

Te Ara Awataha

A greenway
for Northcote

Te Ara Awataha Northcote

Northcote's new greenway follows the path of the original Awataha Stream. The greenway forms a network of parks, public spaces and quiet streets that provide a safe and healthy environment for people, plants and wildlife.



What is a greenway?

A greenway is a green 'corridor' designed to make it easy and pleasant for people to move around part of a neighbourhood or city. Northcote's new greenway follows the path of the original Awataha Stream. The greenway forms a network of parks, public spaces and quiet streets that provide a safe and healthy environment for people, plants and wildlife. Some greenways, including this one, provide for the movement and cleaning of water as well.



What is its purpose?

The greenway will provide a place to walk or cycle, play and meet people. The route will safely connect the community to local destinations, including the schools, town centre, public transport stops and recreation spaces, and access the wider city cycle network. It will provide opportunities to learn about the natural world, and help with overland water flow to reduce flooding.

A design influenced by the community

The team at Northcote Development and Panuku Development Auckland have been working with the Kaipātiki Local Board, mana whenua and other stakeholders in Northcote to gather a wide range of input for Te Ara Awataha project.

Valuable insights have emerged from these sessions and are contributing to the ongoing design of the greenway.

The Awataha Stream

Water from the existing stormwater pipe running alongside the schools will be opened up (or “daylighted”) in a recreated Awataha stream channel. Water safety has been carefully considered in the plan – for example it has been designed so that, most of the time, a low base flow will run along the former stream bed. The stream and its banks will have a gentle gradient, making it easy to get to, and away from, the water. Access points will be controlled by planting and features such as stepping stones.

The existing stormwater pipe will be retained to carry the majority of the stormwater and control the volume of water entering the stream. During heavy rain, when both the stream and the stormwater pipe cannot take all the water, a channel called an ‘overland pathway’ will carry the surplus water away.



What happens next?

The design work is at its most advanced for the Schools' Edge part of the greenway and the Greenslade Reserve and Jessie Tonar Scout Reserve improvements. These three areas will be built/upgraded first.



Working with schools

We've been running Design Lab workshops with the three schools in the Northcote Development area; Onepoto Primary, Northcote Intermediate and Northcote College.

It's important for students to play a leading role in the design process for the portion of the greenway that extends alongside Northcote Intermediate School and Onepoto Primary School. The Design Lab sessions have captured students' ideas and vision for how the greenway should look, feel, and function. We have used these ideas to create a design brief for an outdoor classroom.



School's Edge design

The Kaipātiki Local Board endorsed the Developed Design of the school's edge portion of Te Ara Awataha project in November 2018. This has enabled the project team to commence the detailed design with confidence of their support. Following further discussions with the Ministry of Education, on its direction, the design will be adjusted through the detailed design phase to accommodate the retention of the Onepoto Awhina building.

Construction is underway for the portions of the greenway nearest Onepoto Primary and Northcote Intermediate.

Planned spaces include:

- safe access to the Awataha Stream
- outdoor classroom
- community gathering area
- greenwalkway/cycleway
- public seating
- community gathering area



