A greenway for Northcote

What is a greenway?
Imagine a place where you can walk or cycle, kids can play and learn about nature, you can meet people, or simply sit quietly on a park bench enjoying the sounds of the birds in the trees.

What we’ve just described is a greenway – essentially a network of public open spaces. In Northcote a greenway will connect local destinations including the schools, town centre and public transport.

It will follow the path of the old Awataha Stream to the sea, running from Jessie Tonar Scout Reserve (also known as Kakā Reserve) in the west through Greenslade Reserve and the town centre, and down between homes and schools to Aloranga Reserve.

The greenway will be designed with the community so that it becomes something that is treasured and cared for by everyone.

The design will also help with water flow during periods of heavy rain – reducing flooding in the area.

What the Northcote community has told us
Northcote residents have said they want a greenway that is fun, friendly, inclusive, safe, distinctive and healthy. Taking community ideas gathered in the early stages of shaping up a greenway, we will now make these ideas a reality, working side by side to create a space that belongs to the community.

This long-talked-about idea of connecting open spaces has the potential to deliver significant social, environmental and cultural outcomes for the Northcote community.

The greenway is a project that will be jointly delivered by the city’s regeneration agency Panuku Development Auckland and HLC (a subsidiary of Housing New Zealand), working alongside the Kapātiki Local Board and mana whenua.

Significance to Māori
According to Māori legend, Northcote’s two volcanic craters – Onepoto crater (Te Kopua o Matakamokamo) and Tuff Ring (Te Kopua o Matakerepō) – were born as part of Auckland’s wider story of the footsteps of Mataaho, the parent God of volcanoes.

It was Mataaho whose strength formed the volcanic landscape of greater Auckland. The two craters in Northcote represent a quarrelsome husband and wife who were punished and turned to stone by Mataaho. Volcanic eruptions then plunged them beneath the ground, thus creating the distinctive, ancient craters we see today.

At the heart of Northcote’s cultural history is the Awataha Stream. You can trace the lineage of Northcote back to the stream and those ancestors that occupied the area.

For more information visit panuku.co.nz/northcote
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