

# The Community Outcomes Measures

## Community Outcome: Green Network - *He tuituitanga kākāriki*



People are in harmony with and have a strong sense of stewardship/of kaitiaki of the natural environment. We are all actively managing our growth and minimising ecological threats particularly through local participation in

decision and action.

**Related outcome areas**

- Waiora – *Environment protection*
- Sustainable Environment – *Kauneke Tauwhiro Taiao*



Who	How
Auckland Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional park management and development</li> <li>• Conservation programmes aimed at restoring native wildlife</li> <li>• Community conservation programme development and support with landowners and groups to control pests, improve diversity and replant wetlands and bush areas</li> </ul>
Over 80 community groups through the Waitakere City Council's Green Network and Project Twin Streams programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant and animal pest control</li> <li>• Planting and maintenance of habitat</li> <li>• Stream restoration</li> </ul>
Weedfree Waitakere Trust and Keep Waitakere Beautiful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community education and restoration programmes</li> <li>• Plant and animal pest control</li> <li>• Planting and maintenance of habitat</li> <li>• Stream restoration</li> </ul>
Forest and Bird	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Ark in the Park</li> <li>• Bird population restoration</li> <li>• Kiwi conservation clubs</li> </ul>
Waitakere Ranges Protection Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy for protection legislation, constraints on subdivision and purchase of appropriate additional parkland</li> <li>• Tree planting and weed control working bees</li> </ul>

**Key for measuring progress**

- Community outcome measure
- ▲ Council strategic measure

*"Protection of the natural environment for future generations as per the new Heritage Bill is what I like most about Waitakere."*

**Doug, Henderson**

### What is being done to make this outcome happen?

While there are many agencies involved in working to achieve this community outcome, there are some specific planned and completed initiatives that directly correspond.

Community Outcome	Intent	Initiative	Details	Who
Green Network: <i>He tuituitanga kākāriki</i>	We are actively managing our growth and minimising ecological threats particularly through local participation in decision and action	District Plan Review	Plan rules for natural area	Council
		Parks and reserves management and development	Council maintains some 570 parks with a total area of over 1200 hectares	Council
		Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area management	Development of the legislation and planning processes to enable sustainable living in the ranges	Council, ARC
		Cemetery landscape management and development	The Cemetery is not only a culturally important place but it also is a large and ecologically significant site. Weed control and remedial tree work	Council
		Local catchment management planning	Integrated planning of water catchments with local communities as part of Project Twin Streams	Council, ARC
	People are in harmony with and have a strong sense, of kaitiaki of the natural environment.	Ark in the Park	Restoring lost species to the ranges	Forest and Bird, ARC
		Wai Care	Monitoring stream quality	ARC and community organisations
		Keep Waitakere Beautiful	Council funds KWB, a partner of EcoMatters Environmental Trust in their provision of events like Trees for Babies, Adopt a Spot, Operation Spring Clean, War on Weeds, Community street tree planting, Clean Stream Waitakere and the Green to Go Youth Conference.	KWB, Council
		Project Twin Streams	Restoring streams and riparian margins	Council, community contract organisations

*"A change I'd like to see in Waitakere is to clean up the graffiti and the litter."*

**Anne, Massey**



**Council contribution**

The council's primary strategic link to the Green Network - *He tuituitanga kākārīki* community outcome is through its Green Network strategic platform. The Green Network platform is about caring for natural areas. The city's parks, bush and streams form a green network that provides homes and highways for wildlife and recreational areas for people. Protection and enhancement is sought on both public and private land. Community involvement is encouraged, as is the protection of landscapes, native plants, wildlife and ecosystems, while providing appropriate recreational public access to waterways and accessible green areas throughout the city.



Olympic Park

Some examples of activities and contributions by the council to this are:

Platform	Intent	Initiative	Details	Who
Green Network - He tuituitanga kākārīki	A green network that provides homes and highways for wildlife and recreational areas for people.	Community Planting in parks	Weed removal and park and open space cleanup projects	Parks Planning section
		Reserve Management Plan and Conservation Plan preparation	Council has a long-term programme for the development or renewal of reserve management plans for all reserves. Planning involves the local community. A number of the reserves and parks contain heritage sites and council has a programme to develop plans for these sites	Parks Planning section
		Green Network community assistance and incentive programme	Providing assistance to landowners wanting to actively support the Green Network. Support includes weed bags, herbicide, covenants and rates relief, free native plants and assistance with weed management plan preparation through the Weed Free Waitakere Trust	Parks Planning section
		Project Twin Streams	Restoring streams and riparian margins	EcoWater
		Waitakere Ranges Heritage area management	A leading role in the development of both the Bill and processes for working closer with local landowners	Strategy
		Street and reserves trees	Programmed maintenance of 25,000 street trees and trees in 350 reserves	Parks planning
		Stormwater quality monitoring	Monitoring of the quality and performance of the storm water network and streams	EcoWater
		Northwest Wildlink	Provide a network of wildlife corridors linking the Hauraki Gulf Islands with the Waitakere Ranges	ARC, RDC, NSCC, WCC
		Storm water management promotion	Promotion of rainwater tanks, rain gardens and swales to contain peak flows and treat water before it reaches the receiving environment	EcoWater



