

# Christchurch City Council **Tree Policy**

Our policy for managing and maintaining trees in public open spaces.





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# Introduction

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Trees play an integral part in reinforcing our identity as the Garden City, a reputation which many Christchurch residents pride themselves on. As well as their aesthetic values, trees also provide a range of other essential environmental, economic, cultural and social community benefits. With the current challenges being faced through climate change, the vital role which trees play in sequestering carbon, cooling through shade and managing storm water has never been more important. We understand the need to take a leadership role in the management of trees to ensure that the many benefits provided by such a vital resource are maintained for future generations. Through proactive management of trees on public land these benefits can be maximised and retained for the future.

We are currently developing an Urban Forest Plan which will address the strategic planning of our urban forest. Our Tree Policy will align with the Urban Forest Plan and should be read in conjunction with it once this is in place.

## Purpose

This policy provides guidance for the planting, protection, maintenance and removal of trees on land we own and look after. It aims to help manage trees to meet community aspirations, service requests and provide clarity for decision making while maintaining consistency in the approaches taken by us and our contractors.

## Policy scope

This policy includes all trees on land we own and look after, including parks, reserves, roads and other public spaces.

### The following activities are included in this policy:

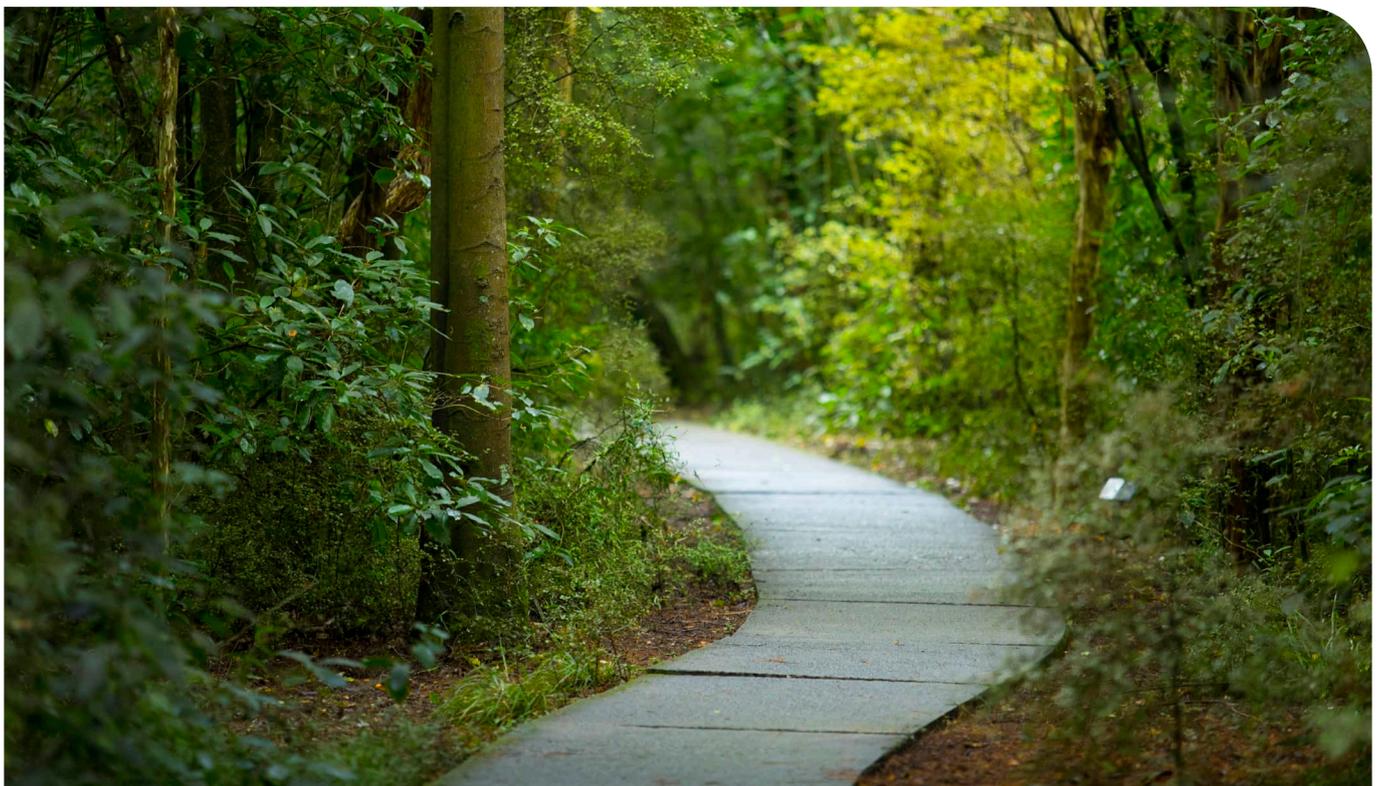
- Planting
- Maintenance
- Protection during construction or earthworks
- Removal

