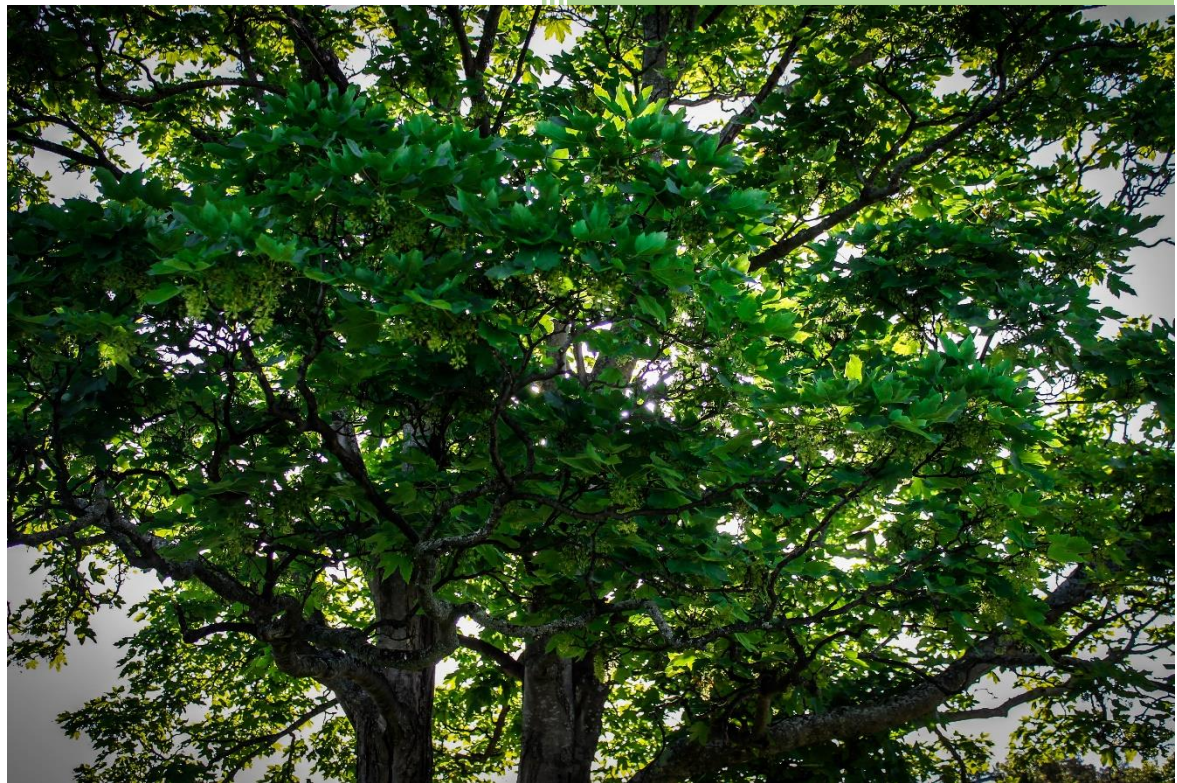




Rangitikei
District
Council

2017

Urban Tree Plan



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2 General Guideline Statement

2.1 Introduction

Trees are important to our overall enjoyment of the environment in which we work, live and play, and form an integral and important aspect of any urban scene.

Trees provide ecological benefits, whether it is as a wildlife habitat, as food or shade, for soil retention or as an agent to purify the air. They can produce timber and crops, encourage biodiversity and improve the visual appeal of the landscape.

Trees also have a significant positive impact on the environment by enhancing and softening urban buildings, assisting with climatic control, providing shade, seasonal colour and amenity interest. They can be used to reflect local identity by marking an historic place or a location of particular interest, and provide character within the urban environment by framing important vistas or providing a structure to support a street layout.

Trees also make a significant contribution to the District's amenity, values and character. They contribute to good health by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen into the air and providing habitats for birds, insects and other wildlife. Trees have the ability to filter dust and pollutants, reduce noise and moderate extremes of climate through the provision of shade and shelter. These values are further enhanced by their ability to provide beauty through flowers, berries, form and seasonal colour – either individually or in groups.

The Rangitikei district, with its diverse climate range presents its' own challenges for the establishment and management of trees. The Rangitikei can have particularly cold winters, unusually dry seasons, high winds and wet ground.

The Council is responsible for the management of all trees on council owned or managed land including parks, reserves, and berms in urban streets. The Urban Tree Plan covers urban situations within the District and is intended to provide a blueprint for future tree management within the Rangitikei.

3 Trees in Parks, Reserves and other Council Properties

3.1 Introduction

Reserves may offer the opportunity to plant trees that are too large for streets or private residential situations. These trees have an important and positive role to play in the amenity values of our parks, reserves and open spaces.

Appropriate species selection and positioning needs careful consideration and design to minimise losses through these climatic extremes. As trees have a limited life, an ongoing replacement programme is essential to ensure continuity of trees of varying ages in our parks.

Council wishes to see trees established and maintained on all parks and reserves.

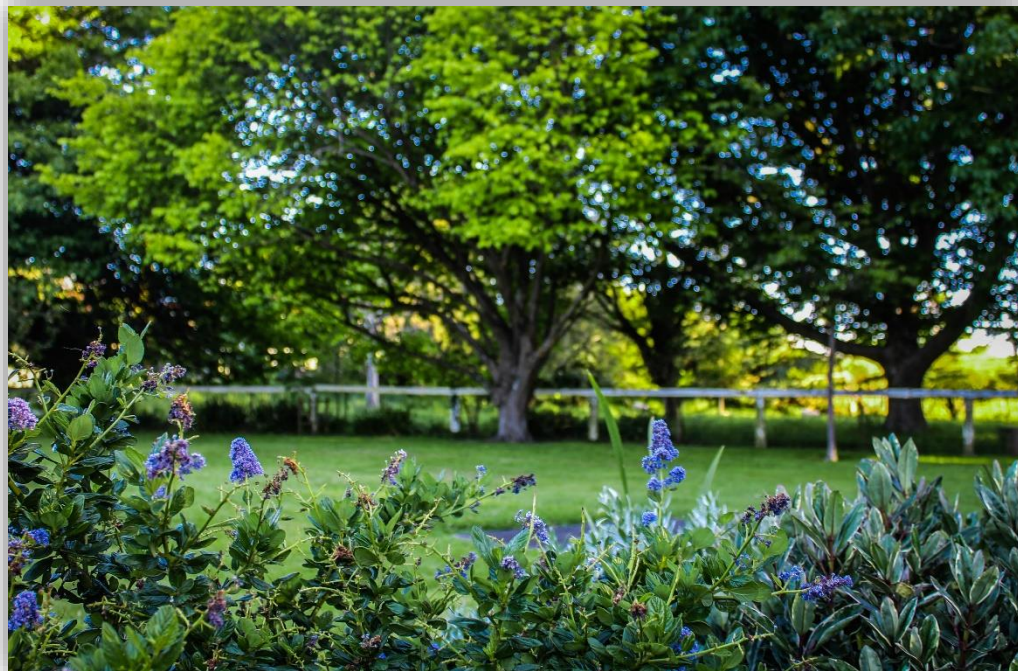


Figure 1. Frae Ona Park, Marton

3.2 Maintenance & Management

Good maintenance through the establishment phase reduces the future cost of maintenance and improves the final form and amenity value that the trees provide.

All maintenance of mature trees in parks and reserves will be undertaken by prequalified contractors (See [Appendix 7.1](#)). The parks and reserves team will be responsible for all maintenance of trees during their establishment. Maintenance includes pruning, mulching, staking, fertilising and replacement.



Figure 2. Marton Park

GUIDELINE 1

Council is responsible for the maintenance of all trees, shrubs and vegetation in parks and reserves. It will undertake regular inspections and corrective pruning of trees, shrubs and vegetation.

Community concerns raised about the maintenance and appropriateness of trees, shrubs and vegetation are a constant issue. These concerns will be considered on a case by case basis. Any unauthorised pruning of trees, shrubs or amenity plantings could lead to legal action for the purpose of recovering the costs of replacing damaged trees and shrubs, including any fees incurred in the recovery of cost.

Council will inspect and undertake routine maintenance of trees, shrubs and amenity planting on an appropriate cycle to suit location, plant species and site constraints. Established trees will be inspected annually and minor corrective work undertaken where required.

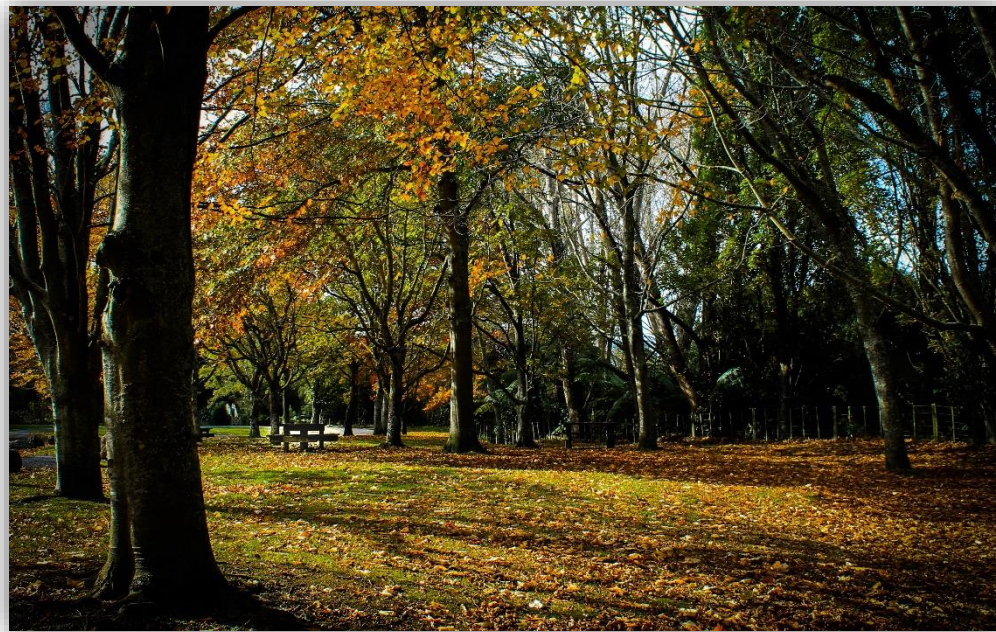


Figure 3. Queens Park, Hunterville

The usual maintenance regime for parks and reserves trees is:

Tree Age (from date planted)	Maintenance Cycle	Tasks to Undertake
Up to 10 years	1x per annum	Inspect, adjust/remove stakes & ties, corrective pruning, fertilise, as required
Over 10 years	1x every 3 years	Inspect, corrective pruning & clear services
Mature	As required	Inspect, corrective pruning & clear services

Non-essential work requested by a member of the community may be carried out by Council on the basis that all of the costs are met by those requesting the work.

3.2.1 Playground Trees

Trees that are located within playground areas are assessed monthly as part of the routine playground inspections. This monthly inspection will be a visual inspection and will take into consideration any changes the tree may have experienced over the

previous month. Special attention will be given to the stability of the tree and any damage that may have occurred during this time. All findings will be recorded on the playground site inspection checklist and relevant contactors notified if required.

A further inspection of the trees near playgrounds will occur by trained arborists at twelve month intervals. This inspection will be a more detailed risk analysis of the trees that will include any remedial actions that may be required to keep the trees in a healthy and safe condition for the park users. This inspection will be undertaken by Council approved sub-contractors that are familiar with the tree species being assessed. Should any tree require remedial work this will be undertaken without delay.



Figure 4. Marton Park

Parks with mature trees which will be assessed include:

- Bulls Domain, Bulls
- Walker Park, Bulls
- Queens Park, Hunterville
- Centennial Park, Marton
- Marton Park, Marton
- Memorial Hall, Marton
- Wilson Park, Marton
- Memorial Park, Taihape



GUIDELINE 2

Monthly visual inspections of trees in parks will be conducted to note any changes or damage to trees. Annual risk inspections will be carried out by an arborist to ensure the trees are healthy and safe.

3.3 Species Selection

It is intended that future trees in parks and reserves are appropriate for their location. Trees which are likely to obstruct views, cause shade problems or have invasive roots which could have an impact on adjoining property or underground services will not be planted.

The Parks and Reserves Team Leader will recommend tree species which are deemed suitable for each specific location. In some situations, this may see different species being planted in parks than those currently established.

Council will endeavour to plant trees that will provide significant scale, shade which will contribute to positive amenity values.

GUIDELINE 3

Future park tree plantings will be the largest growing species suitable for the location.

Council wishes to avoid creating a monoculture of tree species in any park or reserve. This is to avoid the likelihood of a pest or disease causing the loss of all trees.

GUIDELINE 4

Tree species selection will avoid the creation of monocultures.



Figure 5. Memorial Park, Taihape

3.4 Tree Stumps and Tree Suckers

In an urban environment it is preferable to remove the stumps when trees are removed. The stumps can harbour pests and diseases which could spread to healthy trees and create a significant mowing obstacle. The preferred method to remove mature tree stumps is to grind the remaining stump and remove the chips from the site. However because of cost and location, it may not always be practical to remove the stumps.

GUIDELINE 5

*Where practical tree stumps are removed
when trees are felled*

Tree suckers often develop from tree stumps or roots that have not been removed. Depending on the species of tree, the suckers may quickly become a new problem causing damage to hard surfaces. To remove tree suckers in hard surface areas, the appropriate approach is to use a weed killer. In grassed areas, constant mowing will gradually reduce growth over a period of years. Tree suckers from existing established trees will be removed by hand – not treated with weed killers.

3.5 Replacement & New Trees

3.5.1 Replacements

A programme of ongoing tree planting will be established to ensure that there is continuity and that parks and reserves do not go through periods where there are no trees following the removal of older specimens.

