



# URBAN CATCHMENT CONNECTIONS

*Linking ideas about sustainable city living*

## An opportunity for you

The development of urban catchment networks in Auckland and Hamilton offers an opportunity to link your catchment initiative to others, and will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences in tackling natural resource management issues facing urban residents.



For more information about the project and to discuss your interest in linking with the Urban Catchment Network in your city please contact either:

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## Incorporating Urban Sustainability within Community-Based Catchment Initiatives

A project managed by NZ Landcare Trust and Landcare Research

Photos kindly provided by Wendy John of Friends of Oakley Creek, Mt Albert, Auckland and Gerry Kessels

Produced by NZ Landcare Trust Communications



## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project is a new initiative to increase awareness of urban catchments and opportunities to live more sustainably within city environments. The project is jointly managed by NZ Landcare Trust and Landcare Research and is supported by the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund. The project aims to identify and promote community-based Integrated Catchment Management projects in Auckland and Hamilton cities to:

- raise community awareness and stimulate behaviours that lead to sustainable practice
- increase community uptake of innovations in urban sustainability
- enhance water quality and biodiversity within city catchments

## PROJECT PARTNERS

NZ Landcare Trust is a non-governmental organisation that facilitates community involvement in sustainable land management and biodiversity enhancement throughout New Zealand. Landcare Research is New Zealand's foremost environmental research organisation specialising in sustainable management of land resources and conserving and restoring the natural assets of our communities.

Both organisations will work with a range of leading community-based urban catchment groups involved in ecological restoration projects in Auckland and Hamilton. Many of these groups have indicated a need for networks across stakeholders to build capacity for community and government organisations to work together.

## INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) is based on the linkages between ecosystems, resources and people. ICM aims to integrate the management of land, water and related biological resources in order to achieve their sustainable and balanced use.

ICM is a strategic approach to natural resource management that brings people together – those involved in industry, environmental conservation, land and water planning, research and environmental rehabilitation – to draw solutions from diverse perspectives, disciplines and practices.

## URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND DESIGN

Rapid growth in urban areas is putting pressure on natural resources and on the quality of human life in cities. Poor quality urban stormwater, degraded riparian management zones and the decline of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity within the built environment are important urban issues. Changes in human behaviour are needed, along with greater consumer demand for new approaches to be developed in low impact urban design and sustainable building practice.

Efforts towards raising awareness, engaging the community, and building the general public's capacity to take on innovative solutions will help to reduce the environmental impacts of urbanisation.



New urban development

## COORDINATING THE URBAN CATCHMENT NETWORKS

NZ Landcare Trust has appointed two Urban Catchments Coordinators to work with community-based initiatives in the Auckland and Hamilton city catchments.

### *The Co-ordinators will:*

- identify catchment initiatives – both “up and running” and those with potential
- engage the urban community and promote an understanding of urban sustainability issues and processes within urban catchments
- support communication and co-operation between community groups to enable sharing of lessons, approaches and tools
- collate relevant urban sustainability and urban ICM information and resources and make them available to communities
- collaborate with community groups to organise promotional events and workshops

NZ Landcare Trust's Urban Catchment Coordinators, with assistance from Landcare Research, will establish urban catchment networks in both cities. Their aim is to draw on local knowledge to identify and prioritise a range of urban sustainability principles and innovations that can be promoted and applied at the community level.

*The over-arching concept is to view the effects we have on natural systems holistically, from the mountains to the sea.*