### This policy does *not* include trees located in the following areas:

- On private land
- On state highway land
- Public land not owned or looked after by us

### Other areas which are *not* included in this policy:

- Native revegetation or regeneration
- Plantation forestry
- Riccarton Bush



# Policy statement

The principal objective of this policy is to provide consistency and clarity in decision making when maintaining, planting, removing and working around trees.

## 1.0 Tree planting

Tree planting is an integral part of managing and developing trees on public land to achieve a long term sustainable canopy over the city. Trees play an important role in meeting local challenges being faced by climate change such as providing shelter, providing shade to reduce the heat island effect and aiding in the management of storm water. Trees also play a critical role in improving mental health, removing harmful particles from the air and improving the local amenity. However, trees can also damage local infrastructure, increase shade to other properties and block drains through debris. Through actively providing for suitable spaces for trees to be planted we will increase canopy cover across the city along with the many benefits trees provide. Improving the quality of the tree canopy and reducing the issues caused by trees will be achieved through planting “the right tree in the right place”.

### Policy:

- 1.1 We will actively seek and create new tree planting opportunities in suitable locations to maximise canopy cover and deliver ongoing environmental, economic and social benefits.
- 1.2 All projects on Council land will actively incorporate new planting locations and prioritise the retention of existing suitable planting locations. This may include but is not limited to installing new underground services outside of grass berms to allow sufficient rooting environment for new trees.
- 1.3 We will endeavour to plant the most appropriate tree species based on site suitability, rooting habits, functional and biological attributes, performance, longevity and the potential to contribute to landscape character and the Council’s other plans and strategic objectives.
- 1.4 Within sites and/or adjacent to sites of ecological significance (SES) listed in the Christchurch District Plan, and other sites that meet the significance criteria for listing as SES such as areas of Banks Peninsula, and the Port Hills, we will strengthen and enhance existing indigenous biodiversity and ecological resilience by planting only eco-sourced native species except where other species are necessary for specified reasons. An ecologist should be consulted prior to any planting and maintenance being undertaken.

- 1.5 For trees planted in the road reserve, the species selected must have sufficient space to grow into mature and healthy specimens without causing significant damage to existing infrastructure (provided no reasonably practical engineering solutions are available). Trees will be planted under power lines only where the species selected is able to grow to maturity without requiring line clearance pruning that results in poor tree form or structure.
- 1.6 The owners of property located directly next to new or replacement tree planting and immediate adjacent neighbours may have input into the final positioning of the tree, but not as to whether a tree is to be planted outside their property.
- 1.7 All trees will have a minimum establishment maintenance period of 24 months.
- 1.8 The cost of planting and establishing street and park trees within new subdivisions will be covered by the developer for at least 24 months.

## Tree replacement

We acknowledge that trees have a finite lifespan and may require removal for a number of different reasons. We are committed to ensuring that a tree renewal programme is maintained to ensure the canopy cover is not only replaced but is also increased for future generations.

