

OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

1.0 VISION STATEMENT

The Lower Oratia Stream corridor, encompassing both reserves and private land, is to be restored to a healthy ecosystem and to provide a range of passive recreational opportunities that lie within the context of the natural environment.

2.0 RECREATION AND USE

The Lower Oratia Stream is the central feature of the Oratia corridor, yet it is not always the key focus. The reserves in the corridor require the incorporation of the recreational ideals of the Reserves Act, such as 'providing for the preservation and management of areas for the benefit and enjoyment of the public', and 'promoting the protection of the natural character of the margins of lakes and rivers' (Reserves Act 1977).

The Lower Oratia Stream connects the suburbs of Sunnyvale and Henderson to the Waitakere Ranges via open spaces in an alternative manner to the road network. Close to this stream lie places of public use, such as Sunnyvale Primary School, Sunnyvale Railway Station, Holy Cross School, Westfield Shopping Centre and the retail sector of Henderson, Henderson Railway Station and Henderson Public School. Along with these community-focused buildings, light industrial buildings back onto the stream. All these uses, along with the predominantly residential land use, make it appear reasonable to locate a cycle walkway route to follow the stream in order to provide connections to these different activity nodes. Community opinion also favours a walking or biking trail following the stream.

Objective:

To provide passive and active recreational opportunities that incorporate an appreciation of the riverside character, including direct pedestrian and cycle access to surrounding community use activities.

Policy 2.1:

Provide passive and active public recreational uses along the reserves of the Lower Oratia Stream.

Implementation:

- Allow for recreational facilities to the southern end of the Oratia Esplanade.
- Provide a range of walking routes to suit a variety of users. Incorporate boardwalks, bridges, and lookout pontoons in the cycle walkway network where appropriate.
- Provide seating as appropriate along with picnic / BBQ opportunities.
- Retain open grassed areas for passive recreation.
- Provide a mixed use cycle and walkway along the entire length of the Lower Oratia Stream where possible.

Policy 2.2:

Provide for the appreciation of the riverside character throughout these reserves.

Implementation:

- Ensure some visual access to the stream and its embankments is retained from the combined cycle and walkway.
- Incorporate educational features such as signage along the cycle and walkway route.



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- Incorporate natural materials with a streamside theme where appropriate and within Waitakere City Council's parks budget.
- Provide an interpretation trail through the reserves identifying elements of interest.
- Provide viewing platforms over the stream at appropriate locations.
- Enhance the reserves with suitable native plant species planted in a manner in keeping with the natural character.
- Ensure planting allows for views of the stream.

Policy 2.3:

Provide a safe environment for reserve users.

Implementation:

- Implement "Safer Design for the Green Network: Design Guidelines" to ensure that buildings, facilities and plantings are designed and maintained in a way that minimises safety concerns and maximises surveillance.
- Clearly highlight major entry and exit points to the reserve, with signage and strong entrance features.
- Provide signage at all junctions, key locations, entries and exits.
- Locate cycle and walkways where good surveillance exists, particularly at the tops of banks where views can be obtained from both sides.
- Maintain clear visibility where planting is adjacent to a walkway through the use of low growing species.
- Provide seating at points with good sightlines along the path.
- Incorporate accessways to link with main paths on both sides of

reserves to allow users to easily enter and exit walkways.

- Liaise with neighbouring properties to encourage the construction of low, permeable fences, or, where possible, the removal of fences adjoining the reserve.
- Ensure that any new fencing required along the reserve boundaries adjacent to the cycle and walkway are permeable.
- Allow for low screening planting where there is existing impermeable fencing along reserve boundaries adjacent to the cycle and walkway, in order to deter graffiti and enhance amenity.
- Unless otherwise required, Council dog bylaws will apply to all areas covered by this Plan.
- Maintain all play equipment in accordance with NZS 5828 and Council Safety Standards. All buildings and structures shall comply with the Building Code.
- Consider Occupational Health and Safety issues in the design and maintenance of structural elements of the reserve.
- Maintain pathways and their sightlines along with other features and structures of the reserve.
- Provide shade trees near seating areas.

3.0 ECOLOGICAL VALUES

The Lower Oratia Stream is an important tributary of Henderson Creek, which leads out to the Waitemata Harbour. The Lower Oratia Stream itself is considered a potential significant passageway for native aquatic life, with a relatively high level of diversity apparent. The restoration and revegetation of the stream and its margins is a primary aim of the sustainable management of these reserves.



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Objective:

Protect and enhance the natural ecosystems of these reserves, especially the streams and their margins.

Policy 3.1:

To protect the natural ecosystems of these reserves.

