

District Tree Policy (Part 1)

Policy for the Management of Trees on Council Administered Land

Version 1.1 – amended April 2006

February 2006

Adoption of the Revised District Tree Policy 21 February 2006

1. File Reference: C50 12 05 1, DM 175473

The District Tree Policy, initially adopted in 2001, has been updated following a scheduled three year review and public consultation. Public consultation on the updated policy took place between October and December 2005 and 17 submissions were received. This report highlights the input received through the consultation process and presents the final draft of the District Tree Policy for approval.

Resolved:

That having considered all matters raised in the report, and having:

- a) Considered 17 written submissions on the draft district tree policy and three other tree-related submissions,
- b) Heard 1 verbal submission in support of the written submissions and considered three tabled submissions, and
- c) Considered the final district tree policy, amended to incorporate input from some submissions:
 - Include a definition of "local native species" in the Glossary
 - Remove reference to the specific distances (e.g. 2km from the coast) in the tables in the Index to Collections in Appendix 2
 - Clarify the text in Section 4.1.1 to be clear that exotic species are also appropriate and acceptable to use as part of council plantings and not just local native species.

The council agrees to adopt the District Tree Policy (January 2006), which shall apply to trees on lands owned and/or administered by the council.

Record of amendments

Version	Date	Amended by	Approved by	Reason
1.0	February 21 2006	N/a	NPDC	Copy adopted by the council
1.1	April 11 2006	Hannah Horn, PRA	Kelvin Shooter, PRA	Edit page 16, Policy 4.1.2.1(a)(a) to correctly cross- reference to Policy 4.1.2.2(a); added council resolution

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL DISTRICT TREE POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This District Tree Policy specifies those principles, policies and objectives associated with the ongoing stewardship by New Plymouth District Council of trees on council-administered land.

The District Tree Policy:

- Upholds the council's commitment to managing trees as a valued asset of the district, recognising the benefits of trees both to the environment and to people.
- Provides a mandate and rationale for the council's involvement in both the direct management of and indirect advocacy for trees as an integral component of urban and rural environments in the district.
- Recognises the increasing importance and challenge of managing the public tree resource with increasing urban intensification.
- Provides consistency in methodology and decision-making in response to tree-related issues. This includes tree planting, maintenance and removal and considerations specific to street trees, tree collections, bush remnants and commemorative trees.
- Provides for cooperative effort between the council and developers to provide attractive treescapes as part of subdivisions and other developments.
- Outlines policies and processes related to public consultation and dispute resolution.
- Promotes education and promotion related to trees and tree management.
- Complements the statutory protection of trees under the District Plan.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The NPDC District Tree Policy addresses issues relating to the recognition, strategic planning, management and long-term continuity of the tree resource on council administered lands within New Plymouth District.
- 2.2 The District Tree Policy has an important role in raising the awareness of the community in relation to the benefits of trees, their multiple functions and the ways in which they contribute to improving the condition of our environment.
- 2.3 The District Tree Policy applies to individual trees, groups of trees and areas of existing and regenerating bush on council administered reserves, civic open spaces and other council administered lands.
- 2.4 The District Tree Policy compliments reserve management plans, such as the Coastal Reserves Management Plan. Where a reserve management plan has specific policy for the management of trees on a particular reserve, the management plan will take precedence over this policy. All new management plans will be developed in consideration of this policy and its intent.
- 2.5 The policy compliments the regulatory provisions of the District Plan, regarding the maintenance, management and advocacy of Notable and Amenity Trees and Significant Natural Areas.
- 2.6 Management of plantation forests and Joint Venture Forestry is covered in separate council policy.
- 2.7 The District Tree Policy was first adopted by the New Plymouth District Council in 2001. The policy will be reviewed every three years.

2.0 COMPOSITION AND FORMAT OF THE DISTRICT TREE POLICY

2.1 Composition of the District Tree Policy

The District Tree Policy is in two parts.

- **Part 1** is a public policy document, specifying those principles, policies and objectives which guide the council's ongoing protection and management of tree resources on land owned and/or administered by the New Plymouth District Council.
- **Part 2** contains technical guidelines and additional information to support the policies defined in the District Tree Policy Part I and serves as a working document for council officers.

2.2 Format for Part 1 of the District Tree Policy

Part 1 of the District Tree Policy comprises six sections:

- Section 1: POLICY GUIDE explains the layout and format of the NPDC District Tree Policy.
- Section 2: INTRODUCTION describes the council rationale in preparing the District Tree Policy.
- Section 3: TREES A VALUABLE ASSET discusses aspects of tree management which NPDC considers to be important. It covers:
 - 3.1 Council's Stewardship Role
 - 3.2 Trees in the Landscape
 - 3.3 The Benefits Derived from Trees
 - 3.4 The Difficulties with Trees in the Urban Environment
- Section 4: OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES sets out the council's polices in relation to tree management. It covers:
 - 4.1 General Policies for the Management of Trees on Council Administered Land
 - Tree Planting
 - Tree Maintenance and Removal
 - Interference of Trees with Properties and Services
 - Wilful Damage to Council Trees
 - 4.2 Street Tree Management
 - 4.3 Management of Tree Collections
 - 4.4 Management of Bush Remnants
 - 4.5 Commemorative Trees

- 4.6 Planning and Management of Trees During Subdivision and Other Types of Development
- 4.7 Consultation and Dispute Resolution
- 4.8 Education and Promotion
- 4.9 Tree Evaluation and Assessment
- Section 5: GLOSSARY provides easily understood definitions of the technical or specific terms used in this document.

Section 6: APPENDICES contains appendices which support and clarify the policy text.

2.3 Guide to Section 4: Objective and Policies

The following structure has been applied throughout Section 4: Objectives and Policies:

TITLE OF SECTION	
	This text indicates the general topic
Subtitle	This text indicates the sub-topic within the general topic area.
Objective number	
	<i>This text defines the management aim (or goal) the council seeks to achieve.</i>
Policy	
	This text clarifies the way in which the council will achieve its management aims or which policies it will follow.
Explanation	
	This text outlines why the council considers the objectives and policies are necessary.

3.0 TREES – A VALUABLE ASSET

3.1 Council's Stewardship Role

The New Plymouth District Council (NPDC), as steward of the district's public tree resource, currently manages the care and maintenance of some 3,000 street trees and countless specimen trees in parks, reserves and on other council administered lands. The council takes a proactive approach, by regularly planting new trees on public land primarily to maintain and replenish the numbers of street trees and specimen trees in parks and reserves. The Council does not manage trees on private property, with the exception of some responsibilities related to trees formally protected under the District Plan.

Trees are a living resource and, as such, their care requires ongoing decisions regarding maintenance, replacement and renewal, and removal. Council arborists apply their knowledge of the specific life requirements of each tree species to ensure the "right tree for the right place", with the goal of creating healthy and attractive treescapes now and into the future. Careful planning is also required to minimise the potential for future problems with properties, services and infrastructure as the trees grow.

The council approach recognises that some trees are of high value due to their species, age, history, uniqueness and contribution to the landscape while other trees are of lower value and can be removed or replaced if required. The District Tree Policy and District Plan contain policies and provisions to ensure consistency in methods of evaluation of trees and decision-making on issues related to tree management.

Council staff are dedicated to working cooperatively among themselves and with members of the community to provide healthy, viable trees and treescapes in the district over the long term. Where issues arise concerning tree management, the council is committed to identifying fair solutions that reflect the value of a tree or treescape to the community while addressing, to the extent possible, the concerns and interest of individual residents.

3.2 The relationship between the Long Term Council Community Plan and the District Tree Policy

The Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) is the overarching planning and policy document for the New Plymouth District. The LTCCP lists a number of community outcomes, developed through public consultation, to guide priorities for the council delivery of services over the active term of the plan. The District Tree Policy contributes to the achievement of seven community outcomes in the LTCCP (connective, vibrant, prosperous, secure and healthy, together, sustainable, skilled).

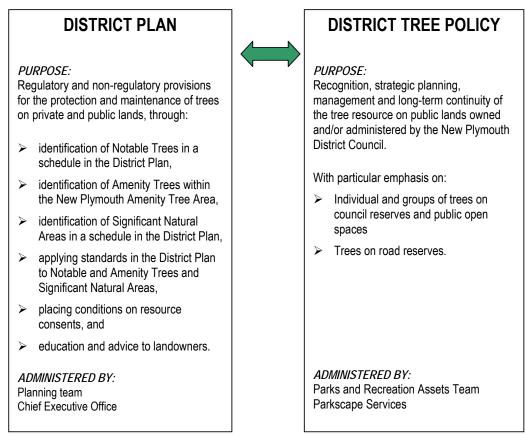
3.3 The relationship between the District Plan and District Tree Policy

The **DISTRICT PLAN** provides the statutory mechanism for the protection of district trees, as directed by the Resource Management Act (1991). The provisions in the District Plan apply to public and private lands.

The **DISTRICT TREE POLICY** only applies to trees on public lands that are owned and/or administered by the New Plymouth District Council. The District Tree Policy provides policies and guidelines for the management of trees on council land, but these do not carry the weight of law. The policy cannot override the statutory responsibilities in the District Plan or Acts and Regulations under New Zealand law.

The **DISTRICT TREE POLICY** advocates for the protection of trees through education, advice and promotional activities but does not apply additional policy for the management of trees that are protected under the District Plan

Figure 1 summarises the relationship between the District Plan and District Tree Policy.





Notable Trees are protected under the *Resource Management Act* due to their significance for historic, botanical, landscape, amenity or cultural reasons. Notable trees can be on public or private property. Rules in the District Plan apply to the maintenance or removal of notable trees and activities within the dripline area.

The significance of notable trees is determined using a set of criteria outlined in Appendix 13 of the District Plan. Criteria include the health and vigour of a tree, its visual or landscape value, heritage value, botanical or rarity value, manageability in its location and the contribution to the overall ecology of the area.

Amenity Trees are those trees located within the New Plymouth Amenity Tree Area that are either: (a) 6 metres or more in height; or (b) replacement trees installed as a requirement of a resource consent. Some tree species, such as willow, brush wattle and some species of cypress are excluded from the District Plan rules regarding amenity trees.

Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) are areas of indigenous vegetation that have been identified in the District Plan based on criteria to assess significance, such as species diversity, representativeness, presence of rare, vulnerable or endangered endemic species and important habitat.

3.4 Principles of tree management in New Plymouth District

3.4.1 Trees in the Landscape

- 3.4.1.1 Trees are an essential distinctive component within the landscape. Their dynamic, organic nature gives them an ephemeral character when considered against the permanence of the city and its structures. The living nature of trees, and the need for continuity, makes the processes of replacement planting and ongoing planned renewal a critically important aspect of landscape management.
- 3.4.1.2 Whilst protecting trees is paramount to the principle of maintaining the quality of the present day landscape it should be recognised that trees are not everlasting permanent features. In order to avoid significant degradation of urban and rural tree cover it is necessary to maintain trees across a range of age classes, on streetscapes and within reserves and on an ongoing basis.
- 3.4.1.3 Tree planting and management in streets, parks, reserves and council-administered land throughout the district is vital to counterbalance the continuous changes occurring every day as a result of urban intensification, building development and roading improvements. Without such a cycle of replacement and renewal the incremental loss of trees will create temporary gaps and/or serious long-term reductions in tree cover and may lead to landscape degradation.
- 3.4.1.4 Planting and replenishment of trees by residents on private property is a significant part of the constantly changing and improved landscapes in the district. However, trees on private property should not be relied upon to maintain the appearance of the district's urban and rural landscapes – only to augment it. A significant benefit in broad-scale landscape improvements arises from the council engaging in well planned and

coordinated plantings on council administered land. Public and private plantings together combine to create tangible and enduring environmental and amenity benefits for the district.

- 3.4.1.5 Urban trees require specialised ongoing management in order to assist their survival in the highly-modified built environment. Towns and cities are often high stress environments for trees, which have generally evolved in the more conducive natural growing environments of the forest, wetland or open plains. Trees under stress be it from water deficit, soil compaction, low nutrient levels, air pollution, elevated air temperatures, altered light levels or physical damage are more susceptible to pests and diseases and will frequently exhibit a shortened life span. As a significant asset of the council, maintaining existing mature urban trees in healthy condition is economically preferable to establishing new trees in the same location.
- 3.4.1.6 The council takes a positive approach to planting trees in public areas to maintain district tree assets now and into the future.

Māori World View

Tangata whenua have a relationship with trees through whakapapa. Tane is considered one of the most important tipuna in the Māori world view for he created all mankind and his marriage to different deities also produced different species of trees.

In the Māori world view, Tane has authority over the forests, bush, birds and trees and is recognised through the whakatauki 'Te wao tapu nui a Tane' or 'The great sacred forest of Tane'. This whakatauki serves as a reminder of the strict rules of tapu that apply to the forest and its inhabitants and therefore trees must not be felled without obtaining permission from Tane through karakia, chants or offerings. To transgress such tikanga (protocol) would mean you are treating your ancestor and relatives inappropriately.

Referenced from: Coming of the Māori by Sir Peter Buck Exploring Māori Values by Joan Patterson Te Ara – The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand

3.4.2 The Benefits Derived from Trees

- 3.4.2.1 Trees provide multiple benefits. These are generally summarised as aesthetic, environmental, climatological, ecological, economic and social factors. Trees can be used in our urban and rural landscapes to achieve substantial positive outcomes for the community and visitors alike.
- 3.4.2.2 Trees have the ability to reinforce the local identity and character of a place, provide visual unity, and soften the often harsh and sometimes visually chaotic built character of our urban environments. As such, trees are an important tool in the urban design.

In addition the natural and cultural heritage values of valuable, old trees provides an important depth of meaning and history within the landscape. Due to their longevity, trees provide recognizable landmarks that link generations.

- 3.4.2.3 Trees and associated undergrowth also assist in modifying and ameliorating some of the less desirable aspects of urban environments such as air pollution, degraded water quality, water run-off, convected or reflected heat, wind exposure, and erosion.
- 3.4.2.4 Trees provide substantial benefits in relation to the ecological health and sustainability of our urban built environments. Urban vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs and ground cover, provides habitat for indigenous plants, insects and bird life. The air, water and nutrient exchange processes undertaken by trees are fundamental to human existence and the continuity of the food web which supports all life on earth.
- 3.4.2.5 Urban trees improve the environment by absorbing, filtering and purifying the basic elements of air and water. Their continuous metabolic processes ameliorate the adverse effects of sun, wind, rain, dust and pollution softening the harshness of the urban environment, providing shade and reducing the energy needs of the city.
- 3.4.2.6 Trees have an important function in providing shade and thereby reducing peoples' exposure to ultraviolet radiation. Shade from trees also provides cool areas to escape from summer heat when recreating or resting in the outdoors as well as providing shaded areas for cars to park.