In some situations, trees have been planted in an ad hoc way, while in others the trees have been planted as part of an overall, planned, planting programme.

As trees are removed they will be replaced on a tree for tree basis. Replacement trees may be of a different species than the tree being replaced, at the discretion of the Parks and Reserves Team Leader. Replacement planting will take into account the requirements of any adopted reserve management plan or adopted tree-planting plan for the reserve.

The intention is to have a mixed-age tree asset, consistent with the guidelines, on each reserve.



Figure 6. Wilson Park, Marton

GUIDELINE 6

Council intends to, maintain current planting levels and have a mixed age tree stock on each park and reserve.

Where trees on parks and reserves are removed, replacement tree planting will be undertaken.

3.5.2 New Trees

New tree planting in parks and reserves will be planned in advance by the Parks and Reserves Team Leader, generally taking into account the need to provide a mixture of green open spaces and planted areas. The Parks and Reserves Team Leader will plant trees that, when mature are appropriate in scale for the location.

Consideration will be given to potential impacts on essential services - both above and below ground. As a good neighbour Council will take into consideration the impact of the proposed plantings on adjoining neighbours. Planting will be designed to avoid blocking views or light, and by planting trees at a density that avoids potential difficulties in the future.

New, large growing tree species will be located a minimum of 5 metres away from adjoining property and road boundaries, unless there is an agreement with the owners to plant closer. Community input will be sought when tree planting plans are being prepared.

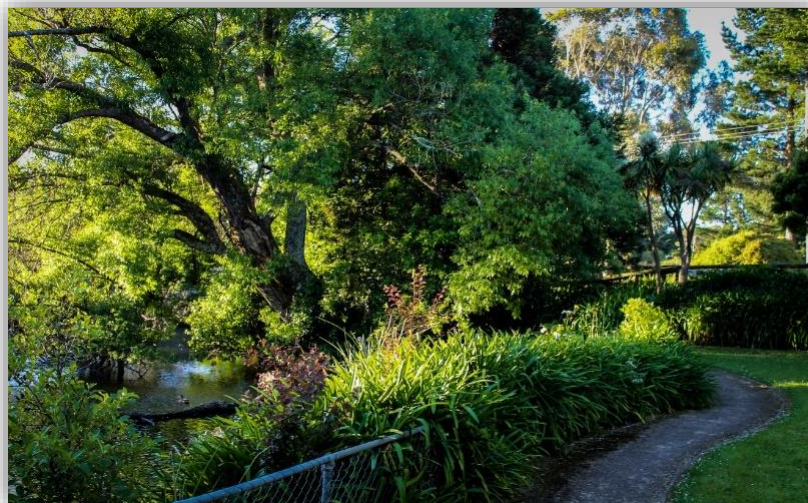


Figure 7. Frae Ona Park

GUIDELINE 7

Tree planting plans will be prepared for new tree planting. New trees will be selected in keeping with this guideline.

New trees in parks and reserves will be planted at least 5 metres from property and road boundaries.

3.6 Donated, Sponsored and Memorial Trees

3.6.1 Donated or Sponsored Trees

From time to time Council receives offers for donated or sponsored tree plantings. Partnerships with the community are valued by Council and will be encouraged, as long as the proposed planting is in keeping with the terms of this guideline.

Sponsors will be encouraged to support tree planting in reserves where planting plans have already been established. The nature and terms of any partnership or sponsorship including tree species selection, financial contributions, signage and ongoing maintenance and management will be set out in a formal letter of agreement before Council commits to any sponsorship programme.

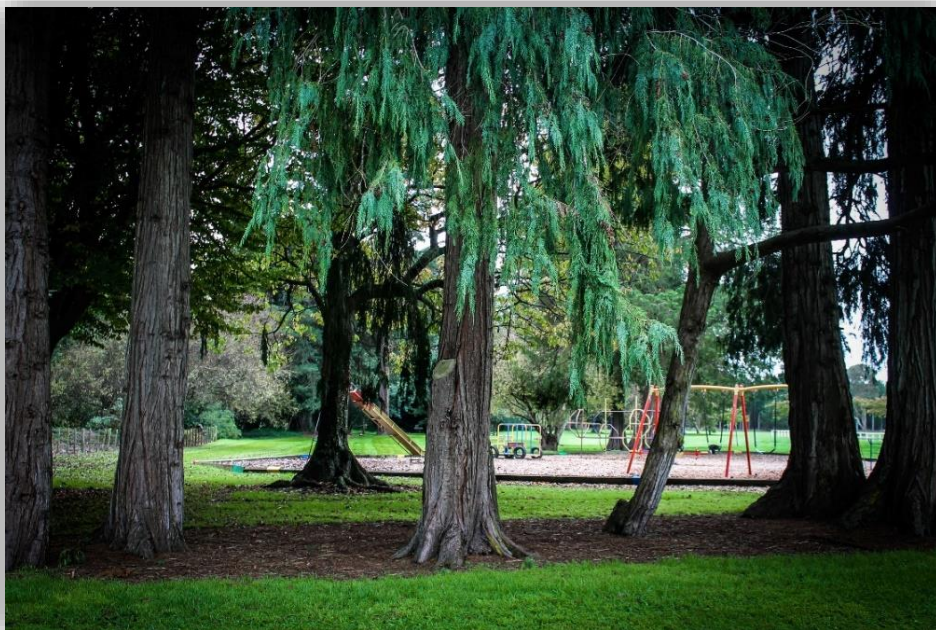


Figure 8. Bulls Domain

GUIDELINE 8

Council values partnerships with the community to establish trees where a tree planting plan has been adopted. The terms if any partnership or sponsorship are to be confirmed in writing with the agreement of both parties before planting occurs.

3.6.2 Memorial Trees

Trees have been established in various parks, reserves and public areas to commemorate special events or as memorials.

The commemorative trees will be recorded in Council's commemorative tree register, together with details of any memorial plaque or local history known about the person/occasion being remembered.

Council does not encourage the establishment of memorial plantings. As communities grow and change, situations can arise in which a memorial planting needs to be reconfigured or removed, resulting in concern and distress for the families of those commemorated. Commemorative trees can also become targets for vandalism.

While the plaque and the initial cost of planting may have been met by a benefactor, the ongoing costs are met by Council through rates.

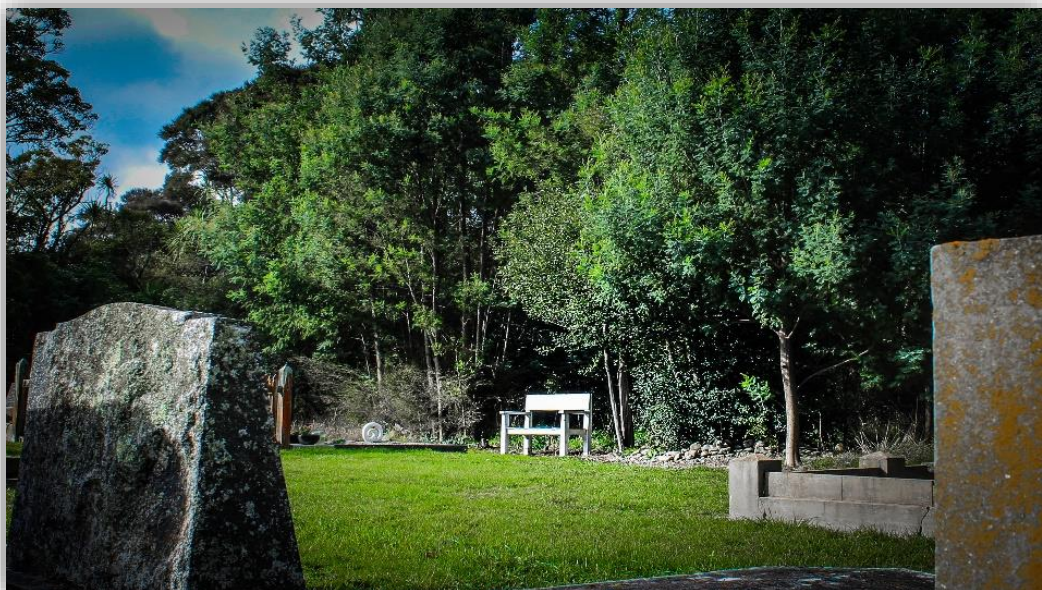


Figure 9. Mangaweka Cemetery



GUIDELINE 9

*Future commemorative trees and memorial plantings
may be allowed in parks or urban areas
at the discretion of the Parks and Reserves Team Leader.*

3.7 Heritage Trees

Heritage trees are important due to their age, species and provide a significant contribution to the District.

Heritage trees have special protection and are listed individually under the Notable Tree List in the District Plan. The Notable Tree List details the location and known history of significant trees, including relevant photos and details of plaques. Heritage status means those trees are protected and significant work cannot be undertaken on them without first obtaining resource consent from the Rangitikei District Council.

Trees serve as reminders of past generations and their achievements, and provide a sense of continuity and identity for the community. As such, they are a significant component of the heritage and amenity values of the District. This is particularly so in urban areas that is faced with continuous demand for intensive land development.

The heritage, amenity and natural values associated with these trees makes many of them deserving of protection, with their destruction negatively affecting these values. A number of these significant trees are located on private land, however, the majority are located in public parks and reserves.

Council is open to further trees becoming protected under the District Plan. There are two avenues for new trees to be considered for inclusion:

1. Council initiated
2. Community initiated

When Council receives a request for a tree to be protected, or the Parks and Reserve Team Leader would like to include a new tree, an assessment will be undertaken by the Parks and Reserves Team in accordance with the methodology identified in [Appendix 7.2¹](#). An assessment will only be undertaken where there is approval from the property owner.

¹ This methodology may be used to assess potentially notable trees outside of the urban area.

If the tree meets the criteria to become protected, it will be placed on a list to be considered through the next District Plan Review process² or relevant District Plan Change process.

Guidance on best practice maintenance will be provided by the Parks and Reserves Team Leader for all trees listed as notable in the District Plan, or on the list to be considered through the next District Plan Change/Review process.

Council will not usually fund the maintenance of notable trees which are not on Council-owned property.



Figure 10. Cooks Cottage, Marton

3.8 District Plan

The District Plan sets out the framework of issues, objectives, policies and rules to manage the effects of land use and development and to protect the natural and physical resources of the Rangitikei District. One of Rangitikei District Councils objectives derived from the District Plan is that Notable trees and culturally significant flora are identified, conserved and maintained and their amenity values are recognized.

Rule B1.16 Notable Trees and Culturally Significant Flora

² These occur every 10 years.

B1.16-1 Notable Trees listed in Schedule C2 may be maintained through trimming to ensure the general health of the tree, provided that the trimming maintains the natural shape and form of the tree. This excludes pollarding or any other hard pruning practices.

B1.16-2 Notable Trees listed in Schedule C2 must not be removed without obtaining resource consent, unless:

a) there is imminent danger to human life; or

b) in the written opinion of a suitably qualified person (e.g. an arborist) the tree health has significantly declined through natural causes (for example, insect infestation or disease) and there is no reasonable remedy to be able to restore tree health.

3.9 Removal of Trees in Parks and Reserves

Council occasionally receives a request to remove park trees. In some cases there is community consensus on the problems the trees are causing, however in most situations the request for removal comes from one property owner.

The council recognises the positive aspects that trees contribute to the wellbeing of the environment and will balance any possible tree removal against any adverse environmental impact.

Council acknowledges that in some situations inappropriate trees have been established which may have contributed to issues. The removal of healthy trees will only be considered where severe difficulties are being experienced by a neighbouring property (trees which inhibit views, shade property or drop debris are not considered to be causing severe difficulties) or the removal of the tree will significantly enhance Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.



Figure 11. Wilson Park, Marton

Where a tree is under consideration for removal or is causing problems, Council's tree assessment checklist should be completed to record the tree condition and background information. A copy of the standard assessment form is attached in Appendix 7.3.

A tree may be removed where, in the opinion of a qualified arborist or suitably qualified person the tree is:

- Dead
- Dangerous
- Severely diseased
- Part of a planned replacement programme
- Where the tree has particularly poor form and provides limited amenity value

In some situations, trees may cause problems with services and roads. Remedial action will be considered in these situations. Removal will be the most extreme option and will only be considered where all other options have been explored.



Figure 12. Bulls Domain

Typical problems with trees and services include:

- Disruption to essential services
- Proposed road, footpath or driveway realignment and design options have been considered and discounted in order to retain tree/s

Where a significant tree is to be removed a photograph showing the condition of the tree will usually be taken for historical purposes.



Where a significant healthy tree is being considered for removal, community consultation will be undertaken and the final decision will rest with the relevant community committee/board.



GUIDELINE 10

Generally healthy park trees will be retained and their removal will be the exception. Decisions on major tree removal will be referred to the relevant community committee/board following public consultation.

3.10 Resolving Disputes

Tree and vegetation management can at times be an emotive issue with different elements of the community seeking opposing types of actions. On occasions consensus simply cannot be reached.

When this occurs, a 'tree assessment form' is to be completed as a prelude to a formal decision-making process. See [Appendix 7.3](#).

The process provides for:

- An inspection by a nominated Parks and Reserves Team Leader to identify problems
- Consultation with the local community/adjoining property owner
- The completion and review of the tree assessment form
- Appropriate remedial work to be carried out in compliance with sound arboriculture practices (the costs of which may be shared between the parties)
- The consideration of the removal of the tree as per this guideline by the Parks and Reserves Team Leader if remedial work is not deemed to be satisfactory.
- The initiation of mediation.

In the event that the Parks and Reserves Team Leader does not agree to corrective pruning or the removal of the tree or vegetation, and of mediation is unsuccessful, then the issue may be referred to Council for formal consideration.

