

Living by the Manukau Harbour

Titirangi, Laingholm, Parau, Cornwallis, Green Bay, Wood Bay, Huia

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

Living beside the Sea

The inlets and bays of the Manukau Harbour provide sheltered spots for play and many residents live by or can glimpse the sea. The Manukau coast is a great place for walking, fishing, water sports, and bird watching. There are a number of small bays and beaches which provide opportunities for enjoying the special features of the coastline. French Bay Beach, Titirangi Beach, Armour Bay Reserve, Huia Domain and Sandy's Parade all offer access to the water and areas for picnicking and walking.

Salt, Sea and Soil

Those who live near the coast will always be vulnerable to the effects of tides and wind but because there are sheltered areas you can grow a good range of plants. The best way to protect exposed land is to plant it densely. This reduces weeds and erosion and creates a buffer zone between you and the weather. Set your house or other structures well away from the cliff edge to reduce the danger of subsidence.

Harbour Coastline Ecosystem

The Manukau coastline is part of the Harbour Coastline Ecosystem. This ecosystem is situated between the Manukau and Waitemata Harbour coastlines. The vegetation on the coastline from Whatipu mouth to Little Huia, different from the coastline towards Titirangi, is best described as semi-exposed harbour entrance.

Semi-Exposed Harbour Entrance

Pohutukawa-puriri coastline with very diverse lowland forest including abundant nikau, mamangi and west coast kowhai (*Sophora fulvida*). Ngaio and tawapou are present. A local feature is *Pittosporum ellipticum* on dry hillsides above the salt spray zone.



Sheltered Coastal Fringe

Further along the coastline, from Huia eastwards, the sheltered narrow coastal fringe pohutukawa and pohutukawa/ rata hybrids. These join Northland kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*), abundant kohekohe, puriri, kauri and very diverse lowland forest including karaka and occasionally titoki, *Coprosma macrocarpa*, and the coastal astelia are common. The handsome wharangi is present.

Ngaio and tree daisy *Olearia albida* are rare. Numerous fern species include the abundant maidenhair *Adiantum cunninghamii*, and more rarely the dainty maidenhair *Adiantum diaphanum* and *Asplenium hookerianum* – all weed endangered. A wide range of lowland plants, including kauri, reach the shoreline.

Natural Highlights

Waitakere's Manukau coastline comprises housing amidst coastal forest and scrub, however, there are also some other natural gems including mudflats and mangrove forests.

Mudflats

Wader birds like godwits and pied stilts are attracted to the mudflats in this part of the city.



Mangroves

Mangroves are wonderful as they help protect properties from wave action and filter pollutants. They are also a vital "nursery" for young fish.



Good Plants to Grow beside the Sea

Pohutukawa offer the best protection from erosion.

Plant them along cliff edges or banks to help hold them together. Project Crimson may help you with seeds or plants. Plant kauri grass under your pohutukawa and add karamu to the cluster.

Middle Sized Trees

Use kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*), titoki, karaka, kanuka, cabbage trees, wineberry, pukatea, mamaku, ponga, kawakawa, ngaio, mapou or karo.

Low Growing and Hardy Plants

Trying to preserve your views but want to avoid erosion problems? Then plant flax, toetoe, shining karamu, cabbage trees and lots of carex grasses and turutu. Mercury Bay 'Weed' is great for lawns as it is hardy and needs full sunlight.

Seeking Shelter

Use hedges along your fence lines. Flax, karamu, and toetoe can create attractive borders. Also wonderful is taupata (*Coprosma repens*) and kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*).

Attracting the Birds

If you grow and cherish plants that birds love they'll help your garden grow by spreading seeds. Flax, kowhai, nikau, puriri, fivefinger and karamu all attract native birds. Exotics that appeal are bottle brush and tree lucerne.

Large Feature Trees

Other suitable specimens for this area are kauri, kahikatea, puriri and totara. Remember they will grow large – so keep them back from the house and away from drains.

Pets can be a Problem

The wetlands may look deserted – but they are teeming with life. Some of the birds are rare and vulnerable to local cats and dogs. Put a bell on your cats collar so that these birds and other animals can be warned and keep your dog on a leash.

Wildfire Weeds

Weeds spread like wildfire usually because garden waste has been dumped. The spread of garden waste into parks and streams creates a particular problem. The worst weeds on Waitakere's Manukau coast include woolly nightshade, privet and boneseed. The Council offers some help for battling weeds on your section including:

- Weed bins (free delivery and disposal)
- Weed bags (for ginger)
- Rebates on weed control contractors
- Plants for replacing the weeds

For more information phone 839 0400 (24 hrs).

Pollution Problems

Pollution of creeks and streams is a problem in urban areas. Silt, household chemicals and rainwater collected from roads and drives affect fish life and water quality.

Using environmentally friendly products, especially biodegradable ones, helps minimise these effects. Keeping your cars tuned and free of oil leaks also helps, and washing your car on the lawn.

Horticultural Ventures

Contain pollution by putting swales (shallow grassed ditches) around glasshouses so spray and insecticides settle in the soil rather than in the water course.

Try manual removal or low toxicity sprays for weeds and for your neighbours' sake consider the effects of spray drift – don't spray on windy days.

Free and Useful Advice and Information:

- *The Green Network flyer*
- *D.I.Y. Weed Control*
- *Slip Sliding Away – on preventing erosion*
- *Native to the West - A Guide to Planting and Restoring the Nature of Waitakere City*
- *Weed Fact Sheets (Auckland Regional Council and Environment Bay of Plenty)*

Phone 839 0400 (24 hrs) for this information.

Other Brochures in this Series:

- Living in the Bush
- Living in the Waitakere foothills
- Living on Waitakere's West Coast
- The Waitakere Gardening Guide (for people living in urban Waitakere).
- Living by the Waitemata Harbour



Interested in your Environment?

So are the following groups, contact them if you'd like to get involved in enhancing your area:

- The Weedfree Waitakere Trust
- Waitakere and New Lynn Community Boards
- West Auckland Forest and Bird Society
- Manukau Harbour Protection Society
- Keep Waitakere Beautiful
- Project Crimson
- Ark in the Park

For contact details phone 839-0400 (24hrs).

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, gives birds and other wildlife access to your neighbourhood and encourages them to make their home here in Waitakere.

