



# GREEN NETWORK COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

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## SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

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Many residents of Waitakere spend much time and energy on their land, working to encourage local birds, insects, lizards and plants. Stream-sides, coastal edges, wetlands, bush and other features on or around their land benefit. The Green Network Community Assistance Programme provides support and advice. Assistance is focussed on groups of properties to encourage neighbours to work together to achieve a long lasting outcome.

Sustainable Neighbourhoods provides assistance for working on private properties as well as parks and reserves. Council can provide a mentor to help you coordinate a group of keen residents, seek funding, provide specialised training, and see the project through to completion.

**Please note: The Community Assistance programme is not available to people fulfilling regulatory requirements** e.g. undertaking landscaping or restoration required by a resource or subdivision consent. There are two exceptions to this:

- We will assist with technical advice that guides landowners in appropriately fulfilling their consent requirements
- We will assist if you are doing work to help nature beyond the requirements of the resource consent. Support is then available for that additional component of their project.

For further information contact the Waitakere City Council Call Centre, Ph 839 0400, Private Bag 93 109, Henderson, Waitakere City or email the Green Network team on [greennetwork@waitakere.govt.nz](mailto:greennetwork@waitakere.govt.nz)



| <b>Free Assistance Available</b> | <b>Comments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| Technical advice & support       | Council staff can provide a wide range of advice and ideas to help your group succeed. The Green Network team holds a list of all community groups in the city and can put you in touch with your local group, or help you set up a new one.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Brochures & Information          | Council has fact sheets on many issues related to living with and caring for our environment. These include: gardening guides; weed info; revegetation for stream sides, ponds, storm water treatment areas, etc; understanding our rainforest; the Green Network.                                                                                                                                            |
| Management plans                 | As the first step of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods programme a management plan will be drawn up for the neighbourhood area to identify weeds and provide a planting plan. The management plan can also express your vision for the project and identify the steps along the way to get there.                                                                                                                |
| Free plants                      | Plants can be provided for community planting events. The types and numbers of plants will be identified through the management plan and can be provided on the day of your planting event. Plants are provided for planting on private property and parks.                                                                                                                                                   |
| Weed Bins                        | Large weed bins can be provided for community weeding events in special circumstances. However, a number of permanent community bins are located throughout the city. Contact the Green Network team for more information.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Sustainable weed control         | For smaller weed infestations the Green Network subsidises the provision of composting bags and barrels. This reduces weeds going to landfill and they are reusable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Tarpaulins                       | For small amounts of weeds that cannot be composted on site, tarpaulins are available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Contractor assistance            | For those hard to reach weeds and dangerous situations, Council can provide a contractor to assist a community event. The requirements for the contractor will be set out in the management plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Sustainable pest animal control  | An important part of habitat restoration is animal pest control. Reusable traps can be supplied to community groups for use on private land or parks. Training can be provided for trap use (see below).                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Education and Training           | Council can provide specialised training for your community group ranging from field trips to classroom based courses. Training ranges from native plant and weed identification to the safe use of herbicides and traps.                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Covenanted                       | A covenant (voluntary legal protection for part or all of a property) enables landowners to give long-term protection to their land and gain access to significant resources from Council to support them in looking after that land. Owners keep ownership of the land; there is a commitment to be proactive in looking after the land; there is the opportunity to increase personal skills and knowledge. |
| Rates Relief                     | Rates relief is offered for properties with a covenant in place. Rates relief is part of the Green Network Community Assistance Programme but has its own policy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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### **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.