3.4.3 The Difficulties with Trees in the Urban Environment

- 3.4.3.1 The council manages trees professionally and objectively, based on established methods of arboriculture. Managing trees not only requires planting and maintaining trees to expand the tree resource; it is also often necessary to modify or remove trees that are causing problems.
- 3.4.3.2 It is undeniable that trees in urban locations can create problems of a physical nature. Examples include:
 - Limitation on development potential.
 - Interference with underground and overhead services.
 - Disruption to structural foundations
 - Difficulty of access.
 - Leaf fall blocking drains and stormwater channels.
 - Traffic safety issues related to reduced visibility, excessive shading and obstruction of views.

Additionally, trees can cause problems more of a social nature, such as safety issues associated with the visibility of street lights and disputes over leaf litter, shading and views. In such circumstances, it is necessary to explore ways to manage the treescape so that people and plants can co-exist.

3.4.3.3 Occasionally, trees in close association with buildings and services can cause genuine difficulties. However, with good planning, creative development design and the selection of appropriate species these perceived 'problems' are largely avoidable.

Wherever street trees exist, or are proposed, the potential conflict with utilities and roading assets is assessed prior to any decision to retain, maintain or remove trees. Likewise, urban developments are created in consideration of the space required to allow the successful establishment and retention of trees and other vegetation. Usually, many of the adverse effects generated by trees are more than mitigated by the substantial environmental and aesthetic benefits they provide.

3.2.3.4 Strong community interest in environmental issues and general support for the provision of green residential and urban amenity means that, more than ever, the council must strike the appropriate balance between the management and protection of valuable vegetation and the avoidance of real and perceived detrimental effects associated with trees.

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In its decision-making on trees, the council considers the implications for all members of the community, including immediate neighbours, local residents, community members and visitors to the area, recognising that all receive some level of benefit and use from having a treed environment.

4.0 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF TREES

4.1 GENERAL POLICIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF TREES ON COUNCIL ADMINISTERED LAND

This section contains general policies that apply to the management of all trees on council administered lands within the New Plymouth District. Types of council tree include individual trees and groups of trees on street, roadside reserves and in council reserves. Specific policies have been developed for the management of street trees, tree collections, commemorative trees and bush remnants.

Categories of council trees include the following:

- Street trees are *formal* plantings along council road reserves, with the intent of creating managed streetscapes. Streetscapes are planned in consultation with local residents and in keeping with the "street character area" themes for the district (see Appendix 2). They are also planned to be 'sustainable' (see definition below).
- Road reserve trees are trees situated on road reserves that have *not* been formally planted.

There are two categories of street and road reserve tree:

Sustainable: These are trees that are considered, through established assessment methods, to be 'manageable' in relation to surrounding activities, services, assets, properties and infrastructure.

Unsustainable: These are trees that are determined, through established assessment methods on an as-needs basis, to have an unmanageable level of interference with surrounding activities, services, properties and infrastructure.

- **Tree collections** are groups of trees formally planted and managed at a site to enhance the diversity and value of the district tree asset. Collections may be single species (a plantation), such as the kauri plantations in Pukekura Park and Fred Cowling Plantation, or multiple species, such as the botanic collections at Pukekura Park and Audrey Gale Reserve.
- **Bush remnants** are areas of indigenous (native) vegetation that represent the original habitat type of an area. These remnants contribute to the aesthetic value of the district and to local biodiversity.
- **Commemorative trees** are trees planted on public land to commemorate a person or event. Trees are also donated by individuals and organisations.

The NPDC District Plan supports the retention of trees and vegetation in urban areas.

Policy 5.3 of the Operative District Plan 2005 states: The positive contribution vegetation makes to urban amenity should be recognised, maintained and, where possible, enhanced.

4.1.1 TREE PLANTING

Objective 4.1.1.1	
	Council tree planting will ensure the existing distinctive landscape characters of the district are reinforced, using species which are appropriate to the location and site (may be native, exotic or a mixture).
Policy 4.1.1.1 (a)	1
	Tree species will be selected that are appropriate to the growing conditions of the site but that also are most suited to meet the objectives for the planting (e.g., amenity value, shade provision, trees to attract native bird species). Exotic species, natives, or a mixture of both may be used to achieve these objectives.
Policy 4.1.1.1 (b)	1
	Existing district wide planting themes established for the urban areas of the district shall be implemented. The long-term cost impacts associated with ongoing maintenance shall be considered. See Appendix 2: Plant Species for New Plymouth District Council Street Site Character Areas.
Policy 4.1.1.1 (c)	1
	Selected exotic species shall be planted, as a contrast to the native plantings and to emphasise the diversity of the vegetation of the district.
Policy 4.1.1.1 (d)	1
	Local character species shall be used to provide a backdrop and framework for the planting of a range of selected species, while enhancing open space. Appropriate species may be those associated with coastal, lowland or wetland areas.
Explanation	1
	■ Within the district there are distinctive landscape character areas that are reflected by the nature of its vegetation. District wide planting themes have been established for the urban areas of the district. For example, Inglewood has conditions and heritage that favours plantings of deciduous and coniferous trees in comparison with coastal New Plymouth, which has a restricted range of potential species due to the harsh coastal

environment and rugged west coast shoreline. Appropriate plant selection will build on these unique identities by using the most appropriate plant associations for the location and site as described for the New Plymouth District Council Street Character Areas (Appendix 2).

Objective 4.1.1.2

A long-term strategy of maintaining trees of substance and value shall be implemented throughout the district to realise the multiple gains described in Section 3.4.2: The Benefits Derived from Trees. This will include the planting of local native species, where appropriate.

Objective 4.1.1.3

To provide distinctive landscapes of mature trees throughout urban areas (other than in areas specifically acknowledged in management plans as treeless open space landscapes).

Policy 4.1.1.3 (a)

Potentially large trees shall be planted wherever appropriate space permits. Exceptions are floodplains or areas where there is a potential risk to safety or where there is potential for an unreasonable level of impact on neighbouring properties, such as views, access to sunlight, and leaf litter.

Policy 4.1.1.3 (b)

Plantings will be designed using the correct choice of species and position so as to prevent undue interference with a neighbour having reasonable enjoyment of their property. This may include planting at a distance from the boundaries of adjoining properties with consideration for the local topography and the expected growth height of the tree.

Policy 4.1.1.3 (c)

Trees of longevity and heritage value shall be planted, incorporating, where possible, nursery stock material specially propagated from existing notable and/or character trees.

Policy 4.1.1.3 (d)

Council staff will consider available information on local flora and fauna when planning tree-related works, including tree species selection for plantings.

Explanation	
	There has been a trend in the district towards smaller residential lots as a result of infill subdivision and cross leasing. This has resulted in a reduction in large trees in urban areas, as residential sections are not large enough to contain substantial trees. Therefore, planting of trees which grow to ultimately large proportions will be implemented, wherever appropriate space permits, to ensure that the urban areas still contain substantial trees of long-term value.
Objective 4.1.1.4	
	To reduce the necessity for intensive maintenance of trees.
Policy 4.1.1.4 (a)	
	The council shall give preference to planting species that:
	 are pest and disease resistant,
	 provide maximum environmental/ecological benefits,
	 have a proven track record for establishment and sustainability, and
	 require less maintenance.
Policy 4.1.1.4 (b)	
	The council shall plan plantings to ensure that:
	 Only quality plant stock is used
	 Standardised specifications and techniques and practises are used to install plant materials
	 The correct species is chosen in relation to the limitations of the site.
Explanation	
	Choosing the most appropriate species for the conditions and particular aspects of the site can reduce long-term maintenance problems. By using quality plant stocks, planted effectively and appropriately for the site, many long-term maintenance liabilities can be avoided.
Objective 4.1.1.5	
	To increase the awareness and use of local native plants and locally-developed plant selections.
Policy 4.1.1.5 (a)	
	Local native species and locally developed plant selections and cultivars shall be featured where there is opportunity to do this well.
Policy 4.1.1.5 (b)	
New Plymouth District Council Parks and Recreation Assets	¹³ District Tree Policy Version 1.1 Adopted February 2006, amended April 2006

In selecting local native species for planting, consideration will be made of the ecological and habitat values provided by the species as well as its aesthetic and other amenity values.

Explanation	
	Taranaki contains many nationally recognised private and public gardens and has been associated with several notable plant breeders. Opportunities exist to promote the use of local native species and developed plant selections and their cultivars and, in particular, to feature these during promotions such as the Rhododendron Festival.
Objective 4.1.1.6	
	To continually improve the aesthetic and amenity value of coastal areas ¹ for the public by designing future tree plantings to enhance, and be compatible with the coastal environment while considering the interests of individual property owners.
Policy 4.1.1.6 (a)	1
	I Public plantings in coastal areas shall be designed to enhance coastal environments, with an awareness of the sensitivity of local landowners to their viewscapes.
] Plantings will be compatible with the outcomes of public consultation processes, including zoning and direction in strategic coastal plans, such as the Coastal Strategy, the Coastal Reserves Management Plan and reserve development plans.
Policy 4.1.1.6 (c)	1
] Consultation will be undertaken prior to plantings in coastal areas where there are parties who are likely to be affected by or have an interest in the planting. This includes local residents and mana whenua. The breadth of consultation will be commensurate with the size of the planting and the potential number of affected parties.
] Tree planting will not occur where it may interfere with safe navigation of vessels. Planting will also not occur where it may compromise or adversely affect the safety, efficiency and integrity of community facilities such as flood protection and river control works, radio and telecommunications networks and operations associated with Port Taranaki.

¹ For the purposes of this policy, 'coastal areas' are defined as land on the seaward side of Surf Highway 45 and South Road and the Devon Road motorway north.

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Explanation		
	One of the challenges of managing the public tree resource is to provide the treescapes desired by the public while respecting the interests of local residents in having pleasing viewscapes.	
	The council plans its tree plantings, not to replace sea views, but to have trees as part of the view. Trees will be integrated into the landform to provide vistas and scale appropriate to the coastal landscape. The time scale of tree growth and form will be considered prior to planting - as these factors will affect whether a tree obscures views only temporarily.	
	Strategic plans, such as the Coastal Strategy and associated structure plans, reserve development plans, and the Coastal Reserves Management Plan, provide information about future planning and management in the district, for example, identifying areas where public places are to be a priority. This information will guide future plantings by the council by identifying areas where coastal planting will be compatible with, and of most benefit to, future public amenity value.	
Objective 4.1.1.7		
	To plan future plantings to minimise costs and potential for problems with services, assets, properties and infrastructure in the short and long term.	
Policy 4.1.1.7 (a)		
	The designs for new tree planting shall be based on:	
	 The relationship of trees with their surroundings in terms of character, form, amenity and ecological value. 	
	 The foreseeable effects of trees in relation to shade, views, services and potential damage to built structures. 	
	 The scale of tree in terms of built structures and in relation to potential size and numbers of trees used in the design. 	
	 The outcome, where applicable, of any request for service relating to street tree planting which is accepted by the council, according to established procedures. 	
	 The anticipated cost of successfully establishing new planted areas and the ongoing costs associated with maintenance. 	
Explanation	Trees are living, growing entities and they naturally change and develop over time. There are many inter-related factors which must be considered for all plantings. The design and planning	

of plantings creates a range of opportunities to address the constantly changing characteristics of plantings and the needs of potential new planting sites. More detailed direction on this issue is provided in Section 4.1.3: Interference of Trees with Properties and Services).

4.1.2 TREE MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL

Objective 4.1.2.1			
		mote and practice maintenance of council trees to development of safe, healthy and natural tree form.	
Policy 4.1.2.1 (a)			
	The Co	uncil shall generally not carry out topping of trees.	
	Except	ions:	
		be necessary to remove the top growth of trees in the ng circumstances:	
	(a)	Where trees are near power lines, in preference to removing the trees altogether. However, if identified as	
		low value and high maintenance some consideration may be given to removal (see Policy <u>4.1.2.2(a)</u>).	Deleted: 4.1.4.1
I	(b)	Where trees are considered a safety hazard and removal of the upper crown is deemed acceptable in order to alleviate the hazard and retain the tree(s).	
	(C)	Where trees interfere with shipping navigation, radio or telecommunications facilities.	
	(d)	Where trees are undermining a flood protection or erosion control structure.	
	(e)	Where a group of trees constitutes a shelterbelt or hedge.	
Policy 4.1.2.1 (b)			
	crown in as n	able pruning methods, such as natural target pruning, lifting and crown thinning shall be used to maintain trees vatural a form as possible and to maintain and enhance nenity values e.g., opening up views or providing access ight.	
Policy 4.1.2.1 (c)	contem current Associa (ISA) g	n trees shall be carried out to recognised and accepted porary arboricultural standards and consistent with industry practices, including New Zealand Arboricultural ation (NZAA) and International Society of Arboriculture uidelines, and the Approved Code of Practices for Safety alth in Tree Work (Department of Labour).	

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Policy 4.1.2.1 (d)		
		will develop and maintain an up-to-date list of approved sts who meet council recognised criteria.
	arborio mainte	ouncil approved arborists and contractors, having proven cultural skills, shall be contracted to carry out tree nance work on council trees in order to maintain industry table standards of workmanship.
Policy 4.1.2.1 (e)		
	shall b	arboricultural practices and appropriate care strategies be applied to prevent pest and disease establishment and ntain good tree health.
Policy 4.1.2.1 (f)		
		pest and disease control measures shall focus on known sive decay organisms that have the capacity to debilitate trees.
Policy 4.1.2.1 (g)		
		scheduling will occur based on the following order of / (with #1 being the highest priority):
	1. hea	Ith and structural safety of the tree,
	2. ess	ential service clearance,
		n pruning for desirable clearance and amenity effects e.g., ress to sunlight, views and reduction of leaf litter.
Explanation		
	evolvir numbe	cultural practice is based on a number of well founded and g principles and methods. For example, there are a r of recognised pruning methods, including CODIT and I Target Pruning.
	interna mainte	uncil is committed to maintaining trees in accordance with tionally recognised standards. Appropriate tree care nance programmes and strategies will be applied, /er necessary.
		g is internationally recognised as unsound arboricultural e for the following reasons:
	(a)	Vigorous regrowth from adventitious shoots at the site of each pruning cut results in a denser canopy developing in a short space of time. This causes excessive shading, often greater than that previously experienced.
	(b)	The points of attachment of new sucker growth have an inherent weakness and, therefore, a tendency to "break
New Plymouth District Council Parks and Recreation Assets		¹⁷ District Tree Policy Version 1.1 Adopted February 2006, amended April 2006

DISTRICT TREE POLICY - PART 1

out" as they develop in size. A safety issue is created through this type of pruning.

(c) Topping cuts are more prone to decay forming at the wound site. This significantly reduces the health, stability and longevity of the tree.

The use of council approved arborists with proven skills will help to ensure that all work on trees is carried out to recognised arboricultural standards that promotes the health and natural form of trees.

Objective 4.1.2.2

To ensure that consistent criteria are applied when considering the removal of council trees for the purposes of council initiated works.

