

# Inner city garden beds

Health & Safety Mitigation Options





# Situation

**Within the inner city we have 644 gardens**

| Garden Type   | Number     |
|---------------|------------|
| Annual Beds   | 63         |
| Roses         | 14         |
| Shrub gardens | 567        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>644</b> |

Located on street corners, median strips, adjoining parks and open space areas

Maintenance includes replanting, renewals, weeding etc. 3 week rotation around annual beds and roses, 40 days rotation around shrub gardens



# Concerns

## Work required in road corridors presents safety risks to staff

Plant rotations, weeding, deadheading, mulching, renewals all require staff in road corridor

| Financial Year | Near Misses |
|----------------|-------------|
| 2022-23        | 1           |
| 2023-24        | 14          |
| 2024-25        | 21          |
| 2025-26 YTD    | 13          |

## Traffic Management requirements

STMS qualified staff or contractors, equipment etc to increase safety in road corridor. Traffic disruption

# Concerns

## Near miss types (Apr 2024-Aug 25)

| Near Miss Description                     | Frequency |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| TTM Site cones run over by Bus/Truck      | 23        |
| TTM Site cones run over by Camper/Trailer | 4         |
| TTM Site cones run over by Car            | 14        |
| TOTAL                                     | 41        |

## Near miss locations (Apr 2024-Aug 25)

| Near Miss Locations | Frequency |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Fenton St           | 10        |
| Pukuatua St         | 9         |
| Tutanekai St        | 5         |
| Whakaue St          | 4         |
| Arawa St            | 4         |
| Amohia St           | 4         |
| Hinemoa St          | 3         |
| Eruera St           | 2         |
| TOTAL               | 41        |



## **Risk Assessments.**

### **South CBD (Pukuatua to Amohau St)**

### **35 High Risk Gardens identified**

mainly annual bedding with some  
small shrub gardens in centre  
dividing strips and traffic junctions



## Risk Assessments.

### North CBD (Whakaeue to Haupapa St)

#### 24 High Risk Gardens identified

mainly small shrub gardens in centre islands and dividers at traffic junctions

- 59 of 644 gardens (9%)





# What we're doing

## **Traffic Management**

External traffic management contracting until STMS staff employed and equipment obtained by Open Space Operations

## **Operational changes underway**

Changes to mowing methods and growth/weed retardants, plant types. Timing of operations around lower traffic flows

## **Residual risks**

Traffic Management doesn't eliminate risks of driver error



# What we could do - Options

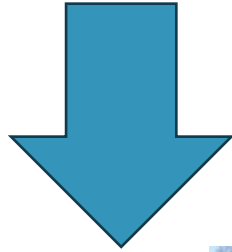
## **Option A = Increased traffic management**

Where viable, lane closures

Support vehicles and/or temporary solid barriers

Speed restrictions

- New vehicles required
- Operation time increase/efficiency impacts
- Traffic disruption



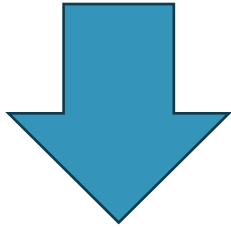
# Options

## Option B = Garden change to hard surface/ grass

Remove inner city high risk garden areas completely and replace with hard surfaces or grass

- 2% ↓ in shrub gardens, 37% ↓ in flower beds
- ↓ Storm water attenuation <0.1%
- Hard surfaces already present in inner city
- Capital required
- ↓ Operational costs
- ↑ TTM Efficiencies





# Options

## Option C = Garden change to grass/natives and new offset planting of flower beds

Remove inner city high risk garden areas and replace with grass, alternative natives and offset planting of flower beds into poor performing rose beds and new sites within inner city. **Recommended Option**

- New inner city flower beds
- 24% ↓ in inner city rose beds
- Capital required
- ↓ Operational costs
- ↑ TTM Efficiencies



## High Risk Sites - detail of potential garden m<sup>2</sup> changes

| Street                                      | Eruera | Hinemoa | Pukuatua | Tutanekai | Hinemaru | Fenton | Hauptapa | Arawa | Pukaki | Whakaue | Amohia | Total high risk | Inner city total | Inner city % change |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|-------|--------|---------|--------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Option B (remove)</b>                    |        |         |          |           |          |        |          |       |        |         |        |                 |                  |                     |
| Annuals m <sup>2</sup> high risk TTM        | 32     |         | 33       |           |          | 55     | 24       | 67    |        |         |        | 210             | 569              | -37%                |
| Shrub m <sup>2</sup> high risk TTM          | 5      | 43      |          | 92        | 54       |        |          |       | 13     | 22      | 19     | 247             | 13041            | -2%                 |
| Total beds removed m <sup>2</sup>           | 37     | 43      | 33       | 92        | 54       | 55     | 24       | 67    | 13     | 22      | 19     | 457             | 13785            | -3%                 |
| <b>Option C (relocate/change)</b>           |        |         |          |           |          |        |          |       |        |         |        |                 |                  |                     |
| Annuals m <sup>2</sup> high risk TTM        | 32     |         | 33       |           |          | 55     | 24       | 67    |        |         |        | 210             | 569              | -37%                |
| Shrub m <sup>2</sup> high risk TTM (change) | 5      | 43      |          | 46        | 54       |        |          |       |        |         |        | 148             | 13041            | -1%                 |
| Roses m <sup>2</sup> removed                |        |         |          |           |          | 12     |          | 31    |        |         |        | 42              | 175              | -24%                |
| Annuals m <sup>2</sup> created              |        |         |          |           |          | -12    |          | -31   |        |         | -167   | -210            | 569              | +37%                |
| Annuals net loss                            |        |         |          |           |          |        |          |       |        |         |        | 0               | 569              | 0%                  |
| Shrub net loss                              |        |         |          |           |          |        |          |       |        |         |        | 148             | 13041            | -1%                 |
| Roses net loss                              |        |         |          |           |          |        |          |       |        |         |        | 42              | 175              | -24%                |
| Total beds removed m <sup>2</sup>           |        |         |          |           |          |        |          |       |        |         |        | 289             | 13785            | -1%                 |

# Community Input?

## Past Community consultation

- Consultations for 23-24 Annual Plan on major reduced LOS
  - Removal with no offsetting will reduce LOS
  - Offsetting in other areas will not reduce LOS for flower beds and very minor for other beds
- Does not seek community feedback on the selected option. OR
  - Does seek community feedback on the preferred option before deciding on which option to adopt at a later meeting. OR
  - Authorizes the CE to proceed with the selected option, and include a community consultation topic for a future suitable time, noting that this change may be reversed following that consultation (recommended).

