

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 the 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 Waitemata coast include woolly nightshade, privet and boneseed.

Waitakere City 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 information on this assistance
Ph 839 0400

Pollution problems

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

Horticultural ventures

Contain pollution by putting in 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 & information

- The Green Network
- QEII National Trust (Revegetation Guides)
- Waitakere's Worst Weeds ID sheet
- Streamside Planting
- Slip Sliding Away - on preventing erosion
- A Guide to Planting and Restoring the Nature of Waitakere City
- The Good Plant Guide (ARC)
- Weed Guide (ARC)

Phone 839 0400

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).

Interested in your environment?

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

- The WeedFree Waitakere Trust
- Massey Community Board
- Herald Island Residents & Ratepayers Assn
- West Auckland Forest and Bird Society
- Guardians of the Upper Waitemata
- Keep Waitakere Beautiful
- Project Crimson
- Waitemata Harbour and Hauraki Gulf Protection Society

For contact details Phone 839-0400



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.

Living by the Waitemata Harbour



**Te Atatu Peninsula, Massey East,
Hobsonville, Whenuapai, Royal Heights,
Herald Island, West Harbour**



Waitakere City Council
Te Tatao o Waitakere

Natural Highlights

Waitakere's Waitemata coastline is largely covered with housing, however, there are a few patches of native vegetation remaining and 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. They help protect properties from wave action and filter pollutants. They are also an important "nursery" for young fish.

Massey Highlights

Massey has one of the best scarp (cliffside) forests in the Waitemata area featuring kauri, kowhai and kanuka. Pied Shags have created a colony on the Colwill Scarp.

Moire Park in Massey is one of Waitakere's best kept secrets. Within the park are patches of mature native bush, a stream, mangroves and some great views out to sea.

Te Atatu Peninsula

Te Atatu once had giant kahikatea - pukatea forest and nikau groves. Natural highlights now include the oioi rushes and shell banks of the foreshore as well as the godwits, pukeko and the fernbird. Banded Kokapu (native fish) and eels are also present in the small creeks in the area.



WHATS ON OFFER

Living beside the sea

The inlets and bays provide sheltered spots for play and many residents live by or can glimpse the sea.

The Waitemata coast is a great place for walking, fishing (Herald Island), watersports, and birdwatching.

This area has some superb coastal walks which will refresh and enlighten. Try visiting Harbourview Walkway, the Taipari Strand walk or the Waipareira Walkway from Luckens Reserve to West Park Marina.

Salt, sea and soil

Those who live near the coast will always be vulnerable to the effects of the tides and the wind but because there are sheltered areas you can grow a good range of plants in your garden. The best way to protect your precious land is to plant it - densely. This reduces weeds 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.

Good Plants to Grow

Right 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 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 fencelines. Flax, karamu, and toetoe can create attractive borders.

Attracting the birds

If you grow and cherish plants that birds love they'll help your garden grow by spreading seeds. Flax and kowhai 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.