Policy 4.1.2.2 (a)

In general, trees shall only be removed if pruning or other remedial work is not practically possible and/or for one of the following reasons:

The tree:

- Is dead, dying, diseased, decayed or disfigured with no realistic chance of recovery.
- Presents an immediate or potential danger to people or property, or is shown to be potentially a severe health or safety risk to neighbouring residents as identified by the ISA Tree Hazard Evaluation Method.
- Is causing uncontrollable structural damage to any street or utility service and remedial work to prevent further damage is impractical or greater than the value of the tree.
- Is encroaching into the carriageway in such a way that visibility is reduced or clearly causing a significant hazard and remedial work cannot mitigate the hazard without severely disfiguring or otherwise compromising the health or aesthetic qualities of the tree.
- Is inhibiting the proper management or maintenance of the reserve or other council land
- Is inhibiting the growth, development or health of other trees of greater value.
- Is deemed to be of low amenity value and is poorly sited or requires unduly high maintenance (such as in a location which conflicts with services).

- Is unsustainable i.e. is unsuitable for the site due to its long term potential to cause problems or the inappropriateness of the species in relation to the site.
- Is recognised as a species with high weed dispersion potential.
- Was planted for revenue producing purposes as identified in the current Production Forest Schedule and is, as a result, being harvested.

Exclusions:

The following are exceptions to Policy 4.1.2.2(a):

- Trees identified in a reserve management plan for retention, as they represent an integral part of the reserve.
- Tree protected by a statutory mechanism e.g. trees are protected as Notable or Amenity Trees in the District Plan.
- Where council can demonstrate, using approved evaluation methods, that the benefit to community well-being of the tree removal outweighs the benefit of retaining the tree on site (see Policy 4.1.2.3(c) and Section 4.7).

Policy 4.1.2.2 (b)

Council will notify affected parties prior to the removal of trees assessed as being 'valuable². The extent of notification and consultation will be proportionate to the level of public use and interest in the tree(s) at issue.

Exceptions to this policy are7 trees that are assessed as being immediately hazardous or unsustainable (see Policy 4.1.3.1(g)). Such trees may be removed without consultation.

Policy 4.1.2.2 (c)

The excluded species of road reserve tree listed in Appendix 3 may be removed without consultation, with the exceptions of specific trees that have been assessed as 'valuable' and noted in the council inventory of sustainable road reserve trees.

A 'valuable' tree is a tree identified, through RNZIH assessment using established criteria, as having:

[•] Long term life expectancy of >30 years; and

[•] A significant role in the locational setting, which includes its contribution to amenity and ecological values. Tree species identified as plant pests (nationally or regionally) will generally not be evaluated as 'valuable'.

Policy 4.1.2.2 (d)

Where capital works involving tree maintenance or removal are proposed that could significantly affect the integrity of the landscape, the council will inform mana whenua and invite them to provide comment within a specified time period. A formal consultation process is not required, however the council will, at a minimum, communicate the proposed works by email or letter with an invitation to respond by a specified date (see Policy 4.7.2.2).

Objective 4.1.2.3

To ensure that consistent criteria are applied when considering the removal of council trees in response to a request for service from a member of the public.

Policy 4.1.2.3 (a)

The initial response by council to a request for service from a property owner concerning tree related problems, such as loss of views, loss of sunlight, or excessive leaf litter, will be to evaluate and attempt to resolve the problem prior to considering tree removal. Examples could include the careful placement of new trees, the ongoing maintenance/pruning of trees and the removal of secondary trees. All works will be according to accepted arboricultural practice.

Policy 4.1.2.3 (b)

Where a tree or treescape that has been specifically planted by council for amenity or other value, exists prior to the transfer of ownership of an adjoining property, there is no requirement on the council to either remove or prune the tree(s) for views or shade on request. The tree(s) is defined as a pre-existing condition before the most recent landowner's purchase of the property. This does not, however, preclude the council from working with applicants to try to seek resolution of their treerelated issues, regardless of when the tree was planted.

Policy 4.1.2.3 (c)

In response to requests for service, the council shall only consider carrying out tree removal (or pruning work that exceeds regular maintenance requirements), where the applicant can clearly demonstrate that the adverse effects of the tree on the applicant's reasonable enjoyment of their land outweighs the benefits of the tree to other residents and to the wider community. Decisions on these matters shall be made by the authorised council officer or, if a decision by the officer is

appealed, by the NPDC Hearings Commission (See section 4.7: Consultation and Dispute Resolution).

The following matters will be considered when assessing a request for tree removal (or pruning work that exceeds regular maintenance requirements):

- the interests of the public in the maintenance of an aesthetically pleasing environment,
- the desirability of conserving public reserves containing trees,
- the value of the tree as a public amenity, including shade contribution.
- the historical, cultural or scientific significance (if any) of the tree³,
- the botanical significance of the tree,
- the contribution of the tree to the ecology of the area, including significance as habitat for native fauna,
- whether the tree or treescape contributes to a landscape of regional or national significance and/or a landscape designed with public consultation,
- the contribution of the tree(s) to the medium to long term vision of a reserve management plan or streetscape, and whether the requested works constitute good arboricultural practice, and
- the impact of the tree (positive or negative), at that location on adjoining properties, including impact on amenity values.

Policy 4.1.2.3 (d)
The process of applying for removal of a healthy and sustainable tree on public land is a user-pays process. The following are criteria for assessing whether an applicant should pay for the removal of a tree. The applicant will be required to pay for tree removal in consideration of the following criteria, the level of contribution to be decided on a case-by-case basis:
The tree is healthy and is not presenting any immediate danger to people, property or services.
The tree does not meet other criteria outlined in Policy 4.1.2.2(a) for tree removal.
The council would not have scheduled the removal of this tree as part of its works without the application.
The council is able to demonstrate that the planting and

maintenance of the tree has been appropriate.

³ Bullets 1 – 4 are considerations with regard to trimming or removal of trees under Section 129C (6) (a) to (d) of the Property Law Act (1952)

- The tree was a pre-existing amenity at the time the property was purchased and/or the building(s) put onto the site.
- The removal of the tree benefits one or a few individuals and not the larger public.

Policy 4.1.2.3 (e)

Requests for trees to be significantly altered or removed to accommodate specialist activities, such as building removal activities, will be assessed against the tree modification/removal criteria outlined in Policy 4.1.2.3(c). In general, a tree modification or removal will not be approved where it will compromise the landscape character of the treescape.

Costs for any work carried out beyond normal maintenance to accommodate such activities shall be recovered from the specialist user. This will include the cost of tree replacement and initial maintenance.

Policy 4.1.2.3 (f)

Requests for tree works will only be considered after consultation, the level of which will be commensurate with the level of significance of the tree and landscape (see Section 4.7: Consultation and Dispute Resolution). Requested tree removals involving previously consulted design tree plantings will require a full public consultation process involving the wider community.

Policy 4.1.2.3 (g)

"Trade offs" that provide for long-term quality replacement trees at the expense of more short term or lower value trees are to be encouraged, where such action will resolve tree related issues. Trade offs may include replacement trees elsewhere on the site or on a different site, at the agreement of the NPDC authorised officer.

Explanation

Council staff regularly receive requests from the public to remove trees due to perceived nuisance created by trees. As far as practicably possible, acceptable arboricultural pruning work may be carried out to mitigate the loss of views, shade and leaf litter experienced by adjoining property owners, provided that the health and value of the tree is not compromised.

In managing its tree assets on public lands, the council takes a "good neighbour" approach. At the same time, council has the additional responsibility of conducting its affairs to promote the well-being of all of the people in the district. To this end, the council seeks a reasonable approach to tree management that effectively balances the interests of individual landowners with those of the wider community. This is not always a straightforward task and the policies in this document aim to

provide a transparent and consistent guide to planning and decision making on tree related issues.

In general, if an individual makes a request to prune or remove a healthy that has been planted with previous consultation, the council will work with the applicant and the community to determine measures, within the provisions of the District Tree Policy, to alleviate the matter. If not satisfied with the council's decision on a tree matter, the applicant has recourse to pursue the matter through the Hearings Commission (see Section 4.7: Consultation and Dispute Resolution).

The council is less inclined to act upon requests for tree removal to provide views where a treescape is already established at the time the property is purchased. That is because the treescape was a 'pre-existing condition' at the time of purchasing the property. In particular, the council will not be required to act upon requests for modification to treescapes that have been developed with public consultation.

Objective 4.1.2.4

To ensure best use of timber and other materials resulting from tree removal.

Policy 4.1.2.4 (a)

Council will consider making timber from fallen trees available to mana whenua⁴ and/or local craftsmen on a case by case basis. Factors for consideration include the type and size of tree, its location and ease of removal, and the ecological benefits of leaving the materials to decompose onsite.

4.1.3 INTERFERENCE OF TREES WITH PROPERTIES AND SERVICES

Objective 4.1.3.1

To maintain council trees so as to avoid potential damage to, or intereference with, property and services⁵.

Policy 4.1.3.1 (a)

Future plantings will be undertaken in consideration of the

Mana whenua are the iwi or hapu having customary authority over the area where the tree is located.

⁵ Note: Depending on available funding, council will also maintain Notable (identified in the District Plan) on private lands so as to avoid potential threat to life, property or services. However, regular maintenance of protected trees is the responsibility of the landowner.

proximity to, and likely effect of, trees on above or belowground infrastructure, consistent with urban design requirements.

Policy 4.1.3.1 (b) When notified of damage caused by a public tree to property or services, practical steps shall be taken to confirm and mitigate those effects. Policy 4.1.3.1 (c) Where council trees are overhanging private property, appropriate pruning shall be carried out by the council to remove the encroachment, as far as practicably possible. Policy 4.1.3.1 (d) Trees on arterial routes shall be pruned or removed to provide adequate visibility where they impede or obstruct access for pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Policy 4.1.3.1 (e) All reasonable effort shall be taken to clear street lights and reserve lights and minimise any reduction in light penetration resulting from obstruction by trees. Where trees are obstructing a street light and accepted arboricultural practices, such as pruning, cannot be used to resolve the problem, the council will investigate options to maintain safety standards, such as relocating the street light or the tree or installing a new light . Policy 4.1.3.1 (f) A programme shall be initiated to ensure that tree growth is maintained away from transmission lines and electrical assets, in accordance with the requirements of the Approved Code Of Practice For Safety And Health In Tree Work, Part 2: Maintenance Of Trees Around Power Lines (Department of Labour) and/or the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.. Policy 4.1.3.1 (g) Any clearance or maintenance around aboveground electrical services, such as transmission lines, will only be conducted by the principle contractor for the power provider, and will be undertaken on a case-by-case cost-negotiated basis. Policy 4.1.3.1 (h) The council will remove or commission the removal of unsustainable trees (i.e. trees having potential for ongoing interference with surrounding activities, services, assets, properties and infrastructure) without the need for consultation.

Trees which compromise and/or conflict with shipping navigation aids or radio and telecommunications operations shall be pruned and/or removed as deemed necessary to maintain safety and essential services.
These policies seek to avoid potential damage to property and services. Particularly within the street environments there will always be ongoing commitments to ensure that trees do not conflict with services such as wiring, drainage systems, footpaths, kerbing, vehicle and pedestrian movement and property security.
Trees planted beside or under power lines will be trimmed in order to comply with the safe clearance requirements of the approved Code of Practice and local power supplier. Wherever possible, directional pruning methods will be used to remove branches growing towards power lines and to promote growth away from the lines.
Trees considered to be a safety hazard, or interfering with shipping navigation, radio and/or telecommunications facilities, or undermining a flood protection or erosion control structure will be pruned or removed as deemed necessary.

4.1.4 WILFUL DAMAGE TO COUNCIL TREES

There have been several instances in recent years of members of the public wilfully damaging council trees, including deliberately killing trees. This type of activity is an offence under a number of New Zealand statutes and is prohibited under Part 9 Clause 4.3 of the NPDC Consolidated Bylaws 2000. It also represents a wasteful squandering of public resources. The council will respond strongly to any incidence of wilful damage to council trees.

Objective 4.1.4.1

To respond in a consistent manner to the wilful damage of council trees, in order to deter future offences of this nature and to take appropriate action according to New Zealand law.

Policy 4.1.4.1 (a)

The council will assess and, where appropriate, replace trees on council lands that have been wilfully killed or damaged.

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Policy 4.1.4.1 (b)	
	The council will refer incidents of wilful tree damage or death to the police, who will investigate with the intention of prosecution where sufficient evidence suggests that a person or persons have committed this offence.
Policy 4.1.4.1 (c)	
	The council will use incentives, such as reward offers, for information leading to the arrest of individuals responsible for damage to council trees.
Policy 4.1.4.1 (d)	
	The council will erect billboards at the site of significant vandalism to bring the issue to the attention of the public and to explain the council response.
Policy 4.1.4.1 (e)	
	Persons found guilty of wilfully damaging council trees will be responsible for the cost of removal of the dead trees as well a tree replacement.
Policy 4.1.4.1 (f)	
	If the tree that is killed has been planted following public consultation, the council will not have to consult again before undertaking replacement planting.
Explanation	
	The council is committed to taking appropriate action, legal or otherwise, in response to wilful damage or destruction of council trees. The following laws pertain to this offence:
	• Under Section 11 of the <i>Summary Offences Act</i> (1981), a person intentionally damaging property is liable to imprisonment or a fine.
	• Section 175 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> (2002) provides local authorities with the power to 'recover for damage by wilful or negligent behaviour.'
	• It is an offence under Section 94(1)(f) of the <i>Reserves Act</i> (1977) to remove or wilfully damage any or any part of any tree, shrub, fern, plant on any reserve.
	 Damage to property belonging to the Council placed or erected on any public place, including trees, is prohibited under Part 9, Clause 4.3 of the NPDC Consolidated Bylaws 2000.

4.2 STREET TREE MANAGEMENT

This section contains policies relating to planting and maintenance of street trees, specifically, the formal planting of streetscapes on road reserves. These plantings are undertaken to enhance the amenity value of residential areas and public consultation is required.

Objective 4.2.1

To enhance the streetscape of streets within the district through the planting of trees.

Policy 4.2.1.1

Tree plantings shall be targeted to streets where:

- there is sufficient support by residents,
- there is sufficient space to accommodate root zone development (the minimum requirement is 1.2m wide),
- street trees are unlikely to cause significant long term management problems (such as potential conflict with overhead wires, underground services, traffic visibility and alternative road plans), and
- trees will enhance the quality of the streetscape.

Policy 4.2.1.2

The actual placement of individual street trees shall be based on the following matters:

- the overall design of the street planting,
- the proximity to and likely effect on overhead transmission lines and street lighting,
- the proximity to and likely effect on underground services,
- the effect on vehicular and pedestrian access and sight visibility,
- the possibility of alternative roading plans, such as road widening and intersection improvements, and
- existing or planned structures or 'street furniture on the site'.

Policy 4.2.1.3

Consultation with affected parties, including local residents and property owners will be undertaken before any formal street tree planting is undertaken. The level of consultation will be commensurate with the size of the works and the level of public interest in the area. Wider public consultation will be undertaken in commercial areas and/or areas of high public use, as necessary.

