

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Motueka Community Board  
**FROM:** Reserves Manager  
**REFERENCE:** 41709PR  
**DATE:** 1 May 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Decks Reserve - Development

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## PURPOSE

To respond to the Boards request for a report on the concept development and planting plan for Decks Reserve in regards to the request the Board has received for fruit tree planting in the reserve.

## BACKGROUND

When the Management Plan for Decks Reserve was prepared in 1994 a concept development and planting plan was also prepared, the plan was updated in 2001 when the Management Plan for the Motueka Ward Reserves was prepared.

This plan has formed the working plan for the development of Decks Reserve from sports fields into a passive reserve with formal garden areas and playground.

## COMMENT/DISCUSSION

The request is for the planting of Almond and Chestnut trees around the reserve along with the development of a berry garden area (Labyrinth) in the vicinity of the playground.

Chestnut trees get very big and would be outside the tree size agreements that staff have in place with neighbours. These informal agreements are to protect current views and prevent excessive shading and loss of light. However it would be possible to incorporate the Almond and possibly some plum trees into the tree planting programme as part of the ongoing development of the reserve.

The request for the berry garden is in the vicinity of the playground at the junction of the pathways. This is a run/walk through area where children move from the playground across to the swings and over to the middle grass area and possibly not the safest (for the plants) location for a garden.

In the future it is proposed to establish a garden on the reserve at the base of the carpark. It is thought that this area would be suitable for a variety of berry plantings that could be incorporated into an amenity planting.

If the tree and berry plantings were incorporated into the existing plans for the reserve, they could be done as part of the ongoing development which should not require further consultation and funding could be incorporated into existing budgets.

The document also discusses issues of funding and the allocations of funds to projects which may be for the Committee to discuss further.

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

This is not significant under Council's significance policy.

## **AFFECTED PARTIES**

Users of Decks Reserve, Tasman District Council residents and visitors to the region.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the development of Decks Reserve continues as per the concept plan with the incorporation of food trees and berries where appropriate as requested by Adrienne Henry.