GUIDELINE 11

Where, following local community consultation, agreement on the removal of trees/vegetation cannot be reached the issue will be referred to the Chief Executive.

4 Street Trees & Amenity Planting

4.1 Introduction

Council supports the general principle of planting and establishing street trees in the urban environment where appropriate.

In some streets it is difficult to provide quality street trees and match residents' expectations. Street trees bring tremendous benefits to our region, but they are not always trouble-free. Across the community, opinions about street trees vary greatly.

Street trees have importance beyond the individual property closest to them. Council manages the street tree asset as a coordinated collection of trees which adds value and character to the urban area overall. A street tree's amenity value is enjoyed by people walking and driving along the street and those living, working, shopping, dining and recreating nearby. Mature trees help to give a neighbourhood an established feel.

The Urban Tree Plan accepts that good quality vegetation or specimen trees on private property may offset the need for street trees at some sites. While, lack of quality vegetation on private properties may increase the need for Council to provide street trees.

However, the street berm has a shared function, providing potential road widening opportunities, pedestrian access, and a location for essential services including both overhead and underground services. This means there are limited opportunities for trees and beautification (Refer [Appendix 7.4](#)).

In some situations the existing services, proximity to road intersections or specific sight limitations may prevent the establishment of either trees or amenity plantings (See [Appendix 7.5](#)). Utility authorities have a statutory right to locate services in the road berm and to have access to the services. The security of these services must be the prime consideration.

4.2 Taking Responsibility

Council is the owner of road reserves and is responsible for all specimen trees on them.

Providing the District with a range of quality trees is a 20 year project. Surveying of all street trees will be undertaken during 2017 and a database of all the trees growing in the region will be established. This database will include the current condition of the specimen, GPS location, species and street number.

Future planting of trees will be handpicked from species known to thrive locally. A species selection has been developed for the Rangitikei District that varies due to the District's varied climatic extremes (See [Appendix 7.6](#)).



Figure 13. Civic Square, Marton

4.3 Legislation

Sections 332 to 338 of the Property Law Act 2007 guides the management of trees where residents experience problems with shade, leaf litter and views planted on private property or Council land, including road reserve.

Where a resident disagrees with a Council officer's decision to retain a tree the matter can escalate. This process involves officers submitting a report to the local community committee/ board.

Beyond Council's own decision making processes, residents may wish to pursue the issue by making an application for a court order under Section 334 of the Property Law Act 2007.



Figure 14. Queens Park, Hunterville

4.4 Street Tree Maintenance

Trees and shrubs often struggle to grow well in a street environment. An ongoing approach to maintenance through the establishment phase will reduce the future cost of replacement and maintenance and improve the final amenity value.

Council trees are maintained by approved contractors. It is a requirement that the contractors hold the relevant Health and Safety requirements and qualifications for work on the trees.

Contractors are selected for their skill in their particular area of expertise. When power line clearance is required Council only use companies with correct certification for this role.

All maintenance of street vegetation, shrubs and trees will be undertaken by Council staff or contractors with the required skills. Maintenance includes pruning, mulching, staking, fertilizing and, where necessary, replacement. Council will continue to seek assistance from the community for the watering of establishing trees and shrubs during summer months.

Council will consider any concerns that arise about the maintenance and appropriateness of trees. However; any unauthorised pruning or removal of trees could lead to legal action to recover the costs of replacing damaged trees including any fees incurred in recovering costs.



Council will inspect and undertake routine maintenance of trees on an appropriate cycle to suit the location, plant species and site. Juvenile trees will be inspected annually and minor corrective work undertaken.

The usual maintenance regime for street trees is:

Tree Age (from date planted)	Maintenance Cycle	Tasks to Undertake
Up to 10 years	1x per annum	Inspect, adjust/remove stakes & ties, corrective pruning, fertilize, as required
Over 10 years	1x every 3 years	Inspect, corrective pruning & clear services
Mature	As required	Inspect, corrective pruning & clear services

GUIDELINE 12

Council is responsible for the maintenance of amenity planting on street berms. It will undertake regular inspections and corrective pruning of trees, shrubs and vegetation.

4.4.1 Lifting Footpaths and Damage to Underground Services

Where quality street trees cause significant damage to footpaths and driveways Council will consider available methods for retaining the tree. This may involve alternative surfaces, root pruning or realignment.

In exceptional circumstances, Council may promote the idea of rearranging infrastructure in favour of an outstanding tree.

If a resident suspects that their pipes are being blocked by roots from a street tree they should contact Council.

Consideration will be given to tree removal if alternative mitigation is not possible. Full consultation will be undertaken by the Parks and Reserves Team Leader with the property owner prior to any work being initiated.



Figure 15. Marton Park, Follett Street

4.4.2 Pollarding: Plane Trees *Platanus orientalis* London Plane Tree

Pollarding or high coppicing is a method of pruning that keeps trees smaller than they would naturally grow. It is normally started once a tree or shrub reaches a certain height, and annual pollarding will restrict the plant to that height.

Due to historic reasons a number of London Plane trees throughout the region have been pollarded. While this is not ideal for this species it will be an ongoing maintenance requirement for the trees growing in the locations listed below.

The pollarding that is undertaken on these sites differs from other pollarding techniques. A new framework for these trees has been established based on a network of short branches rather than a stump. In the future they will be pruned back to this new framework each year.

It is envisaged that the trees will be pruned during July-August of any year. A smaller supplemental prune may be required during summer to avoid the trees growing into overhead power lines.

Street	Town	No of trees left	Comment
Bond Street	Marton	16	Whole Street
Stewart Street	Marton	3	Outside Courthouse
Lyon Street	Marton	2	Harris Street to Beaven street
Bruce Street	Huntermville	3	Huntermville School to Waitipapa Road
Raumaewa Street	Mangaweka	2	SHI to Broadway
Eagle Street	Taihape	5	Kaka Street intersection
Wren Street	Taihape	6	
Thrush Street	Taihape	11	From Kaka Road
Memorial Park	Taihape	2	Memorial park
	Total	48	

4.5 Pruning Techniques

Council supports the principle of trees being encouraged to grow true to form. Accordingly, trees will be maintained in keeping with established arboricultural standards to enhance the amenity the trees, shrubs and vegetation provide and to assist in maintaining the long term health of plants and trees.

In urban areas tree pruning is a skilled operation. Pruning will be carried out by experienced or appropriately qualified contractors, as listed in [Appendix 7.1](#).

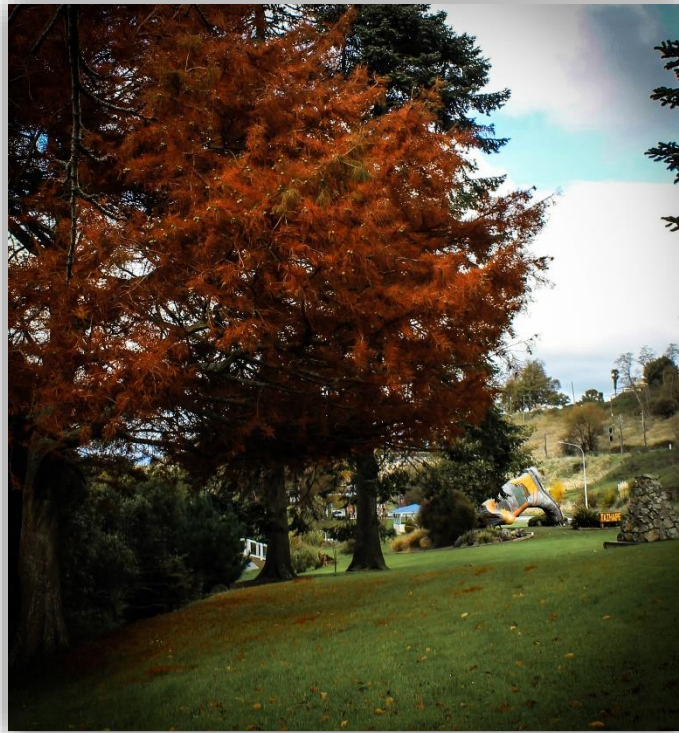


Figure 146. Mt. Stewart Reserve, Taihape

GUIDELINE 13

Trees, vegetation and shrubs will be encouraged to grow true to form and any maintenance work will be carried out to established horticultural or arboricultural standards.

4.6 Deciduous Trees on Road Reserves

Deciduous trees can pose a flood risk when leaves block sumps or storm water grates. Contractors are aware of the problem and in the autumn clear drainage systems on a regular basis.



Figure 157. Wellington Rd, Marton

4.7 Trees near Power Lines

Overgrown and inappropriate trees near power lines are one of the biggest contributors to electricity supply failures. Even when trees appear to be well clear of the lines, they still pose a threat to the power supply during storms and strong winds.

The overhead and underground power lines in the Rangitikei District are managed by PowerCo. The company asks for public cooperation to keep trees away from power lines.

Where Council or a landowner has declared an interest in a tree near power lines they are responsible for all costs of trimming the tree to regulation safety distances. Where no interest is declared, the line company can fell the tree if it so chooses.

Residents should contact Powerco if they are unsure about requirements for trimming trees near powerlines.

Power line clearance will be undertaken following discussions between the Parks and Reserves Team Leader and the approved contractor.

Methods of tree reduction will be discussed and all options considered prior to commencement of any pruning work.

Should a tree be a threat to a power supply it may be removed. Consultation with neighbouring landowners will be undertaken prior to any tree removal.

All contractors undertaking work within the following distances need to be PowerCo approved with the relevant competencies and all work must be done in line with Arboricultural Code of Practice Part 2 (ACoP2).

In short the required distances are:

33,000v 3.5m

11,000v 2.6m

400v 0.5m

For further detailed information on the requirements of pruning trees beneath or beside power lines refer to Electricity Regulations 2003 Page 28.

The other standards that need to be adhered to are the Safety Manual Electricity Industry (SM-EI) Parts 2 and 3.

Currently Council employs one preapproved sub-contractor who is certified to undertake this work. Refer to the Council approved contactor list in [Appendix 7.1](#).



Figure 18. Marton town centre amenity planting

4.8 Street Tree Species Selection

Council intends to ensure that future street tree planting is appropriate for the location. Trees which are likely to obstruct views, cause shade problems or have invasive roots will not be planted.

The criteria to be considered when selecting street trees will include:

- Street amenity
- Soil type
- Drainage

- Local climate
- Width of berm
- Views
- Location of services
- Suitability of species in terms of growth habit
- Proximity to property (shading issues)
- Existence of other trees on both private property and berms
- Probability of leaf drop
- Mature size of tree and its effects

GUIDELINE 14

Future street tree planting will be suitable for the location.

4.8.1 Planting Guide

Without good planning, the planting and management of trees on public space can occur in an ad hoc manner with the resulting tree cover lacking strength and cohesion. The community and Council staff have identified that in the past inappropriate species have been planted in some sites. It is especially important that appropriate species are selected for each public space. Inappropriate species can damage infrastructure and generate excess maintenance or replacement costs. Appropriate species selection will maximize the benefits the tree provides as well as reducing the long term cost on the ratepayer.

The intent of the Planting Guide is to foster coherent and sustainable street tree plantings. It recommends the use of trees that are tolerant of the environmental conditions for their site, have low maintenance needs, have long lives, and retain their attractiveness into their maturity.

The Planting Guide is to be used as a guide for the planting of street trees. It is intended for landscape architects, developers, contractors, council staff and tree suppliers. It will assist with the selection of replacement trees or new street trees in existing areas, as well as for road corridors in new subdivisions.

While this document has been produced to assist with the selection of street tree species it is a guide only and the final decision as to the species to be used in any situation rests with the Parks and Reserves Team Leader.

Every year up to 40 large street trees will be planted throughout the District. These trees will be planted under the guidance of the Parks and Reserves Team leader. The trees will be planted in accordance with the planting guidelines in [Appendix 7.8](#).



Figure 19. Street trees in Marton town centre

4.9 Requests for New Street Trees / Vegetation

Council values partnerships with the community to establish trees and will consider the establishment of street trees in appropriate locations as described in this section of the guideline (See [Appendix 7.9](#)). Priority will be given where there is a coordinated approach from the community. Individuals or groups may make an application for planting to the Parks and Reserves Team Leader.

Priority for new street tree planting will be given to streets where utility services such as power lines are underground.

Where there is a request for trees to be planted in a street, or where Council wishes to plant trees in streets, the Parks and Reserves Team Leader will seek agreement from the majority of residents so that a consistent pattern of planting can be achieved (Refer [Appendix 7.10](#)).

Individual 'one off' new tree planting will be considered in an ad hoc basis upon application to the Parks and Reserves Team Leader.

Consideration will be given to minimizing the possible future impact new trees may have on essential services both above and below ground.