### Policy:

- 1.9 For every tree removed a minimum of two new trees will be planted with the projected canopy cover replacing that which is lost within 20 years (additional planting may be required).
- 1.10 For removals within the road corridor, the location of any replacement trees will be based on the following:
  - (1) in the same road corridor in as close proximity to the tree removed; or
  - (2) If no further planting in the road corridor is required or possible then in the closest road corridor that requires either new or additional planting; or
  - (3) Within the Urban Forest.
- 1.11 For removals outside of the road corridor, the location of any replacement trees will be based on the following:
  - (1) In the same reserve where the tree was removed; or
  - (2) If no further planting in reserve is required, then in the closest road corridor or reserve that requires either new or additional planting; or
  - (3) Within the Urban Forest.

## Community planting

We support the community care and ongoing stewardship of public open spaces. Community planting is one way residents can become directly involved with the care of their local reserve. Community-initiated tree planting requires prior approval from the asset owner of the land (i.e. the specific Council unit) and the local community board. Information to be provided for approval should include the proposed site, planting locations, species, the perspective of surrounding neighbours and ongoing maintenance arrangements will be needed prior to approval being given.

### Policy:

- 1.12** We encourage community involvement and will endeavour to support and enhance community planting and engagement opportunities.

*Note: This policy should be read in association with the Community Garden and Edible Tree Policies.*

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## Commemorative trees

Commemorative tree planting is generally done to honour a particular person or for remembering an event. The type of tree and chosen location need to be appropriate for the person or event that it is commemorating. Commemorative planting should also contribute to the amenity of the location by ensuring the tree is healthy and complements the surrounding environment and should be approved by the relevant community board.

### Policy:

- 1.13** We will consider requests for commemorative tree planting in public open space.
- 1.14** The species of trees used for commemorative tree planting may vary depending on the suitability of the site and any planting designs, plans, strategies and policies.
- 1.15** A minimum replacement period will be determined with the applicant prior to the tree planting. The tree will be replaced if it dies within this time period. Once the minimum replacement period has expired we will no longer be obligated to replace the tree.
- 1.16** While we will make every effort to retain a commemorative tree, we reserve the right to remove the tree for development purposes, or any other Council project. If this is done prior to the minimum replacement period we will plant a new commemorative tree in the closest available position and where possible with input from the applicant.

## 2.0

# Maintenance of trees in public spaces

## Tree maintenance

Trees provide a large range of benefits to both the city and their immediate surroundings such as cooling and filtering the air.

We will maintain our tree assets to maximise their benefits while minimising conflicts and disruptions.

### Policy:

- 2.1** We will maintain tree canopy clearances of our trees over footpaths, cycle ways, carriageways, vehicle crossings and onstreet car parks where it is practical to do so. Where this is likely to cause long or short term detriment to the tree we will prune the tree only to the extent required for the interest of public safety.
- 2.2** We will prune trees to provide necessary clearances to infrastructure such as power lines and other overhead services. Where the tree is considered significant or of high value and pruning is likely to cause long or short term detriment to the tree's health and structure, we will engage with the network owner to explore alternative options to pruning such as the bundling of wires.
- 2.3** Where appropriate we will prune trees to improve public safety. This may include but is not limited to pruning to improve sightlines, or pruning for crime prevention purposes.
- 2.4** All pruning shall be undertaken by, or under the supervision of, a works arborist employed or contracted by us or a network utility operator and in accordance to minimum industry standards.
- 2.5** We will not undertake full height reduction pruning to alleviate tree issues such as shading or debris, or the establishment, retention or enhancement of views.
- 2.6** We may consider other forms of pruning, branch removal or targeted canopy reductions, to alleviate boundary encroachment, for views, reduce shading or debris at the request of a resident, provided, in the opinion of a Council arborist, it does not negatively affect the health or structural integrity of the tree or the ecological, aesthetic, landscape or amenity benefits provided by the tree.
- 2.7** Where tree pruning has been approved by a Council arborist and the benefits of the pruning are considered to be solely beneficial to the property owner(s), we may request the resident(s) meet(s) the financial costs of pruning. We will provide the expected costs for the works for approval prior to any works being undertaken.

## Tree risk

We acknowledge the risk posed to people and property through failure of the whole tree or individual branches. While the risk posed by trees is inherently low, we will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that tree risk is managed in a proportionate and practical way.