*"What's important to me about Waitakere is the natural environment that is being protected by council policies."*

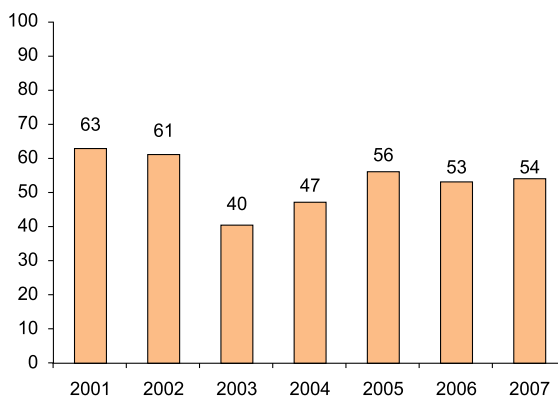
**Gail, Glen Eden**

## Improving the physical environment

- 54% of residents deliberately take actions to improve the natural environment in 2007

An individual's behaviour has a significant impact on the environment. This indicator measures the actions Waitakere residents have undertaken in the past six months to improve the natural environment. It shows that approximately 50% of residents, have on average, undertaken at least one action to improve the natural environment since 2001. The removal of noxious weeds (42%), picking up rubbish (32%) and tree planting (30%) were the three most frequently stated actions people took to improve the natural environment in 2007.

Figure 4: Percentage of residents that have deliberately taken actions in past month to improve the natural environment (2001 to 2007)



Source: Waitakere City Council, KPI survey

## Project Twin Streams

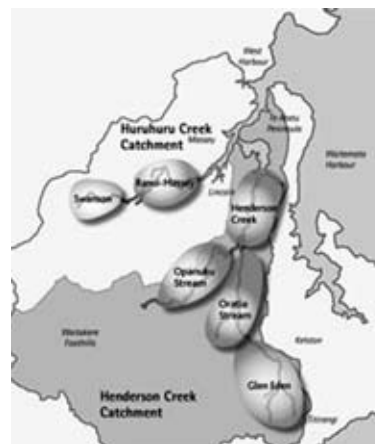
Project Twin Streams is a major urban sustainability initiative in Waitakere. The objective of the project is to restore key streams in the city through sustainable management of stormwater and stream-bank restoration. The project has many components to it including physical engineering works, stream restoration initiatives as well as major arts projects which encourage people through creativity to connect with Waitakere's streams.

Figure 5: Project Twin Streams focus areas

Some of the key milestones are:

- since 1993 over 330,000 trees have been planted along the 56km of stream banks in the area
- community contracts are in place with six organisations. These contracts are an important means of involving the community in restoring streams. A number of areas have been adopted by organisations and individuals
- In 2008, 14km of walk and cycle ways are due to be completed to enable people to connect with each other and the environment

Project Twin Streams is a good example of how local people are being engaged, in a variety of ways, to improve the natural environment. It illustrates how various agencies and the community are working together to achieve positive outcomes for all.



## Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill

The Waitakere Ranges, including the West Coast and foothills, are an iconic landscape and an important recreational area for the Auckland Region. The ranges have nationally significant native forests and wildlife, are important to the tourism and filming industries, are attractive as a living environment and provide water to residents and business throughout the city. It is, therefore, important that this area is managed in a way that sustainably

balances the needs of landowners, businesses and residents and protects the areas' resources.

In order to achieve this, the council along with the Auckland Regional Council and the Rodney District Council have developed the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill. The purpose of the Bill is to recognise the national, regional and local importance of the Waitakere Ranges and foothills area, and to promote protection and enhancement of its heritage features for present and future generations. Now passed into law the Bill establishes the 'Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area', covering the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park, the foothills area, coastal villages such as Piha, Karekare and parts of south-west Rodney District.

The Bill also defines the area's heritage features, specifies the objectives of establishing and maintaining the area and provides mechanisms for more certain and effective planning, resource management and decision-making. The Bill is one example of how growth is being managed in Waitakere and highlights the importance of working together to achieve community outcomes.

الأمان وروح المجتمع يشكّلان أهمية لدي.

这里良好的安全状况和社会道德对我非常重要。

'Oku mahu'inga kiate au 'a e ngaahi ongo'i faka-komiuniti mo e malu' foki.