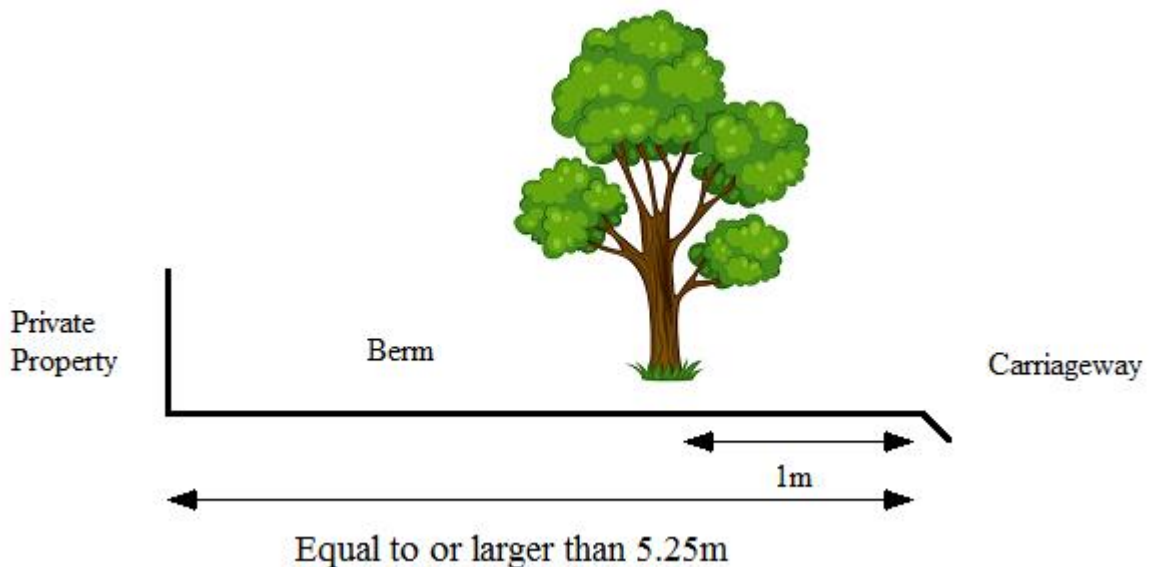
GUIDELINE 15

Council will be responsible for planting of trees and other amenity plantings on berms. Where inappropriate planting is identified the persons responsible will be consulted with, and may be requested to remove the plantings. Alternatively, if necessary, Council will remove the planting and recover costs.

In urban areas Council permits one tree per property frontage where the berm has a minimum width of 5.25m (measured from private boundary to kerb edge). A suitable tree species will be identified in consultation with the Parks and Reserves Team Leader. Trees will usually be planted at least 1m back from the kerb edge and no closer than 1m to underground services. Where the berm is less than 5.25m planting is at the discretion of the Parks and Reserves Team Leader.

For larger residential sites, with large berms or on the urban fringe, one tree per 30m or property frontage will be considered, subject to the site being suitable in terms of services, sight lines and berm width. Council will seek consensus prior to undertaking street planting.

The diagram below indicated suitable planting distances for trees on street berms.



GUIDELINE 16

*Council permits one tree per road frontage
on urban berms which are at least 5.25m wide.
Larger residential sites may be considered for planting on the
basis of one tree per 30m of frontage.*



Figure 20. Paraekaretu Street, Hunterville

Developers may be able to plant trees on the berms, provided it is in keeping with this guideline and with the consent of the Parks and Reserves Team Leader. Initial planting will be completed as part of the final landscape works at the time of subdivision. All plantings shall be maintained by the developer for at least 18 months.

GUIDELINE 17

*Before any tree or amenity planting is permitted on
Council berms as part of the subdivision process, consultation must
occur with the Parks and Reserves Team Leader.
The consent will include conditions for the planting and
maintenance.*

Where established trees have been removed and where the location is suitable, they will be replaced with an appropriate tree species. This may not be the same species as the tree removed. Where recently established trees are to be replaced if possible they will be replaced with similar species.

GUIDELINE 18

Established trees that have to be removed may be replaced in a similar suitable location, and with a suitable species, where appropriate subject to funding.

4.9.1 Trees and traffic safety

In addition to amenity values, trees assist with:

- Traffic management by constraining lateral vision
- Identifying traffic control measures such as traffic islands

Trees will not be allowed to compromise the safety of road or footpath users.

GUIDELINE 19

Trees, vegetation and shrubs will not compromise the safety of road and footpath users.

4.10 Removal of Street Trees

A number of requests are received each year to remove street trees. Council acknowledges that in some situations inappropriate trees have been established which may have contributed to difficulties people are experiencing.

Perceived problems include shading, leaf fall and blocked views. In some cases, there is local community consensus as to the problems, but in most situations the request for removal comes from the property owner adjoining the tree.

Generally Council relies on expert advice to determine whether large trees (5m or taller) should be retained or removed. Again, the key question is whether the trees are quality specimens or are likely to develop into quality specimens.

Requests for street tree removal are processed by a Parks and Reserves Team Leader. The removal of healthy trees will continue to be the exception and will only be considered:



- Where street redevelopment is to be implemented and options to retain the tree have been investigated and discounted
- Where severe hardship is being experienced (trees which inhibit views, shade property or drop debris are not generally considered to be causing severe hardship)
- Other community assets and infrastructure are impacted by trees or vegetation
- Where a tree is being considered for removal or causing problems the council tree assessment checklist should be completed to record the tree condition and background information. A copy of the standard assessment form is attached in Appendix 7.3.

A tree may be removed where in the opinion of a qualified arborist or the Parks and Reserves Team Leader it is:

- Dead
- Dangerous
- Severely diseased
- Part of a planned replacement programme
- Where the tree has particularly poor form and provides limited amenity value as determined by a qualified arborist

Remedial action will be considered in extreme situations where problems are being caused with services and roads. Removal will be the last option and will only be considered where all other options have been explored.

Typical problems between trees, roads and services include:

- Disruption to essential services;
- Proposed road, footpath or driveway realignment and design options have been considered and discontinued in order to retain the tree/s;
- Interference with pavement integrity of road and/or footpath;
- Root intrusion into service ducts.

GUIDELINE 20

Healthy street trees will generally be retained.

Decisions on major tree removals will be referred

to the relevant community committee/ board. Public consultation

will be undertaken.

Where a tree is to be removed a photograph of the condition of the tree will usually be taken for historical purposes.

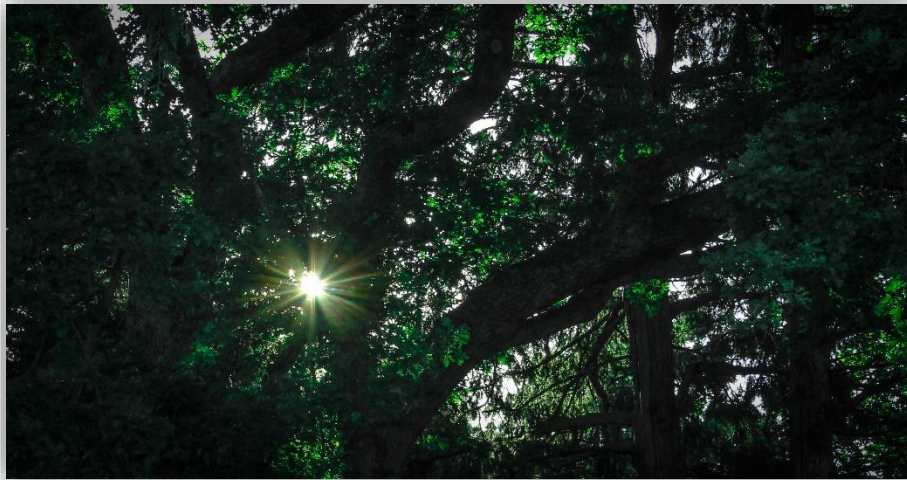


Figure 21. Marton Park

4.10.1 Shade and Views

During their lifespan, trees can periodically interfere with views and sunlight enjoyed by residential properties. Where a tree is, or is likely to become a quality specimen, pruning may improve a resident's situation. Views over Taihape are important to many residents in town, particularly in the Western Hills. Prospective landowners and tenants need to consider the effect of nearby trees, including their potential to grow larger. Although Council does not prioritise panoramic views as part of managing street trees, there is often scope to improve views with modern pruning techniques as part of the regular maintenance work.

Council and an approved contractor will carry out pruning where the result is going to benefit the residents and have little effect on the quality of the tree.

Where poor quality trees cause interference Council may consider removing the tree.

When residents believe that quality street trees unreasonably interfere with sunlight and views of residential properties Council will consider whether it is practical to manage the situation individually or by pruning.

Overall, Council prefers to retain quality specimens, or specimens that are likely to develop into quality specimens. This preference needs to be weighed up against other considerations in the street, including neighbours expectations. Council's role is to consider whether tree removal will reduce the attractiveness of the area for neighbours. The function of the road reserve is also a very important consideration.

As trees grow taller the space under the crown is likely to increase, improving light and views for residential neighbours. Trees with large crowns often offer more opportunities for thinning the crown (improving light and views) than smaller trees. It

is not practical to manage the street trees to provide all residential properties with panoramic views. In any case, Council is only responsible for a portion of the specimen trees that affect light and views.

Council is committed to being a good neighbour. We recognise that street trees aren't always appreciated by everyone and that some neighbours favour views and sunlight over street trees. Council aims to provide quality street trees without creating unreasonable view and shade problems for neighbours. Generally Council's position is that quality street trees will be retained.

GUIDELINE 21

Quality street trees will be retained

4.11 Application Costs / Cost Sharing

Council will meet the ongoing maintenance costs for trees including routine corrective pruning and replacement. The majority of street tree maintenance costs are met through rates.

Council wishes to be a good neighbour in terms of maintenance of its trees and vegetation. However Council does not make financial provision for meeting the costs of pruning trees to enhance views or for other non-essential arboricultural work. 'Cosmetic' pruning or tree planting, where appropriate, will be considered on a case by case basis and a financial contribution may be sought from those requesting the work.

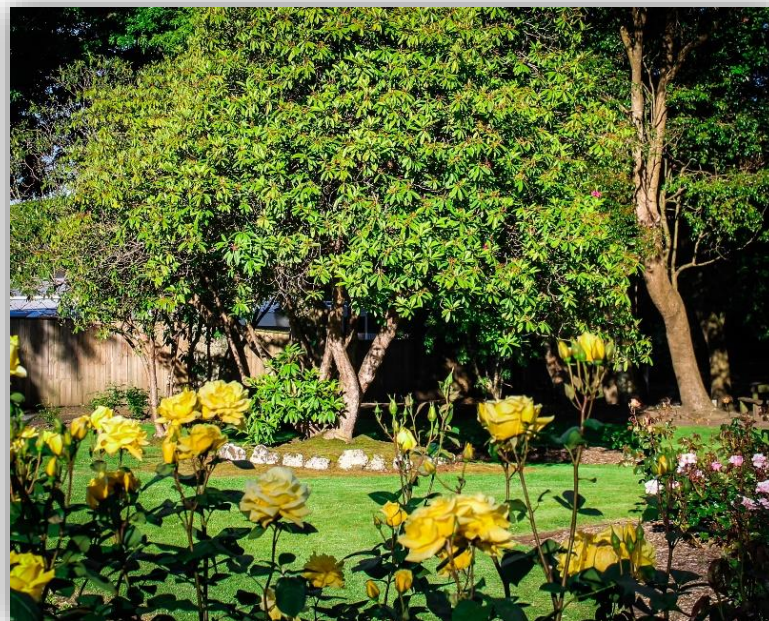


Figure 22. Marton Park

GUIDELINE 22

Council wishes to be a good neighbour in terms of sharing costs for non-essential tree maintenance, removal and new planting and will negotiate acceptable contributions towards actual costs.

4.12 Resolving Disputes

Tree and vegetation management can at times be an emotive issue with different elements of the community seeking opposing types of actions. On occasions consensus simply cannot be reached.

When this occurs, a 'tree assessment form' is to be completed as a prelude to a formal decision-making process.

The process provides for:

- An inspection by a nominated Parks and Reserves Team Leader to identify problems
- Consultation with the local community/adjoining property owner
- The completion and review of the tree assessment form
- Appropriate remedial work to be carried out in compliance with sound arboriculture practices (the costs of which may be shared between the parties)
- The consideration of the removal of the tree as per this guideline by the Parks and Reserves Team Leader if remedial work is not deemed to be satisfactory.
- The initiation of mediation.

If agreement still cannot be reached the matter will be referred to the Chief Executive for a final decision.

GUIDELINE 23

Where, following local community consultation, agreement on the removal of trees/vegetation cannot be reached the issue will be referred to the Chief Executive.

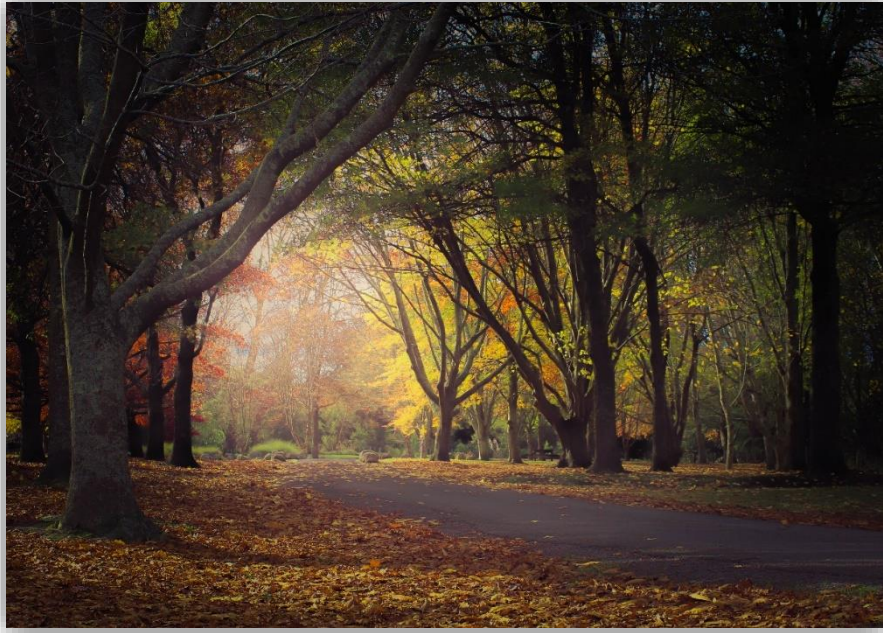


Figure 23. Queens Park, Hunterville

5 Private Trees, Vegetation and Shrubs

5.1 Introduction

The local environment is significantly enhanced by the collective tree cover that is provided by private property owners, Council and government agencies such as the Department of Conservation (DoC). However, Council is not responsible for trees on private property. As with other privately owned assets, responsibility for privately owned trees and vegetation predominantly rests with the property owner.