### Policy:

- 2.8** We will maintain our trees to promote structurally sound growth and reduce branch and whole tree failure where it is likely to increase the risk to people, property and infrastructure to an unacceptable risk.
- 2.9** We will develop and adhere to a tree risk management procedure to manage the risk posed by trees in a proportionate and practical way. This will include the following:
- How to identify high risk trees
  - Details of different types of assessments
  - Frequency of assessments
  - How these trees will be managed
  - Process for escalating tree risk once identified
- 2.10** We will develop and maintain a publicly available database on our tree assets.
- 2.11** The management of the risk posed by trees shall be prioritised over the amenity or historical value provided by the tree. The management of risk should include tree pruning and/or adapting the area surrounding the tree. Removal should only be considered as a last resort.

## Ecological improvements

Trees provide a significant contribution to the ecological environment within the city by providing a habitat to a large number of living organisms. Without the services trees provide whether it be habitat or a food source many of these organisms would not be able to survive. We acknowledge the important role trees play in the natural environment and will strive to manage the trees in a way that will foster and enhance the environment for indigenous flora and fauna.

### Policy:

- 2.12** We will actively encourage opportunities to provide habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.
- 2.13** We will promote the ecological benefits provided by trees through our tree maintenance programme.
- 2.14** We will protect and restore the ecological integrity and biodiversity value of the district by ensuring native tree species that naturally occur locally are eco-sourced from the relevant ecological district and/or region.
- 2.15** In sites which are identified as likely containing indigenous fauna an ecological assessment will precede any tree maintenance, earthworks and construction or tree removal being undertaken.



## 3.0 Working around trees

Trees within the urban environment are often subjected to adverse conditions particularly during construction activity. Many works around trees can be seen as essential works and therefore it is important to ensure that these works can proceed. However, the Council will aim to carry out these works without causing unnecessary harm to the health or structural integrity of the trees (or potential planting spaces). We require a Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) to be developed by the person(s) undertaking/managing the works. This must be approved by us prior to work commencing.

### Policy:

- 3.1 A Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) is to be submitted to us for any activity or work proposed near one of our trees where the works are likely to impact on the tree or its root zone.
- 3.2 TPMPs are to be developed by the person(s) undertaking/managing the works and be in accordance with the Christchurch City Council Construction Standard Specifications (CSS). We must approve a TPMP prior to work commencing.
- 3.3 Development projects on land we own and/or look after will prioritise the retention of mature trees through all aspects of the project.
- 3.4 Where appropriate pruning of tree roots will be approved to facilitate the installation, repair, renewal or maintenance of assets adjacent to the tree.

*Note: Root pruning that is likely to cause long or short term detriment to the tree will only be undertaken in the interest of public safety (including addressing accessibility issues) and when there is no suitable engineering alternatives.*

- 3.5 We reserve the right to seek compensation and/or remediation for loss or damage to our trees and their immediate environment as a result of the works being carried out. Damage or loss will include but is not limited to:
  - Death or decline of tree(s) health
  - Physical damage to the tree(s)
  - Damage to the tree(s) roots and/or rooting environment including compaction or contamination of the soil
  - Loss of environmental and ecological benefits provided by the tree

We will determine the value through either the cost of replacement/repair of loss/damage or through an approved tree valuation method, whichever we deem to be most appropriate.

*Note: Compliance with the Christchurch District Plan and any other relevant regulations (e.g. National Code of Practice for Utility Operators 'Access to Transport Corridors') for works within the vicinity of trees will also be required. This may mean in some instances a resource consent will be required, for example works within 5m of the base of trees on our land.*

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## Tree value

In order for trees to be acknowledged for the value which they provide to the city we need to have a valuation system in place.

### Policy:

- 3.6 We will implement and adapt (if required) a recognised system for valuing our trees.

## 4.0 Removal of trees

Like all living things, trees grow, age and eventually die. Tree removal is a last resort option. However, where a tree is in a state of irreversible decline or is a public health and safety risk, sometimes tree removal is the only option. Selective tree removal and replacement programmes are vital in managing our trees to ensure that the numerous benefits trees provide are sustained for future generations.