Consideration will be given to written requests from residents not to have a street tree outside their property, and a decision will be based on how critical the tree is to the overall design for the street.

Policy 4.2.1.3

Where street planting is impractical or inappropriate, the council shall encourage residents to plant appropriate trees on private land adjoining the street frontage by providing suitable plant material and advice. The responsibility for the maintenance of these trees remains with the landowner.

Policy 4.2.1.4

The quality and effectiveness of street trees plantings shall be regularly reviewed, by way of programmed inspections measured against standards in technical guidelines in Part 2 of the District Tree Policy and the Code of Landscape Design and Practice.

Policy 4.2.1.5

The species listed in Part 2, Appendix C of the District Tree Policy: High Profile and Street Tree Selection Criteria will be used as the basis for tree selection for street tree planting.

Policy 4.2.1.6

Unauthorised planting of trees by residents on street berms are not permitted and this activity shall be actively discouraged. The council may remove trees that are planted without council authorisation.⁶

Explanation

While street trees can significantly contribute to the improvement of the urban environment and enhance residential development they are also the cause of regular public opposition and may be expensive to maintain. It is important to ensure that there is sufficient local support prior to undertaking new plantings and then to ensure that trees are chosen and placed where there is a high chance of success with limited long term management problems i.e. that all trees planted on council administered land is sustainable.

⁶ Part 9 Clause 4.1 of the NPDC Consolidated Bylaws (2000) prohibits the disturbance, removal or altering of the surface of any public place, including the planting of any vegetation, plant or shrub, without the prior permission of the Council and in accordance with such conditions as the Council may impose

The current trend of rationalising the removal of low value high maintenance trees and redirecting funding to developing high value low maintenance plantings will be a priority.

The council will also seek to enhance streetscapes through encouraging private landowners to plant trees on their properties and by liaising with developers to create improved planting opportunities through alternative street designs (see Section 4.6: Planning and Management of Trees during Subdivision and Other Development).

4.3 MANAGEMENT OF TREE COLLECTIONS

Taranaki has a strong heritage of horticultural excellence and the region support a number of world class parks and plant collections, including tree collections. As early as the mid 1800s, settlers recognised the excellent growing conditions of the areas temperate climate and fertile soils and began establishing fine gardens. As a result of the skill, foresight and generosity of these early residents, built on by subsequent decades of skilful management by talented individuals, New Plymouth district now boasts a number of gardens of national significance, including Pukekura Park and Brooklands Parks. The district is recognised throughout New Zealand for its skill base in tree production and nursery management. The high level of local expertise and exceptional botanical collections managed by the council merit New Plymouth district being recognised as a centre of arboricultural excellence.

Tree collections are groups of trees formally planted and managed at a site to enhance the diversity and value of the district tree asset. Collections may be single species, such as the kauri plantation in Pukekura Park, or multiple species, such as the botanic gardens at Pukekura Park and Audrey Gale Reserve. They may be composed of indigenous or exotic species or a mixture of species. Tree collections are a dynamic resource. Their management involves ongoing maintenance, replacement, removal and renewal. All decisions related to the management of tree collections are based on sound arboricultural principles and best practices.

Objective 4.3.1

To continue to develop collections of valuable trees and botanical specimens throughout New Plymouth district that builds on a local heritage of horticultural expertise and establishes the district as a centre of arboricultural excellence.

Policy 4.3.1.1

Botanical collections shall be continuously developed through planting to form the basis of a district wide arboretum.

Policy 4.3.1.2

The existing botanical diversity resulting from the mix of native and exotic trees shall be preserved and enhanced for both local and visitor interest.

Policy 4.3.1.3

The council shall develop a range of types of tree collection, including single species and mixed species collections and a variety of themes suited to the district and its ecology and heritage.

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Policy 4.3.1.4	1	
Policy 4.3.1.4] Tree collections shall be de such as:	veloped, with an emphasis on factors
	 Longevity 	
	 Diversity 	
	 Heritage value (natural a 	and built)
	 Local character (natural 	
	Low maintenance	
	• Wildlife habitat	
Policy 4.3.1.5]	
	Tree collections may be estated to manage through grazing of the set of the s	ablished on reserves that are difficult or mowing.
Policy 4.3.1.6	1	
		nd act on opportunities to build on suited to the area, including:
	 undertaking an inv build on district coll 	ventory of potential opportunities to ections,
	 acquiring land with community, and 	botanical values in the interest of the
	 pursuing opportune botanical assets e.g. 	nities for joint management of . with TRC.
Explanation		
	Park, broadening the vegeta use and monitoring of	be seen as an extension to Pukekura ation gene pool and allowing a wider new species. There are already and the opportunity exists to extend
Objective 4.3.2	1	
ODječtive 4.3.2	amenity, aesthetic, enjoyn	existing tree collections for the nent, environmental, educational he people of New Plymouth future.
Policy 4.3.2.1	1	
	Tree collections will be mai well as for their functional a	naged to be aesthetically pleasing as nd botanical values.
Policy 4.3.2.2	1	
•	removal) of those specime	ricultural treatment (e.g. thinning or ns which exhibit obvious structural ling a plantation, in order to promote
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the process of natural regeneration and ensure the remaining vegetation have a long term future.

Policy 4.3.2.3	
	Control adventive weed and tree species, with priority on those that compromise the integrity of the collection or suppress the natural regeneration process.
Policy 4.3.2.4	
	Control animal pests, particularly rats and possums, to maintain pest numbers at low levels and allow natural regeneration of seedlings.
Policy 4.3.2.5	
	Minimise the potential for adverse effects arising from surrounding environmental changes, such as loss of shelter, alterations to drainage systems and the impact of subdivision and development.
Policy 4.3.2.6	
	Increase public awareness about the council tree collections through the use of brochures and posters.
Policy 4.3.2.7	Reduce damage to vegetation by increasing public awareness and encouraging neighbourhood policing and protection of collections through improved interpretation signage and publicity.
Objective 4.3.3	
	To actively manage all district tree collections according to contemporary arboricultural practice and to a standard befitting a centre of arboricultural excellence.
Policy 4.3.3.1	
	Latest technologies shall be used to track and manage district collections. This includes developing and maintaining a database on district tree assets that maps reserves and records associated species lists.
Dellas 4000	
Policy 4.3.3.2	Ensure that skilled people are on staff to manage tree collections
	to a standard appropriate to a centre of arboricultural excellence.
Explanation	to a standard appropriate to a centre of arboricultural excellence.
Explanation	The tree collections in New Plymouth district are world class and make an important contribution to community prestige and

enjoyment. A long term sustainable management approach needs to be applied to ensure that the quality and value of tree collections continues to be maintained and enhanced in the district and to increase in environmental and community value for many generations to come.

Numerous opportunities exist to build on existing collections. Currently the council has numerous reserves that are maintained by grazing or irregular mowing. Many are difficult to manage this way and those suited to planting may be scheduled for conversion to urban tree collections.

A strategy will be developed that identifies priorities and funding for development of collections, with local consultation. Opportunities exist to develop sites by integrating a high value tree framework with open space to create the potential for passive recreational values in the future. Areas identified as primarily treeless landscapes, e.g. through strategic plans, such as coastal or reserve management plans, will not be considered for tree planting.

4.4 MANAGEMENT OF BUSH REMNANTS

Bush remnants are vestiges of the tracts of contiguous indigenous (native) vegetation that once occurred throughout the district. The species composition in these remnants primarily reflects the species typical of the Egmont and Taranaki Ecological Regions. In general, indigenous vegetation can be defined as "flora occurring naturally in New Zealand or belonging naturally to New Zealand". Bush remnants may exist as stand alone entities or co-exist within an area of cultivated landscape, for example Maranui Gully in Pukekura Park.

Bush remnants have a distinct ecology that requires management that is different to cultivated landscapes. The essence of remnants is that they reflect an unmanaged stand, with associated ecosystem structures, functions and interactions. A bush remnant is not only trees, it is the undergrowth, the epiphytes, the ground cover, the water flow through the system and the wildlife that use these areas as habitat. For this reason, the focus of management within bush remnants is to minimise intervention and to let natural processes take their course as long as the structural and functional integrity of the remnant is not at risk due to pest plants or animals or other external threats.

Bush remnants may seem untidy to people accustomed to cultivated landscapes. However, the random growth that typifies remnants is part of the structural diversity that contributes to the overall healthy functioning of the ecosystem.

The District Tree Policy does not apply to Significant Natural Areas listed in the District Plan, since their management is addressed through District Plan rules. Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) are identified based on representativeness, contribution to buffering and connectivity, presence of rare, vulnerable or endangered endemic species, important habitat types, and extent of management input required.

The District Tree Policy does apply to all other patches of indigenous vegetation on public lands, including reserves established under Sections 230 or 236 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Although these ecosystems do not meet the criteria for 'significance' under the RMA 1991, they are still important for their intrinsic value and because they provide wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors, help protect water quality and quantity and contribute to soil conservation, landscape and amenity values.

A large number of bush remnants in urban areas in the district are within or adjacent to riparian areas. Riparian vegetation requires specific management approaches and council staff are in the process of developing a set of policies for the management of riparian ecosystems, which will complement the policy on bush remnants. The Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki sets out standards and conditions regarding the management of wetlands. These will be considered in any council policy on management of riparian ecosystems.

District Plan policies pertaining to management of indigenous vegetation.

The following objectives, policies and methods of implementation in the Operative NPDC District Plan 2005 support the sustainable management of bush remnants.

District Plan Objective 16: To sustainably manage, and enhance were practical, indigenous vegetation and habitats.

District Plan Policy 16.2: Land use, development and subdivision should not result in adverse effects on, and should enhance where practical, the quality and intrinsic values of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats.

Additionally, Policies 14.1 and 14.2 of the District Plan pertain to the preventing adverse effects of subdivision, use and development on the natural character of wetlands, lakes, and rivers and their margins.

Objective 4.4.1

To ensure that the natural landscape character of the district is maintained and enhanced through the appropriate planting and maintenance of bush remnants.

Policy 4.4.1.1

A database shall be developed and maintained of bush remnants on Council lands. This database will track the area, ecological value, condition and management status of each bush remnant. It will also include available information on fauna using the area.

Policy 4.4.1.2

To the extent possible, bush remnants shall be managed to maintain a 'natural state'. Maintenance activities that alter the natural state of the vegetation⁷, such as pruning, will not occur except to address issues of safety and tree health. Modification will be limited to clearing for trails, where appropriate and managing boundary encroachment.

Policy 4.4.1.3

Ensure that bush remnants on lands administered by the council are able to remain ecologically intact and to naturally regenerate, to the extent possible, in order to maintain the natural species diversity of indigenous vegetation typical of the Taranaki area.

⁷ Including trees, undergrowth and ground cover.

Policy 4.4.1.4	
	Where necessary, local pioneer species, appropriately eco- sourced, shall be planted to speed up regeneration and reduce weed control.
Policy 4.4.1.5	Plantings of late successional vegetation within bush remnants will only use plant material that is eco-sourced from the appropriate ecological district.
Policy 4.4.1.6	Native material that does not naturally occur in the district shall only be planted in actively managed landscapes and not in bush remnants.
Policy 4.4.1.7	Management of remnant vegetation within the riparian zone of wetlands and other water bodies will be consistent with the rules in the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki and will contribute to the sustainable management of the regionally significant wetlands listed in the Plan.
Policy 4.4.1.8	Adventive weed and tree species will be controlled, with priority on species that compromise the integrity of the remnant or suppress the natural regeneration process.
Policy 4.4.1.9	Animal pests, particularly possums, will be controlled to maintain pest populations at low levels.
Policy 4.4.1.10	The council will liaise with other government authorities (e.g. Taranaki Regional Council, Department of Conservation) to ensure consistency with their plant and animal pest control programmes.
Explanation	The council recognises the benefits of maintaining native bush remnants as an essential component of the natural landscape. It is important that the ecological value of these areas is not compromised or modified by inappropriate planting and maintenance activities.
	Generally, bush remnants are self-sustaining, providing that they have the ability to regenerate naturally. However, plant and animal pests need to be controlled to ensure that the integrity of indigenous vegetation is not compromised. Taranaki Regional Council and
New Plymouth District Council Parks and Recreation Assets	³⁶ District Tree Policy Version 1. Adopted February 2006, amended April 200

Department of Conservation have well developed plant and animal pest control programmes that can help to guide appropriate strategies and priorities.

Objective 4.4.2	
	To avoid adverse effects on the quality and intrinsic values of indigenous vegetation and habitats during land use, development and subdivision.
Policy 4.4.2.1	
	Physical services, such as stormwater, roading, kerb and channelling, and carriageways, shall be designed to minimise or mitigate potential adverse effects on the quality and intrinsic values of bush remnants.
Policy 4.4.2.2	
	The location and boundaries of bush reserves shall be delineated in consideration of the long term ecological integrity of the reserve. For example, wherever possible boundaries should extend beyond the outer side of the dripline. Also, planting of appropriate species along the outer edge of a remnant can help to maintain the interior microclimate and minimise 'edge effects' (see Glossary).
Policy 4.4.2.3	
	Where feasible, access will be provided to bush remnants for the purposes of ongoing council upkeep.
Policy 4.4.2.4	
	The condition of bush remnants that are established as vested council land as an outcome of subdivision shall not be compromised as a result of development activities. This includes leaving the remnant in a natural state, free of rubbish, at the time of council takeover.
Policy 4.4.2.5	
1 ONUY 4.4.2.0	The potential to develop walkway systems for education and interpretation and outdoor enjoyment of the public will be assessed on a case by case basis, in consideration of long term ecological consequences.
Policy 4.4.2.6	
	Provide barriers and signage, where necessary, to discourage recreational uses that have the potential to damage vulnerable bush remnant ecosystems.

Policy 4.4.2.7	1
	Regularly maintain and upgrade fencing around council owned bush remnants to prevent stock entry, as required.
Policy 4.4.2.8	The dumping of rubbish or refuse in bush remnants is prohibited and shall be treated as an offence. This includes the dumping of green waste such as garden debris. ⁸
	Bush remnants in urban environments are vulnerable to a variety of impacting activities. The ecological integrity of indigenous vegetation may be adversely affected as a result of alteration or modification within or adjacent to the site. Potential impacts include:
	• Inappropriate use by recreationists may compromise the quality of the site, as may grazing of the understorey.
	• Dumping of garden waste can result in the introduction of exotic or non-endemic plant species that compete with indigenous plans for space and nutrients.
	• Developments adjacent to a bush remnant, such as subdivisions, have the potential to alter drainage patterns and disrupt the contiguity of the remnant.
	 Alterations adjacent to the site that result in the removal or disturbance of boundary vegetation may introduce 'edge effects' that increase light levels, increase vulnerability to wind damage, and compromise natural regeneration processes.
	Adverse effects on remnant vegetation can be minimised through appropriate design land use activities and by promoting respect and stewardship of these areas by members of the public (see Policy $4.4.3.1 - 4.4.3.3$ below).

