

Te Auaunga \ Oakley Creek

He Rautaki Whakaora mō ngā Wai o Te Auaunga

Vision and Restoration Strategy for the Lower Catchment:

Albert-Eden Local Board



High Level Vision and Mission

We aim to integrate mātauranga Māori and environmentally sustainable practices to restore Te Auaunga so that it becomes an awa that is alive and flowing through a green corridor, treasured and respected for generations to come.

The Albert Eden Local Board and Mana Whenua are working in partnership and alongside the local community to actively achieve the restoration of mauri (life force) of Te Auaunga through kaitiakitanga (guardianship).

THEME ONE: RESTORATION OF MAURI

The Issue

Mauri is the life force of all components of the waterway: the living plants and animals, the waters and rocks, and the energy which binds it all. Mauri is a symbol of vitality, life and health. The mauri of Te Auaunga is currently affected by poor water quality caused by a number of factors including sedimentation, contamination and loss of nature from this ecosystem.

Aspiration

Within one generation (2040) Te Auaunga will run clear, healthy and clean through a ribbon of green forest allowing swimming, wading, and harvesting of natural resources by our local community, as well as providing habitat for native plants and animals.

THEME TWO: EMPOWERMENT

The Issue

The people who could be caring for the awa – Mana Whenua, the local community, local businesses, policy makers, regulators – do not always have the knowledge, understanding or opportunities to make a difference.

Aspiration

Within one generation (2040) Te Auaunga will be central to our sense of place because of our knowledge, our active care and kaitiakitanga, and our celebration of the awa.

Implementation Plan

THEME ONE: RESTORATION OF MAURI

OBJECTIVE ONE: SEDIMENT:

Long term outcome:
An awa that runs clear, even after light rain.

Outcomes by 2020

1. Relevant Auckland Council units and other agencies are fully aware of our concerns about sedimentation in the awa and have significantly improved the control and enforcement of sedimentation measures for roading, development and riparian management.
2. In partnership with relevant stakeholders we have identified our strategic priorities and approach for riparian planting and are jointly active in supporting their implementation.

Actions

1. In partnership with Council departments, agencies and relevant community groups (such as Friends of Oakley Creek), complete a comprehensive planting plan in line with this strategy, the Lower Catchment Restoration Plan, and principles of kaitiakitanga, and contribute to its implementation.
2. Engage with and seek regular reports from Auckland Council Resource Consents, Compliance and Stormwater to:
 - Achieve a meeting of the minds about sedimentation concerns
 - Ensure that this strategy and the sensitivity of Te Auaunga's receiving catchment is acknowledged in resource consenting for development projects in the catchment.
 - Advocate to ensure that Healthy Waters projects are designed consistent with this strategy.
3. Engage with Auckland Transport to achieve mutual understanding of roading sedimentation issues, to identify key problem sites and to have underway at least one retrofit road runoff treatment for a priority site.
4. Address short term erosion issues by advocating and seeking additional funding to ensure asset renewals (such as stream-side footpaths) are sustainable.

OBJECTIVE TWO: CONTAMINANTS

Long term outcome:

An awa in which native aquatic life can flourish and that we can swim and wade in.

Outcomes by 2020

1. We have an effective understanding of core issues related to contaminants in our waterways and have used that information to positively change the contaminant disposal practices of the majority of contaminant-producing industry, businesses and households in the catchment.
2. There is a joint understanding and appreciation meeting between Watercare and us about issues linked to sewerage pipes with regular productive joint meetings that lead to prioritised action.

Actions

1. Capture existing research (for example from Healthy Waters and the Research and Evaluation Unit and a bi-monthly water quality monitoring programme that includes waste water measurements) and / or seek new information (a Stormwater Waterways Assessment and Management Plan) that informs us of:
 - the contaminants that are present in our awa
 - the sources of those contaminants
 - most effective approaches for changing how industry, business and households dispose of contaminants
 - best practice technology for preventing contaminants entering waterways and
 - practical options for removing contaminated sediment from waterways
2. Adopt an Industry Pollution Prevention Programme that uses the above information to inform, motivate and activate industry in the Te Auaunga catchment to safely dispose of contaminants and waste.
3. Develop high impact behaviour change programmes for working with small businesses and households preventing awa contamination. These may include working with WaiCare, EnviroSchools and the Parakore Unit.
4. Promote Auckland Council's Pollution Hotline to the community.
5. Closely engage with Watercare to understand and advocate for problem pipe enhancement opportunities, including separation and with Auckland Council's Healthy Waters Unit to seek to align its work with our own.

OBJECTIVE THREE: LOSS OF NATURE

Long term outcome:

A natural awa of restored mauri flowing through a corridor of shady green forest and supporting native plants and animals.

Outcome by 2020

There is measureable improvement in quantity and quality of native habitat of the awa and its surrounds, as evidenced by measurements of mauri and native plant and animal diversity and by how local people use this place and its natural resources.

Actions

1. Complete a restoration plan for the remainder of the awa, which currently has none, that identifies opportunities for replanting and wildlife habitat restoration, with a special focus on restoration that can be linked to community engagement, that uses social procurement and includes principles of kaitiakitanga.
2. Implement key recommendations from the restoration plan.
3. Continue advocacy for expanding the naturalising and restoration of the awa.
4. Advocate for flow control that maintains water levels while protecting planting and habitat from scouring floods. This includes advocacy to ensure that Healthy Waters projects are designed consistent with this strategy.

THEME TWO: EMPOWERMENT

OBJECTIVE ONE: KNOWLEDGE

Long term outcome:

People know the stories, the science and the state of the awa and what actions to take to restore its mauri.

Outcomes by 2020

There is measureable and widespread community understanding of the historical, cultural and ecological stories of the awa, and sense of connection.

Actions

1. Commission storytelling of the history, culture and ecology for specific sites of Te Auaunga.
2. Make use of the 'Tohu' concept to ensure it becomes an easily recognised 'brand' for our vision of a flourishing awa, wildlife and people that captures the essence of the stories.
3. Consult with / engage knowledgeable people to record place names and stories for the awa and its tributaries.
4. Make the stories a tangible and visible part of daily life in the community by developing a 'waka trail', pathfinders, walking pathway (source to the sea), or similar series of physical markers in a manner that is symbolic of the restoration of mauri of the awa.
5. Work with relevant council departments to improve both wayfinding and interpretive signage along the awa.

OBJECTIVE TWO: CONNECTEDNESS

Long term outcome:

People in all parts of our community, including Mana Whenua, local groups, residents and businesses recognise, celebrate and feel connected to the awa.

Outcomes by 2020

Te Auaunga is proudly a component of everyday life for local residents.

Actions

1. Plan and implement a number of specific events linked to the restoration of the awa including the launch of this strategy and, potentially, an annual festival of the awa with a focus on family and youth.
2. Design and use the most effective ways to facilitate, empower, engage and encourage people to join in with local initiatives to restore the awa.
3. Investigate partnership opportunities with local businesses and developers that allow them to contribute to the restoration of Te Auaunga.
4. Support voluntary efforts for stream restoration through facilitation, resourcing and funding opportunities.

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