



May 2021

Western Springs Native Bush Restoration

Project Update #2



Why you are receiving this newsletter

We are writing to keep you informed of the progress that is being made on the Western Springs Native Bush Restoration Project now that the tree removal works are underway.

What is the Western Springs Native Bush Restoration Project?

The project aims to return an area of Western Springs Lakeside Te Waiōrea to native bush by removing the dying exotic pines and planting thousands of native trees including puriri, taraire and tānekaha

The re-established native forest will provide an important habitat for a range of wildlife, including our native tūī, grey warbler and silver eye.

The tree removal works are expected to take up to 10 weeks, with the restorative planting to begin immediately afterwards.

Latest updates

The access track has now been established and is providing access to the site for the safe felling of the pine trees.

As of 30 April, 98 pine trees (including poles) have been felled, ranging in size from five to 42 metres.

Log chipping has now begun. The resulting mulch will be used in the restoration planting or moved off the site to be used in other restoration projects across Auckland.

23 Copper Skinks have been found during the works and relocated to Auckland Zoo.

Further information

For further information about the project, you can visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/westernsprings or email westernsprings@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Alternatively, you can contact the Community Liaison team on clc@kotahiprojects.com or call 0272678818

If you're interested in being a volunteer during the planting part of the project, please email westernsprings@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

FAQs

Why are all the trees being removed and not just those that are dead?

Removing the pines in one operation using a low impact methodology that was prepared in collaboration with multiple experts is the safest way to manage the current safety risks associated with the trees, while also minimising disturbance to the forest's undergrowth.

It is likely that most of the pines, even those with the appearance of healthy foliage, are compromised by internal decay. This means that by only removing the obviously unhealthy trees, the associated safety concerns wouldn't adequately be addressed.



Exotic pine trees showing internal decay

How are you monitoring the vibration levels?

Sensors that measure the vibration levels caused by the felling of the trees are located on the foundations of some houses near to the work area. As we progress through the works, the location of the vibration sensors will change relative to the tree felling works and as recommended by the vibration expert that we have engaged for the project.

The measurements are carefully observed to ensure we don't exceed compliance levels. This is further supported by applying vibration mitigation measures recommended by the vibration expert. These measures include a case-by-case determination to fell trees at varying angles to the contour and maximise opportunities to 'cushion' the impact of falling trees on the ground to minimise vibration affect, and will be employed as safe and practical in accordance with the resource consent

Thank you to our security team

Some members of our Red Badge security team went above and beyond, using the quieter weekends to collect more than 10 bags of cans, bottles and other litter from the bush.