Implementation:

- Protect existing ecological communities along the stream, as identified in the Tamaki Ecological District Survey Report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. Refer to **Appendix F** for information on these ecological communities.
- Identify areas of embankment instability, and incorporate stabilising works into planting plans.
- Provide habitat features throughout streams and the reserves, such as rocks and old logs.
- Provide riparian planting as a habitat for the food source of fish.
- Monitor and control weed growth.
- Remove rubbish from stream and reserves on a regular basis.
- Formalise the pathway network prior to planting, to encourage the public to utilise a set route in order to protect the existing and proposed planting. Use permeable pathway materials where appropriate.

Policy 3.2:

Enhance the natural ecosystems of the reserves, especially the streams and their margins, to increase their ecological value and their visual appearance.

Implementation:

- Revegetate streams, riparian zones and embankments in particular, with appropriate, eco-sourced plant species.
- Source plant material according to Council and Ecowater's eco-sourcing policy.
- Undertake regular mowing of grassed areas, in line with the Parks mowing schedule.
- Where possible, retain open grassed areas – utilising native, eco-sourced grass species such as *Carex sp.* as much as possible, at the top of embankments in reserves and around pathways.
- Provide detailed planting plans for all planting works proposed along stream for Council records.

Policy 3.3:

To remove exotic weeds where viable.

Implementation:

- Stage weed removal in conjunction with revegetation so as to prevent erosion, sedimentation and weed re-establishment.
- Minimise soil disturbance on reserves. Ensure all works comply with ARC technical publication 90 (TP90) regarding sediment control.
- Establish a community consultation process to allow for extra dialogue, including alternatives for the current bamboo screen planting along Millbrook Road.

Policy 3.4:

Encourage the public's appreciation of the natural environment and ecosystems.

Implementation:

- Encourage community groups, including corporate groups from the commercial/ industrial areas to participate in the planting.



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- Encourage the community to take ownership of reserves.
- Encourage community participation in Project Twin Streams activities taking place in the reserves.
- Use signs relating to the natural environment and ecosystem where appropriate.

4.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORY

Maori Cultural Heritage:

The history of the reaches of the Lower Oratia Stream is of significance to Maori. It is in everyone's best interest to incorporate sustainable management into the recognition and protection of this cultural heritage.

Objective:

To recognise, protect and convey where appropriate, the Maori cultural and historical values of the Lower Oratia Reserves.

Policy 4.1:

To recognise the Maori cultural and historical heritage.

Implementation:

- Provide District Plan protection for all identified and recorded archaeological sites.
- Work with Iwi to ensure that archaeological sites are protected by the most appropriate means and added to the Historic Places Trust records.
- Consult with Iwi to develop artwork signage that incorporates cultural values.

European Cultural Heritage:

The Lower Oratia Stream also has a rich European history, from the initial timber milling that occurred, through to it being settled and developed, becoming a major horticultural and viticultural area.

Objective:

To recognise, protect and promote, where appropriate, European cultural history.

Policy 4.2:

To identify and protect sites of European cultural significance.

Implementation:

- Identify sites and features, including trees, of historic cultural significance along the reaches of the Lower Oratia Stream.
- Register future finds regarding significant places or items with the Historic Places Trust, the West Auckland Historical Society, and with the ARC Cultural Heritage Inventory, and in the District Plan as appropriate.
- Consult with West Auckland Historical Society on the best means of protection and management of historic sites and features.
- Prepare a conservation plan for any highly significant historical sites.
- Where possible, and within the Parks budget, install public art with a heritage focus, or interpretation signage at the location of elements of historic value particularly along the streamside walk.



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5.0 WATER QUALITY

The water quality of the Lower Oratia Stream is described as moderate compared to other Waitakere region streams. Stormwater discharges into the stream and ultimately to Henderson Creek and the Waitemata Harbour. As mentioned earlier, the stream's ecological values are considered poor, mainly due to sedimentation issues (**refer to soils and water quality descriptions in Part 1: section 6**). Other key impacts on the water quality of the stream include bank erosion, the dumping of rubbish in the stream itself and contaminated stormwater from surrounding roads and industries.

Objective:

Improve the water quality of the Lower Oratia Stream.

Policy 5.1:

Reduce the amount of sedimentation accumulating in the Lower Oratia Stream.

Implementation:

- Minimise soil disturbance
- Revegetate stream banks with appropriate species to promote bank stabilisation.
- Allow for engineering works for stabilisation of banks, as required.
- Reduce the amount of impermeable surfaces.
- Monitor the stream before, during and after works to the reserves occurs.
- Where possible use rip rap rock work with riparian planting infill.

Policy 5.2:

Reduce the amount of stormwater overflow into the Lower Oratia Stream.

Implementation:

- Allow for stormwater drainage guards such as Biofilters in reserves, where required.
- Use permeable paving as much as possible throughout the reserves of the Lower Oratia Stream.