Objective 4.4.3

To foster public interest, awareness and guardianship of bush remnants and their ecological and aesthetic benefits.

⁸ Dumping of refuse and offensive matter in a public place is prohibited under Part 9 Clause 5.2 (a), (c) and (d) of the NPDC Consolidated Bylaws 2000. Dumping on a reserve is also an offence under Section 94(1)(d) of the Reserves Act (1977).

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Reduce damage to vegetation by increasing public awareness and encouraging neighbourhood policing and protection of bush remnants. Examples of possible methods to achieve this include improved signage, interpretive walkways, and public awareness campaigns.
Promote community awareness about the values of, threats to and protection of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats. This includes informing the public about the ecological values of bush remnants and the contribution of all parts of the ecosystem, including trees and undergrowth, to healthy ecosystem function.
Assist community-based groups involved with pest control or restoration of bush remnants and riparian areas, consistent with the council's volunteer policy and relevant health and safety legislation.
Provide information and advice about mechanisms to maintain and enhance areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats.
] Increasing public awareness about the ecological and aesthetic benefits of bush remnants is intended to create a sense of appreciation and stewardship of these areas. The desired outcomes are twofold: (a) to maintain support for retention of bush remnants by the council; and (b) to reduce the incidence of vandalism, rubbish dumping, and other damaging behaviour.
Council staff are able to work with volunteer restoration groups within the context of available funding allocations and the ability to supervise volunteer activities, as outlined in the council's volunteer policy. Any activities also need to comply with the Health and Safety Act.

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4.5 COMMEMORATIVE TREES

Trees have been planted on public lands throughout the district to commemorate specific people and events. Commemorative plantings are often undertaken in the memory of someone that has recently passed away. Visiting dignitaries may plant a tree to provide a lasting memento of their visit. Trees have also been donated by groups and organisations as a contribution to the district. The council regularly receives requests for new plantings. Commemorative trees hold a special significance to people and their management is, therefore, particularly sensitive. In addition to managing the physical needs of the tree, the history of the tree also needs to be recorded and preserved.

Once planted, commemorative trees become a council asset and are maintained to council standards. As with all council managed trees, plantings need to be appropriate to the site and area, maintenance must be according to best arboricultural practice, and tree removals may be necessary on occasion. All of these matters will be dealt with according to the District Tree Policy.

The council policy on Memorial in Public Open Spaces (P04-008) provides general policy direction on managing the placement of infrastructure (benches, playgrounds, fencing, etc), as memorials in public open spaces in the district. This policy on commemorative trees has been written to be consistent with the general intent of policy P04-008.

Objective 4.5.1	
	To identify, map and maintain existing donated and commemorative trees, recognizing their special significance.
Policy 4.5.1.1	
	An up-to-date record of commemorative trees in the District shall be maintained. The purpose of the planting and sponsoring individuals or groups will be included in the record.
Policy 4.5.1.2	
	Commemorative trees shall be maintained to council standards.
Policy 4.5.1.3]
	Relocation or removal of a commemorative tree may be undertaken where necessary, based on an assessment of the value of the tree, the ability to relocate or replace to another site, and the costs and benefits to community well-being of various tree management options.
Policy 4.5.1.4	
	Where practicable, commemorative trees that have died or need to be removed may be replaced, although a more suitable species and/or site may be selected for the replacement tree.

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Policy 4.5.1.5]
	Where appropriate and feasible, the sponsors of a commemorative planting will be informed if a tree(s) needs to be removed or relocated.
Policy 4.5.1.6	Council will not place plaques on commemorative trees.
	To strategically plan and manage the location and species of future commemorative plantings.

Policy 4.5.2.1

It is recommended that the council prepare a strategy for future commemorative plantings, identifying specific locations for the plantings and a set of criteria for site and species choice. Policies will be developed as an outcome of the strategy.

Explanation

Commemorative plantings are a special category of the council tree in that they have a special meaning for some individuals and their history is important. Policies on future plantings cannot be developed until a strategy is completed to address issues such as:

- Location of future plantings (e.g., commemorative tree parks).
- Species that should be planted.
- Criteria for acceptance of donated/commemorative trees.
- Process for seeking permission to plant a commemorative tree.
- Processes relating to tree death, removal or replacement.
- How to cover costs for planting and long-term maintenance.

The council has a policy of not placing plaques on commemorative trees because they are a challenge to manage and they can be unsightly, interrupting the natural line of the tree.

4.6 PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF TREES DURING SUBDIVISION AND OTHER TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT

The District Tree Policy only applies to trees on council (public) administered land. Therefore, the policy addresses issues related to trees on council land within and adjacent to a development. Within a development, this would include land which vests as council land on plan deposit, such as road reserves, footpaths, and contribution land for public use as a reserve. It is important to consider the landscape implications for this land early in the design and planning process i.e. before the survey process is undertaken.

Trees need to be considered early in the development process for the following reasons:

- (a) to ensure that the planning of the development adequately considers the needs of existing and future trees/ treescapes,
- (b) to ensure that existing and future trees/ treescapes will not conflict with the development re above and below ground structures and other infrastructure, and
- (c) to identify and offset potential future conflicts concerning views, shade, leaf litter and other issues related to diminished amenity values.

District Plan provisions related to trees and development:

The Operative District Plan 2005 contains regulatory and non-regulatory provisions for the protection and maintenance of trees on both public and private land. These are summarised in Figure 1 in Section 2.

The subdivision consent process under the Resource Management Act (1991) provides opportunity to assess vegetation on development sites and to attempt to retain or work around trees identified to be of significance. In many cases an assessment will identify vegetation of little significance that may be removed in exchange for retention of any significant trees on the site or mitigation by replacement trees. The intention is not to place unrealistic expectations on the developer to retain vegetation of little value, but to provide assistance on how best to integrate the development and any significant vegetation on the site.

Objective 4.6.1

To ensure appropriate consideration of, and planning for, trees and treescapes during the design and consent process for subdivisions and other developments.

Policy 4.6.1.1

Council officers will work with developers to identify opportunities to plant or retain trees during the design and

DISTRICT TREE POLICY - PART 1 consent process associated with subdivision or other land development⁹ Considerations will include: Centre islands or median strips wide enough for tree planting (minimum 2m and as appropriate to the species planted). Wider grass berms (minimum 1.2m if tree landscaping proposed). Variations in road alignment e.g. localised berm widening to accommodate strategically placed trees of significant size. The use of "set backs", especially in commercial zones to provide space for tree canopies to develop. Maintaining road safety and activity clearance, including: minimum 2 m from vehicle access ways (e.g., driveways), minimum 1.2 m from underground services, and 0 minimum 5m from overhead services and/or compliance 0 with the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003. Policy 4.6.1.2 In general, landscaping will be sought for developments that are large enough for a new road to be created (six sections) or wherever new public land is created as an outcome of the subdivision process. Policy 4.6.1.3 Council arborists will assess development proposals and offer advice on opportunities to plant new trees or to maintain existing trees prior to formalising the development concept. Policy 4.6.1.4 Council teams will work together to promote the long term health of existing and future trees within council lands as an outcome of development design and planning. This includes a recognition of the importance of root zones to tree health and the need to manage for tree health below-ground as well as above-ground. Policy 4.6.1.5 Council teams will work together to ensure that existing and future trees within council lands are included in development

⁹ These specifications are outlined in the NPDC Roading Code of Practice (1997) and Code of Landscape Design and Practice.

designs in consideration of their proximity to, and likely effect on, above or below ground infrastructure as well as ecological implications.

Policy 4.6.1.6	
	Council will provide incentives to encourage developers to adopt the Code of Landscape Design and Practice. These could include:
	 Providing recognition, in the form of awards and other publicity, for developments that meet or exceed the Code.
	 Providing advice on the appropriate species to plant for the location and design.
	 Providing advice on the incremental value to a development as a result of providing an attractive landscape design that includes existing and new trees. This includes providing habitat for easily recognised and popular bird species such as tui and kereru.
Policy 4.6.1.7	
	Council will undertake education and promotion work to increase awareness and understanding of the values and benefits of trees (as outlined in section 3.4.2), the requirements for long-term tree health, ways to incorporate trees into a development plan, plant species for street site character areas (see Appendix 2). Target audiences could include developers, surveyors and realtors.
Policy 4.6.1.8	
	Developers will be encouraged to assess the value of existing mature trees onsite and to design their projects to retain those trees.
Policy 4.6.1.9	
	Developers will be encouraged to design their project to minimise potential future conflicts regarding pre-existing treescapes e.g., where shade or views may become an issue with subsequent landowners.
Explanation	
	The NPDC Code of Landscape Design and Practice (CLDP), once completed, will set the standard for developments in the district. The CLDP will provide technical guidelines on appropriate tree and site selection and preferred infrastructure design to ensure attractive and functional landscapes over the long term.
	One of the most effective methods of ensuring appropriate consideration of trees and treescapes during development is to increase awareness and understanding of the values and
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benefits of trees and the importance of the "right tree in the right place".

The additional benefit of careful proactive planning for treescapes during developments is that future conflicts over adjacent trees, due to shade or interruption of views, can be mitigated.

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4.7 CONSULTATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

This section covers the council's approach to consultation relating to tree management and maintenance, together with the process for handling appeals concerning decisions relating to trees on council administered land. It outlines the mechanisms that the council shall use to address enquiries and the process for resolving appeals.

Objective 4.7.1

To undertake an appropriate and reasonable level of consultation with parties who may be affected by proposed tree related works.

Policy 4.7.1.1

Consultation with local residents and property owners will occur, wherever this is appropriate, before any major street tree or reserve works is undertaken. In commercial areas and areas of high public impact, wider public consultation will be undertaken e.g., with business owners or with the public at large. In general, consultation will focus on gaining input from parties most affected by planned tree works. Accordingly, street tree planting will primarily involve consultation with neighbours while consultations about reserve plantings will involve a wider community. Refer to Policies 4.1.1.6(a) to (c) and 4.2.1.3.

Policy 4.7.1.2

Consultation with local residents and property owners will be undertaken before any removal of trees assessed as 'valuable' by the council. The level of consultation will be commensurate with the breadth of concern about the tree(s) and whether the trees are in a commercial areas and/or area of high public impact. Refer to policies associated with Section 4.1.4: Tree Removal.

Objective 4.7.2

To recognise and appropriately provide for the cultural and spiritual values of tangata whenua when managing the district tree resource.

Policy 4.7.2.1

Consideration will be given to cultural sensitivities associated with the operations of tree planting, tree maintenance and tree removal including any ground works on or adjacent to waahi tapu sites and other culturally sensitive areas identified in the

District Plan or otherwise made known to the council. This may include guidance of how work may be conducted, karakia, dispersement of trimmings and induction and access to the site.

Policy 4.7.2.2	
	Where capital works involving trees plantings or removals are proposed that could significantly affect the integrity of the landscape, the council will inform the appropriate iwi or hapu (mana whenua) and invite them to provide comment within a specified time period. A formal consultation process is not required, however, the council officer will, at a minimum, communicate the proposed works by letter or email with an invitation to comment by a specified date.
Policy 4.7.2.2	
	For each site observance will be given to the protocols of the corresponding mana whenua.
Objective 4.7.3	1
	I To ensure that enquiries, disputes, and appeals concerning trees are resolved through established processes that are consistently applied.
Policy 4.7.3.1	
i	Contractors undertaking works for the council are not authorised to directly represent the council for public enquiries relating to trees, unless specifically delegated to do so by the appropriate asset manager.
Policy 4.7.3.2	
	A property owner can apply for the maintenance or removal of council trees using the following process (see Figure 2):
((a) All external enquiries relating to council trees shall be directed to the council Customer Relations Centre.
((b) If not satisfied with the council response to the initial request, the applicant may make a follow-up request, in writing, to the appropriate council asset manager.
((c) The asset manager will review the written request and decide on an appropriate course of action, in consideration or the District Tree Policy and other available information.
((d) The asset manager will inform the applicant of the council decision in writing, outlining the reasons for accepting or declining their request.
Policy 4.7.3.3 (a)	
l l	f the resident applicant is not satisfied with the outcome of the process outlined in Policy 4.7.3.2, they may request that the issue be elevated to the Hearings Commission. All requests for

appeal to the Hearings Commission must be made in writing. If this request is granted, the Hearings Commission will consider all viewpoints on the issue and will determine a response in line with adopted policy.

Policy 4.7.3.3 (b) Approval to proceed to the Hearings Commission is at the discretion of the Hearings Commissioner, in consideration of: The potential for further resolution of the issue through standard processes. The sensitivity of the issue (e.g., politically, culturally, spiritually, economically). The significance of the tree(s). The level of public interest and concern in the matter. The level of public use of the area. Policy 4.7.3.3 (c) The applicant to the Hearings Commission will be required to prepare a formal submission detailing the works sought, reason for the works, and the desired outcome. The council will inform the applicant in advance of setting a hearing date and any information required. Policy 4.7.3.3 (d) In forming a response to a request for works or in preparing for an appeal to the Hearings Commission, the asset manager will decide whether or not the issue warrants consultation with affected parties. The level of consultation will be commensurate with the size of the requested works, the value of the tree(s), and the potential amount of public impact.

> All landowners immediately adjacent to the land upon which the tree is located are considered to be directly affected parties under this policy. Wider consultation may be considered appropriate where there is a broader level of public interest in or use of the area.

Policy 4.7.3.4

If an application for tree removal is elevated to a hearing and a decision is made in favour of the applicant, the council will pay for the cost of the tree removal, unless the hearings commissioner rules that the applicant must contribute to the costs of tree works.

In determining whether or not the applicant should contribute towards the cost tree works, the commissioner will consider the magnitude of the works and the amount of individual benefit gained relative to the amount of public benefit.

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Policy 4.7.3.5

Where ongoing controversy over tree management arises in an area that is not within a reserve and, therefore, is not addressed through a reserve management plan, and:

- the trees are within areas of high public use, and
- there is likely to be high level of public interest or concern on the issue and/or there are a significant number of affected parties.

The council will prepare a local management plan, with full public consultation, to provide strategic management direction, for the long term. The management plan will address the range of management activities, including trees and vegetation.