In general terms the council will not be involved in issues surrounding privately-owned trees, with the following exceptions:

- Trees interfering with public footpaths, roadways, road signs, and in some situations, services
- Trees planted by other parties on council-owned land without prior consent or agreement
- Notable trees as identified by the District Plan.

GUIDELINE 24

Maintenance of trees on private land is the responsibility of the land owner, within the provisions of the District Plan.

5.2 Privately Planted Trees on Council Land

All trees and amenity planting on council land, including road berms are owned by and are the responsibility of Council.

Council, as land owner will carry out any approved tree planting on street berms, and must be consulted if members of the community want to place trees or amenity plantings on road berms, parks or reserves.

While community initiatives for tree planting are supported, these must be in keeping with the guidelines set out.

In situations where plantings have been established by organisations or individuals on Council land, these will be managed in keeping with this guideline. Those responsible for planting the tree/s will not receive any special degree of consultation on the management of the vegetation, unless there is a previous agreement with Council. The former planter of the tree has no authority to undertake tree pruning or removal without specific Council consent.

At times it may be necessary to remove plantings by members of the community where these have occurred without prior agreement. In these situations Council will attempt to advise those concerned with the original planting.

The cost of maintaining trees on council land is generally met through rates contributions. However this guideline sets out areas where contributions from the community will be sought for operational works.

The community is encouraged to work with the council to see appropriate trees established in suitable locations within the District.

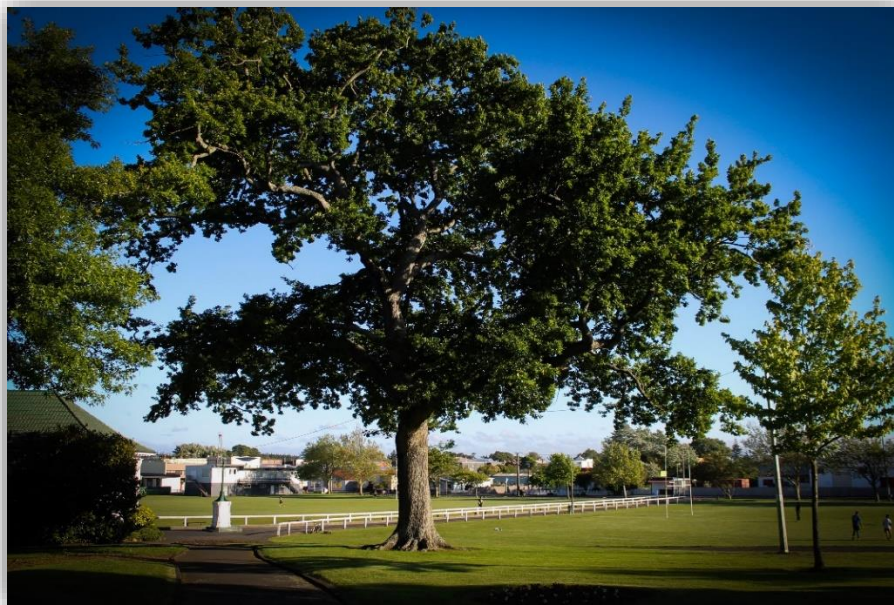


Figure 24. Marton Park

5.3 Hazardous Trees

Council has a responsibility to keep community assets as safe as reasonably possible. Any issue relating to potentially hazardous trees and amenity plantings between privately-owned properties is a matter for those neighbours to resolve and is outside the influence of Council. At times private trees and vegetation can impact on safety in a number of ways including:

- Shading of roads and footpaths resulting in formation of ice patches in winter
- Impeding access to footpaths
- Affecting sightlines and obstructing lights and visibility of road signs
- Interfering with services both overhead and underground
- Branches from private trees encroaching on road reserves or parks
- Footpaths becoming hazardous due to encroachment of tree roots
- Unstable trees

Appendix 7.7 outlines the criteria for encroaching vegetation or trees that are not in accordance with this guideline, where staff will take the following steps:

The Parks and Reserves Team Leader will send a notice in writing to the property owner, requesting they trim the vegetation (Appendix 7.11.1)

- The Parks and Reserves Team Leader will inspect the property within four weeks
- If vegetation has been trimmed, a ‘thank you’ letter should be sent (Appendix 7.11.2)
- If no action has been taken a reminder letter will be sent (Appendix 7.11.3)
- If after the reminder letter two weeks later the situation has not improved, the council can enter the property and carry out the work required. The property owner will have to bear the cost and may also be fined under the Local Government Act 2002, section 335 (Refer Appendix 7.12)

On rare occasions a private tree may become dangerous to the community, for example in a storm, and in these situations urgent action may be required. Council has powers under the Local Government Act 2002 to take remedial action to negate an urgent danger without the tree owners consent.



Figure 25. Walker Park, Bulls

GUIDELINE 25

Where trees on private property are causing a nuisance or hazard to community assets the owner will be requested to undertake appropriate maintenance. If necessary Council will remove the hazard and recover associated costs from the tree owner.

5.4 Pruning

Some landowners may be pruning roadside trees and windbreaks and leaving the cuttings on the road reserve.

The debris restricts Council's ability to maintain berms. Footpaths and drains can be blocked, causing flooding during heavy rain.

While the landowners are responsible to maintain private trees overhanging road reserve they also are responsible for the removal and disposal of debris.



Figure 26. Memorial Park, Taihape

5.5 Heritage Trees

Heritage trees are important due to their age, species and provide a significant contribution to the District.

Heritage trees have special protection and are listed individually under the Notable Tree List in the District Plan. The Notable Tree List details the location and known



history of significant trees, including relevant photos and details of plaques. Heritage status means those trees are protected and significant work cannot be undertaken on them without first obtaining resource consent from the Rangitikei District Council.

Trees serve as reminders of past generations and their achievements, and provide a sense of continuity and identity for the community. As such, they are a significant component of the heritage and amenity values of the District. This is particularly so in urban areas that is faced with continuous demand for intensive land development.

The heritage, amenity and natural values associated with these trees makes many of them deserving of protection, with their destruction negatively affecting these values. A number of these significant trees are located on private land, however, the majority are located in public parks and reserves.

Council is open to further trees becoming protected under the District Plan. There are two avenues for new trees to be considered for inclusion:

1. Council initiated
2. Community initiated

When Council receives a request for a tree to be protected, or the Parks and Reserve Team Leader would like to include a new tree, an assessment will be undertaken by the Parks and Reserves Team in accordance with the methodology identified in [Appendix 7.2³](#). An assessment will only be undertaken where there is approval from the property owner.

If the tree meets the criteria to become protected, it will be placed on a list to be considered through the next District Plan Review process⁴ or relevant District Plan Change process.

Guidance on best practice maintenance will be provided by the Parks and Reserves Team Leader for all trees listed as notable in the District Plan, or on the list to be considered through the next District Plan Change/Review process.

Council will not usually fund the maintenance of notable trees which are not on Council-owned property.

5.6 District Plan

The District Plan sets out the framework of issues, objectives, policies and rules to manage the effects of land use and development and to protect the natural and physical resources of the Rangitikei District. One of Rangitikei District Councils objectives derived from the District Plan is that Notable trees and culturally significant

³ This methodology may be used to assess potentially notable trees outside of the urban area.

⁴ These occur every 10 years.

flora are identified, conserved and maintained and their amenity values are recognized.

Rule B1.16 Notable Trees and Culturally Significant Flora

B1.16-1 Notable Trees listed in Schedule C2 may be maintained through trimming to ensure the general health of the tree, provided that the trimming maintains the natural shape and form of the tree. This excludes pollarding or any other hard pruning practices.

B1.16-2 Notable Trees listed in Schedule C2 must not be removed without obtaining resource consent, unless:

- a) there is imminent danger to human life; or
- b) in the written opinion of a suitably qualified person (e.g. an arborist) the tree health has significantly declined through natural causes (for example, insect infestation or disease) and there is no reasonable remedy to be able to restore tree health.



Figure 27. Marton Park

6 Tree Programmes / General Tree Issues

6.1 Introduction

Planting trees provides long term environmental and community benefits. The added value gained from community partnership projects together with the 'ownership' that is created for the completed plantings has encouraged Council to continue to support these initiatives.

Council will continue to make every effort to accommodate community groups seeking to contribute to tree planting projects.



Figure 28. Marton Park

6.2 Tree Planting Programmes

The community is encouraged to be involved in tree and amenity planting projects in appropriate areas, particularly on Arbour Day. Reserves will be used rather than road berms for community plantings.

Sites will be chosen which have existing planting plans or have been chosen to benefit that community's environment. Where community organizations or schools are seeking to plant on public land, they must first get Council permission. Council may also assist with either technical advice or plants, materials and labour.

Support for Keep New Zealand Beautiful projects, and any community projects seeking to plant on public land, will be considered where there is a long-term community benefit.

6.3 Wilful Damage to Trees

Occasionally trees on public land are the targets for vandalism including poisoning, graffiti, and breaking of tree limbs, removal and damage to tree bark. Deliberate damage is referred to the New Zealand Police for investigation. Reparation will be sought where the persons responsible have been identified.



Figure 29. Taihape Cemetery



7 Appendices

7.1 Prequalified Contractors

- Robinson Tree Services Ltd, Feilding
- Treescape Bulls Ltd, Bulls
- Steve Bron – Bronco Ltd, Feilding

7.2 STEM Assessment Checklist

The Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) Assessment Form

RDC reference no:	
Common name	
Scientific name	
Location (address)	
GPS coordinates	
Rec for DP inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Category	Points	Notes
Tree Condition (TC) Score		
Amenity Value (AV) Score		
Notable Value (NV) Score		
Total		

Tree Condition (TC)

Form		Points
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Good	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	Specimen	27

Occurrence		Points
<input type="checkbox"/>	Predominant	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Infrequent	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rare	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Rare	27

Vigour and Vitality		Points
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Some	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Good	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excellent	27

Function		Points
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Useful	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Important	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Significant	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	Major	27

Age		Points
<input type="checkbox"/>	10+ years	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	20+ years	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	40+ years	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	80+ years	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	100+ years	27

Stature		Points
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - 8 metres	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 - 14 metres	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	15 - 20 metres	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	21 - 26 metres	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	27+ metres	27

TC Score

Form	Occ	V&V	Func	Age	Stat	Total

Amenity Values (AV)

Public Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> Visible from rd	9
	<input type="checkbox"/> Front yard	15
	<input type="checkbox"/> Semi public	21
	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	27

Visibility (from 1km)	<input type="checkbox"/> No view	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> Vis from local roads	9
	<input type="checkbox"/> Vis from collectors	15
	<input type="checkbox"/> Vis from Principal Rd	21
	<input type="checkbox"/> Vis from Arterial Rds	27

Proximity	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parkland	9
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group 10+	15
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group 3+	21
	<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary	27

Role	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	9
	<input type="checkbox"/> Important	15
	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant	21
	<input type="checkbox"/> Major	27

Climate	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	9
	<input type="checkbox"/> Important	15
	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant	21
	<input type="checkbox"/> Major	27

AV Score

PA		Vis		Prox		Role		Clim	
Total									

Notable Values

Stature	Feature:		Form:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> District	9	<input type="checkbox"/> District	9
	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional	15	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional	15
	<input type="checkbox"/> National	21	<input type="checkbox"/> National	21
	<input type="checkbox"/> International	27	<input type="checkbox"/> International	27

Historic	Age 100+		Association		Commemoration		Remnant		Relict	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> District	9	<input type="checkbox"/> District	9	<input type="checkbox"/> District	9	<input type="checkbox"/> District	9	<input type="checkbox"/> District	9
	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional	15	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional	15	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional	15	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional	15	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional	15
	<input type="checkbox"/> National	21	<input type="checkbox"/> National	21	<input type="checkbox"/> National	21	<input type="checkbox"/> National	21	<input type="checkbox"/> National	21
	<input type="checkbox"/> Int'l	27	<input type="checkbox"/> Int'l	27	<input type="checkbox"/> Int'l	27	<input type="checkbox"/> Int'l	27	<input type="checkbox"/> Int'l	27

Scientific	Source		Rarity		Endangered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> District	9	<input type="checkbox"/> District	9	<input type="checkbox"/> District	9
	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional	15	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional	15	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional	15
	<input type="checkbox"/> National	21	<input type="checkbox"/> National	21	<input type="checkbox"/> National	21
	<input type="checkbox"/> International	27	<input type="checkbox"/> International	27	<input type="checkbox"/> International	27

NV Score

Stat		Hist				Scie		
Total								



7.3 Tree Assessment Checklist for Reserves & Street Trees

- Location _____
- Tree Species _____
- Girth _____
- Height _____
- Spread _____
- Approximate Age _____
- Tree Health/Condition (1 excellent – 5 very poor)

- Berm Width _____

1 Roadway Damage Assessment

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1.1 Footpath damage? | Yes/No |
| 1.2 Has the footpath been replaced? | Yes/No |
| 1.3 Kerb & channel damaged? | Yes/No |
| 1.4 Road pavement damage? | Yes/No |
| 1.5 Buried services damaged? | Yes/No |

2 Adjoining Private Property Impact Assessment

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 2.1 What side of the property is tree on? | North/South/East/West |
| 2.2 Is tree shading the property? | Yes/No |
| 2.3 Is tree damaging the property? | Yes/No |
| 2.4 Comment on tree damage | |
| <hr/> | |
| 2.5 Is tree a danger to the property if it fell? | Yes/No |
| 2.6 Do the adjoining owners want the tree removed? | Yes/No |
| 2.7 Is the tree encroaching on power lines? | Yes/No |

