

Timaru District Council Proposed District Plan

Notable Trees Assessments



Prepared by: Bill Steans, Parks and Recreation Manager, Timaru District Council
28 June 2022

Overview

Trees are an important part of urban and rural landscapes. They play a role in providing many environmental services from habitats for birds through to the oxygen that we breathe. Significant trees are also an integral part of the landscape.

As part of the District Plan Review, Timaru District Council requested nominations for additional significant trees from the public on 24 May 2018. For each of the trees nominated, a landowner's approval was required.

Qualified horticultural staff were used to assess the nominated trees and existing significant trees listed in the Timaru District Plan between 2018 and 2021. A total of 196 trees were assessed.

Assessment Method

All trees were assessed using the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM). This is currently the preferred method of significant tree evaluation in New Zealand.

STEM was published in 1996 following consultation with:

- NZ Arboricultural Association
- Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture
- NZ Institute of Landscape Architects
- NZ Planning Institute
- NZ Recreation Association
- NZ Landscape Industries
- Department of Landscape Architecture, Lincoln University
- NZ Institute of Civil Engineers
- NZ Institute of Valuers
- Ministry of Commerce
- Waikato Polytechnic
- Numerous Professionals

The evaluation is carried out in the field using a set of standard evaluation criteria. These are Condition (Health), Amenity (Community Benefit) and Notability (Distinction). Appendix 1 contains the evaluation score sheet.

The evaluation criteria can apply to a single tree or a group of trees.

To be listed as a Notable Tree in the Timaru District Council Draft District Plan a tree or group of trees had to score at least 125 points in the evaluation.

Appendix 1

**Timaru District Plan
Significant Tree Assessment Form**

Botanical Name _____

Common Name _____

Year Planted _____ **Age or (approx)**

Planted by _____

Notable Tree Measurements

Height calculation method _____

Single Tree Height of Tree __metres

Spread of canopy __metres

Girth of trunk _____mm

Girth measured at _____mm

Girth measured at ground level (gl.) or at 600mm or at 1m or at 1.40m

Stand (same species) or **Group** (mixed species)

No. of trees _____

Maximum height _____

Minimum height _____

Average height _____

Area covered _____

STEM Evaluation Score _____

STEM value (optional) _____

(for STEM Evaluation and Descriptive Notes, see reverse page)

Location

Address

Locality_ _____

Legal Description of Land _____

Photograph

Assessment by_

Date

STEM: (Standard Tree Evaluation Method 1996 Pub. Flook)

Tree Evaluation Score Sheet

Condition Evaluation						
Points	3	9	15	21	27	Score
Form	Poor	Moderate	Good	Very good	Specimen	
Occurrence	Predominant	Common	Infrequent	Rare	Very rare	
Vigour/Vitality	Poor	Some	Good	Very good	Excellent	
Function	Minor	Useful	Important	Significant	Major	
Age (years)	10 +	20 +	40 +	80 +	100 +	
Subtotal Points						

Amenity Evaluation						
Points	3	9	15	21	27	Score
Stature (m)	3 to 8	9 to 14	15 to 20	21 to 26	27 +	
Visibility (km)	0.5	1	2	4	8	
Proximity	Forest	Parkland	Group 10+	Group 3+	Solitary	
Role	Minor	Moderate	Important	Significant	Major	
Climate	Minor	Moderate	Important	Significant	Major	
Subtotal Points						

Notable Evaluation						
Recognition	Local	District	Regional	National	International	Score
Points	3	9	15	21	27	
Stature						
					Feature	
					Form	
Historic						
					Age 100+	
					Association	
Commemoration						
					Remnant	
					Relic	
Scientific						
					Source	
					Rarity	
					Endangered	
Subtotal Points						
Total Points						
Notes (add page for extra notes)						