He mea hira ki a au ēnei mea – te haumarutanga me te wairua atawhai a te hapori.

Safety and community spirit is important to me.

**Green space**

- Almost 19,000 ha of green space in Waitakere is protected
- Over 80% of residents think the variety and location of parks in Waitakere is good or very good

To achieve the intent of the Green Network strategic platform Waitakere residents need easy access to quality green spaces. This indicator measures the total amount of protected green space in Waitakere. Almost 19,000 hectares of land is protected under one regime or another, providing almost 10 hectares of protected green space per person. While most of the protected parkland in the city is managed by the Auckland Regional Council, the table shows that there is a range of mechanisms for protecting the green network in Waitakere, some of which are available to private landowners.

**Table 8: Hectare of protected green space in Waitakere (2007)**

Method	Hectares
Green Network conservation covenants	7.83 ha
QEII covenants	29.2 ha
Regulatory covenants	20.6 ha
Auckland Regional Council Parks (Waitakere Ranges)	17,300 ha
Waitakere City Council Parks	1,291.9 ha
Project Twin Streams	162 ha
Department of Conservation	57.6 ha
Total	18,869.13 ha

Source: Waitakere City Council

A good quantity of green space is necessary and it is important that residents have easy access to this green space. This indicator measures how residents rate the variety and location of parks in Waitakere. There are over 1,200 hectares of parks managed by the council. The 2007 survey results show that over three-quarters of residents thought the variety and location of parks in Waitakere was either good or very good.

**Table 9: Percentage of residents who rate variety and location of parks in Waitakere as good and very good (2003-2007)**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Variety and location of parks	76	76	79	-	-
Variety of parks	-	-	-	77	83
Location of parks	-	-	-	75	83

Source: Waitakere City Council, KPI survey



*"I'm proud of Waitakere's ecological concept and its determination to preserve the environment well."*

**Victor, New Lynn**

### Biodiversity

The city has a significant number of streams and waterways. A key objective of the Green Network strategic platform is ensuring that these streams support a diverse range of species. This indicator measures the biodiversity of sites within key streams in Waitakere. The council has an aquatic monitoring programme in which 32 sites within 13 streams are sampled. These monitoring sites include streams in rural and urban areas. At each of the sites a habitat assessment score is created, the presence of macroinvertebrate and fish communities is recorded and barriers to fish access identified.

The table shows that of the 32 sites sampled in 2007 most recorded a habitat assessment score that was either low or medium. A low score indicates habitat with a lack of streamside vegetation. Habitat assessment scores were highest in the Opanuku, upper Swanson and Cochrane streams. The lowest scores were found in streams in urbanised areas. However, even in streams with a low habitat scores, fish species were present.



**Table 10: Habitat assessment scores for monitored sites 2006 and 2007**

	Low (<80)	Medium (80-99)	High (110-119)	Very high (>120)
<b>2007</b>	13	13	3	3
<b>2006</b>	18	7	5	2

Source: Waitakere City Council

The 2007 monitoring recorded a total of ten fish species (nine native and one exotic) and koura at the monitoring sites. Eels were the most recorded species, found at 81% of the monitoring sites. Galaxiids (whitebait species) were recorded at 38% of sites, bullies at 56%, koura<sup>7</sup> at 28% of sites and other native fish at 9% of sites. Some sites show high diversity. The 2007 survey also found that, using macroinvertebrate parameters, 17 sites were classified as good, 11 as medium and 4 as poor.

The presence and absence of plants and animals are useful indicators of biodiversity. This indicator measures how certain aspects of the city's biodiversity are changing over time. Some 27 sites are used to monitor and record the city's biodiversity, and show the presence of avifauna, pests, terrestrial invertebrates and lizards. Vegetation is also recorded. The table below provides an overview of the presence of certain bird species at the monitoring sites since summer of 2002/03. At most of the sites, the presence of native birds appears to have been increasing. It also shows kereru were not recorded at most sites.

**Table 11: Summary of trends in native bird indicator species conspicuousness since summer 2002/03**

Species	Number of monitoring sites				
	Increasing	Decreasing	Stable	No clear trend	Absent
Tui	6	3	10	8	0
Fantail	13	4	4	6	0
Grey Warbler	13	0	6	7	1
Kereru	3	1	4	0	19
Silvereeye	12	3	5	7	0
Kingfisher	11	2	4	10	0

Source: Waitakere City Council

Some sampling sites have shown increases in bird species since summer 2002/03. For example the Te Henga Wetland has seen increases in the presence of tui, fantail, grey warblers and silvereeye. The monitoring results show that all sites have at least some indigenous vegetation and that sites with the least amount of vegetation did provide habitat for native birds.



*"What I like most about Waitakere is Bethells Beach, being near beautiful nature and away from the maddening crowd."*

**Michael, Swanson**