Explanation

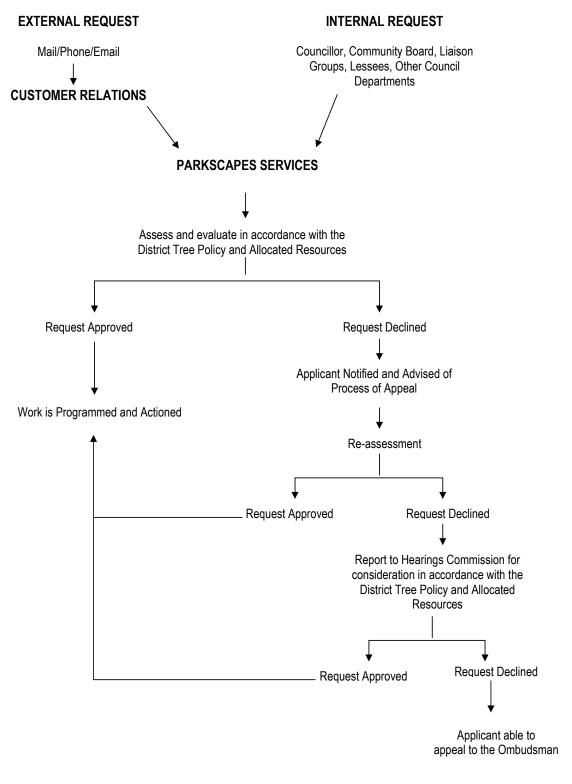
The objective of the council consultation processes is to reach an agreement that is acceptable to all parties and that adequately considers community well-being. The District Tree Policy provides a consistent approach to dealing with such issues and allows for the provision of a high value tree resource. Consultation with individuals and/or groups in the community will be undertaken wherever it is required, in order to provide information, advice and an opportunity to comment or participate. For key areas of conflict, local management plans will be prepared with public consultation to ensure that all viewpoints are considered in deciding on long term management.

In general, the council will consider all submissions on planned works on their merit on a case-by-case basis. Where immediate neighbours are the most affected by a proposed works their opinions will be weighted accordingly.

The observance of cultural protocols relating to trees on waahi tapu sites enable local tangata whenua to determine appropriate actions and responses by council officers.



Figure 2: Process for dealing with a request for service for tree works where the trees are not protected under the District Plan



4.8 EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

One of the most effective methods of ensuring public stewardship of council tree resources, and compliance with the council policies related to trees, is to increase awareness through education and promotion. These education and promotion policies are intended to ensure that members of the public, developers, council staff and elected officials have an understanding of the purpose and rationale behind the District Tree Policy. They are also intended to support and augment the policies and methods of implementation in the District Plan.

Objective 4.8.1	
	To foster public interest, awareness and stewardship of the value of trees and other vegetation on council administered land.
Policy 4.8.1.1	Encourage the community to become involved in tree stewardship, through consultation and participation in council organised programmes and events, such as Arbor Day plantings.
Policy 4.8.1.2	Promote the beauty and diversity of the council's treescapes during regional and national events (such as the Rhododendron Festival).
	Prepare and distribute promotional materials to increase awareness about the District Tree Policy and its purpose and content. This includes publications, posters, displays and presentations.
	 This includes information about: The types of vegetation present at a particular location. The values and benefits of trees and other vegetatiobn, such as habitat values and contribution to biodiversity, shade, framing and softening landscapes, etc. Trees on public lands that can be used for food gathering e.g., fruit and nuts. Tree collections in the district. The importance of "the right tree planted in the right place". 'Street Site Character Areas for the district' (Appendix 2) The concept of 'trees as part of the view'.

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Delieu 4014	
Policy 4.8.1.4	Ensure that the most recent version of the District Tree Policy is available on the NPDC website and hard copies available for interested parties.
Policy 4.8.1.5	
1 0109 4.0.1.0	Council shall work with developers, property agents and surveyors to increase awareness of the values and benefits of trees in developments and what is needed to maintain healthy and productive tree growth.
Policy 4.8.1.6	
F 011Cy 4.0.1.0	Council shall also make information available on the tree policy and its implications for homeowners.
Policy 4.8.1.7	
	Information and activities will be made available to elected officials and council staff to inform them about the District Tree Policy and tree issues in the district.
Dolicy 4919	
Policy 4.8.1.8	Where appropriate to the circumstance, the council will consider partnering with tree advocacy groups such as the Taranaki Tree Trust and Friends of Park as well as other relevant groups such as environmental and wildlife organisations and educational institutions.
Evaluation	
Explanation	The value of the council's tree resource is often taken for granted by those who are routinely amidst it. However, it is a very significant landscape feature which gives an immediate impression to visitors to the district. A healthy and well maintained treescape is a reflection of a caring community. It is also a natural asset which is easily lost through poor management and lack of appropriate policy.
	Many of the issues related to people's dissatisfaction with trees are attributable to a lack of awareness regarding the overall value of trees and their benefits. Policies that educate and inform the public about the positive attributes of trees are an important component of council policies.

4.9 TREE EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

In developing policies on tree evaluation and assessment, the council seeks to ensure that it has a reliable and recognised system in place, based on international standards and methods, that can be used to assess the value of a tree and any risk that it poses to public health and safety.

Objective 4.9.1

Consistent standards will be used to evaluate the health, condition and monetary value of trees, or any potential tree related hazards on council administered land.

Policy 4.9.1.1

The Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) Tree Evaluation System shall be used as the standard for assessing the health, condition and monetary value of trees on council land, unless superseded by a more appropriate method.¹⁰ Where a comparative assessment is necessary, the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) valuation method will also be used and the average considered.

Policy 4.9.1.2

The ISA Tree Hazard Assessment Method or equivalent shall be used as the standard for assessing the health and condition of any tree that has been reported or observed as potentially hazardous or unsafe.

Explanation

There are situations where it is necessary to attribute a monetary value to a tree. These situations usually arise when the removal of a tree is proposed. It is important that in these situations the monetary value of the tree is assessed using a consistent evaluation system. The RNZIH Tree Evaluation System and ISA valuation method are currently the most appropriate nationally recognised assessment system.

Where trees are considered unsafe and represent a hazard to people or property a consistent evaluation system will be used. The ISA Tree Hazard Assessment Method is currently the most appropriate internationally recognised hazard tree assessment system.

¹⁰ Note: Notable Trees, Amenity Trees and Significant Natural Areas are assessed against council specific criteria that are different to the RNZIH Tree Evaluation System.

5.0 GLOSSARY

The following definitions are given for words and terms found within the texts and appendices of the District Tree Policy Part I and Part II.

Adventitious (adventive)	Growth that arises from (normally) suppressed buds, or from those plants which invade or inhabit a site first.
Amenity Tree	Trees located within the New Plymouth Amenity Tree Area that are either: (a) 6 metres or more in height; or (b) replacement trees installed as a requirement of a resource consent. Some tree species, such as willow, brush wattle and some species of cypress, are excluded from District Plan rules regarding amenity trees.
Amenity value	Provides positive features and qualities in the landscape.
Approved arborist	A suitably qualified person who can demonstrate proven experience, competency and ability in the field of arboriculture.
Arboricultural Operations Manual	The operational instruction manual that sets out the standard method for contractors to follow when commissioned to carry out arboricultural work.
Arboriculture	The establishment, management and maintenance or amenity trees.
Arterial routes	Route or road of regional or district strategic importance as identified on the NPDC District Plan Maps.
Branch collar	The raised rim of bark tissue at the connection point between a branch or stem.
Bush remnant	Areas of indigenous (native) vegetation that represent the original habitat type of an area. These remnants contribute to the aesthetic value of the district and to local biodiversity.
Cambium zone	The area of dividing tissue within a tree found between the outer bark and the woody stem.
Canopy	The extent of the foliage cover of any tree or plant.
Carriageway	Area designated for vehicular movement.
Coastal area	For the purposes of this policy: land on the seaward side of Surf Highway 45 and South Road and Devon Road motorway north.
Coastal reserves	Reserves that are owned or administered by the New Plymouth District Council and which extend from the Mean High Water Mark (MHWM) to the back to the landward extent of the reserve.
CODIT	An acronym for the term Compartmentalisation Of Decay In Trees, meaning a two part descriptive model on the process of decay in a tree.
Commemorative trees	Trees planted on public land to commemorate a person or event. Trees are also donated by individuals and organisations.

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Compaction	Ground that has hardened/compressed as a result of constant wear by environmental or mechanical means.
Covenant	Legal mechanism that provides agreement to protect a feature.
Crown	The live branches and foliage of a tree
Crown lifting	Removing the lower branches of a tree to provide clearance for buildings, vehicles, pedestrians, services and vistas. Lifting is carried out to no greater extent than 1/3 the overall height of the tree in proportion to the tree's canopy.
Crown thinning	Removal of dead, declining and secondary growth to increase air movement and light through the crown. Thinning is carried out to no greater extent than 20% of the canopy in proportion to its size.
Cultivar	Variations of plant species specifically selected and produced by people.
Directional pruning	Removal of branches at the stem to encourage overall growth away from a feature or fixture.
Dripline	Generally, the area beneath the canopy of a tree, measured at ground level from any part of the surface of the trunk, with a radius of 5 metres or to the outermost extent of the spread of its branches, whichever is the greater.
Ecological	Modes of life, habits and relationships of living organisms and their environment.
Eco-sourcing	Replanting with only locally occurring natural genetic plants materials.
Edge effects Encroachment	A change in species composition, physical conditions, or other ecological factors at the boundary between two ecosystems. In the case of a bush remnant, an abrupt edge along a remnant can modify the light, temperature, wind exposure within the remnant. A situation where the public recreational use or appreciation of the reserve is
	reduced or obstructed by the private use of the reserve. Alternatively when roots or branches of a tree grow over or into neighbouring property.
Endemic	Refers to a plant found only in a particular area.
Environment	The physical and biological factors within a given site.
Ephemeral	Lasting a short time
Exotic	Plant or animal introduced from another country.
Food web	A complex of interrelated food chains in an ecological community.
Formative pruning	Pruning a tree to enhance the branch structure in relation to a tree's long term shape and structural strength.
Guardianship	Providing for the fostering and care of a feature or entity.
Нари	Subtribe, usually a number of whanau with a common ancestor.
Hazardous tree	A tree which has physical, structural and/or biological defects that has been

District Tree Policy Version 1.1 Adopted February 2006, amended April 2006 identified or evaluated, using a standard evaluation method such as ISA Tree Hazard Evaluation, as representing danger to life or property.

- *Hearings Commission* A standing committee established from time to time by the council, and consisting of elected councillors, to hear and determine matters regarding Acts, regulations and policy, including matters of the District Tree Policy and items of appeal on tree related issues.
- *Indigenous* Plant or animal that occurs naturally to an area.
- *Intrinsic value* Something valued 'just because it exists' i.e., apart from any economic, cultural, social or historic worth.
- ISA International Society of Arboriculture. A world-wide organisation representing professional arborists.
- *ISA Tree Hazard* Standard evaluation method that identifies the hazard rating of trees. *Evaluation Method*
- Iwi Tribe or grouping of people with tribal affiliations
- *Landscape values* Those features of the land that make up the wider visual appreciation of an area when viewed as a whole, such as trees, vegetation, water, landform.
- Land vesting inAn area of land turned vesting in the council as a condition or outcome of sub-
division or other development process.
- *Late successional* Vegetation which will ultimately form the canopy of the forest area or final stage of succession.
- Local native species Local native species are those species of indigenous trees known to naturally occur within the 'ecological districts' within New Plymouth District. Ecological districts are contiguous geographic zones having common ecological characteristics, including plant species composition. Ecological districts have been mapped throughout New Zealand and their species composition described. There are two ecological districts within New Plymouth District: Taranaki and Egmont.
- Local character Those species that define the local character of the district.
- Local pioneer speciesPlants that establish easily and provide the first tree cover, occurring naturally in
the district.Long term valueProviding positive and useful effects over a long period. Usually over 50 years.
- *Mana whenua* Customary authority and title exercised by an iwi or hapu over land and other taonga within the tribal rohe.
- Mitigate Moderate or neutralise the effects of an activity.
- *Non endemic native* Native plants that are not found naturally in the Taranaki Ecological Region. *plants*
- *Notable tree* A tree or group of trees that are considered significant for their historical, botanical, landscape, amenity or cultural values and are identified as such in the

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species

NTP (Natural Target	An abbreviation for the term Natural Target Pruning - a model demonstrating the
Pruning)	proper position and sequence of cuts to be made when pruning.

NZAA New Zealand Arboricultural Association. A national organisation representing professional arborists.

Pioneer species One of the first naturally arising plant species to appear on any landscape.

Pollarding A pruning method of training branches, used on some large-growing trees, where the tree is pruned to the same growth points (annually or regularly), to maintain the crown to a particular size.

Proactive Activity carried out before it becomes a necessity.

Reactive Activity that is carried out in direct response to an enquiry or observation.

Reduction pruning The shortening and/or removal of select branches within a tree to reduce the overall size of the tree canopy.

Regenerative pruning The removal and/or pruning of branches or stems to encourage a plant's recovery from damage or stress.

Remedial pruning Pruning to correct imbalances or deformities in tree shape and form, to reduce duplication in branch formations, to remove damaged tissue (includes deadwood).

Remnant The natural vegetation remaining from an original tree stand or plant colony which has been modified.

Reserve management A management plan provided for in s. 41 of the Reserves Act (1977). Management planning under the Reserves Act is intended to enable the administering body for a reserve to establish the desired mix of uses and values and set in place policy to guide day to day management.

Riparian area A riparian area is a margin of trees and other vegetation adjacent to a watercourse that forms a transition area between the aquatic and terrestrial environment.

RNZIH evaluation A national standard (compiled by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture) used to assess the contribution of a tree(s) within the landscape, using a points system to determine health, condition and monetary value.

Road reserve tree Trees situated on council road reserves that have *not* been formally planted.

Rohe A territory or boundary that defines and area within which a tangata whenua group claims traditional association and mana whenua

Root zone The area covered by the full extent to which roots spread from a tree(s).

Short term value The limited contribution, in terms of lifespan and/or beneficial attributes, of a tree or plant within any landscape. The time scale is usually less than 50 years

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	duration.
Significant Natural Area	An area of indigenous vegetation or a habitat of indigenous fauna that meets the criteria in Schedule 21.1 and is identified in Schedule 21.2 or Table 21.3 of Appendix 21 in the District Plan. An exception is that no vegetation that has regenerated since the District Plan was notified shall be regarded as a Significant Natural Area, as negotiated and approved through consent order from the Environment Court.
Significant tree	A tree identified as having long term life expectancy and/or high amenity value.
Solar access	The availability or penetration of sunlight.
Structural safety	The inherent capacity of a tree or plant, observed by examination of its structure, shape and form, to withstand wind loading and/or other physical force in order to resist failure, breakage or collapse.
Sucker growth	Fleshy shoots and growth arising from below a graft union or from the base of a tree or plant.
Suppressed growth/branches	Branches or stems under severe stress due to competition for light or nutrient. Usually these branches or stems will die in the short term.
Sustainability	The capacity to endure or maintain any given level of activity or appearance.
Sustainable trees	Road reserve and street trees that are considered, through established assessment methods, to be 'manageable' in relation to surrounding activities, services, assets, properties and infrastructure.
Taonga	Treasure or property that are prized and protected as sacred possessions of tangata whenua as determined by tangata whenua.
Topping	A lay person's term meaning the removal of the head or top most section of a tree or plant. Topping is not an accepted professional arboricultural practice for two reasons:
	- It promotes decay which can result in eventual tree decline and death; and
	 For many species, topping leads to over-stimulation of re-growth, resulting in a worse problem than one started with.
	Topping is not to be confused with the practice of pollarding, which, if done correctly poses no adverse effects upon the tree.
Trade-off	A negotiated outcome that provides benefit to all parties and may mean limited compromise.
Tree	Tree means a perennial woody plant at least 6 metres in height at maturity, having an erect stem/s or trunk/s and a well-developed crown or leaf canopy.
Tree isolation systems	Built structures or manufactured products that isolate a tree from potential damage (such as a protective cage or ground-level surround that prevent damage from stock or mechanical damage.
Tree collection	Groups of trees formally planted and managed at a site to enhance the
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diversity and value of the district tr	ee asset. May be single or multi-
species.	