*Note: Any removal of a tree on Council land must be authorised by the correct authority in accordance with the Council's Delegations Register.*

### Policy:

- 4.1** Trees in a state of irreversible decline, dead and/or structurally unsound may be removed as part of routine maintenance and renewal programmes or sooner if urgent action is required for public safety or to avoid damage to property.
- 4.2** Trees that are unhealthy, dead and/or structurally unsound may be retained if they do not pose an unacceptable risk to the public or property. This must be established through a Council-approved risk assessment methodology.
- 4.3** Tree removal will be considered where the tree is causing, or likely to cause, significant damage to buildings, services or property (both public or privately owned) and the damage cannot be reasonably rectified or mitigated except by removing the tree.
- 4.4** Trees that are posing an unacceptable safety risk to the public and cannot be mitigated through pruning or other engineering solutions will be removed.
- 4.5** Trees that are impeding consented legal access will be removed only when all other alternatives have been explored and are not viable.
- 4.6** Approval by Council will consider tree removal in order to carry out repairs or replace underground infrastructure only when available alternatives have been explored and are considered not viable. When determining what is viable the cost of the alternatives will be taken into account along with the significance of the tree and the necessity of the works.
- 4.7** Approval by Council for the removal of trees to facilitate projects on council land will take into account the value of the project to the community, including public health and/or the local environment and considerations taken for retaining existing trees compared with the loss of the benefits provided by the trees.
- 4.8** Council may consider tree removal where the necessary pruning clearances for overhead electric lines (as required by the relevant 'hazards from trees' regulations) are not able to be achieved without causing long term detriment to the tree and no alternative to removal can be reached with the network utility operator.
- 4.9** Council will only accept tree removal in emergency situations where the removal is considered absolutely necessary for immediate access to critical infrastructure. This will only be undertaken where no alternative options are available and where failure to access the critical infrastructure will lead to an unacceptable risk to public health, or significant property damage or harm to personnel.
- 4.10** Healthy and structurally sound trees may be removed to manage or prevent the spread of pests and diseases, this includes the removal of pest trees where they are deemed a threat to indigenous flora and fauna.
- 4.11** Wilding trees will be removed where they are considered to be a potential threat as a pest species or cause a nuisance in a particular location.
- 4.12** A tree may be removed if the tree is located in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and felling is required in order to protect or enhance botanical collections or reduce species duplication in accordance with the provisions of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plan.
- 4.13** A tree may be removed if the removal is in accordance with the provisions of a reserve management plan for the reserve where the tree is situated or the provisions of a management plan for the open space where the tree is situated (such as a park).
- 4.14** A tree may be removed where felling of the tree is required to comply with rules within the district plan for Christchurch International Airport's protection surfaces or the Defence Wigram protection surfaces.
- 4.15** Tree removals must be undertaken by, or under the supervision of, a works arborist employed or contracted by us or a network utility operator.

<sup>2</sup>The removal of a tree under policy statement 4.5 (tree's impeding legal access to road) will be undertaken as required to allow access to the road to be established. This is likely to be sooner than the routine maintenance cycle.

**4.16** We will not remove trees for the following reasons unless approved under sections 4.20-4.22 of this policy:

- There is a safe and practical means for tree retention.
- To minimise obstruction of views or commercial signage.
- To reduce leaf or fruit litter and other debris.
- To reduce shading.
- For contributing to allergenic or irritant responses unless approved under section 4.16.

**Note:** This policy should be read in conjunction with the Christchurch District Plan, as resource consents may need to be obtained prior to any removal being undertaken e.g. for removal of trees of particular species or in certain areas.

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## Public requests for tree removal

We often receive requests for trees to be removed from public spaces. Tree removal requests will be processed under the following criteria:

Policy:

**4.17** We will assess the request against the criteria listed above (4.1 to 4.5). Should the request meet any of the criteria the tree may be removed as part of routine maintenance or sooner.

