

ENVIRONMENTAL, URBAN DESIGN & LANDSCAPE

A key part of the Northern Corridor Improvements project involves looking at ways we can enhance the surrounding environment by incorporating urban design and landscaping features, taking into consideration the history, heritage and cultural significance of the area. Features include planting and landscaping, enhancing structures such as bridges and retaining walls, and improving stormwater treatment and waterways.

HAVE YOUR SAY

What urban design and landscape opportunities do you think the project provides?

Cultural significance

Local iwi has significant ancestral links to the project area, including Lucas Creek. Traditional Ara (pathways) linked Tikapa Moana (Hauraki Gulf) with the Manukau and Kaipara Harbours, and the Waitakere Ranges. There is evidence of a trail from Te Oneroa o Kahu (Long Bay beach), over the cliffs to Okura. The trails from Long Bay connected with the Oteha Valley and continuous ridgeways such as the one along Lonely Track Road, and with the Okura River and Lucas Creek. These trails were used for seasonal fishing excursions and communication links and by iwi groups exercising their ahi kaa (occupational rights) over the lands and waters.

The project team will continue to work with iwi groups to work through environmental and urban design elements.



Waterways

SH1 and our project area runs directly through the Rosedale Wastewater Treatment Pond and we are working closely with Watercare to further enhance this area and positively contribute to the natural environment. Other existing waterways within the area are the Oteha Stream, Lucas Creek and tributaries of the Alexandra Stream in the vicinity of Upper Harbour Highway.

Stormwater treatment methods are currently being investigated to manage water run-off, and may include installing soft structures such as ponds, swales or wetlands.

A swale or bio-swale, ponds and wetlands are landscaping elements designed to remove pollutants and silt from water run-off before it enters our waterways.



North-West Wildlink

Auckland Council and Forest & Bird's North-West Wildlink project aims to connect and enhance natural areas, including open spaces, stream banks, esplanade reserves and backyards along a broad 'green corridor' from the Waitakere Ranges to Whangaparaoa Peninsula, providing safe routes and refuges for native plants and animals.

State Highways 16 and 18 are already providing a strategic habitat along the Wildlink and it is hoped that the Northern Corridor will continue along this 'green corridor'.



Bridges and structures

This project includes the construction of many new bridges, underpasses, structures and retaining walls. Wherever possible, we will 'green' structures, which means incorporating planting to reinforce the transitional theme that brings the rural hinterland into the urban environment.

Noise and retaining walls will be complementary to both their landscape adjacent to the corridor, and with the family of highway structures.

The Transport Agency regularly works with local iwi to develop themes and artwork to 'soften' hard surfaces like concrete walls.

A key bridge feature on this project is the Spencer Road Bridge in Albany, a shared walking and cycling path linking residential and commercial areas, and offering great views of Rangitoto Island and Auckland City.



Planting and landscaping

Planting and landscaping will be used to enhance the existing natural environment. Whenever possible, native plants, shrubs and trees will be incorporated to contribute to biodiversity, enhance the natural environment and promote eco-systems and habitats for birds and wildlife.



Connectivity

A key urban design feature of this project is connectivity - connecting local roads, and providing walking and cycle facilities to connect the surrounding communities and make access in and around this area easier.