

# PROJECT TWIN STREAMS



## Overview

Project Twin Streams is a \$40 million innovative multidimensional partnership project involving Waitakere City Council, its diverse communities and other agencies.

Project Twin Streams works intensively with local groups and communities to restore the stream margins within the catchment to mitigate the effects of stormwater and protect and enhance the biodiversity of the waterways. A major objective is to develop community understanding of the environment and work towards changing attitudes and human behaviour as well as achieve more sustainable practices. The ultimate goal is strengthen and reconnect with local communities and encourage them to be more actively involved in the ongoing nurturing and guardianship of our streams.



## Governing regulations

- Resource Management Act 1991
- LGA 2002

## Funding

- Council has been granted a total of \$40 million funding from Auckland Regional Council (Infrastructure Auckland) to deliver Project Twin Streams.
- An additional \$5.2 million was also obtained from the same source for the delivery of the walk/cycleways.
- Land Transport NZ and council are also providing \$4.6 million for the walk/cycleways.
- Council has committed developer contributions to assist delivery of the project.

### **Sustainability objectives**

*Encourage use of sustainable technologies; mitigation of climate change; and support and broker opportunities for water and efficient technological research*

### **Environmental objectives**

*Increase the health of stream and estuarine ecosystems and improve biodiversity as well as contribute to lower impact footprints through low impact urban design and form*

### **Cultural objectives**

*Ensure inclusiveness of and learning from different cultural & world views in processes; respect for the heritage of local areas; and promote creative ways for learning*

### **Economic objectives**

*Involve the community in planting projects. Use native eco-sourced plants to assist in stream restoration*

### **Social objectives**

*Collaborate with communities and iwi by developing creative local solutions; life-long opportunities and safe, sustainable homes and neighbourhoods*

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## How we contribute to the community outcomes

Community Outcome	Our contribution
Sustainable Environment – Kauneke Tauwhiro Taiao	Improving the quality of the streams.
Environmental Protection – Waiora	Restoring the streams by planting and improving the water quality in streams.
Strong communities – He iwi kaha	Encouraging community participation in the streams.
Green Network – He tuituitanga Kakariki	Stream restoration and native planting.
Strong Economy – He tupuranga kaha ihi wana	Providing opportunities for new jobs.
Sustainable & Integrated Transport – Kauneke Tauwhiro me te Whakakaurunga Waka	Providing a network of walk/cycleways.
Working Together – Te Mahi Tahī	Encouraging communities to work together through participation in Project Twin Streams.

## Stream restoration

Waitakere is very fortunate to retain a network of streams and rivers running from the Waitakere Ranges through the city to the Waitemata Harbour. Most other cities in Auckland have already lost their rivers through being piped, channeled or concreted over. Waitakere has a unique opportunity to conserve and improve the health of the streams while at the same time providing an environment for humans and native flora and fauna to thrive.

Project Twin Streams stream restoration (the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem which has been damaged, degraded or destroyed), includes planting stream banks, reducing sources of water pollution, and varying stream flow. The Project Twin Streams team works alongside the community to care for their local streams by eradicating invasive weeds and planting native plants. The community is a key component to improving stream health by encouraging people to care for the environment and acknowledging the impacts of their actions.



Stream restoration on a site in Project Twin Streams generally covers five key stages:

- Site assessment, resource consents, and planting plan development
- Site preparation and weed eradication
- Planting and maintenance
- Natural regeneration, ongoing weed control, rubbish removal and pest control
- Monitoring and remediation

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## Key Components and Roles of the Stream Restoration Project

### Ecological Services

- Riparian coordination
- Restoration ecological services
- Landscape architectural services
- Environmental advisory services
- Preparation of best practice guidelines
- Geotechnical surveys and investigations

### Property Acquisition and Disposal

- Property acquisitions and disposals
- House removal and demolitions
- Management of removal contracts
- Property valuations
- Private property owner liaison and covenant agreements

### Contracted community groups

- Planning and organising public planting days
- Organising community groups and volunteers
- Liaise with riparian coordinators
- Planning and organising ongoing maintenance activities

### Publicity and promotions (through Public Affairs)

- Publication of Project Twin Streams newsletters – Stream Talk
- Website maintenance
- Project Twin Streams branding
- Public awareness campaigns
- Media briefs and liaison

### Seeing the progress



*June 2006*



*June 2007*



*September 2008*

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## Commercial contractors (physical works)

- Weed control, site preparation and riparian planting
- Technical support to community groups and volunteers

## Seeing the progress



## Creative community engagement (through Public Affairs)

- Creative community engagement
- Arts and drama coordination

*Before*



## Plant Suppliers

- Eco-sourced plant suppliers
- Technical support and advice

*Planting day*



*One year on*

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## Community Contracts & Community Engagement

Five community organisations are contracted to engage their local communities in the rehabilitation of the riparian margin along their stream and raising awareness of the wider vision of Project Twin Streams (PTS). Using a community development model, the contract holder is required to undertake:

- Planting, weeding and maintenance work in the stream area
- Plan and organise community events
- Build the capacity of the local community to undertake guardianship of parts of their stream
- Increase community understanding of the causes and effects of riparian degradation and ways to change behaviour to mitigate the effects
- Assist with monitoring and evaluation of the quadruple bottom line aspects of the project particularly with regard to community participation
- Plan for the long term implementation of this project in their area through community planting and maintenance activities.

