

# **Maanawa Wetland Project. Waitakere City**

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Seldom are opportunities provided to:

- demonstrate the ecological restoration of urban wetlands
- enhance new urban village strategies while supporting the old
- rely on community participation and direction for project success

A catchment of 10km<sup>2</sup> drains, via two streams, into the Maanawa Wetland before continuing downstream through New Lynn township to Auckland's Waitemata Harbour. Surrounding landuses include: existing single dwelling urban housing, new urban village duplex development (designed to reduce urban sprawl), light industrial, commercial and a railway line.

The existing landscape has a history of being a: clay mine, refuse site and more recently a favoured location for illegal dumping of urban waste. The site is a reflection of Auckland's increasing population growth and resulting urban development which places increasing pressure on our cultural and natural heritage areas due to congestion and pollution. The result is that our cities' infrastructure (wastewater, refuse disposal, transport and sewage) is reaching capacity and requires alternative solutions, not only for housing and transport, but our urban ecology.

By landscape ecological analysis, surveys and water management models, options for the site were assessed and variables of a preferred option offered for public appraisal through forums. Expressed preferred futures are currently evolving and priority action plans developed with full public participation.

The posters record not only the physical, and ecological assessments, but the public participation process and continual refinement of a project critically poised to provide a model of possible development addressing basic water catchment planning and human needs.