Unsustainable trees	Road	reserve	and	street	trees	that	are	determined,	through	established
	asses	sment me	ethods	s on an	as nee	eds b	asis,	to have an u	nmanage	able level of
	interfe	rence wit	h surr	ounding	g activi	ties, s	servic	es, properties	and infra	structure.

- Urban tree collection A formal planting of specialised botanical or feature interest. Usually designed, recorded and maintained as a long term permanent asset.
- A view from a public place, such as a road or reserve) located within an urban area, that contributes significantly to the visual amenity of that urban area. The location and extent of view shafts are show on in the Planning Maps for the Urban viewshaft District Plan.

Valuable tree	 A tree identified, through RNZIH assessment using established criteria, as having; Long term life expectancy of > 30 years; and A significant role in the locational setting, which includes its contribution to amenity and ecological values. Tree species identified as plant pests (nationally or regionally) will generally not
	be evaluated as 'valuable'.
Vista	A view, view shaft or framed view point.
Waahi tapu	Places or things that are sacred or spiritually endowed and includes, but is not limited to: pa, area (tracks), urupaa, battle sites and tauranga waka (canoe landings)

6.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF CONTENTS for PART 2 OF THE DISTRICT TREE POLICY

Appendix II A – New Plymouth District Council Arboriculture Operations Manual

Appendix II B – Guidelines for Works within the Vicinity of Trees

Appendix II C – High Profile Street Tree Selection Criteria

APPENDIX 2: PLANT SPECIES FOR NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL STREET CHARACTER AREAS AND COLLECTIONS

Within New Plymouth District there are distinct areas of landscape character that can be dramatically enforced by the types of vegetation used in park and roadside plantings. It is the policy of NPDC to recognise these areas and select species accordingly.

Below is a list of species for use within distinct character areas that have been identified. The list is not conclusive; nor does it restrict plantings to these species only or provide guidance for species selection within natural areas. It is a guideline produced from site evaluation, trial and error and takes into account selection criteria such as environmental, establishment, production, impact and manageability.

[*R*] = Species has a restricted use [*K*] = Key species for this area/purpose

All species for **Character Areas** are selected from the Core Plant Species Inventory for New Plymouth District

All species for **Collections** *are additional to the* Core Plant Species Inventory for New Plymouth District.

The following definitions apply to the tables below:

Coastal: Defined as an area of land directly influenced by its immediate proximity to the ocean. Vegetation in this area is tolerant to the extreme conditions of the coast such as exposure to full sun, salt-laden air, strong winds, salt-inundated soil and poor soil conditions. Generally occurs within 2 km of the coastline.

Semi-coastal: An area of transition between the coastal and inland areas – is under some influence from the ocean but to a lesser extent than the coastal zone. Vegetation in this area is moderately resilient to coastal conditions, but, because the conditions are not as extreme, a broader array of species are able to establish and grow. Generally occurs between 2km and 5km of the coastline.

Inland: Area not directly influenced by the ocean. Inland vegetation includes a wide array of native and exotic species, including species not tolerant of coastal conditions. Generally occurs beyond 5km of the coast.

1. Index to Street Character Areas

1.1 NEW PLYMOUTH CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

A. NEW PLYMOUTH CBD NW OF DEVON STREET *TREE SPECIES*

Latin Name	Common Name	Maori Name
Agathis australis	Kauri	Kauri
Araucaria heterophylla [K]	Norfolk Island pine	
Banksia integrifolia [R]	Coastal banksia	
Cordyline australis	Cabbage tree	Ti Kouka
Lagunaria patersonii [R]	Norfolk Island hibiscus	
Meryta sinclairii	Puka	Puka, Pukanui
Metrosideros excelsa [K]	Pohutukawa	Pohutukawa
Olea europaea	Common olive	
Phoenix canariensis [K]	Canary Island palm	
Pittosporum crassifolium	Karo	Karo
Pseudopanax 'Sabre'	Lancewood	Horoeka
Rhopalostylis sapida	Nikau palm	Nikau

B. NEW PLYMOUTH CBD SE OF DEVON STREET

Latin Name	Common Name	Maori Name
Agathis australis	Kauri	Kauri
Agonis flexuosa	Willow myrtle	
Alnus cordata [R] [K]	Italian alder	
Araucaria heterophylla [K]	Norfolk Island pine	
Banksia integrifolia [R]	Coastal banksia	
Cordyline australis	Cabbage tree	Ti Kouka
Cyathea medullaris	Black tree fern	Mamaku
Kentia fosteriana	Kentia palm	
Knightia excelsa [K]	NZ honeysuckle	Rewarewa
Lagunaria patersonii [R]	Norfolk Island hibiscus	
Magnolia grandiflora [K]	Southern magnolia	
Meryta sinclairii	Puka	Puka, Pukanui
Metrosideros excelsa [K]	Pohutukawa	Pohutukawa
Olea europaea	Common olive	
Phoenix canariensis	Canary Island palm	
Pittosporum crassifolium	Karo	Karo
Planchonella costata	Tawapou	Tawapou
Platanus x acerifolia	London plane tree	
Pseudopanax 'Sabre'	Lancewood	Horoeka
Pseudopanax arboreus; lessonii	Coastal five finger	Houpara
Quercus robur	Common oak	
Rhopalostylis sapida	Nikau palm	Nikau
Schefflera actinophylla	Umbrella tree	
Schinus terebinthifolius	Brazillian pepper-tree	
Trachycarpus fortuneii	Windmill palm	
Tristaniopsis nerifolia	Water gum	
Vitex lucens [K]	Puriri	Puriri

C. NEW PLYMOUTH CBD SHRUB SPECIES

SHKUD SPECIES	
Astelia chathamica [K]	Melicope ternata x mantelli
Aristea capitata [K]	Metrosideros 'Springfire', 'Tahiti' [K]
Brachyglottis greyi; compacta; monroi	Moraea bicolour [K]
Cassinia amoena	Muehlenbeckia astonii
Coprosma Middlemore	Pachystegia insignis [K]
Coprosma chathamica	Phormium cookianum [K]
Corokia cotoneaster; x virgata; 'Geenty's Green' [K]	Plumbago capense
Cyathea dealbata	Pseudopanax ferox [K]
Doryanthes palmeri	Pseudopanax lessonii
Griselinia littoralis; lucida [K]	Raphiolepsis umbellta; indica
Hebe elliptica; x franciscana; speciosa [K]	Senecio grandiflora
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis	Sophora prostrata, ; 'Dragons Gold'
Hymenanthera crassifolia	Strelitzia reginae
Leptospermum 'Keatleyi'; 'Marteni'	Xeronema callistemon [K]
Machaerina sinclairii	Yucca sp
Macropiper excelsum var majus	Agave attenuata
Marattia salicina	Aloe arborescens
Hebe elliptica; x franciscana; speciosa [K] Hibiscus rosa-sinensis Hymenanthera crassifolia Leptospermum 'Keatleyi '; 'Marteni' Machaerina sinclairii Macropiper excelsum var majus	Senecio grandiflora Sophora prostrata, ; ' Dragons Gold ' Strelitzia reginae Xeronema callistemon [K] Yucca sp Agave attenuata

D. NEW PLYMOUTH CBD

GROUNDCOVER	SPECIES
UNUUNUUUULN	JILUILJ

Acaena sp	Hemerocallis
Arthropodium cirrhatum [K]	Liriope muscari
Asplenium bulbiferum; oblongifolium	Metrosideros carminea [K]
Bergenia cordifolia	Pachysandra terminalis
Carex flagellifera	Parahebe Iyallii; catarractae
Carex testaceae; commons [K]	Phormium cookianum dwf cvs [K]
Clematis 'Sweet Heart'	Pimelea prostrata
Convolvulus cneorum; sabatus [syn mauritanicus]	Pittosporum pimelioides 'Chantilly'
Coprosma 'Poor Knights' [K]	Rosa 'Flower Carpet White' [K]
Coprosma 'Tuffit"	Rosmarinus lavendulaceus
Coprosma acerosa; brunnea; 'Taiko' ; neglecta, prostrata	Scandia rosaefolia
[K]	
Corokia 'Little Prince'	Scleranthus biflorus
Corokia 'Paratutu' [K]	Tecomanthe speciosa
Fuchsia procumbens	Trachelospermum jasminoides
Hebe obtusata; speciosa; headfordii, 'Hartii'; chathamica	
[K]	

1.2 CHARACTER AREA: COASTAL TOWNSHIPS

A. SURF HIGHWAY, OKATO, OAKURA, BELL BLOCK, ONAERO, URENUI

TREE SPECIES

Latin Name	n Name Common Name	
Agonis flexuosa	Willow myrtle	
Araucaria heterophylla [K]	Norfolk Island pine	
Banksia integrifolia [R]	Coastal banksia	
Cordyline australis	Cabbage tree	Ti Kouka
Corynocarpus laevigatus	Karaka	Karaka
Eucalyptus ficifolia	Red flowering gum	
Knightia excelsa [K]	NZ honeysuckle	Rewarewa
Lagunaria patersonii [R]	Norfolk Island hibiscus	
Magnolia grandiflora [K]	Southern magnolia	
Meryta sinclairii	Puka	Puka, Pukanui
Metrosideros excelsa [K]	Pohutukawa	Pohutukawa
Metrosideros robusta 'Blue Rata' [R]	Northern rata	Rata
Olea europaea	Common olive	
Pittosporum crassifolium	Karo	Karo
Planchonella costata	Tawapou	Tawapou
Pseudopanax 'Sabre'	Lancewood	Horoeka
Quercus ilex	Holm oak	
Rhopalostylis sapida	Nikau palm	Nikau
Tristania nerifolia	Water gum	
Vitex lucens [K]	Puriri	Puriri

B. WAITARA

TREE SPECIES Latin Name	Common Name	Maori Name
Agathis australis [K]	Kauri	Kauri
Agonis flexuosa	Willow myrtle	
Araucaria heterophylla [K]	Norfolk Island pine	
Beilschmiedia tarairi	NZ plum	Taraire
Cordyline australis	Cabbage tree	Ti Kouka
Corynocarpus laevigatus	Karaka	Karaka
Erythrina caffra	Coastal coral tree	
Eucalyptus ficifolia	Red flowering gum	
Knightia excelsa	Rewarewa	Rewarewa
Magnolia grandiflora [K]	Southern magnolia	
Meryta sinclairii	Puka	Puka, Pukanui
Metrosideros excelsa [K]	Pohutukawa	Pohutukawa
Olea europaea	Common olive	
Phoenix canariensis [R]	Canary Island palm	
Pseudopanax 'Sabre'	Lancewood	Horoeka
Quercus ilex	Holm oak	
Rhopalostylis sapida	Nikau	Nikau
Robinia 'Frisia'	Golden robinia	
Sophora microphylla	Kowhai	Kowhai
Strelitzia nicholii	Giant bird of paradise	
Trachycarpus fortuneii	Windmill palm	
Tristaniopsis nerifolia	Water gum	
Vitex lucens [K]	Puriri	Puriri

C. WAITARA CBD, SURF HIGHWAY; OKATO, OAKURA, BELL BLOCK, ONAERO, URENUI SHRUB SPECIES

Melicope ternata x mantelli
Metrosideros 'Springfire', 'Tahiti' [K]
Moraea bicolour [K]
Muehlenbeckia astonii
Pachystegia insignis [K]
Phormium cookianum [K]
Plumbago capense
Pseudopanax ferox [K]
Pseudopanax lessonii
Raphiolepsis umbellta; indica
Senecio grandiflora
Sophora prostrata, ; 'Dragons Gold'
Strelitzia reginae
Xeronema callistemon [K]
Yucca sp
Agave attenuata
Aloe arborescens

D. WAITARA CBD, SURF HIGHWAY; OKATO, OAKURA, BELL BLOCK, ONAERO, URENUI GROUNDCOVER SPECIES

Acaena sp	Gazania single yellow
Arthropodium cirrhatum [K]	Hebe obtusata; speciosa; headfordii, 'Hartii'; chathamica[K]
Asplenium bulbiferum; oblongifolium	Liriope muscari
Bergenia cordifolia	Metrosideros carminea [K]
Carex flagellifera	Pachysandra terminalis
Carex testaceae; commons [K]	Parahebe Iyallii; catarractae
Clematis 'Sweet Heart'	Phormium cookianum dwf cvs [K]
Convolvulus cneorum; sabatus [syn mauritanicus]	Pimelea prostrata
Coprosma 'Poor Knights' [K]	Pittosporum pimelioides 'Chantilly'
Coprosma 'Tuffit"	Rosmarinus lavendulaceus
Coprosma acerosa; brunnea; 'Taiko' ; neglecta, prostrata [K]	Scandia rosaefolia
Corokia 'Little Prince'	Scleranthus biflorus
Corokia 'Paratutu' [K]	Tecomanthe speciosa
Fuchsia procumbens	Trachelospermum jasminoides

1.3 CHARACTER AREA: NORTHGATE AND SOUTHERN MOTORWAY

A. NORTHGATE

Latin Name	Common Name	Maori Name	
Agathis australis [K]	Kauri	Kauri	
Alectryon excelsus	New Zealand oak	Titoki	
Banksia serrata	Old man banksia		
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides	White pine	Kahikatea	
Beilschmiedia tarairi	NZ plum	Taraire	
Cordyline australis	Cabbage tree	Ti Kouka	
Corynocarpus laevigatus	Karaka	Karaka	
Hoheria populnea	Lacebark	Houhere	
Knightia excelsa] [K]	NZ Honeysuckle	Rewarewa	
Magnolia grandiflora [K]	Southern magnolia		
Metrosideros excelsa	Pohutukawa	Pohutukawa	
Pittosporum eugenioides	Lemonwood	Tarata	
Pseudopanax 'Sabre'	Lancewood	Horoeka	
Quercus ilex	Holm oak		
Vitex lucens [K]	Puriri	Puriri	

