


8. ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF CREAMERY STREAM



The Board was in receipt of a report from the Parks and Waterways Unit regarding the progress on the Creamery Stream Wetland creation following the acquisition of a parcel of land to enhance and protect Creamery Stream.

On 24 November 1999, the proposal to purchase land along Creamery Stream for the purpose of enhancement was approved by this Board. Following this, the relevant resource consents and final designs have been undertaken to implement the Creamery Stream Wetland concept.

Creamery Stream is spring fed and is an important tributary to Nottingham Stream which flows into the Halswell River. The Waterways and Wetlands Natural Asset Management Strategy 1999 identifies this waterway as providing an important green corridor that will, in the long term, link Halswell Junction Road with Knights Stream and thus the Halswell River and Lake Ellesmere (Te Waihora). The corridor will provide a habitat for wildlife, opportunities for cycleways and walkways, a landscape feature in an otherwise flat plain and assist with the management of surface waters.

The Creamery Stream wetland concept is located within the property between Sabys Road and Quaifes Road. Creamery Stream runs along the eastern boundary of the property. The enhancement and protection proposal involves extension of the banks of Creamery Stream to form a lake habitat supporting recreational opportunities and ecological restoration. The existing waterway will be filled to form a stormwater swale, while at the upstream end of the site, Creamery Stream will be diverted toward the new wetland area. The wetland will then narrow and flow into a smaller pond and over a weir before rejoining the existing Creamery Stream.

Appropriate ecological environs will be increased through the creation of several different habitats. These environs are intended to promote indigenous species including bird species. Providing a vehicle access to the wetland proposal will increase recreational opportunities. A walking link around the walkway, picnic area of mown grass and carparking, will increase passive recreation opportunities.

It is envisaged that once consents are obtained, work for stage one of the lake creation will begin late autumn 2001. The earthworks for following stages will be completed over the next two financial years. Planting will follow closely behind completion of earthworks for each stage with community planting following excavation and final plantings carried out over subsequent years.

The Board **received** the report.