

“What an amazing opportunity. Personally, I like the idea of a sanctuary. It will leave a lasting legacy to our children's children and make Christchurch very special indeed.” Christchurch resident



Waitākiri Sanctuary

He Hiringa Koiora ki Waitākiri



Natural Environment Recovery Programme



Find out more

www.avon.org.nz/projects
email: nerp@ecan.govt.nz

Artist's impression only



*a gift to the city
a legacy for our children
a sanctuary for nature*



He wāhi taonga mā te tini

Waitākiri Sanctuary will provide an opportunity for Christchurch people to reconnect with their natural and cultural heritage.

This project builds on 21 years of ecological restoration work at Travis Wetland through community participation, and will use a number of existing facilities. Ongoing free access is a key goal.

180 hectares of land will be protected for education, conservation, recreation, tourism, and research in New Zealand's second largest city.

An innovative wildlife and pedestrian bridge will connect the existing Travis Wetland Nature Heritage Park with nearby red-zoned land. An 8-kilometre long predator proof fence 1.9 m high will exclude animal pests and allow vulnerable wildlife to thrive.

This project will restore drier land so wildlife can retreat during flood events. It will extend the number of native species that can live within the city limits.

Toitū te marae o Tāne... Toitū te marae o Tangaroa... Toitū te iwi

Healthy lands, healthy waters and healthy people.

Benefits

Excellent resource for schools, education, research and science

Contributes to earthquake recovery

Showcases Christchurch's cultural and natural heritage

Protects and enhances habitat for iconic native flora and fauna

Increases community participation in conservation

Improves physical, mental and spiritual health through recreation

Opens up ecotourism and business opportunities



The bigger picture

- Waitākiri Sanctuary is one of a number of projects submitted to assist the recovery of red-zoned land and local business.
- It will be an anchor project for the proposed Avon River/Ōtākaro Park, and will be a key feature along the city-to-sea pathway, the Ōtākaro River route cycleway, the proposed Christchurch perimeter walkway and the Mahinga Kai project.
- The sanctuary adds to the network and variety of native biodiversity in the city.
- Further planning will consider how the sanctuary might interact with other projects and with local infrastructure such as drainage and roads.

Why a fence?

A predator proof fence:

- Provides fewer and controlled entry points, contributing to a better educational and recreational experience for people using the area.
- Is one of the few options we have in the city to exclude pests without risk to pets and children.
- Provides safe breeding conditions for rare species, some of which may then forage out into the city. Many iconic wildlife have zero tolerance of predation.

The way ahead

- The project depends on decisions about the future use of residential red-zoned land.
- A trust comprising people from supporting groups will run and manage the project. An estimated \$7 million of funding is needed to develop the sanctuary. Maintenance and running costs will need to be funded.