

# Land Drainage Recovery Programme

Reducing the risk of flooding throughout Christchurch City

## Stopbanks update

**The Avon Temporary Stopbanks were constructed following the Canterbury Earthquakes, extending from Swanns Road downstream to Bridge Street. Here's an update on some work currently taking place, plans for an extension to the stopbanks and the riverside trail.**

## Trees to be removed and replanted along the stopbanks

**Tree removal has started along the stopbanks in the Avon River Corridor to reduce flood risk in the area.**

The stopbanks were installed by the Council in 2011, as part of the earthquake emergency works, and were constructed under urgency. Last year, the Council agreed to fast track work raising and strengthening the stopbanks to extend their lifespan for up to 20 years. This work is part of the Land Drainage Recovery Programme, while long-term management options for river and tidal flood protection have yet to be decided.

As part of these works, some trees located within the vicinity of the stopbanks will be removed. The majority of the 185 trees to be removed are in a poor or very poor condition. The removal of these trees will prevent the stopbanks from being compromised as the trees deteriorate and need to be removed in the future.

Fifty eight healthy trees will be removed to enable the stopbanks to be reconstructed. Of these, seven are causing ongoing damage to the stopbanks and 36 are small trees less than four metres in height.

Extensive replacement planting of more than 300 new trees will be carried out. The replanting will be done as soon as possible after the stopbank work is completed in each area, working in with the winter planting season for optimum growth. The tree planting will be in keeping with the overall look of the Avon River Corridor and there will be a mix of exotic and native trees planted, including more than 80 exotic trees and more than 220 native trees.

Signage has been installed along the river to inform local residents and recreational users.

*The full arborist report and more information on the Land Drainage Recovery Programme and stopbank works can be found at [www.ccc.govt.nz/floodmitigation](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/floodmitigation) and click on 'newsletters and work notices'.*

*We have been reviewing the tree removal plans in some areas, and working with the contractor to optimise the design and limit impact on the surroundings. So there may be some minor changes to the tree removal plan, which may need to go back past the Community Board for their approval.*

## Stopbank extension – south of Bridge Street

The Land Drainage Recovery Programme is extending its stopbank upgrade work in the South Brighton area and building a stopbank south of Bridge Street. This stopbank will reduce the impact of tidal flooding from the estuary, and offer increased flood protection to more than 500 properties in the area, including provision for sea level rise.

The stopbank has been designed, and final construction plans are being finalised. Construction will begin later in the year and is expected to take a month.

We will give further updates closer to construction starting.



[www.ccc.govt.nz/floodmitigation](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/floodmitigation)



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## Riverside trail takes shape

Work has begun on a riverside walking, running and cycling trail through the Christchurch red zone. The 12-kilometre Avon Trail will run from the central city to New Brighton and open in stages, starting in spring this year.

The project is being done to coincide with the upgrade of the temporary stopbanks. The tops of the stopbanks are being smoothed then spread with a fine gravel surface to create the trail.

The trail will be fully open by early next year. It is intended as a transitional use for the land.

The Avon-Otakaro Network is leading the project and community volunteers will help prepare some legs of the trail.

Stage one has started at Avonside Drive by the western end of Retreat Rd and will go through to the Gayhurst Rd Bridge. From there, work will move downstream towards the New Brighton Bridge.

Council-Crown agency Regenerate Christchurch is helping co-ordinate the work, and the Ministry of Social Development has provided some funding.

Check out <https://engage.regeneratechristchurch.nz/trail> for more information and a map of the trail, and a design competition for a logo that will shape the identity of the Avon Trail.

## Below is a tentative programme for tree removal, stopbank management work and the trail.

Please note this is dependent on a number of conditions, including weather, so dates could change.

Section	Tree, stopbank management and trail work tentatively planned for:
Monkton Place – Niven Street	April - July 2017
Niven Street – Anzac Bridge	June – September 2017
Anzac Bridge – Pages Road	August – December 2017
Pages Road - Bridge Street	January – March 2018

If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact the Council on the details below.



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