**4.18** If the tree does not meet the criteria of 4.17 above, we will work with the applicant to seek alternative resolutions to removal for example targeted pruning.

**4.19** If no alternative resolution is acceptable then the person requesting the removal of the tree will need to submit an application to us for the relevant community board or reserve management committee to consider. This must be accompanied by a tree report prepared by a technician arborist and include any other relevant information pertaining to the application. If a resource consent is required, this must also be obtained prior to any application being submitted to the community board.

All reporting and consents must be provided by the applicant at the applicant's cost.

**4.20** Requests for removal of tree(s) will be considered for health reasons where there is confirmation from either the applicant's medical practitioner, a clinical immunologist or the medical officer of health confirming that the tree(s) is/are the sole cause of the applicant's condition and that removal of the tree(s) is the sole most practicable solution to significantly improving the applicant(s) condition.

**4.21** Requests for removal of tree(s) that are causing property damage will be considered where the damage is confirmed to be a direct result of the tree and where no alternative measures (including engineering solutions) can be used to mitigate the problem.

**4.22** Requests for removal of tree(s) due to other issues will only be approved under exceptional circumstances and will be required to meet all of the criteria below:

- The issue caused by the tree has a significant effect on the applicants day to day living; and
- The tree is the sole cause of the issue; and
- The issue is not able to be mitigated through general maintenance by the property owner e.g. clearing gutters of leaves; and
- No pruning intervention can be undertaken which will mitigate the issue caused by the tree; and
- No reasonable engineering solution can mitigate the issue caused by the tree

**Note:** When deciding whether to accept an application for tree removal under 4.20-4.22 the relevant board may take into consideration the following:

- Any significant attributes of the tree such as cultural, ecological, historical, social or contributing to the landscape amenity
- Age and size of the tree
- Length of time the applicant has resided by the tree and whether it was reasonable for them to have known about the concerns raised prior to them residing there
- The useful life expectancy of the tree
- Whether mitigation pruning to alleviate the issue should be considered sufficient
- Any other attributes provided by the tree that are considered important to the local community



## Cost of removal of trees in public spaces

The removal of trees can result in a considerable cost. In some instances it may be considered appropriate for these costs to be recovered.

### Policy:

**4.23** Where the removal of a tree is requested and the tree can be removed in accordance with policy 4.17 and is permitted by the district plan rules then we will undertake the removal as part of the routine maintenance and renewal programmes.

**4.24** Where the tree removal request does not meet the criteria of 4.17 but is approved by the relevant community board or reserve management committee, the board may resolve that the applicant pay part/all of the costs including the application fee (as per Council's Fees and Charges Schedule):

- Any additional costs associated with reporting on the tree removal application
- Any resource consent costs (if required)
- Actual cost of tree removal and replacement
- The value of the environmental, economic and social services provided to the city by the tree (as determined by our approved tree valuation method)

*Note: Projected costs will be supplied to the applicant for approval prior to any removal works being undertaken*

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## Vandalism

### Policy:

**4.25** We take very seriously any vandalism, damage to or unauthorised removal of Council trees, and we will investigate any instances where we find trees have been vandalised, damaged or removed. We will look to use the full range of our enforcement powers, and referring matters to the Police where appropriate, if we find that Council trees have been vandalised, damaged or removed without the necessary authority.



## Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Actual costs for removal and replacement</b>	The cost incurred by the Council to remove the tree(s) and stump(s), purchasing and planting of a replacement tree(s) including 2 years establishment maintenance for the tree(s).
<b>Amenity</b>	Means those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes
<b>Best industry practice</b>	For example but not limited to the British Standard 3998:2010 'British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work' and Australian Standard 4373 1996 Pruning of Amenity Trees MIS308 Tree Pruning
<b>Canopy cover</b>	The area taken up by the tree canopy.
<b>Commemorative trees</b>	Includes memorial and sponsored trees.
<b>Construction Standard Specifications (CCC CSS)</b>	Is a set of guidelines determining the standards required for the creation or enhancement of infrastructure assets either owned or to be owned by Council. Includes provisions for the protection and planting of trees.
<b>Council/we/our/us</b>	Means the Christchurch City Council or its authorised delegate.
<b>Critical infrastructure</b>	As per Christchurch District Plan
<b>Delegations Register</b>	The Council's Delegation's Register details who has the authority to authorise a decision including those relating to tree removal and planting. The Delegations Register can be found here: <a href="http://ccc.govt.nz/register-of-delegations">ccc.govt.nz/register-of-delegations</a>
<b>Eco-sourcing</b>	Refers to the use of locally sourced plant material for restoration plantings. Eco-sourced plants are those grown from seeds collected from naturally occurring remnant vegetation in the same region as those to be planted. This enables Council to meet its obligation to maintain and restore viable populations of indigenous species and subs-species across their natural range and maintain their genetic diversity.
<b>Emergency</b>	As per Christchurch District Plan
<b>Establishment maintenance period</b>	Establishment maintenance shall include but not be limited to watering, weed control, application of mulch (where required), and installation and removal of support systems. All maintenance should be compliant with the relevant sections of the 'Christchurch City Council Civil Engineering Construction Standard Specification' (CSS).
<b>Full height reduction</b>	A method of pruning which results in the removal of the upper canopy to reduce the overall height of the tree (otherwise referred to as topping).
<b>Inappropriate species</b>	Tree species listed in Infrastructure Design Standards (IDS) Part 10: Reserves, Streetscape and Open Spaces (the IDS is online and any amendments are automatically included).
<b>Infrastructure Design Standards (IDS) inappropriate species</b>	A set of guidelines determining the principles behind and the minimum standards required for the creation or enhancement of infrastructure assets either owned or to be owned by Council. Tree species listed in Infrastructure Design Standards (IDS) Part 10: Reserves, Streetscape and Open Spaces (the IDS is online and any amendments are automatically included).
<b>Irreversible decline</b>	The decline of a tree's health which is to such an extent that it is unlikely to recover.
<b>Mature</b>	A tree reaching its ultimate potential size, whose growth rate is slowing down, with limited potential for any significant increase in size.
<b>Native revegetation or regeneration</b>	An area of native New Zealand plants which have been planted to form a closed canopy. This may be directly planted or naturally occur from a nearby seed source.
<b>Plantation forestry</b>	Means the use of land and buildings for planting, maintenance and harvesting of timber tree species for commercial wood production.
<b>Pest tree</b>	A parent tree from which seed disperses to create a "wilding tree" which causes major change to composition, structure and functioning of adjacent indigenous habitat.
<b>Provide habitat for indigenous flora and fauna</b>	This could be achieved by allowing dead trees to remain or keeping trees with cavities. The retention of dead wood and stubs could also be seen as providing habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.

