



Parks and Recreation Department
Management of Public Trees Policy

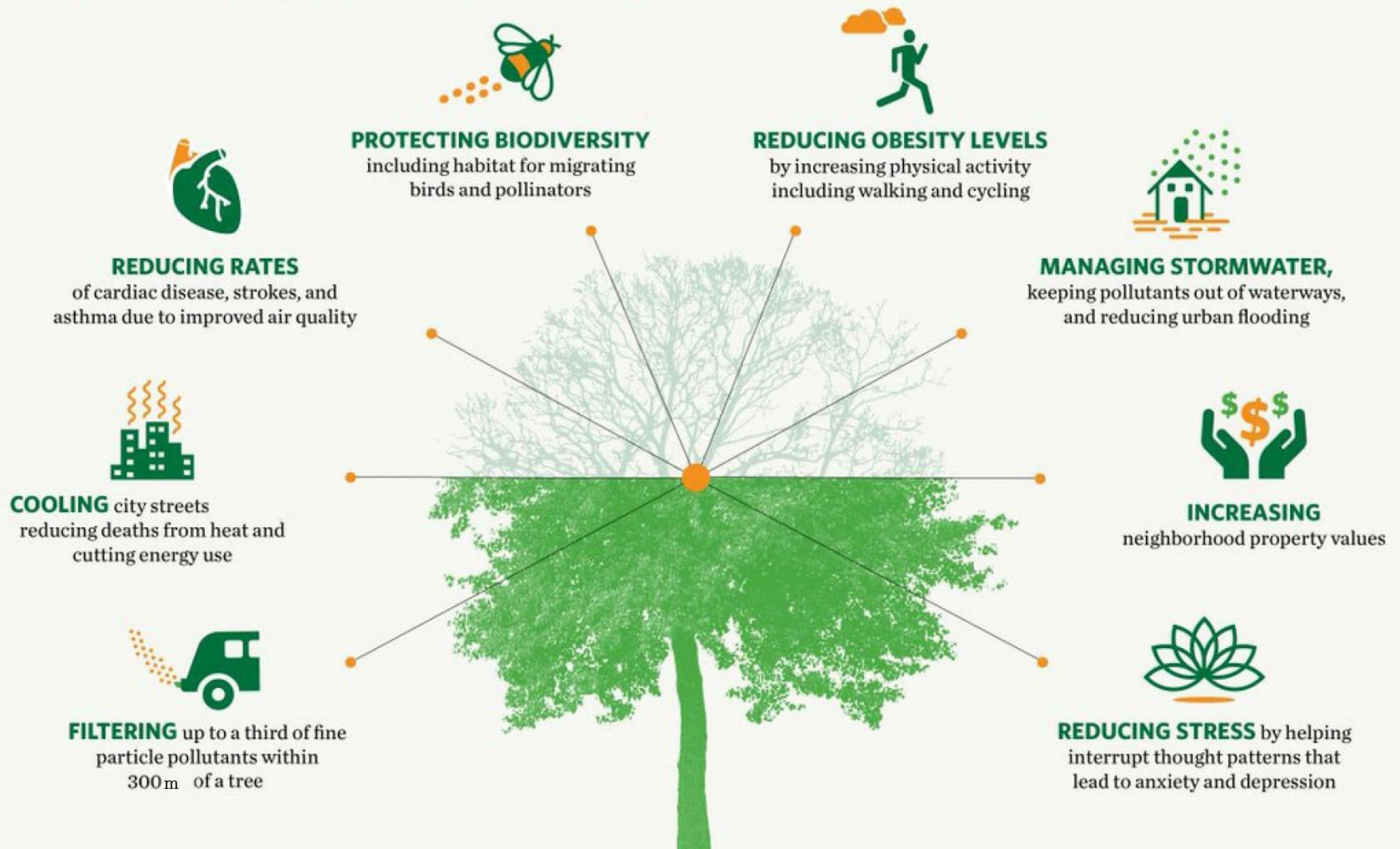
December 2020

District Plan: Plan Change 129

Notable and Public Trees

- Adopted by the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee in February 2020
- Consolidates two former ‘Heritage Trees’ chapters and Appendix 2 with one district-wide chapter
- Relates to the protection of both:
 - Notable Trees (scheduled trees) and
 - Public Trees (unscheduled trees on public land)

Benefits of Street Trees



The Value of Trees

- The value of trees is multifaceted.
- Trees significantly contribute to the historical, ecological, cultural and amenity values of the District and provide environmental benefits (ecosystem services).
- The effect of trees on our health and wellbeing are significant.
- A shift in perception from seeing trees as a 'problem' and 'cost' to instead seeing them as an asset that is worthy of investment.

Management of Public Trees

- The **Parks and Recreation Department** are responsible for managing customer requests relevant to trees.
- The **Infrastructure Planners** provide comment and advise on subdivision and land use applications that propose new, or impact on existing street trees.
- The 2020 Public Tree Policy has been updated to reflect PC129 and provides Council Officers guidance for the management of public trees.

Our Policy

- Whangarei District Council is committed to providing and protecting public trees that contribute significantly to the values of our District.
- As a minimum, Council seeks to maintain current planting levels and have a mixed age of tree stock on each reserve. Where significant trees are removed, suitable replacement tree planting may be undertaken.
- The policy provides guidance for tree removals on public land.

Public Tree Removal

The following scenarios apply where Council *may* remove a tree:

- The tree is diseased or in decline as per an arborist's assessment;
- The tree is causing problems for traffic safety, reducing visibility or obstructing the road or footpath;
- There is a need to preserve other trees is considered of greater value than are impacted on;
- If the tree is a pest or weed species; and
- To manage the risk of potential danger to people or property due to the age or condition of the tree.

Council *will not* remove a public tree to:

- Preserve or create views;
- To reduce shade or leaf litter;
- Because of the 'nuisance' of nesting birds;
- Prevent erosion of low use public land;
- To negate root disturbance of roads, paths and accessways, unless all alternative options have been considered.



Trouble Street Tree Species

NPT.1.13 provides a list of tree species that are not protected, and includes those species identified in the NRC Pest Management Strategy and Biodiversity Act 1993.

There are other species that are not considered appropriate street trees that will be discouraged by the Parks and Recreation team, these include;

- Liquidambar
- Honey Locust
- Phoenix Palm
- Bungalow Palm
- Queen Palm
- Poplar
- Eucalyptus