3 Values and Options Assessment

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 3.1 Has the tree protection under the District Plan? | Yes/No |
| 3.2 Has the tree historic or other significance? | Yes/No |
| 3.3 Can the tree be correctively pruned to overcome current problem | Yes/No |
| 3.4 What is the frequency of trees on the street/reserve? | |
-



3.5 Are there mature trees in private gardens, parks or street berms adjoining this site? Yes/No

3.6 How relevant is the tree in the local landscape?

4 Proposed Action

4.1 What species of tree is a suitable replacement?

4.2 Do you recommend the removal of the tree? Yes/No

4.3 Do you recommend the replacement of the tree? Yes/No

4.4 Can work be safely completed near power lines or is a Rangitikei District Council prequalified contractor required? Yes/No

4.5 General comment:

4.6 Have digital photographs been taken? Yes/No

Parks Team Leader:

Date:

Approval

Approval of tree removal

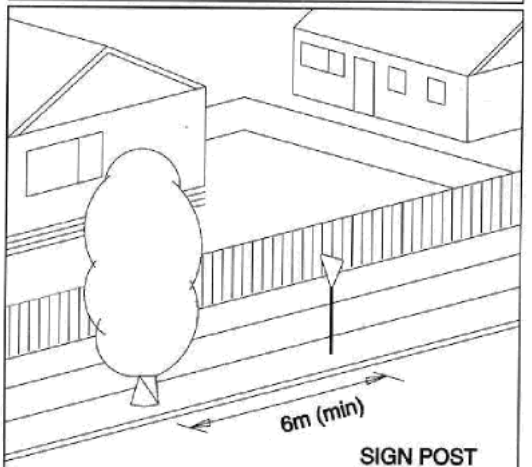
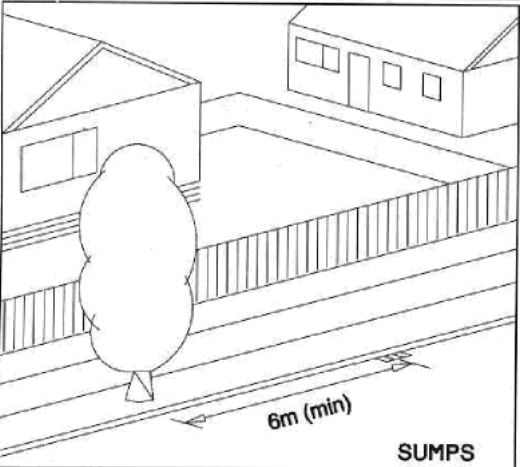
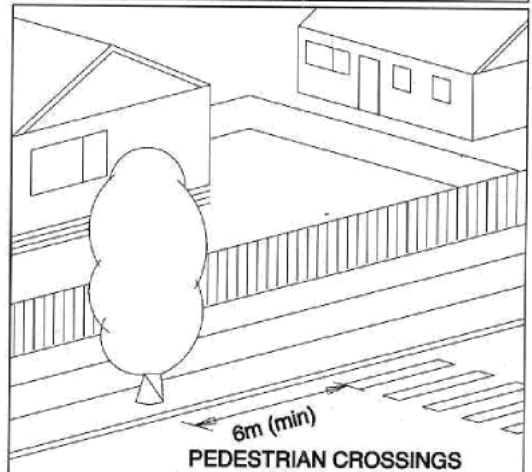
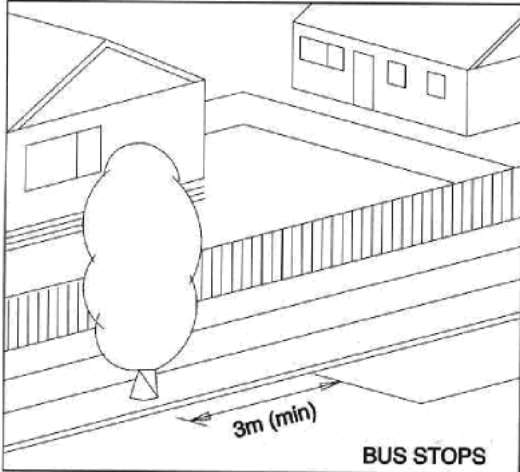
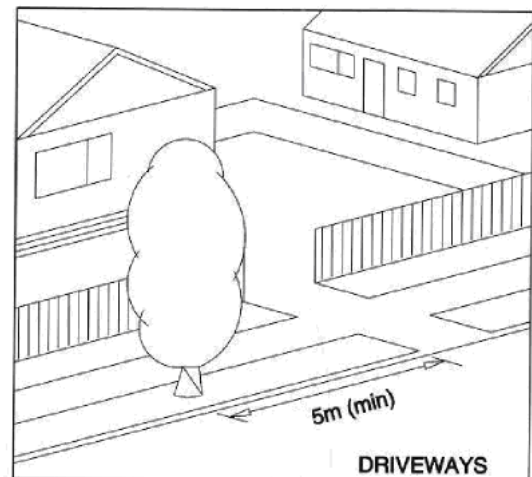
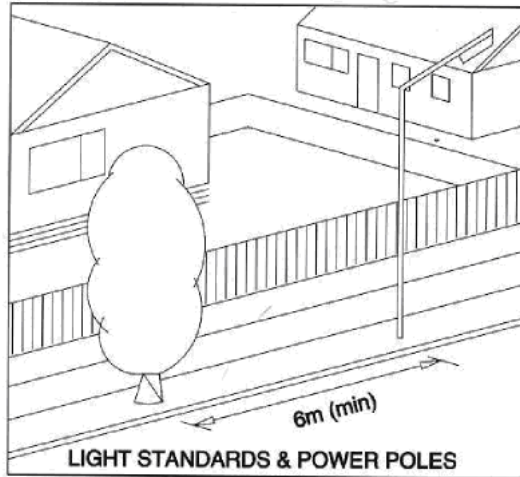
Approved/Declined

Reasons

Name

Date

7.4 Street Tree Planting Distances



7.5 Line of sight requirements

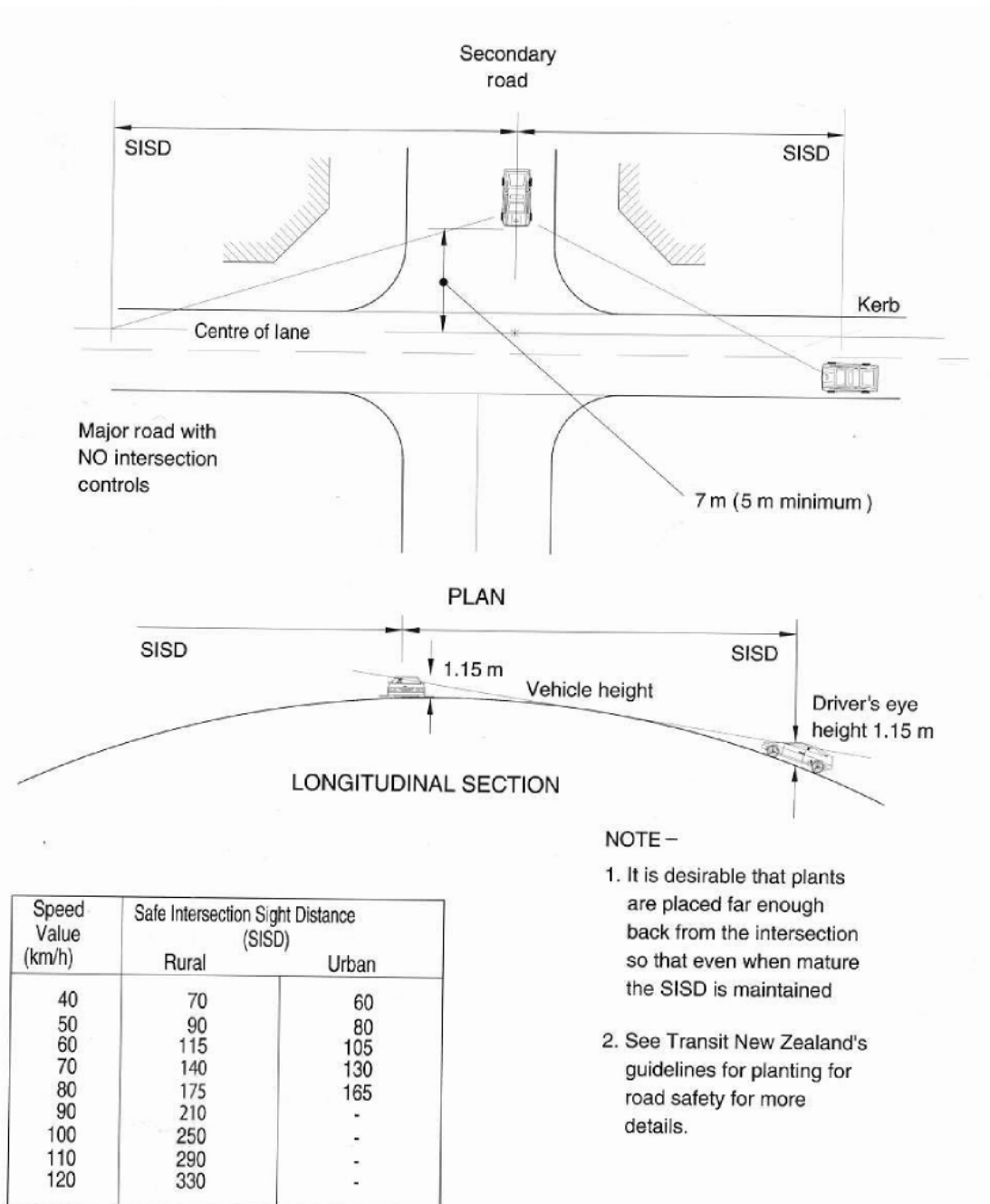


Figure 7.2 – Intersection sight distances for clear sight lines for landscaping

7.6 Charter Areas and Preferred Species

7.6.1 Character Area: Bulls

Like Marton and Taihape, Bulls has outstanding historical character in its diverse range of Victorian/Edwardian buildings that have been landscaped with English trees. The species selection has been chosen for known species that will thrive both on private and public land in this town.

Unfortunately many of the Bulls road berms are too narrow to consider planting street trees; however a number of streets will support street tree population.

The climate in Bulls and soil conditions make it ideal growing condition for tree establishment.

Preferred species for narrow berms (no overhead wires)

<u><i>Carpinus betulus</i></u> "Fastigiata" (Upright Hornbeam)	<u><i>Fagus sylvatica</i></u> "Dawyck Purple" (Upright Purple Beech)
<u><i>Ginkgo biloba</i></u> "Fastigiata" (Maidenhair Tree)	<u><i>Malus tschonoskii</i></u> (Japanese Upright Crabapple)
<u><i>Prunus campanulata</i></u> "Felix Jury" (Taiwan Cherry)	<u><i>Prunus campanulata</i></u> "Superba" (Taiwan Cherry)
<u><i>Quercus robur</i></u> "Fastigiata" (English Oak)	

Preferred species for wider berms (no overhead wires)

<u><i>Aesculus carnea</i></u> "Briotii" (Red Horse Chestnut)	<u><i>Betula utilis</i></u> "Jacquemontii" (Himalayan Birch)
<u><i>Crataegus laevigata</i></u> "Pauls Scarlet" (Midland Hawthorn)	<u><i>Fraxinus</i></u> (Purple Spire Ash)
<u><i>Fraxinus ornus</i></u> (Manna Ash)	<u><i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i></u> "Cimmzam" (Cimmaron Ash)
<u><i>Malus</i></u> varieties and cultivars (Flowering Apple)	<u><i>Melia azedarch</i></u> (Indian Bean Tree)
<u><i>Nyssa sylvatica</i></u> varieties (Wet Soils) (Black Tupelo)	<u><i>Platanus orientalis</i></u> "Autumn Glory" (Oriental Plane Tree)
<u><i>Prunus</i></u> species (NB: larger growing cultivars) (Flowering Cherry)	<u><i>Pyrus calleryana</i></u> "Aristocrat" (Ornamental Pear)
<u><i>Pyrus calleryana</i></u> "Bradford" (Ornamental Pear)	<u><i>Pyrus calleryana</i></u> "Candelabra" (Ornamental Upright Pear)
<u><i>Sophora godleyi</i></u> (Kowhai)	<u><i>Ulmus carpinifolia</i></u> "Variegata" (Spotted Elm)
<u><i>Ulmus parvifolia</i></u> "Frontier" (Chinese Hybrid Elm)	

Preferred species for berms and reserves with overhead wires

<u><i>Ginkgo biloba</i></u> “Jade Butterflies” (Maidenhair Tree)	<u><i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i></u> “Little Richard” (Liquid Amber)
<u><i>Malus</i></u> “Ellerslie” plus other cultivars Max height 2.5m (Flowering Crabapple)	<u><i>Ulmus parviflora</i></u> “Jacqueline Hillier” (Dutch Elm)

7.6.2 Character Area: Hunterville/Mangaweka

Like the other areas, Hunterville and Mangaweka has outstanding character in their diverse range of Victorian/Edwardian building that have been planted with English trees. The following species selection reflects and helps maintain the heritage of these centres.

Many of the berms have been planted in Hunterville with a number of different *Prunus* species and cultivars. These current trees provide the town with spring colour that is constantly commented on by locals and visitors to this centre.

Hunterville and Mangaweka have different climate and soil conditions than any other centres in the Rangitikei District. Winters are often cold and soil conditions can get extremely wet.

These centres have wide berms which will make the planting of new trees a must for these towns.

