


#### 4.4.5 Trees

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<b>Policy Objective</b>	To provide policy direction for the management of amenity trees on Council land and protected trees on private property.
<b>Policy 4.4.5.1</b>	<b>TREES ON COUNCIL LAND</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<p><b>MAINTENANCE AND NEW PLANTING</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Council will maintain trees on Council land, including road reserves, to ensure their good health, safety and amenity function.</li> <li>2) Council will undertake planting for continuity where trees are in a state of decline, commencing decay, have suffered damage or have been removed. Replacement trees shall be planted within the same or next available planting season, having regard to Policy 3 below.</li> <li>3) New planting and planting for continuity shall take into consideration ‘the right tree for the right place’, including potential impacts on utility infrastructure, Regional Infrastructure Technical Specification requirements (RITS) and the long-term cost impacts associated with ongoing maintenance.</li> <li>4) Council will avoid the inappropriate siting of buildings and development within the root protection zone of culturally significant, historic, significant native and gifted trees on the Council register.</li> <li>5) A minimum tree grade of PB95 (45L) shall be used for tree planting, unless lesser grades have been approved by the Manager Community Services due to limitations of species availability. Street trees shall have a minimum 30mm diameter trunk at time of planting.</li> <li>6) Unless exceptional circumstances have been approved by the Manager Community Services, street tree planting clearances shall be in accordance with the relevant setbacks specified in the Regional Infrastructure Technical Specification (RITS).</li> <li>7) Council will maintain an approved tree species register which identifies suitable species for specific locations. Tree planting on Council land shall have regard to the species register.</li> </ol>

	<p>8) To compensate for the effect of higher density urban development on limiting tree choice, Council will plant larger trees of long-term value in suitable public spaces.</p> <p>9) Tree pruning shall have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The species, function and form of the tree; and</li> <li>- Aesthetic impacts on the streetscape or reserve.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>TREE REMOVAL</b></p> <p>10) Trees on public reserves, road reserves and Council land, are to be considered for removal only in the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. if it is clearly established that the tree is a potential danger to human life or property by showing signs of structural defects, commencing to decay, or where root systems have obstructed or damaged utility services which cannot be repaired without tree removal; or</li> <li>II. if the tree constitutes a weed species which is self-sown and / or which has high weed dispersal potential; or</li> <li>III. if the tree creates severe hardship for adjoining private property by virtue of extraordinary leaf or debris drop, significant overhang (&gt;25% of canopy) or damage caused by root systems where root pruning cannot be achieved; or</li> <li>IV. where tree removal is necessary to make way for Council-approved capital development or improvements. In these circumstances, the process will involve public consultation if the tree proposed for removal has a STEM score greater than 138.</li> <li>V. If, in addition to (i) to (iv) above, it has been established the tree does not host nationally critical, at risk or threatened animal species (e.g long or short-tailed bats). If the tree is a host for such species, the appropriate Wildlife Act Authority may be required from the Department of Conservation.</li> </ol> <p>Note: Policy 10 is not applicable to Council trees which have been planted for the purpose of timber harvesting.</p>
	<p><b>TREE REGISTER</b></p> <p>11) A Council Tree Register will be maintained for significant exotic and indigenous trees on Council land, as well as culturally significant trees, historic trees and gifted trees. The Council Tree Register will be maintained as a 'live', non-statutory document.</p> <p>12) Threshold criteria will be developed for the inclusion of significant exotic and indigenous trees on the Council tree register.</p>