<b>Public open space</b>	Means any open space, including roads, parks and reserves, accessible to the public either freely or in accordance with a charge under the Reserves Act 1977.
<b>Qualified arborist</b>	A person who has been approved by Council as having a recognised arboricultural qualification (minimum of NZQA Level 4 Certificate in Arboriculture or similar), industry experience and is competent to carry out a specified task.
<b>Risk</b>	The combination of the probability of an event and its consequence (ISO 2009).
<b>Road Corridor</b>	The area that comes within the definition of ‘road’ in section 315 of the Local Government Act 1974.
<b>Significant damage</b>	Damage to any place or part of a place that renders that place or that part of that place unusable for any purpose for which it was used or designed to be used before the damage occurred”
<b>Sites of ecological significance</b>	Sites identified within the district plan (Appendix 9.1.6.1) as areas of ecological significance.
<b>Structurally unsound</b>	The trees structure has been compromised to a level which is it likely to fail during normal weather conditions.
<b>Targeted canopy reduction</b>	The targeted pruning of selected branches within the tree canopy to shorten their length.
<b>Technician arborist</b>	Means a person who: 1) by possession of a recognised arboricultural degree or diploma and on the job experience, is familiar with the tasks, equipment and hazards involved in arboricultural operations; and 2) has demonstrated proficiency in tree inspection and evaluating and treating hazardous trees; and 3) has demonstrated competency to Level 6 NZQA Diploma in Arboriculture standard (or be of an equivalent arboricultural standard).
<b>Tree</b>	A single woody plant with the potential to reach at least 5 metres in height and have a stem diameter of, or exceeding, 150mm measured at 1.4 metres above ground.  <i>There are certain species, which could include fruit, nut and endemic species, which may not always fit within the definition of a tree. In these situations the decision as to whether or not to include the species, or individual tree, as a tree will be determined by a Council arborist.</i>  <i>Assets that are currently recorded as trees but do not fit the definition of a Tree will continue to be managed as a Tree throughout their life cycle until they are replaced.</i>  <i>Note: For the purpose of this policy, any plant that has the potential to be classed as a tree in time but has a current diameter of less than 100mm at the base and has not been specifically planted will be regarded as a seedling and the rules within this policy will not apply.</i>
<b>Tree Protection Management Plan</b>	Where it is not possible to complete the works without encroaching within the Tree Protection Zone, a proposed methodology in the form of a Tree Management Plan shall be produced by a technician arborist as per the specifications within the relevant sections of the CSS.
<b>Value of a tree</b>	A monetary value determined by a council recognised system such as the Standard Tree Evaluation Method 1996 (STEM).
<b>Wilding tree</b>	A self-sown tree growing wild or escaped from cultivation and growing wild and not planted for any specific purpose.
<b>Works arborist</b>	Means a person who: a) by possession of a recognised arboricultural degree, diploma or certificate and on the job experience, is familiar with the tasks, equipment and hazards involved in arboricultural operations; and b) has demonstrated competency to Level 4 NZQA Certificate in Horticulture Services (Arboriculture) standard (or be of an equivalent arboricultural standard).
<b>Urban forest</b>	Urban forest is a forest, or the collection of trees, that grow within a city, town or urban environment.
<b>Unacceptable risk</b>	A level of risk determined through a recognised council approved method (e.g. Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) or Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)) which is elevated beyond what the Council considers acceptable.

## References and related links

The below table does not form part of the policy

Document	Purpose	Development process
<b>District Plan</b>	<p>The District Plan guides what activities are able to happen in which locations and makes it clear where activities are anticipated. It lists activities that are permitted and others that need a resource consent, as well as rules or standards that apply.</p> <p>Chapter 9.4 of the district plan covers the protection of significant and other trees.</p>	<p>Under the Resource Management Act, all Councils must review their district plans in full every 10 years, and give people the opportunity to make submissions on the proposals through hearings, before the plan is finalised. Here in Christchurch, we last reviewed our district plan between 2013 and 2017, through an amended and faster process to help the city's recovery from the earthquakes. The plan became operative 19 December 2017.</p>
<b>Industrial Design Specifications (IDS)</b>	<p>The Infrastructure Design Standards set out the technical requirements for the design of land and asset developments.</p> <p>As such, there is a degree of interrelatedness between the CSS and the IDS and they should be read in conjunction with each other.</p> <p>The IDS covers the incorporation of trees into Reserves, Streetscape and open spaces (Part 10)</p>	<p><b>The IDS and CSS will be regularly reviewed to ensure it provides the best design solution for Christchurch City Council assets. There will be two levels of review:</b></p> <p>The annual review will address amendments driven by changes in policy, changes in approved material specifications or revision of reference documents.</p> <p>The comprehensive review of the entire content of the IDS and CSS will be carried out at five yearly intervals.</p>
<b>Christchurch Construction Standards Specifications (CSS)</b>	<p>These specifications set out the Christchurch City Council technical requirements for the construction of land and asset developments undertaken both on behalf of Christchurch City Council or that are intended to be taken over or maintained by Christchurch City Council. The specification include general requirements for working around trees (Part 1- General) and tree planting specifications (Part 7-Landscapes)</p>	<p>These reviews will be carried out in accordance with the IDS and CSS Review Procedure held by the Council.</p> <p>The public can submit a request on both the IDS and CSS webpage.</p>