Preferred species for narrow berms (no overhead wires)

<u><i>Carpinus betulus</i></u> “Fastigiata” (Upright Hornbeam)	<u><i>Cornus kousa</i></u> “Milky Way” (Chinese Dogwood)
<u><i>Crataegus laevigata</i></u> “Pauls Scarlet” (Hawthorn)	<u><i>Fagus sylvatica</i></u> “Dawyck Gold” (Gold Columnar Beech)
<u><i>Fagus sylvatica</i></u> “Dawyck Purple” (Upright Purple Beech)	<u><i>Ginkgo biloba</i></u> “Fastigiata” (Maidenhair Tree)
<u><i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i></u> “Fastigiatum” (Arnold Columnar Tulip)	<u><i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i></u> “Snowbird” (Variegated Upright Tulip)
<u><i>Magnolia</i></u> “Burgundy Star” (Jury Hybrid)	<u><i>Malus tschonoskii</i></u> (Japanese Upright Crabapple)
<u><i>Prunus</i></u> “Amanogawa” (Milky Way Cherry)	<u><i>Prunus</i></u> <i>campanulata</i> “Felix Jury” (Taiwan Cherry)
<u><i>Prunus campanulata</i></u> “Superba” (Taiwan Cherry)	<u><i>Quercus robur</i></u> “Fastigiata” (Columnar English Oak)

Preferred species for wider berms (no overhead wires)

<u><i>Aesculus carnea</i></u> "Briotii" (Red Horse Chestnut)	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> "Laciniata" (Cut-Leaved Alder)
<u><i>Crataegus laevigata</i></u> "Pauls Scarlet" (Hawthorn)	<u><i>Fraxinus</i></u> "Purple Spire" (Purple Spire Ash)
<u><i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i></u> "Cim�am" (Cim�aron Ash)	<u><i>Magnolia</i></u> species (Magnolia Hybrid)
<u><i>Platanus orientalis</i></u> "Autumn Glory" (Oriental Plane)	<u><i>Pyrus calleryana</i></u> "Bradford" (Ornamental Pear)
<u><i>Pyrus calleryana</i></u> "Candelabra" (Ornamental Upright Pear)	<u><i>Quercus acutifolia</i></u> (Mexican Species)
<u><i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i></u> "Tropical Splash" (Golden Locust)	<u><i>Sophora godleyi</i></u> Rangitikei Kowhai "Goldie's Mantle" (Kowhai)
<u><i>Ulmus carpinifolia</i></u> "Variegata" (Spotted Elm)	<u><i>Ulmus parvifolia</i></u> "Frontier" (Chinese Hybrid Elm)
<u><i>Zelkova carpinifolia</i></u> (Japanese Elm)	

Preferred species for berms and reserves with overhead wires

<u><i>Camellia</i></u> cultivars (Camellia Hybrid)	<u><i>Ginkgo biloba</i></u> "Jade Butterflies" (Maidenhair Tree)
<u><i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i></u> "Little Richard" (Cultivar)	<u><i>Malus</i></u> "Ellerslie" plus other cultivars Max height 2.5m (PVR, Crabapple)
<u><i>Ulmus hollandica</i></u> "Jacqueline Hillier" (Dutch Elm)	

7.6.3 Character Area: Koitiata/Turakina/Scott's Ferry

Koitiata Beach and Turakina townships are the main coastal communities in the Rangitikei District. Turakina is also one of our most historic settlements so careful tree selection is essential to maintain the character of this settlement. Koitiata has reasonably wide berms with few overhead power lines which makes them ideal to plant. These communities experience significant salt laden winds year round that limit the species that can be planted in these areas. These areas also have a high water table so care needs to be exercised to ensure the correct tree and planting method has been adhered to.

Native species have been chosen due to the resilience of these trees.

Preferred species for wider berms (no overhead wires)

<u><i>Kunzea ericoides</i></u> (Kanuka, White Tea-tree)	<u><i>Metrosideros</i></u> “Maori Princess” (Pohutukawa)
<u><i>Metrosideros</i></u> “Mistral” (Northern Rata Cross)	<u><i>Sophora godleyi</i></u> Rangitikei Kowhai “Goldie’s Mantle” (Kowhai)

7.6.4 Character Area: Marton

Marton, being the main centre for the Rangitikei District, has significant street tree populations. Marton has outstanding historical character in its diverse range of Victorian / Edwardian buildings that have been landscaped with English trees.

Marton is a historic township with many English trees planted on Council berms. The species selection reflects the diverse range of trees that thrive in this centre on both private and public land.

Marton has the advantage of reasonably wide road berms which are ideally suited to future plantings.

Careful consideration has gone into the species selection for Marton. This selection is based on trees that can withstand the weather extremes the region experiences.

Preferred species for narrow berms (no overhead wires)

<u><i>Carpinus betulus</i></u> “Fastigiata” (Upright Hornbeam)	<u><i>Fagus sylvatica</i></u> “Dawyck Purple” (Upright Purple Beech)
<u><i>Ginkgo biloba</i></u> “Fastigiata” (Maidenhair Tree)	<u><i>Malus tschonoskii</i></u> (Japanese Upright Crabapple)
<u><i>Prunus campanulata</i></u> “Felix Jury” (Taiwan Cherry)	<u><i>Prunus campanulata</i></u> “Superba” (Taiwan Cherry)
<u><i>Quercus robur</i></u> “Fastigiata” (English Oak)	

Preferred species for wider berms (no overhead wires)

<u><i>Aesculus carnea</i></u> “Briotii” (Red Horse Chestnut)	<u><i>Betula utilis</i></u> “Jacquemontii” (Himalayan Birch)
<u><i>Crataegus laevigata</i></u> “Pauls Scarlet” (Hawthorn)	<u><i>Fraxinus</i></u> “Purple Spire” (Purple Spire Ash)
<u><i>Fraxinus ornus</i></u> (Manna Ash)	<u><i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i></u> “Cimmzam” (Cimmaron Ash)
<u><i>Malus</i></u> varieties and cultivars (Crabapple)	<u><i>Melia azedarach</i></u> (Indian Bean Tree)
<u><i>Nyssa sylvatica</i></u> varieties (Wet Soils) (Tupelo)	<u><i>Platanus orientalis</i></u> “Autumn Glory” (Oriental Plane)
<u><i>Prunus</i></u> species (NB: larger growing)	<u><i>Pyrus calleryana</i></u> “Aristocrat”

cultivars) (Cherry)	(Ornamental Pear)
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> “Bradford” (Ornamental Pear)	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> “Candelabra” (Ornamental Upright Pear)
<i>Sophora godleyi</i> Rangitikei Kowhai “Goldie’s Mantle” (Kowhai)	<i>Ulmus carpinifolia</i> “Variegata” (Spotted Elm)
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> “Frontier” (Chinese Hybrid Elm)	

Preferred species for berms and reserves with overhead wires

<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> “Jade Butterflies” (Maidenhair Tree)	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> “Little Richard” (Cultivar)
<i>Malus</i> “Eilerslie” plus other cultivars Max height 2.5m (Crabapple)	<i>Ulmus hollandica</i> “Jacqueline Hillier” (Dutch Elm)

7.6.5 Character Area: Taihape

Taihape is an inland community with major seasonal climatic extremes; winter is cold and in summer the region experiences prolonged dry periods.

Taihape is a historic township with many English/European trees planted on Council berms. The species selection reflects the diverse range of trees that thrive in this centre on both private and public land.

Future plantings in this town will centre on the planting of *Sophora godleyi* Rangitikei Kowhai in many locations. This tree is an icon of Taihape and is admired in spring by locals and travellers to the region. Council believes that this tree will someday be a significant feature to the streetscape of Taihape.

Preferred species for narrow berms (no overhead wires)

<i>Carpinus betulus</i> “Fastigiata” (Upright Hornbeam)	<i>Cornus kousa</i> “Milky Way” (Chinese Dogwood)
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i> “Pauls Scarlet” or “Coccinea Plena” (Hawthorn)	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> “Dawyck Gold” (Upright Columnar Beech)
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> “Dawyck Purple” (Upright Purple Beech)	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> “Fastigiata” (Maidenhair Tree)
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> “Fastigiatum” (Arnold Columnar Tulip)	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> “Snowbird” (Variegated Upright Tulip)
<i>Magnolia</i> “Burgundy Star” (Jury Hybrid)	<i>Malus tschonoskii</i> (Japanese Upright Crabapple)
<i>Prunus</i> “Amanogawa” (Milky Way Cherry)	<i>Prunus campanulata</i> “Felix Jury” (Taiwan Cherry)
<i>Prunus campanulata</i> “Superba” (Taiwan Cherry)	<i>Quercus robur</i> “Fastigiata” (Columnar English Oak)

Preferred species for wider berms (no overhead wires)

<u><i>Aesculus carnea</i></u> "Briotii" (Red Horse Chestnut)	<u><i>Alnus glutinosa</i></u> "Laciniata" (Cut-leaved Black Alder)
<u><i>Crataegus laevigata</i></u> "Pauls Scarlet" (Hawthorn)	<u><i>Fraxinus</i></u> "Purple Spire" (Purple Spire Ash)
<u><i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i></u> "Cim�am" (Cim�aron Ash)	<u><i>Magnolia</i></u> species (Magnolia Hybrid)
<u><i>Platanus orientalis</i></u> "Autumn Glory" (Oriental Plane)	<u><i>Pyrus calleryana</i></u> "Bradford" (Ornamental Pear)
<u><i>Pyrus calleryana</i></u> "Candelabra" (Ornamental Upright Pear)	<u><i>Quercus acutifolia</i></u> (Mexican Species)
<u><i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i></u> "Frisia" (Golden Locust)	<u><i>Sophora godleyi</i></u> Rangitikei Kowhai "Goldie's Mantle" (Kowhai)
<u><i>Ulmus carpinifolia</i></u> "Variegata" (Spotted Elm)	<u><i>Ulmus parvifolia</i></u> "Frontier" (Chinese Hybrid Elm)
<u><i>Zelkova carpinifolia</i></u> (Japanese Elm)	

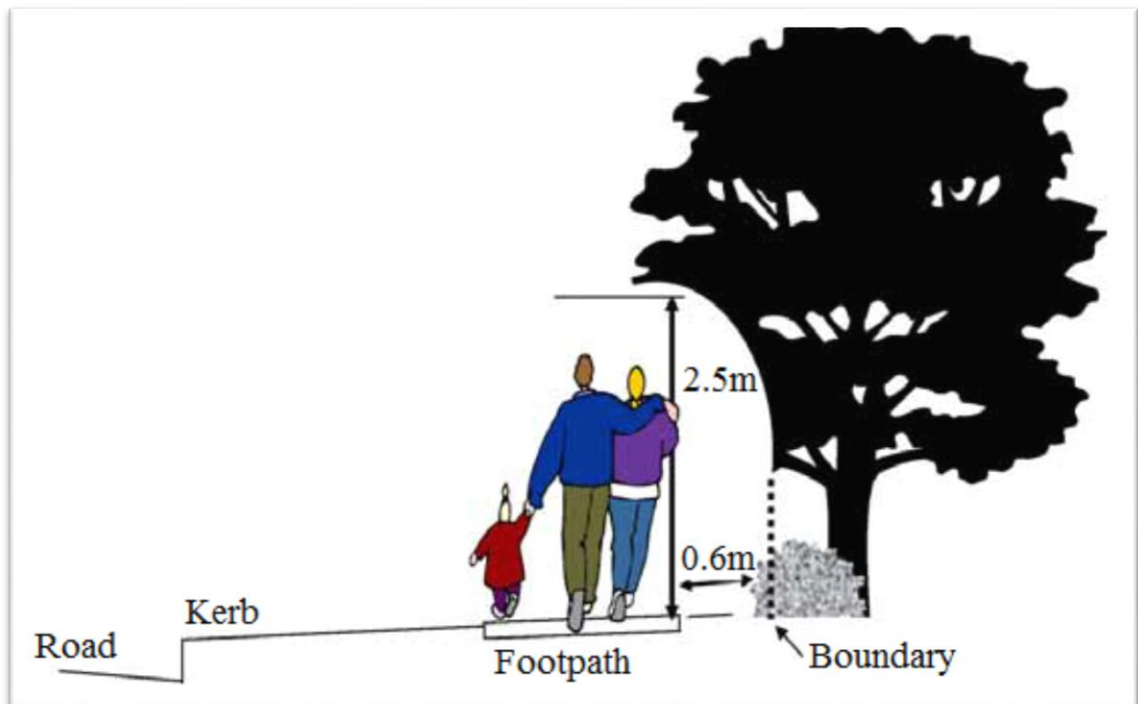
Preferred species for berms and reserves with overhead wires

<u><i>Camellia</i></u> cultivars (Camellia Hybrids)	<u><i>Ginkgo biloba</i></u> "Jade Butterflies" (Maidenhair)
<u><i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i></u> "Little Richard" (Cultivar)	<u><i>Malus</i></u> "Ellerslie" plus other cultivars Max height 2.5m (Crabapple)
<u><i>Ulmus hollandica</i></u> "Jacqueline Hillier" (Dutch Elm)	

7.7 Shrubs and Trees Encroaching onto the Road Reserve

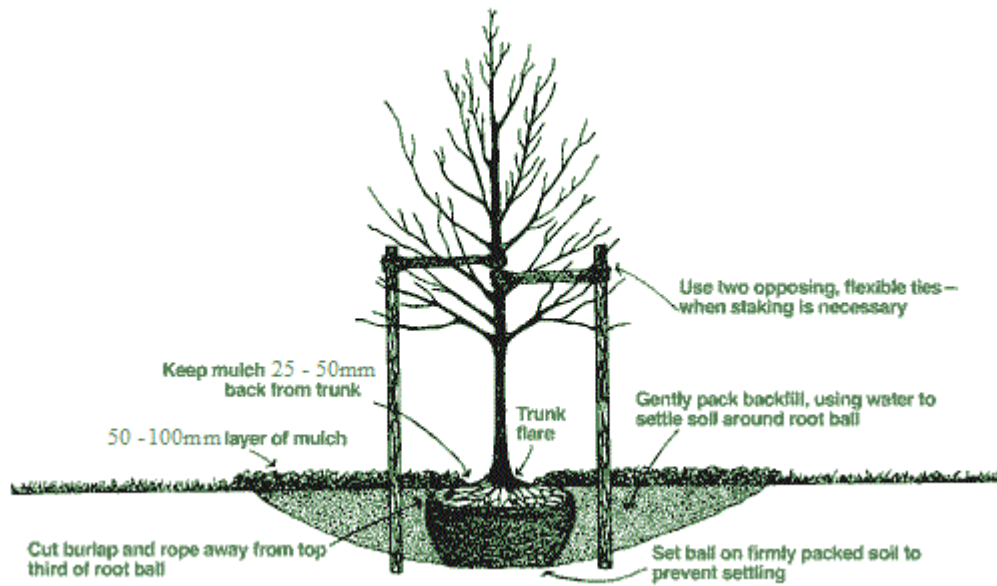
Overhanging vegetation can enhance the look of the street and therefore the council will allow vegetation to cross the boundary from private property to public space as long as it is within the following criteria:

- Overhanging vegetation must be maintained to a minimum height of 2.5m above the footpath or berm.
- The vegetation cannot obstruct the footpath, pedestrian access or visibility.



