

Smacks Creek Esplanade Reserve

Community Planning for the Future

August 2004



CHRISTCHURCH

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The purpose of this brochure is to outline plans for Smacks Creek Esplanade Reserve and to provide you with an opportunity to comment.

Recent residential development in the area bounded by Hussey and Gardiners Roads has led to the land in the area adjacent to Smacks Creek being set aside for esplanade reserve purposes.

The Resource Management Act (1991) defines the purpose of "Esplanade Reserves" as areas that:

- contribute to the protection of conservation values
- enable public access to or along a river
- enable public recreation where that use is compatible with conservation values

Legislation that is relative to the management of this reserve is contained in the Christchurch City Plan, the Long Term Council Community Plan and the Waterways and Wetlands Asset Management Strategy adopted by Christchurch City Council in October 2000.

It is important also to realise that any planning and development of Smacks Creek Esplanade Reserve must comply with the "40 year Vision for the Styx" developed as a result of extensive consultation and involvement with the community.



This generation has the opportunity not only to protect and preserve wilderness areas, but to also leave behind something of greater value for generations to come.

How Smacks Creek got its name

The Schmack family has been associated with this area for about 140 years; their home being located on the southeast corner of Gardiners and John Roads. The last remaining member of the family, Ena Schmack, lived alone for a long period and died in her eighties some years ago.

Over time there have been a number of spellings of the family name but more recently it has been anglicised to the now familiar 'Smacks'.



DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

SEAT - TIMBER SLATS ON REINFORCING BARS
3mm PLATE OVER DECK

Location of Reserve



Proposed Development

In developing the plan consideration was given to meeting the following objectives:

1. That the wilderness nature of the area be maintained to act as a contrast to the adjacent urban areas.
2. That the ecological values associated with Smacks Creek and the reserve continue to be protected and enhanced.
3. That any built structures complement and enhance the wilderness nature of the reserve through appropriate location and design.
4. That by working with the natural processes of decay and regeneration ongoing maintenance costs are kept to a minimum.
5. To provide opportunities for people to gain, and appreciate, a 'wilderness experience'.

Features

- **Walkway**
The development of a walkway linking Gardiners Road with Hussey Road, plus the careful location of seating at appropriate places along the way, will provide an opportunity for people to enjoy a wilderness experience close to their urban environment.
- **Bridges**
As the area to the north of Smacks Creek is bounded by private property, access to this part of the reserve will require the construction of bridges across Smacks Creeks. The design of these bridges is based on the concept of a stick being caught between the creek's banks.
- **Maintenance**
The parameter of the Reserve, particularly where it meets residential properties, will be more intensively maintained providing a 'sense of care' to the area, while the interior of the Reserve will be allowed to preserve its more natural, wild character. Ongoing management of the interior will retain such features as tree stumps, hollows and plant debris in order to encourage the process of decay and regeneration.
- **Plants and Birds**
The partial filling of the shallow pond will allow existing raupo and carex to grow across the balance of the pond providing, in the long term, a breeding area for wetland birds.

Background

This Reserve consists of an area of 1.0138 hectares. Smacks Creek, a tributary of the Styx River, flows through the length of the Reserve that is made up of a narrow strip of land between the new houses on the southern bank of the creek and a much wider area of land along the northern bank. Currently much of the area is overgrown with exotic trees and weed species. Some natural regeneration of native plants is occurring under the taller tree canopy. Recently some willow trees that were affecting private properties have been removed.

Studies have shown that in the stretch of Smacks Creek enclosed within the Reserve water quality is pristine with the presence of two springs and a range of water flows. Twenty-three different invertebrate species have been found along with 4 different varieties of fish. Sedges and ferns in the undergrowth currently compete with vine weeds growing over existing trees and shrubs. A wide variety of birds currently use the site as it provides both a corridor for the movement of bush birds and a breeding site for wetland birds.



A planned weed management programme will involve the removal of plants that are categorised as pests under the Regional Pest Management Strategy. These will be replaced with native plants particularly those that provide food or roosting sites for native bush birds such as the silveryeye, grey warbler and fantail.

Invitation to become a Partner in the Process

The level of involvement by the community in the development of the Vision for the Styx 2000 – 2040 has been significant. As the Smacks Creek Esplanade Reserve forms part of the overall planning for the Catchment, in the spirit of true “partnership” (Vision 5), you are again being invited to share in the development and implementation of this plan.

Information about the Styx Vision 2000 – 2040 is now available at www.thestyx.org.nz

Closing date for submissions is 31 August 2004

Enclosed with the brochure is a Response Form. If you would like to contribute, your written comments and suggestions are welcomed. More response forms can be obtained by telephoning the Greenspace Unit (phone 941 8872) and forms will be forwarded to you.

What Happens Next?

If any major issues arise through the consultation process these will be referred back to the Shirley Papanui Community Board for comment and guidance.

If the development proposal is supported the timeframe for implementing the plan is as follows:

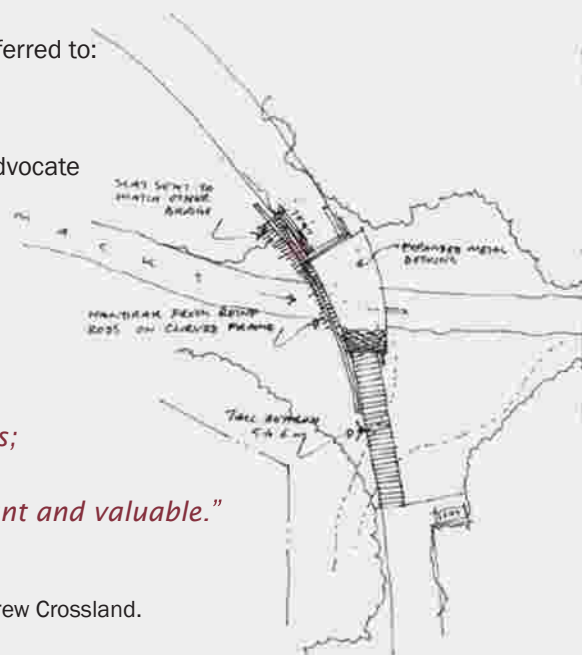
Development	2004 – 2005	2005 – 2006	2006 – 2007	2007 - 2008
Plants & Plantings	✓	✓	✓	✓
Weed management	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shingle Path		✓		
Boardwalk		✓		
Seats		✓		
West Bridge			✓	
East Bridge			✓	

To obtain further copies of this brochure, or other material mentioned, contact either:

Greenspace Unit
Christchurch City Council
163 – 173 Tuam Street
Christchurch
or
Papanui Service Centre
Corner Restall Street and Langdons Road
Christchurch

Any enquiries should be referred to:

Kirsty Patten
Parks & Waterways Area Advocate
Greenspace Unit
Christchurch City Council
Tel (03) 941 6702
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“Natural reserves do not always need to be sited in faraway places; inaccessible to all but the most avid of trampers. Wild natural places within a city environment are equally important and valuable.”