this gully. 2. Fruit trees!! Please don't - who will look after them, spray them, prune them...its just silly to include them in what will always be a shady valley...keep it cohesive, keep it natives, keep it self managing once established!		Malcolm Long



Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network

Submission on Draft Purau Reserve Landscape Plan

June 2024

As a Network with a number of member groups working in reserves across the catchment, including Friends of Purau, we have followed with interest the development of this landscape plan. Purau Reserve is one of the more challenging restoration sites we are aware of in our catchment. It is severely affected by invasive pest plants, both choked with ground-based creepers and shaded by vigorously invasive sycamore trees. It is steep-sided and prone to erosion which makes it of considerable concern to us as sediment is the most significant pollutant in the Ōpāwaho. It is embedded in a local community which has shown interest and expended considerable effort to improve it.

While we understand that the plan has been developed in response to community consultation, we feel that an excessive weight has been given to what was a relatively small number of those consulted. We also believe that the plan is *not* what we'd hope to see in the face of a crisis in indigenous biodiversity (we are in the midst of the 6th Great Extinction).

Invasive Weed Species

Without a management plan for the removal of invasive sycamore trees, it is very hard to imagine that planting of any type will thrive, especially non-indigenous fruit trees and specimen exotics. We accept it's not appropriate for the community to do management of mature trees.

- ***Therefore we ask for a commitment from the CCC that resources will be available for progressive removal of the sycamores.***

The same might be said for the eventual removal of other exotics, particularly those that are approaching their likely end-of-life during the term of the landscape plan. If planning for their

replacement is not taken into account, the whole reason for a landscape plan process is questionable.

Planting of Exotics

There appears to be no justification for the planting of non-native plants. While planting exotics is sometimes appropriate for heritage reasons or to establish park-like settings, there's no apparent reason to consider it in this reserve. Fruit trees, in particular, are likely to only provide food for the rats the community is working hard to eradicate.

- ***The long-term vision of this landscape plan should be to establish this reserve as restored native bush, with plantings that will establish an initial lower canopy augmented by the planting of noble native species to eventually provide emergent features and wildlife habitat.***

The suggestion of mosses and ferns at an early stage appears optimistic. These are unlikely to flourish until such time as the native mid-canopy is well-established. We note there are native mosses and ferns in the reserve now and these need to be protected.

Plant Choice

The plant choice appears at odds with earlier, well-informed analysis done by CCCs own ecologists. While we appreciate the desire to respond to the feelings of a minority of community members, there are scientific realities that cannot be ignored.

- ***We believe there are knowledgeable people within the CCC and in the local community that should be able to advise on appropriate plant choice for this challenging site.***

We would be willing to direct our expert guidance to the landscape planner. Suitable long term noble trees for the reserve are totara on steeper slopes, matai on foot slopes, and possibly kahikatea and pokaka in the ephemeral stream channel. There are many enrichment understorey species to include on deeper moist soils: - coprosmas, rohutu, kaikomako, turepo, titoki, poataniwha, pigeonwood, lancewood/horoeka - while on steeper, drier slopes - kowhai, kanuka, broadleaf, five-finger, fierce lancewood.

The Stream

The landscape plan appears to be largely silent on the condition and plans for the stream flowing through the reserve.

- ***The treatment of the stream, the creation of pools to reduce the speed of flow and perhaps trap some sediment and the treatment for the path do not appear to have been considered in any depth. These must be a fundamental part of an adequate landscape plan that looks to the longer-term final form of the reserve.***

Community Group Relations

We note that the community group involved in this work has found the process involved in this landscape plan extremely discouraging. In the period that they have been prohibited from working in the reserve they have seen reinvasion of weeds effectively undoing some of their earlier work.

- ***A high priority for the plan must be to establish a good working relationship with the community so that they feel confident that they have the support of the council in the difficult work they are undertaking.***

Community Engagement

It is time that Council embraced a more sophisticated and nuanced understanding of public will and employed evidence-based decisions that address the crises the world is facing. The fact is that random citizen surveys conducted over the past 20 years show that 55-60% of residents want more native plants in their neighbourhood and 75-80% want more native birds. Only 5-6% want less. This is in marked contrast to the loud voices that support regressive policies and claim to speak for the community. Many knowledgeable busy people also are excluded from this conversation because of work demands - but would take part in citizen assemblies if these were established to co-design the outcome.

Quentin McDonald
Chair