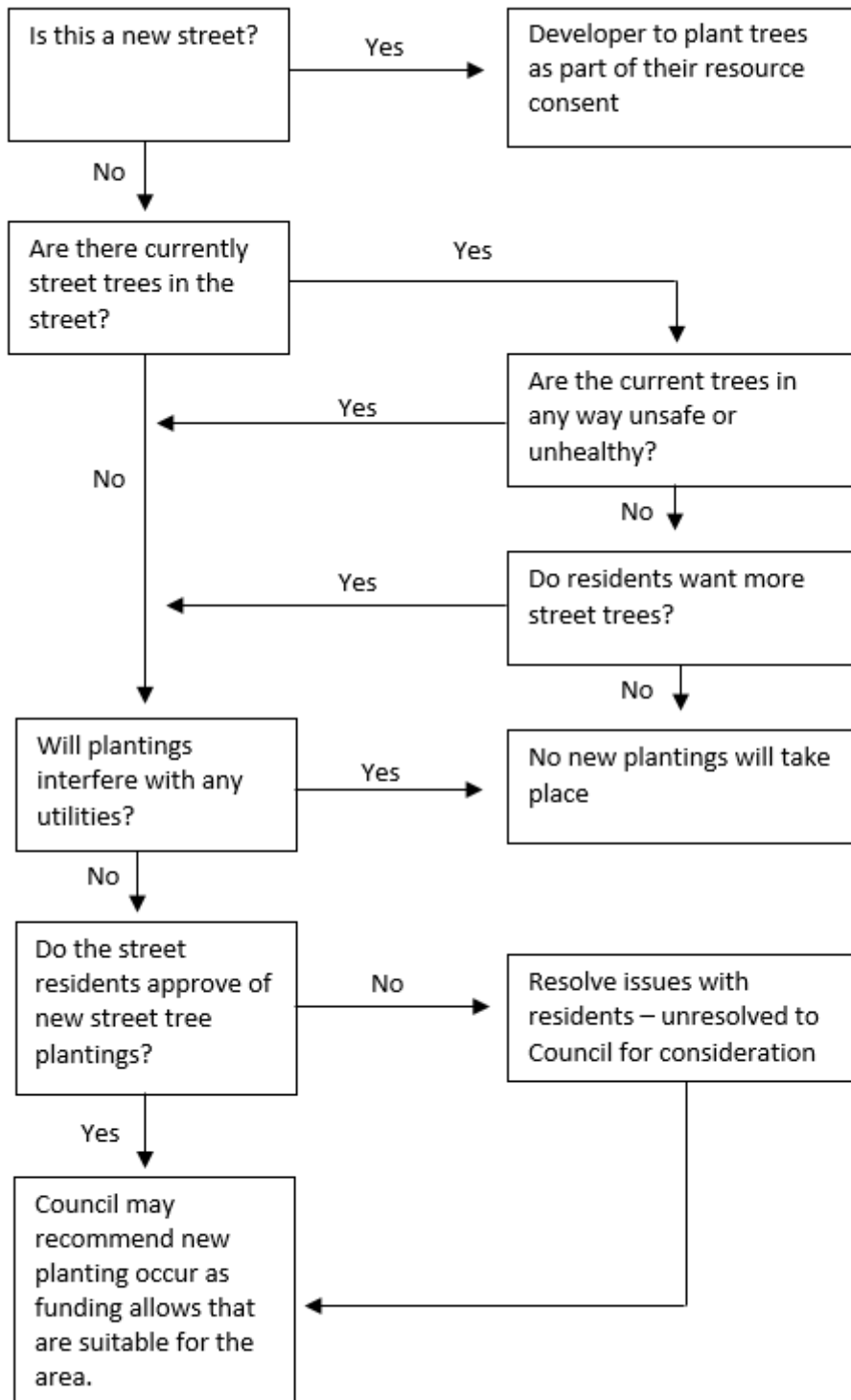
(Above) Overhanging vegetation encroaching onto the footpath and obstructing pedestrian access

7.8 Correct Planting Diagram



7.9 Street Tree Selection Criteria

The following process will be used to decide whether or not a street will receive new street tree plantings.





7.10 Draft Street Tree Planting Letter

Date

Address

Dear Sir/Madam

Possible street tree planting

Council would like to identify the views of the local community on possible street tree planting in (Name Street/Road/Place/Avenue/Way).

Before planting can proceed, the Council's Urban Tree Plan requires consensus from the residents on whom the project is likely to have an impact.

We are proposing to plant (species) at an approximate spacing of one tree per property. For street tree planting to be aesthetically successful it is necessary for the planting to be of a consistent nature. In the event that a property has a longer than average road frontage, consideration will be given to planting more than one tree in that particular area.

Council may/may not proceed with the planting where the predominant view is that residents don't wish to see trees established.

Please complete the slip below and return to the council in the pre-paid envelope enclosed by (date). If you have any questions please phone 0800-920-029 during office hours.

If there is majority support for the project we plan to complete the planting within six weeks of the above date.

Once planting has been completed the trees will be maintained by the council on an annual basis. However, because the trees are vulnerable to water stress in their first two seasons we would appreciate your help in keeping them watered during the summer months.

Yours faithfully

[Insert name]

Parks and Reserves Team Leader



Name:

Property address:

I/we do support / don't support (delete one) the planting of street trees in
[Name Street/Road/Place/Avenue/Way].

Comments:

7.11 Standard Letter Templates

7.11.1 Letter Requesting Clearance of Overgrowth from Footpath Area and/or Roding Corridor

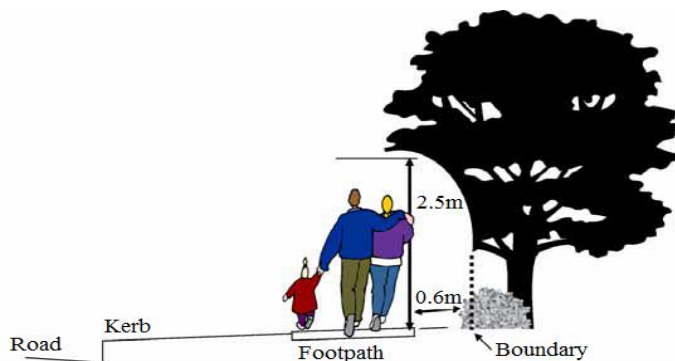
Dear Sir/Madam

Clearance of overgrowth from footpath area and/or roading corridor – [add address of the property here]

It has come to Rangitikei District Council's attention that vegetation growing on your property at the above address is encroaching on the footpath area. This is causing an obstruction to pedestrians and may cause injury.

The council requires that property owners keep trees and vegetation clear of footpaths and roadways.

Your cooperation is sought to eliminate the problem identified on your property. It would be appreciated if you would arrange for the offending branches/trees/vegetation to be removed or trimmed by [insert date] to meet the clearances shown below:-



Should you wish to discuss this matter or require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address.

Yours faithfully

[Insert name]

Parks and Reserves Team Leader

7.11.2 Thank You Letter for Clearance of Overgrowth from Footpath and/or Roding Corridor

Dear Sir/Madam



Clearance of overgrowth from footpath area and/or roading corridor – [add address of the property here]

Thank you for arranging the trimming of vegetation from the footpath/road in front of your property.

As trees and shrubs tend to grow back again we would ask that you continue to monitor the situation and take prompt action to keep the footpath and road clear.

Yours faithfully

[Insert name]

Parks and Reserves Team Leader



7.11.3 Reminder Letter to Clear Overgrowth from Footpath Area and/or Roding Corridor

Dear Sir/Madam

Clearance of overgrowth from footpath area and/or roading corridor – [add address of the property here]

On (date) Council wrote to you asking that you arrange to clear the overhanging vegetation from the road/footpath.

Following a re-inspection it appears that the necessary work has not yet been completed. If there is a genuine reason for the work not being completed it would be appreciated if you would contact the council as soon as possible. Alternatively, please arrange to have the work completed by [inset date – 2 weeks from the date of writing the letter].

Should you wish to discuss this further, I can be contacted at the address above.

The council can enforce the requirement to keep footpaths and roadways clear of vegetation under the Local Government Act 2002, but would rather work co-operatively with you. Enforcement action may result in costs to you as the owner of the property.

We are required however to ensure the safety of road and footpath users is placed ahead of other considerations.

Yours faithfully

[Insert name]

Parks and Reserves Team Leader



7.12 Local Government Act 2002 (section 355 of 1974 Act)

355. Council may require removal of overhanging trees, etc.

(1) The council may, by notice in writing under the hand of the Chairman or the [[principal administrative officer]], require the owner of any land abutting upon any road within the district to do any of the following acts:

(a) To remove, lower, or trim to the satisfaction of the council any tree or hedge overhanging or overshadowing the road in cases where, in the opinion of the council, the removal, lowering, or trimming is necessary in order to prevent injury to the road or obstruction to the traffic thereon or to any channel, ditch, or drain appertaining thereto:

(b) To cut down or grub up, as the council directs, and remove all obstructions to traffic or drainage arising from the growth of plants or the spreading of roots upon or under the road up to the middle line thereof along the whole frontage of the land occupied or owned by him:

(c) To remove, lower, or trim to the satisfaction of the council any tree or hedge, or to lower any fence or wall, if in the opinion of the council the tree, hedge, fence, or wall is likely, by reason of its obstructing the view, to cause danger to the traffic on that or any other road.

(2) Within 10 days after service of the notice, the owner may apply to a [[District Court]] for an order setting aside the notice.

(3) On the hearing of the application, the Court, whose decision shall be final, shall determine whether the notice should or should not be set aside, and in the former case the notice shall be deemed to be void.

(4) In the case of a notice which is not set aside as aforesaid, if the owner fails to do any such act in compliance therewith within 1 month from the service thereof, or, where application as aforesaid has been heard, then within 1 month after the giving of the decision of the Court, he commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$5 for every day during which the failure has continued, and the council, by its officers or agents, may enter on the land and do that act and recover the cost from him.

(5) The said cost shall be a charge upon the land.

(6) In any case where the council might give any such notice as aforesaid in respect of any land, any resident of the district may, by notice in writing, request the council to do so.

(7) If for the space of 28 days after the receipt of the last-mentioned notice the council fails to comply therewith, the resident making the request may apply to a [[District Court]] for an order requiring the council to comply with that notice.

(8) On the hearing of the application, the Court shall determine whether and to what extent the notice shall be complied with by the council, and the decision of the Court shall be final.

(9) The council may remove, lower, cut down, grub up, or trim, as the case may be, any fence, wall, tree, hedge, or plant to which subsection (1) of this section applies, after giving oral notice to the occupier, or, where there is no occupier, to the owner, of the land, if life, property, or any road is in imminent danger. The cost of the work shall be a charge against the land as if notice had been given under subsection (1) of this section and had not been set aside by a [[District Court]].

(10) For the purposes of this section the term "cut down" means cutting down and keeping cut down or removing or controlling by chemical means the stem and roots of any plants so as to prevent their throwing out any leaf, offshoot, or flower.]



LG355.04 Subsection (1) (a):

A notice by the council must be limited on its face to a tree or hedge overhanging or overshadowing a road: *Grey v Thomson* [1917] NZLR 926.

In *Dowling v South Canterbury Electric Power Board* [1966] NZLR 676, it was held in relation to a similar provision in s 19 Electricity Act 1966 that a notice given by an Electric Power Board requiring the owner to remove all or any trees on his or her land, or such parts thereof as were likely to cause damage to the electric lines, is not a notice complying with the section. It should not be left to the owner to decide which trees or parts thereof are likely to cause damage to the lines, and, in order to be effective the notice must specify the tree or trees to be removed, and, if the complete removal of a tree is not required, the extent to which it is to be removed.

LG355.05 Subsection (1) (b):

The duty imposed by this subsection is absolute and unconditional, and is not limited to obstructions originating from plants growing on the land of the owner or occupier: *Bremner v Dunn* (1902) 22 NZLR 22; (1902) 4 GLR 455. For a contrary view, see *Barns v Nixon* (1898) 17 NZLR 95.

LG355.07 Subsection (8):

The District Court has a complete discretion in deciding whether notice under this section should be set aside. It must not only examine the validity of the notice on its face but also hear and decide on the facts raised by the parties. The merits on both sides, including any alternatives, are relevant to the exercise of the Court's discretion: *Marlborough Electric Power Board v Watts* [1973] 2 NZLR 406.

Local Government Act 2002 section 137 (1) (a)

Makes it an offence to plant any tree or shrub on a road without authorisation from the council or any other Act.