

Natural Environment Features Map – Description of Features

The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 defines the range of heritage features that may occur in the heritage area and as part of the Local Area Plan process, Waitakere City Council must identify the extent and nature of the heritage features in the local area. These maps attempt to illustrate the information currently available on those features.

Outstanding Vegetation

These sites were identified through the surveys carried out during 1988-1989 as part of the Protected Natural Areas (PNA) Programme. These areas contain vegetation that is the best representative example of each vegetation community in the ecological district. The PNA Programme is a New Zealand wide Department of Conservation programme, developed to ensure the range of natural features in New Zealand are conserved for the future.

For a list of outstanding vegetation sites and where they are located in Waitakere City refer to the District Plan - *Policy* Appendix E: Outstanding Vegetation Sites.

For information on objectives and policies relating to areas containing outstanding vegetation refer to the District Plan – *Policy*.

Significant vegetation

These are areas of vegetation that satisfy at least one of the criteria developed by Waitakere City Council for identifying significant vegetation. These areas can include areas of vegetation with a component of exotic species such as pine in the canopy, but which nonetheless have satisfied at least one of the criteria.

The criteria are listed in the District Plan – *Policy* Appendix D: Methodology used to identify natural, heritage and amenity features of Waitakere City. For information on objectives and policies relating to areas containing significant vegetation and where they are located refer to the District Plan – *Policy*.

Ecological Linkage Opportunities

These are areas or remnants of bush that have been identified as potential linkages between isolated patches of significant vegetation, or between restoration areas and patches of significant vegetation. Revegetation or restoration of these areas is considered desirable. Linkage areas identified are intended to connect the bush covered Ranges with remnant forest patches in the City lowlands. Many of these linkages make use of existing stream systems where riparian restoration is either underway or is planned for the future.

For a list of the Ecological Linkage Opportunities areas and where they are located in Waitakere City please refer to the District Plan – *Policy* Appendix L: Ecological linkage opportunities and restoration.

Bush Protection and Revegetation Areas

The Oratia Structure Plan identifies bush protection and revegetation enhancement areas. The District Plan seeks to ensure that these areas are encompassed within proposed sites in a manner that best provides for their future management and protection. This may include permanent fencing to exclude stock, and weed and pest control. The District Plan requires that any planting in bush protection or revegetation enhancement areas of the structure plan will use native species.

Restoration Projects

Waitakere City Council operates a number of ecological restoration programmes in conjunction with local community groups to restore and enhance the health of waterways, bush and local areas. These projects operate throughout the city, many through either the

Green Network Community Action on Parks Programme or through Project Twin Streams.
Other projects are run by community trusts such as Ecomatters.

Contact Waitakere City Council for more information about these projects.