

The Piha Wetland Restoration Project

Intention: Wetland + Education



- To restore the Piha wetland - a unique environmental initiative.
- To provide a facility where young people and the community can study and explore a wide range of ecological issues including native flora and fauna.
- To have well resourced outdoor classroom for students, youth, community and visitors from around New Zealand.
- “Hands on” – experiential learning and growing.

Themes



- Sustainability is a central consideration for each aspect of the project: wetland, native flora and fauna, weed and pest control, maintenance, facilities, staffing, budgeting and funding; thereby ensuring the life of the project into the future.
- Maoritanga is woven through the project both at a cultural and practical level. The project is guided by local kaumatua and there are two planned initiatives: Maori healing garden and a flax garden housing rare flaxes and those protected by our local iwi.
- Bounded by forest, river and ocean the wetland site at Piha offers an enormous range of ecological processes to study, observe and enjoy.

Who Will Come

Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary - Intermediate - Secondary • University - Postgraduate students - Overseas students
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local groups - Local gallery: Art & sculpture initiatives - Coast Care • Interest groups - Forest and Bird - Native flora and Fauna Interest groups
Underprivileged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed • Low decile schools - Special Needs

One of the many exciting aspects of the project is the extensive range of people who will be welcome to visit and greatly benefit from the experience. All ages all cultures.

Why Fund This Project

- It provides a much needed facility for New Zealand education at all levels.
- It is the only project of its kind in the country.
- The entire project from the soil up to hardscape feature such as boardwalks and observation platforms has been thoroughly researched and continues to be advised by experts.
- The project planning is comprehensive and robust with best practice being engaged at every level.
- A fast growing group of principals (including special needs schools and unemployment initiatives) and community leaders have given their support and expressed their strong desire to utilise the facility.
- A diverse spectrum of stakeholders is enthusiastic to support the project; this will sustain the project through its stages of development.
- There are many youth in New Zealand who have never had the opportunity to appreciate the importance and magnificence of our native birds, plants and environment.
- This project will make a significant contribution to building the desire to be guardians of our heritage.
- The emphasis on ecological and economic sustainability ensures the longevity of the project.

What Facilities Will Be Available

- Educational/ecological resources to guide observation and studies.
- A schoolhouse – reception area for teaching and educational information.
- Onsite office and Site Officer to guide and support visitors.
- Access around the site via paths and boardwalks.
- Outdoor information panels.
- Teaching/observation platforms with information about the ecological features pertaining to each specific area of the wetland: river, ponds, birds, forest, human impacts, water quality.
- Planting and pest and weed control programmes to join; the tools are provided on site.

What Has Been Achieved

A robust foundation has been built which will ensure quality measurable project outcomes. The project sits on a significant body of expert planning from office systems through to site development, budgets and funding.

- Stakeholder relationships and agreements are developed: with ecology experts, local council, iwi, Memo Of Understanding with Auckland City, a 25 year lease agreement with the Ministry of Education, West Auckland schools and principals and local rangers are actively supporting the project.
- An education advisory group is well underway developing education resources and advising developments.
- Environmental and horticulture experts, Naturally Natives Ltd from Tauranga have produced a comprehensive restoration and planting guide.
- Staffing: Administrator funded from grant funds..
- Grant funding already received for staffing, plants, tools, weed control and signage.
- A fully scoped project framework and strategic plan has been developed and costing that will guide the delivery of the project over the next 5 years. (summary attached)
- Assessment criteria are being created to measure both ecological factors and project developments.
- Branding: logo and branding completed.
- We have an effective accounting system in place and a fully serviced office with secretarial services.

What we can offer you

- Free membership to “Friends of the Piha Wetland Project” and our regular newsletter.
- Acknowledgement on sponsor board and webpage
- Opportunity to display your services at open days.
- Acknowledgement plaques on specific structures.
- Your profile and branding is boosted by being linked to such a high impact environmental project based on sustainability – “social responsibility”.

The Trustees are:

Formed in 2009 the Trustees are: Kerry Dean (Chairperson) - Leading Edge Services Ltd, Terry Hewetson – Principal, Glen Eden Intermediate, Linda Mayow – Principal, Glen Eden Primary, Bruce Dale – Principal, Henderson Intermediate, Sandra Hewetson – Principal, Western Heights School, Jan Harvey – Deputy Principal, Kelston Girls College, Joy Eaton, University of Auckland, Education Facility.

The Project Is Already Well Supported

Ministry of Education, West Auckland Principal's Association, Auckland City, Waitakere Licencing Trust, Leading Edge Services Ltd, Waitakere Architects, Lamb and Associates, Lotteries Grants, ARC in the Park.