



19 April 2021

Western Springs Native Bush Restoration



Project Update

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 pine and planting 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

Work to establish the track for the excavator began on Friday 9 April, with the removal of some native and exotic vegetation.

On Tuesday 13 April, the first of the pine trees were felled.

As of Friday 16 April, 14 pine trees have been removed. They range in size from 10m to 45m.

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

FAQs

Why are the trees being removed?

The number of pine trees in Western Spring Lakeside Te Waiōrea has reduced from approximately 700 to 198 over the past 30 years due to natural decline.

Most of the remaining trees are dead or dying and are now considered a health and safety risk as they can fall at any time. As a result, the walking track in this area of Western Springs has been closed to the public since 2018.

However, the trees are still within falling distance from Western Springs Stadium and Auckland Zoo, as well as publicly accessible areas of the park and private properties, which is why they need to be safely removed.



Dead and dying exotic pine trees

Will the trees be replaced?

Yes. A planting and restoration programme will get underway as soon as the trees are removed, creating a thriving habitat for our wildlife.

In total around 8,000 native trees and shrubs, such as Kauri, Taraire, Kohekohe, Puriri, Titoki, Kanuka, Mahoe, and Karamu, will be planted. The floodplain of Motions Creek will also be restored with wetland and floodplain native plants, including Sedges, Flax, Manuka, Cabbage tree and Pukatea.



Existing view across Western Springs Lake

Impression of the future view in 20 to 30 years' time

Has anything been done to protect the native species that inhabit the forest?

Surveys for indigenous bats and lizards were undertaken this year before work got underway. No bats were detected in the forest, though ecologists working on site captured 14 Copper Skinks and relocated them to a safe habitat in Auckland Zoo.

The re-established native forest will provide an important habitat for a range of wildlife, including our native tūī, grey warbler and silver eye. In addition, most tree trunks that aren't chipped will be left in situ to create a beneficial habitat for lizards, birds and invertebrates.

Find out more: visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/westernsprings