B. SOUTHERN MOTORWAY

Latin Name	Common Name	Maori Name	
Alectryon excelsum [K]	New Zealand oak	Titoki	
Cordyline australis	Cabbage tree	Ti Kouka	
Corynocarpus laevigatus [K]	Karaka	Karaka	
Cyathea medullaris	Black tree fern	Mamaku	
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides [K]	White pine	Kahikatea	
Griselinia lucida	Broadleaf	Puka, Akepuka	
Hoheria populnea	Lacebark	Houhere	
Knightia excelsa [K]	NZ Honeysuckle	Rewarewa	
Laurelia novae-zelandiae [K]	Pukatea	Pukatea	
Melicope ternata	Wharangi	Wharangi	
Pittosporum eugenioides	Lemonwood	Tarata	
Pseudopanax arboreum	Five-finger	Whauwhaupaku	
Sophora microphylla	Kowhai	Kowhai	
Vitex lucens [K]	Puriri	Puriri	
Weinmannia racemosa	Kamahi	Kamahi	

C. NORTHGATE AND SOUTHERN MOTORWAY SHRUB SPECIES

Hebe ligustrifolia, parviflora [K]	
Olearia paniculata, macrodonta, x haastii,	
arborescens [K]	
Phormium cookianum, tenax [K]	
Pseudopanax arboreum laetum [K]	
Blechnum capense	
Pittosporum ralphii	

1.4 CHARACTER AREA: INLAND TOWNSHIPS

A. INGLEWOOD, LEPPERTON, TIKORANGI

TREE	SPEC	IES

tin Name Common Name		Maori Name
Acer buergerianum	Trident maple	
Alectryon excelsa	Titoki	Titoki
Cedrus deodora	Deodar cedar	
Cordyline australis	Cabbage tree	Ti Kouka
Cryptomeria japonica 'Egmont'	Japanese red cedar	
Cyathea medullaris	Black tree fern	Mamaku
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides [K]	White pine	Kahikatea
Dacrydium cupressinum [K]	Red pine	Rimu
Fagus sylvatica	European beech	
Fraxinus spp	Ash	
Ginkgo biloba [K]	Ginkgo	
Gordonia axillaris	Fried Egg Tree	
Griselinia lucida	Broadleaf	Puka, Akepuka
Hoheria populnea	Lacebark	Houhere
Idesia polycarpa	Wonder tree	
Knightia excelsa] [K]	NZ Honeysuckle	Rewarewa
Laurelia nova- zelandiae	Pukatea	Pukatea
Libocedrus plumosa; bidwillii	Mountain cedar	Kaikawaka,
		Pahautea
Liriodendron tulipifera [K]	Tulip or Yellow Poplar	
Melicope ternata	Wharangi	Wharangi
Metasequoia glyptostroboides	Dawn redwood	
Michelia doltsopa	Sweet Michelia	
Nothofagus fusca	Red beech	Tawhai
Pittosporum eugenioides	Lemonwood	Tarata
Platanus x acerifolia [K]	London plane tree	
Podocarpus totora [K]	Lowland totara	Totara
Populus yunnanensis [K]	Chinese poplar	
Prunus serrulata [K]	Flowering cherry	
Pseudopanax 'Sabre'	Lancewood	Horoeka
Quercus robur [K]	Common oak	
Rhododendron arboreum	Rhododendron	
Sophora microphylla	Kowhai	Kowhai
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese elm	
Weinmannia racemosa	Kamahi	Kamahi

B. INGLEWOOD, LEPPERTON, TIKORANGI

SHRUB SPECIES	
Anemanthele lessoniana	Hydrangea macrophylla
Astelia chathamica, solandri, fragrans [K]	Leptospermum 'Keatleyi', 'Marteni'
Azalea sp	Michelia figo, yunnanensis [K]
Beschorneria yuccoides	Olearia cheesmanii, nummularifolia,
	macrodonta, x haastii [K]
Chionochloa flavicans, rubra [K]	Phormium cookianum, tenax [K]
Daphne odora	Pseudopanax ferox, laetus,] [K]
Clivia miniata, nobilis	Pseudowintera colorata
Coprosma 'Katie Reynolds', virescens, rigida [K]	Rhododendron sp
Griselinia littoralis, lucida [K]	Viburnum japonicum
Hebe parviflora, odora, venustula, ridigula, subalpina,	
evenosa, townsonii, diosmifolia [K]	

C. INGLEWOOD, LEPPERTON, TIKORANGI

GROUNDCOVER SPECIES	
Acaena sp	Libertia ixioides, grandifolia
Aciphylla sp	Liriope muscari [K]
Bergenia cordifolia [K]	Metrosideros carminea [K]
Blechnum discolour [K]	Parahebe Iyallii, catarractae [K]
Carex flagellifera, commons [K]	Phormium cookianum dwf cvs [K]
Coprosma ; 'Tuffit', brunnea, ; 'Taiko', neglecta [K]	Podocarpus nivalis [K]
Fuchsia procumbens	Rosa 'Flower Carpet White' [R]
Hebe odora 'prostrata', chathamica, 'Hartii' [K]	Scandia rosaefolia
Helleborus sp	Scleranthus biflorus
Juniperus conferta	

1.5 CHARACTER AREA: SPECIALISED SITES

A. DISTRICT RESIDENTIAL STREET TREES

Initial selection may be made from the structural and secondary planting lists where scope allows. The table below lists the primary species that may be considered where the opportunities exist.

STREET TREE BOTANICAL	COMMON NAME	COASTAL	SEMI COASTAL	INLAND
Acer buergerianum [K]	Trident maple	No	No	Yes
Agonis flexuosa	Willow myrtle	No	Yes	No
Albizia julibrissin	Mimosa	No	Yes	No
Alectryon excelsus	Titoki	No	Yes	Yes
Camelia sasanqua 'Plantation Pink', 'Plantation White' [K]	Camelia	No	Yes	Yes
Coprosma chathamica	Chatham Island karamu	Yes	Yes	No
Escallonia bifida	White escallonia	Yes	Yes	No
Ginkgo biloba	Ginkgo	No	No	Yes
Gordonia axillaris	Fried Egg Tree	No	No	Yes
Hoheria populnea	Lacebark/ Houhere	No	Yes	Yes
Leptospermum ericioides	White tea tree/ Kanuka	Yes	Yes	No
Leptospermum petersonii	Lemon tea tree	No	Yes	Yes
Magnolia 'Little Gem'	Magnolia	No	Yes	Yes
Metrosideros 'Mistral'		Yes	Yes	No
Metrosideros kermadecensis [R]	Kermadec pohutukawa	Yes	No	No
Michelia doltsopa	Sweet michelia	No	No	Yes
Olea europaea [K]	Olive	Yes	Yes	No
Pittosporum eugenioides	Lemonwood/ tarata	No	Yes	Yes
Planchonella costata	Tawapou	Yes	Yes	No
Prunus serrulata 'Tai Haku', 'Shimidsu Sakura', 'Awanui' [K]	Flowering cherry	No	No	Yes
Pseudopanax 'Sabre'	Lancewood	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robinia 'Frisia'	Golden robinia	No	Yes	Yes
Rhododendron arboreum 'Sir Robert Peel'	Rhododenron	No	No	Yes
Schinus terebinthifolius	Brazillian pepper-tree	No	Yes	No
Sophora microphylla [K]	Kowhai	No	Yes	Yes
Tristaniopsis nerifolia [K]	Water gum	Yes	Yes	No
Ulmus parvifolia [K]	Chinese elm	No	Yes	Yes

B. RIPARIAN MARGINS [ALL AREAS]

Latin Name	Common Name	Maori Name
Alectryon excelsus [R]	Titokoi	Titoki
Cordyline australis [K]	Cabbage tree	Ti Kouka
Corynocarpus laevigatus [R]	Karaka	Karaka
Cyathea medullaris	Black tree fern	Mamaku
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides [R]	White pine	Kahikatea
Hoheria populnea, sextylosa	Long-leaved lacebark	Houhere
Leptospermum scoparium	Red tea tree	Manuka
Melicytis ramiflorus [K]	Whiteywood	Mahoe
Myrsine australis [R]	Red Matipo	Matipo
Pittosporum eugenioides	Lemonwood	Tarata
Sophora microphylla [R]	Kowhai	Kowhai
Carex secta	Sedge grass	Pukio
Coprosma robusta, australis [K]	Karamu	Karamu
Cortaderia fulvida	NZ pampas	Toetoe
Fuchsia excorticata	Tree fuschia	Kotukutuku
Chamaecyparis proliferus [R]	Tree lucerne	
Hebe stricta	Koromiko	Koromiko
Phormium tenax [K]	Flax	Harakeke

C. COASTAL DUNES [ALL AREAS]

BOTANICAL NAME	FOREDUNE TO CREST	CREST TO REAR DUNE	DUNE HOLLOW	SECONDARY REAR DUNE
Austrofestuca littoralis	No	No	Yes	Yes
Carex pumila	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Chamaecytisus proliferus	No	No	No	yes
Coprosma acerosa	No	No	Yes	Yes
Coprosma repens	No	No	No	Yes
Cordyline australis	No	No	No	Yes
Desmoschoenus spiralis	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Euphorbia glauca	No	No	Yes	Yes
Isolepis nodosa	No	No	Yes	Yes
Leptospermum scoparium	No	No	No	Yes
Muehlenbeckia complexa	No	No	Yes	Yes
Myoporum laetum [R]	No	No	No	Yes
Phormium cookianum [R]	No	No	Yes	Yes
Phormium tenax	No	No	Yes	Yes
Pittosporum crassifolium	No	No	No	Yes
Pomaderris apetala	No	No	No	Yes
Pseudopanax lessonii	No	No	No	Yes
Spinifex hirsutus	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

1. Index to Collections

2.1 GENERAL COLLECTION TREES

These species would not usually be in regular use but selected when a higher value tree planting is required, provided that the local site conditions are appropriate.

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	COA STAL	SEMI COASTAL	INLAND
Acer palmatum, japoncium	Full moon maple	No	Yes	Yes
Aesculus hippocastanum, x carnea	Red horse chestnut	No	Yes	Yes
Anagophora costata		Yes	Yes	No
Araucaria araucana, angustifolia, bidwillii	Australian bunya bunya tree	No	Yes	Yes
Azara microphylla	Little leaf azara	No	Yes	No
Cercis siliquastrum	Judas tree	Yes	Yes	No
Cunninghamia lanceolata	China fir	No	Yes	Yes
Dysoxylum spectabile	Kohekohe/ NZ mahogany	No	Yes	Yes
Elaeocarpus dentatus, reticulatus	Japanese blueberry	No	Yes	Yes
Euonymus pendulous	Winterberry	No	Yes	Yes
Ficus macrophylla, benjamina	Weeping fig	No	Yes	No
Fraxinus udeii	Tropical ash	No	Yes	No
Glyptostrobus lineatus	Chinese swamp cypress	No	Yes	Yes
Hymenosporum flavum	Australian frangipani	No	Yes	No
Jacaranda mimosifolia	Blue jacaranda	No	Yes	No
Juglans nigra, regia	Black walnut	No	Yes	Yes
Juniperus recurva var. coxii	Himlayan weeping juniper	No	Yes	Yes
Lithocarpus densiflorus	Chestnut oak	No	Yes	Yes
Litsea calicaris	Mangeao	No	Yes	No
Morus nigra	Black mulberry	No	Yes	Yes
Nestegis cunninghamii, apetela	Black, coastal maire	No	Yes	Yes
Nothofagus cunninghamii	Myrtle beech	No	Yes	No
Nothofagus oblique, alpina	Roble , evergreen beech	No	Yes	Yes
Nothofagus solandri, truncata, menziesii	Black, hard, silver beech	No	Yes	Yes
Nyssa sylvatica	Black gum	No	Yes	Yes
Parrotia persica	Persian parrotia	No	Yes	Yes
Paulownia tomentosa	Empress tree	No	Yes	Yes
Persoonia toru	Toru	No	Yes	No
Picea smithiana	Himalayan spruce	No	Yes	Yes
Pinus ponderosa, torreyana	Ponderosa, Torrey pine	No	Yes	Yes
Podocarpus macrophyllus	Yew pine	No	Yes	No
Prumnopitys ferruginea, taxifolia	Miro, Matai	No	Yes	Yes
Prunus cerotina	American cherry	No	Yes	Yes
Sequoiadendron giganteum	Giant sequoia	No	Yes	Yes
Sophora japonica	Japanese pagoda tree	No	Yes	No
Syncarpia glomifera	Grey gum	Yes	Yes	No
Syzygium maire	Swamp maire/ Maire	No	Yes	Yes
.	tawake		N N	
Tsuga canadensis	Eastern hemlock	No	Yes	Yes
Tsuga heterophylla	Western hemlock	No	Yes	Yes
Zelkovia serrata	Japanese zelkova	No	Yes	Yes

New Plymouth District Council Parks and Recreation Assets District Tree Policy Version 1.1 Adopted February 2006, amended April 2006

2.2 URBAN FOREST TREES

These species would be selected when a higher value, long-trem tree planting of a single or limited mix species is required, provided that the local site conditions is appropriate.

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	COASTAL	SEMI COASTAL	INLAND
Agathis australis	Kauri	Yes	Yes	No
Araucaria sp	Monkey puzzle	Heterophylla only	Yes other species	Yes other species
Castanea sativa	Sweet chestnut	No	Yes	Yes
Cedrus deodora and sp	Deodora cedar	No	Yes	Yes
Cunninghamia lanceolata	China fir	No	Yes	Yes
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides	Kahikatea	No	Yes	Yes
Dacrydium cupressinum	Rimu	No	Yes	Yes
Fagus sylvatica	European beech	No	Yes	Yes
Ginkgo biloba	Ginkgo	No	Yes	Yes
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip poplar	No	Yes	Yes
Metastroboides glyptostroboides	Dawn redwood	No	Yes	Yes
Picea smithiana	Himalayan spruce	No	Yes	Yes
Podocarpus totora	Totara	No	Yes	Yes
Quercus sp	Oak	No	Yes	Yes
Sequoia sempervirens	Coast redwood	No	Yes	Yes
Taxodium distichum	Swamp cypress	No	Yes	Yes
Vitex lucens	Puriri	No	Yes	No

2.3 TARANAKI CULTIVARSSpecies list still under development2.4 MAGNOLIASSpecies list still under development2.5 RHODODENDRONSSpecies list still under development2.6 CAMELIASSpecies list still under development2.7 FRUIT AND NUTSpecies list still under development

APPENDIX 3: ROAD RESERVE EXCLUDED SPECIES LIST

Botanical Name	Common Name
Paraserranthes lophantha	Brush Wattle, Albizza
Casuarina sp	She-Oak
Cupressocyparis leylandii	Leyland Cypress
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Lawsons Cypress
Cupressus macrocarpa	Monterey Cypress
Eucalyptus cinerea	Silver Dollar gum
Ligustrum ovalifolium	Privet
Pinus radiata	Monterey Pine
Populus sp	Poplar
Salix sp	Willow
Berberis sp	Barberry
Solanum mauritianum	Woolly Nightshade
Juglans sp	Walnut
Cotoneaster sp	Cotoneaster
Euonymus japonicus	Japanese Spindle Tree
Cornus capitata	Strawberry Tree
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore
Syzigium smithii	Monkey Apple
Acacia dealbata	Silver wattle
Cyathea medullaris	Black Ponga

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