

## 8. ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF CREAMERY STREAM

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Corporate Plan Output: Information to be received by community board	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the progress on the Creamery Stream Wetland creation following the acquisition of a parcel of land to enhance and protect Creamery Stream.

### BACKGROUND

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 to 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 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 to the property, as depicted on the attached location map. The enhancement and protection proposal involves extension of the banks of Creamery Stream over the land at 86 Sabys Road 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.

The banks surrounding the wetland will be predominantly native lowland forests, with low growing wetland species, along shallow areas and swales. The planting will be typical of remnant bush around Canterbury, and all planting will be locally source indigenous species. A path will be formed around the wetland, with vehicle access connecting to existing bridges. Existing access points will be retained, and new bridges will be installed before the watercourse is completed.

Drainage from adjacent properties will be facilitated through drainage swales into the wetland area. As the wetland is to be excavated lower than the existing ground level, bunding around the wetland will be no higher than the existing ground level.

Appropriate ecological environs will be increased through the creation of several different habitats. These environs are intended to promote indigenous species including bird species. Nesting bird species will have several habitats; a bush covered island, an open habitat and areas of low growing wetland species. The islands will prevent predators reaching nest sites and endangering young chicks and eggs, while the bush habitat will cater for migrating bush species. The riparian planting will encourage invertebrate species. The margin planting will also provide fish cover and cool the water surface. This will discourage growth of unwanted aquatic plants.

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. While, a jetty will allow water access for fishing or boating activities. Access to neighbouring properties will be retained through an access road and vehicle bridge through the existing access point.

It is envisaged 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.

Due to financial constraints some of the areas may be grassed down before final planting is completed.

**Recommendation:** That this information be accepted.

### Chairman's

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.