Policy 5.3:

Educate the public on water quality issues

Implementation:

- Allow for the 'daylighting' of drains in the reserves.
- Supply rubbish bins in areas of greatest use in reserves as appropriate.
- Work with local businesses to implement programmes to reduce and recycle waste.
- Work with neighbours to reduce the illegal dumping of rubbish over boundary fences.
- Liaise with local supermarkets to develop and implement a strategy to reduce the dumping of supermarket trolleys.
- Investigate the use of signs appropriately located in the reserves to highlight the impact of illegally dumping weeds.
- Support education programmes to encourage responsible disposal of rubbish by local residents and members of the public.
- Establish a buffer along both sides of the Stream to reduce the opportunities for vehicle access and rubbish dumping in the Stream and the reserves.
- Promote the awareness of stream and water quality through artwork, signs, activities and management practices.
- Encourage community participation with clean up events in the reserves.



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Policy 5.4:

Improve the water quality of the Lower Oratia Stream as a habitat for native aquatic species.

Implementation:

- Replace exotic and invasive species growing along the stream with appropriate indigenous species (taking into account habitat value).
- Allow for the retention of canopy trees to provide shade along the stream itself.

6.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO ENJOY NATURE ON THE RESERVES

The Lower Oratia Stream reserves are there for the public to enjoy. Opportunities should be provided for this and the protection of the environment.

Objective:

Protect the natural character of the Lower Oratia Stream for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.

Policy 6.1:

Promote an understanding of the natural character of Lower Oratia Stream.

Implementation:

- Provide a nature / streamside trail with access to the Stream where possible, as proposed for Project Twin Streams.
- Use signage boards and art features to illustrate the importance of the natural environment of the Lower Oratia Stream

- Provide viewing platforms and boardwalks that encourage close proximity to the stream and its ecosystem. Co-ordinate lookouts and other features with educational signage boards to encourage an interactive appreciation of the streamside ecology.
- Where possible install seating at locations allowing for views of the Stream.
- Encourage community events such as planting days.

Policy 6.2:

Provide opportunities to celebrate the natural character of the Lower Oratia Stream.

Implementation:

- Support events in the reserves that celebrate the history, culture and landscapes of the reserves and of the community.
- Allow for temporary community events to occur in the reserves such as fun runs, or community festivals where compatible with ecological values.
- Ensure that any event in the Lower Oratia Reserves does not conflict with the overall natural character and ecological values of these reserves.
- At the conclusion of any event, the reserves these events were held in shall be reinstated to the condition prior to the event (planting days could be included to achieve this).

7.0 LANDSCAPE VALUES

There are currently few structures in the reserves of the Lower Oratia Stream, with perhaps the exception of Hart Domain, which has a children's playground. The overall natural character of these reserves should be preserved. Where structures are required, they should not obstruct views or stand out as uncomplimentary to the natural character of the reserves.



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Objective:

Retain the natural character of the landscape throughout the entire chain of reserves.

Policy 7.1:

Minimise the impact of structures on the reserves.

Implementation:

- Ensure that the materials used for any structures are compatible with the natural character of these reserves.
- Ensure structures don't create a flood hazard.
- Ensure that structures such as footbridges or boardwalks do not have a detrimental effect on the landscape or ecological values of the reserves.

Policy 7.2:

Reduce the impact of physical processes on the landscape values of the Lower Oratia Stream corridor.

Implementation:

- Reduce bank destabilisation with planting of appropriate grasses and pioneer plants initially to allow for the establishment of plant communities to progressively take over this role.
- Use plants that will tolerate flood events.
- Wherever possible use soft engineering solutions, if required.
- Prevent activities that will compromise the natural formation and stability of the Stream banks.

Policy 7.4:

Incorporate Maori values into the Lower Oratia Reserves.

Implementation:

- Involve Iwi groups in any design projects in the reserves.

8.0 ACCESS, PARKING AND CIRCULATION

The close proximity of local schools, railway stations, industrial and commercial areas to the Lower Oratia Stream, means safe pedestrian access that provides connections to these activities is important. Public submissions also indicate that the majority of respondents would like to see a cycle and walkway along the stream that connects to major uses (**Refer to Appendix C** for a summary of community submissions).

As most of the reserves along the Lower Oratia Stream are esplanade reserves, it is recommended that the main forms of access remain as pedestrian and cycle ways. The exclusion of vehicular traffic (except for allowance for emergency vehicles), would help to highlight and protect the natural character of these reserves.

Objective:

Provide safe and user-friendly access and connections to and from activity nodes that occur along the Lower Oratia Stream. Retain the natural character of these reserves in the implementation of circulation routes and parking areas.

