



THE GREEN NETWORK

GROWING THE GREEN NETWORK

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The Green Network is about greening up the city and enhancing, connecting, **merging**, and **extending** existing **natural areas**.

PLANS FOR THE GREEN NETWORK

The vision is to **connect** the Waitakere Ranges with the sea via strands of greenery - forest, bush, gardens, vineyards, and parks. Viewed from above, the Green Network would look like a **web** of greenery. Paths, trails and tracks beside greenery or water would wend in, around and beyond the city.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Access to The Green Network might be at your front gate or your back yard. Your hedge or garden may **connect** with your neighbours. The trees down your street might **lead to** a park which **borders** a stream. The forest there **meets** scrubland and the shelter belts of farms. The paddocks of the farms **merge** into vineyards and orchards and these merge into neighbourhood parks and peoples back gardens.

WHO BENEFITS

The Green Network provides us with: great views and vistas, places to play, walk & talk, fresh air, wide open spaces and wilderness, clean water for drinking and clean surf to swim in.

The Green Network is also for our other residents – our wildlife. The aim is to grow the number and diversity of creatures that live here (increasing biodiversity). Having a variety of birds, fish, insects and good numbers of them, is a sign of ecological health. Linking vegetation is especially important as many native birds need continuous cover and access to sizable tracts of bush – they will not fly over open or built up areas. Many native birds rely on native plants for food.

HOW THE NETWORK GROWS

- Through birds and wind and streams spreading native plant seeds.
- Through planting projects, both private landowners and Council's.
- Through Council buying land **adjoining** or **linking**, existing green areas.
- Through the efforts of many, many individuals and community groups who are involved in getting their green bits **growing** and coaxing others into doing their bit. Sometimes the most important work is the dirty and hard work of clearing weeds and cleaning streams.

THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR THE GREEN NETWORK

- Plant some ecosourced native plants on your property.
- Plant climbers on your fence or have a hedge instead.
- Plant trees and shrubs that appeal to native birds.
- Stop invasive weeds spreading from your property. Take them to the Refuse Transfer Station or put in gardening bags for composting.
- Plant stream edges to reduce flooding and improve water quality.
- Fence out stock from streams and bush – this improves water quality and reduces erosion.
- Become a Sustainable Neighbourhood with your neighbours.

ACTIONS WHICH ENHANCE, EXTEND AND SUPPORT THE GREEN NETWORK

ACTIONA WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL TAKES:

- Plant streamsides, parks and reserves.
- Create water features and wetlands that double as stormwater ponds for improving water quality e.g. at Harbourview, Paremuka, and Manawa.
- Builds track, bridges, board walks, trails and pedestrian links and cycle routes.
- Organise weed control on roadsides, parks and public places.
- Monitor environmental impacts, and studies birds, fish and insect life in the area.
- Provide information and education resources on living “lightly” on the land.
- Design stormwater treatment systems – using natural materials such as plants, rocks and earth swales rather than piping.
- Promote cleaner production – encouraging local factories and businesses to adopt environmentally friendly practises which reduce pollution.
- Establish District Plan rules which are designed to protect natural values through-out the City.

For further information contact the Waitakere City Council Call Centre, Ph 839 0400, Private Bag 93 109, Henderson, Waitakere City or visit the Council's website on www.waitakere.govt.nz

This is a Green Network Project

The Green Network joins natural areas to create a network of gardens, parks, streams, roadside plantings and coastlines. The Green Network gives you more places to play, connects you with the countryside and encourages birds and other wildlife to make their home here in Waitakere.