



# Green Network Community Assistance

Summary Information

## PRIVATE LAND - HELP FOR PEOPLE HELPING NATURE ON THEIR PLACE

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. These people care, but often strike barriers that if overcome would let them achieve much greater or quicker results. The Green Network Community Assistance Programme provides that support and encouragement. It includes a range of measures from the easy-to-implement to more in-depth help.



### Community Assistance and Technical Assistance offered

Assistance listed below is available by contacting the Waitakere City Council Call Centre on 839-0400.

Free Assistance Available	Comments
Technical advice & support	This is the most popular assistance offered. It is also very effective at helping members of the public overcome obstacles to their Green Network project plans. It has become apparent that many residents have plans and projects but are held back by a lack of accessible and reliable information. Such information is available from Council over the phone, or during a site visit where necessitated by the complexity of the situation.
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	An on-site visit to a property to assess issues such as environmental weeds, erosion control, revegetation and enhancement of existing bush. A written record (Management Plan) of the information and topics discussed is made. This is left with the landowner.
Free plants #	Plants are provided of a size, a species, and in numbers relevant to the activity and size of the area (1 plant minimum - 200 plants maximum).
Weed Bins #	This involves the supply of a 9m <sup>3</sup> bin to those individuals, or groups or neighbourhoods that can fill the bin and are working collectively. <u>Bins are for environmental weeds only.</u> This is the most popular practical assistance offered. Many people are happy to put in the labour to remove weeds if assisted with the disposal.

Table continued overleaf.....



Ginger bags	For those with small quantities bags are available. These can be filled with ginger roots (rhizomes) and flower heads and placed at the gate for free collection as per household rubbish bags. (The stems and leaves of ginger can be safely composted.)
Ginger dumping	Car or trailer loads of ginger can be left at the Transfer Station free of charge. This is for individual residential use.
Contractor subsidy for control of weeds #	Council offers this only in specific instances where a member of the public is working with a particularly difficult situation. This situation may be due to the very large volume of the weed, incapacity of the owner or the need for technical expertise required by some weed species. There is a cap of 50% of cost up to a maximum of \$300.
Supply of escort herbicide #	This is offered where ginger infestations are sufficiently large to warrant, or where neighbours collectively have such a volume of weed and are working together. The minimum volume available is 80 litres of solution - which will control around 100m <sup>2</sup> of ginger. Escort is the least toxic herbicide that effectively controls ginger.
Fencing subsidy to control stock #	This is available where stock threatens valued natural areas such as bush, riparian areas, swampland or coastal edges. There is a cap of 50% of the cost up to a maximum of \$1000.
Covenanting #	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.

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

- Provision of technical advice that guides landowners in appropriately fulfilling their consent requirements
- Where landowners are going beyond the requirements of their resource consent then support is 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 visit the Council's website on [www.waitakere.govt.nz](http://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, gives birds and other wildlife access to your neighbourhood and encourages them to make their home here in Waitakere