Policy 8.1:

Provide cycle and walkway links that provide connections to major activities.

Implementation:

- Provide a cycle and walkway that connects Henderson commercial centre to Sunnyvale Railway Station. Include links to centres of importance, such as Sunnyvale Public School, along this route.



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- Provide a cycle and walkway route along the Lower Oratia Stream from Sunnyvale Railway Station until the southern extent of the reserves.
- Provide a cycle and walkway connection between the Lower Oratia Stream reserves and Parrs Park.

Policy 8.2:

Encourage the local community to utilise cycle and walkway links.

Implementation:

- Improve cycle and walkway connections between major facilities, without compromising the natural character of the reserves.
- Use clear signage, possibly including maps, to indicate walkways and linkages.
- Encourage surveillance along the route through safety design features, open spaces, and the maintenance of views from properties along the route.
- Ensure that entrances and exits to walkways are clearly marked attractive, and well maintained.

Policy 8.3:

Minimise vehicular access and parking to the reserves.

Implementation:

- Restrict parking opportunities to the larger reserves.
- Restrict vehicular access to sensitive areas along the Lower Oratia Stream so that only emergency vehicles may enter.
- Construct parking areas out of permeable paving where possible.

9.0 ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

The overall structure for the management and administration of these reserves is outlined in the Reserves Act 1977. In addition, due consideration should be regarded to the Resource Management Act 1991 and, the District Plan under which this Plan was prepared.

The effectiveness of this Management Plan needs to be constantly monitored. Council By-laws equally, need to be integrated within the intent of the Management Plan. This is particularly important in respect to the interface between Reserves, dog control and public behaviour within the reserves.

Objective:

To ensure the reserves are managed in terms of their reserve classifications for the enjoyment and use of the local and regional community, now and in the future.

Policy 9.1:

To classify all reserves appropriately according to their use and value in order to best ensure their continued protection and use.

Implementation:

- All reserves covered by this Management Plan shall be appropriately classified under the Reserves Act 1977.
- Ensure that any additional parcels of land, which may be added to the Lower Oratia Stream reserves in the future, are classified appropriately in terms of their contribution to the Green Network and the existing reserve framework.



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Policy 9.2:

Any activity or development not provided for under the Policies and Implementation in the Management Plan will not be permitted unless such an activity or development at least complies with the District Plan rules for Open Space Environment and the General By-laws 1990.

Policy 9.3:

The actions identified in the Policies are necessary to achieve the objectives of the Management Plan. To implement the actions outlined within each Policy in this document, Waitakere City Council will follow an Annual Plan process to allocate funds for these actions.

Policy 9.4:

To provide for user concessions by way of permit for special events as detailed in earlier Policy 6.2

Implementation:

- Grant permits for temporary concessions or events for the use of areas of the reserves that are compatible with the objectives for the reserves and in accordance with policy or implementation under this Management Plan. Applications would be made to the Manager of Parks, who may consult with the Community Board as required to assess such applications.
- Allow permits for hireage related to appropriate recreational opportunities, including water recreation, at appropriate sites as approved by the Manager of Parks.
- Permits for special events may incur an additional bond or charge in respect to the potential for damage and public liability, or the need for remedial works.

- Concessions may be granted in respect to refreshments and for wheeled transport compatible with the values of the Reserves.

Policy 9.5:

To use the control of lease agreements to ensure the most effective equitable use of the Lower Oratia Stream Reserves and facilities.

Implementation:

- Ensure that the leasing of areas of land within the reserves provides for community use and well-being. The leases of facilities such as buildings should ensure the maximum potential of the reserve is realised for the community.
- Ensure that new leases conform to the criteria as set out in the Community Assistance Policy and Parks Strategy. In addition the applicant will need to satisfy the Waitakere City Council that the proposed use:
 - Will be in accordance with the Objective and Policies of this Plan;
 - Will be in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977;
 - Will not detract from the existing environment and use of the park;
 - Will generally provide a benefit (or benefits) to the public which is greater than any adverse effect caused by granting the lease;
 - Is in an appropriate location;
 - Will not cater exclusively to any one sector of the public, except where this is provided for and is appropriate in terms of the Objectives and Policies of this Plan.
- Revise and renew all existing leases in accordance with the criteria listed above.



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Policy 9.6:

Keep this Management Plan under regular review.

Implementation:

- Continually monitor the impacts of activities mentioned in this Management Plan for effectiveness.
- A continuous review of this Management Plan should occur as outlined in section 41(4) of the Reserves Act 1977.
- Subject to subsection 41(3) of the same Act, ensure the Plan is adapted to changing circumstances or in accordance with increased knowledge; or if the Minister for the Environment requires it.
- Undertake a full review of the entire Plan within ten years of the date of approval.