	<p>13) Nga Iwi Topu O Waipa will be consulted when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is proposed to undertake works to, or in the vicinity of culturally significant trees; and</li> <li>- Culturally significant trees are proposed for inclusion or removal on the Council Tree Register.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>TREE HAZARD AND RISK</b></p> <p>14) Council will develop and maintain a Tree Hazard and Risk Register to evaluate hazard and risk to public from Council trees. The Register will be based upon an appropriate industry risk analysis methodology. As a minimum, hazard rating shall take into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tree characteristics;</li> <li>- Tree health;</li> <li>- Site conditions;</li> <li>- Public exposure / target; and</li> <li>- Tree defects</li> </ul> <p>Staff Authorisation:</p> <p>15) The felling or pruning or trimming of any tree on Council land is to be undertaken by a suitably qualified arborist at the direction of, and to the satisfaction of, the Manager Community Services.</p>
<b>Policy 4.4.5.2</b>	<b>TREES ON PRIVATE LAND</b>
	<p>16) Significant trees on private property shall be protected and managed through the provisions of the Waipa District Plan. The Waipa District Plan shall include a register of protected trees on private property.</p> <p>17) Access permitting, Council will undertake an independent five-yearly review of protected trees identified in the Waipa District Plan to ensure that they are in good health and retain at least 110 points in the Standard Tree Evaluation System (STEM).</p> <p>18) Protected trees on private property which no longer score at least 110 points in the Standard Tree Evaluation System (STEM) will be considered for removal from the Waipa District Plan protected tree register at the next available Plan review / Plan change opportunity</p>
	<p><b>MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE</b></p> <p>19) Council will provide an annual protected tree fund to assist landowners in maintaining trees that are protected under the Waipa District Plan.</p>
	<b>ADVISORY SERVICE</b>

	<p>20) On a requested basis, and at its expense, Council will provide an advisory service to owners of trees that are potentially worthy of protection within the Waipa District Plan. In order to be worthy of protection, a tree must accumulate at least 110 points in the Standard Tree Evaluation System (STEM).</p> <p>21) Trees which meet STEM qualification criteria will be considered for inclusion within the Waipa District Plan's protected tree register as part of the next available Plan review / Plan change opportunity.</p>
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<b>Definitions</b>	<p>'<u>Protected Tree</u>' means any tree listed in Appendix N4 of the Waipa District Plan.</p> <p>'<u>Qualified arborist</u>' means an arborist qualified at least to level four in Arboriculture on the NZQA National Framework or equivalent Arboricultural qualification.</p> <p>'<u>Root protection zone</u>' means for a tree with a spreading canopy, the area beneath the canopy spread of a tree, measured at GROUND LEVEL from the surface of the trunk, with a radius to the outer most extent of the spread of the tree's branches, and for a columnar tree, means the area beneath the canopy extending to a radius half the height of the tree. The definition is explained in the diagram below, which is aligned with the definition in the Operative District Plan).</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>The diagram consists of two parts. On the left, labeled 'SPREADING CANOPY', is a tree with a wide, flat canopy. A horizontal line is drawn from the trunk to the outer edge of the canopy, with a double-headed arrow below it indicating the radius. On the right, labeled 'COLUMNAR CANOPY', is a tree with a tall, narrow canopy. A curved line is drawn from the trunk to the top of the canopy, with a double-headed arrow below it indicating the radius, which is half the height of the tree.</p> </div> <p>'<u>STEM Score</u>' means the score attributed under the Standard Tree Evaluation Method</p>
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<b>Linkages/References</b>	District Plan – Part F – District Wide Natural and Cultural Heritage – Section 23 – Protected Trees and Appendix N4 Protected Trees
<b>Department</b>	Strategy & Community Services – Community Services (Community Facilities)
<b>Last Reviewed/Resolution</b>	4 August 2020
<b>Container</b>	Trees - General ECM #10448066
<b>Notes</b>	Trees are an integral and valued part of our environment. Council acknowledges this and the benefits of maintaining and developing significant trees on public land. From time to time trees on Council-administered land adversely affect neighbouring properties or present a

	<p>risk to people or property. The development of a policy provides clear guidance for assessing and managing such situations. The District, and particularly Cambridge, contains a number of significant specimen trees, many of which date from early European settlement.</p> <p>These trees have high intrinsic value and the importance of their ongoing protection has been recognised by the community.</p>
<p><b>Public consultation process for the removal of Council trees in accordance with Policy 10(iv)</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notice to be placed in the local newspaper that a tree with a STEM score of &gt;138 is proposed for removal, to make way for a Council capital development project.</li> <li>2. Members of the public will be invited to make written submission within 20 working days from the date of notification. In order to assist the public in making an informed submission, a STEM evaluation of the affected tree and a project summary will be made available for public inspection at Council offices.</li> <li>3. Council's project manager will prepare a submission report with recommendations for Council's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee.</li> <li>4. Submissions will be heard by Council's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee (no time limit proposed for the hearing date).</li> <li>5. Submitters will be advised in writing of the process outcome (no time limit proposed).</li> <li>6. there are no third-party rights of appeal against the decision of the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee.</li> </ol>