**Streamtalk**  
PROJECT TWIN STREAMS OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
APRIL 2007

**Project Twin Streams Community Planting Days**

Opanuku	23 June
Matariki Planting	Border Road Bridge
8 September	Spring Planting
Spring Planting	Vintage Drive
Glen Eden	24 June
Matariki Planting	Kaurilands Domain, Atkinson Road
1 September	Spring Community Planting
1 Spring Community Planting	Ceramics Park, Glendale Road
Henderson Creek	19 May
19 May	Sherwood Park
14 July	Epping Park
Ranui-Massey	30 June
30 June	Matariki Planting
18 August	Riverpark Reserve, Massey
18 August	Waimoko Glen, Ranui.

**Swanson**  
In 2007, the Swanson group, which is co-ordinated by Catherine MacKenzie-Simpson, will be working with Swanson School to do two planting days and two weeding and maintenance days down at the end of Church Road. Three sites on the Redwood Golf Course have also been prepared for planting. The group is in the process of working out access details and it is envisaged that the sites will need to be planted by small groups. If you are interested in being part of a small group that does planting please contact Catherine MacKenzie-Simpson.

**Ranui-Massey**  
Project Twin Streams Ranui-Massey are currently seeking community input into a sculpture which will be placed at the entrance to Ulrich Reserve on Swanson Road. The first stage of planting here is complete and the aim is to have an artwork which will draw people into the reserve and encourage them to enjoy the replanted area, which was a focus of great community effort. Suggestions regarding a theme and/or materials are most welcome.

**Opanuku Stream**  
Project Twin Streams Opanuku Stream continue to build on the solid foundation they established in 2006. In the first year, 16,000 plants were planted via two community plantings and 11 community groups. The community organisation will also continue the stream tours, weeding and plant identification workshops they host.

**Henderson Creek**  
Project Twin Streams Henderson Creek will be the Colletta Wetland Project, which has been adopted by Flintham Primary School as part of their on-going support for Project Twin Streams. It is hoped that the school's involvement in this project will ensure the restoration of the wetland and the area will become an invaluable educational resource.

**Glen Eden**  
Project Twin Streams Glen Eden now has 7 groups who have adopted an area to care for in the Glen Eden catchment. The groups span the entire catchment and will be helping to restore the Whakarua, Bishop and Waikumeta Streams from the bushwaters near Titirangi down to the far end of Park Park in Oratia. A 2006 teachers workshop will be followed up with a workshop for residents on Saturday May 5. Open to anyone in the Glen Eden catchment area who wants to learn how to care for the stream in their back yard, this hands-on session will teach easy methods of weed control as well as how to plant and maintain your site. Bring some gumboots and we'll bring the lunch.

**Oratia**  
Project Twin Streams Oratia is getting off to a flying start in 2007. Oratia Stream now has a community contract in place, with McLaren Park & Henderson South Community Initiative recently signing the contract to deliver Project Twin Streams in the Lower Oratia area. We profile their new community coordinator, Jon Morgan - also known as Green Jon, on page 3.

**Great Year Ahead for Project Twin Streams**  
The big project for 2007 is the construction of the Project Twin Streams walk and cycleways. Construction has begun on the network of pathways - which consists of six segments totalling 11km.

**These events are a great chance to get involved in Project Twin Streams and have some fun. There will be music, art activities, fish and plant displays and a barbeque lunch to finish off.**

**The number of community organisations and groups involved in planting and maintaining sections of the stream banks continues to grow. If you, as a group or as an individual, would like to get involved in Project Twin Streams, please get in touch with the community coordinator in your area. Contact details for all the coordinators are listed on the back page.**

**The first section, from Great North Road to Border Road, will be opened at a launch festival at Corbin Art Estate on April 21. Further details on this fun-filled, family event are also on page 3.**

**The 2007 planting season kicks off on May 19, with two community plantings events. Henderson Creek will be organising a planting at Sherwood Park in Henderson and Ranui-Massey will be organising a planting at Don Buck Corner Reserve, Ranui.**

Quarterly newsletter distributed to all households in the Project Twin Streams area

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## PTS Cycle And Walkways

The Project Twin Streams walk and cycleway project provides 10km of mainly off-road pedestrian walkways and cycleway routes from Henderson town centre along the Oratia, Waikumete and Opanuku Streams, with on-road connections, footbridges, boardwalks and three underpasses.

The Project Twin Streams walk and cycleway is a \$11.2 million project funded through various grants (\$5.2 million from Auckland Regional Holdings; \$1.8 million from Land Transport New Zealand; and \$90,000 from Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund for signage and community involvement for sustainable urban design features) and the rest from Waitakere City Council.



## Project Twin Streams Sustainable Catchment

In November 2007 a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the Council and Auckland Regional Council to develop a shared understanding of the dynamics and governance of a sustainable catchment.

A first step in this process was the development of an innovative learning plan which builds on the community engagement and creative learning of Project Twin Streams and broadens the local communities' understanding about how a sustainable catchment works.