Greenslade Reserve design

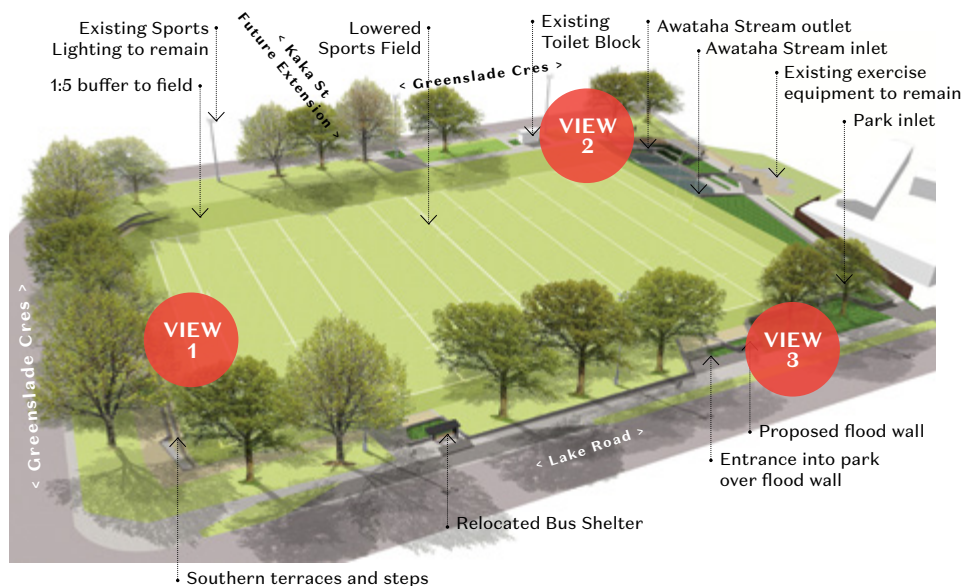
Greenslade Reserve has the Awataha Stream running along its edge, and forms a key part of the greenway. We're working with Auckland Council's Healthy Waters department to reduce flooding in the surrounding town centre and to 'daylight' the stream. This will redirect the underground pipes above ground to improve the stormwater network and serve as a functioning urban wetland with publicly accessible features for all users. The existing reserve is being lowered and upgraded to provide the area with an improved sporting facility, integrated flood wall and new public spaces.

The first phase of physical works for the pipeline, daylighting pipes and wetland is well underway and is expected to be completed in spring 2020.

Currently, timings for stage two of Greenslade Reserve's transformation into a much more usable green space will be confirmed at a later date.

During physical works Greenslade Reserve will be partially unavailable.

If you have any questions about this project, email:
greensladereserve@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



VIEW 1

From Lake Road, looking west along southern terraces.



VIEW 2

Looking east across daylighted Awataha Stream Wetland.



VIEW 3

Entrance from Lake Road.



Jessie Tonar Scout Reserve community-led restoration

Panuku Development Auckland is working with mana whenua and local environmental group Kaipātiki Project on a community-led restoration of the Jessie Tonar Scout Reserve. This bush-clad reserve at the end of Kākā Street is home to the source of the Awataha Stream. The restoration project, which includes weeding, planting and education days, kicked off in summer 2019. Join us to learn about the ecology of Northcote and to meet your local community.

Contact Sam Tu'itahi to get involved – community@kaipatiki.org.nz.





Take mauri, take hono tool (mauri indicators)

Te Ara Awataha project team has been working closely with mana whenua representatives and technical experts to establish an interactive tool to influence and measure the uplift in mauri (life essence) resulting from the Awataha Greenway Project. The tool 'Take Mauri, Take Hono' is a "live" working document and has not yet been finalised. The tool is being tested on the project prior to final approval from mana whenua. This tool represents an important step in embedding matauranga Māori within the project, with the ultimate goal of creating a healthier and more resilient environment for all of life in Northcote/Awataha.



Art for the greenway

Te Ara Awataha project team is currently working with mana whenua representatives to appoint Māori artists to work alongside the designers to embed the cultural narratives of Te Ara Awataha project within the project design. Outcomes of this collaboration will not be stand-alone art – rather integrated design features. Further to this,

the Northcote / Awataha Public Art Plan is currently in its final draft.

As part of this Public Art Plan, an opportunity has been identified for public art to be part of the Jessie Tonar Scout Reserve project. While a small move, this act of revitalisation and renewal is a significant opportunity for public artwork at the source of the Awataha Stream

to be a contemporary expression of an ancient cultural treasure at the spring (puna) of a stream. Auckland Council acknowledges that this site is significant to mana whenua and this will be an important consideration of any public art project in this reserve.

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