

4.4 The projects

Higher priority projects

No	Project name	Objective	Outline
1	Update status of actions listed in <i>Natural Wellington</i>	Take stock of the actions, objectives and inventory listed in <i>Natural Wellington</i> and report progress.	<p>Assess the actions and objectives listed in <i>Natural Wellington</i>; determine their current status and prepared an updated status report; give a presentation to the Branch of our successes, and the work still to be done.</p> <p>Update the inventory of significant sites or “treasures” and their environmental status; establish a significant sites register.</p> <p>Some of this work is a precursor to the project to establish and promote wildlife corridors in Wellington.</p>
2	Establish and promote wildlife corridors in Wellington (Wildlink)	Identify wildlife corridors and work towards their enhancement and protection.	<p>Liaise with Wellington City Council and other organisations to get significant sites into the Wellington City Council District Plan as protected sites.</p> <p>With assistance from some of the organisations and individuals listed in Section 3, define possible corridors between these sites — and the vision for each.</p> <p>Follow and develop the guidelines already established by Lower Hutt Branch (see Appendix A) and work closely with neighbouring branches to ensure that the corridors connect between branch areas.</p>
3	Short-finned eels in the Waitangi Stream wetlands	Introduce short-finned eels into the recreated Waitangi Stream wetlands.	<p>We understand GWRC officers are already keen to do this, but haven't yet managed to get past all the barriers, such as getting the consent of DOC, etc.</p> <p>Having native species in the city could be a tourist attraction too. There could also be information displayed about the freshwater system and eels at Waitangi Park. (Currently the biggest signs in the park say “don't drink the water”, which isn't very helpful and doesn't send a good message.)</p>

No	Project name	Objective	Outline
4	Revise vegetation clearance rules in the District Plan	Lobby to stop clearance of vegetation going on as a permitted activity.	<p>The aim is that people would be required to get a consent for clearance over certain thresholds (for example, height, area, or if contained threatened species). “Significant” vegetation would be protected.</p> <p>Wellington, Lower Hutt and Porirua all need vegetation clearance rules. Many examples of vegetation clearance rules exist in district plans around the country, but they would need to be tailored to fit the particular district. There is very little native vegetation left in these districts so the rule would need to be fairly tight, but could be looser for more common vegetation types (such as regenerating indigenous scrub).</p> <p>We would also want them to commit to doing a full “significant indigenous vegetation” schedule in the plan and providing a rule which specifically protects this vegetation. And we would want councils to monitor and update their schedules every five years.</p>
5	Schools’ manual on ecosystem management	Develop a manual for schools to manage an ecosystem.	Liaise with conservationists, scientists, field workers and teachers to produce a manual for schools to manage an ecosystem. The processes described in the manual should integrate well with the school curriculum.
6	Recycling improvements	Better designed wheelie bins; a wider range of plastics being recycled.	<p>Lobby to get wheelie bins for recycling with lids to reduce the amount of recycling blowing into the harbour. (Ensure wheelie bins are not so big that people are perversely induced to increase consumption of packaging.)</p> <p>Lobby to introduce more recyclable materials (for example, a greater range of plastics being collected — currently only grades 1 and 2 can be recycled).</p>

No	Project name	Objective	Outline
7	Provide fish icons on pavements and stormwater information	Lobby to increase public awareness of the need to restrict what is put down the drains.	<p>Stormwater runoff contains many contaminants. People continue to wash rubbish and pollutants (paint, detergents, dirt) down the stormwater drains, some in ignorance as they don't think where it will end up, while some think it miraculously gets cleaned up somewhere.</p> <p>Asking the council to put fish icons on pavements by stormwater drains isn't a new initiative and we could use other cities as examples. We would aim to have complete city coverage, so it would need to be small and inexpensive solution (such as a small stencilled fish spray-painted on pavements).</p> <p>This could be augmented with a more detailed message at some places (for example: "drains to sea — tip no waste" or "drains to stream — tip no waste"), especially in repeat offender areas such as light industrial areas like Thorndon Quay. The council could help us locate problem areas. (There could also be billboards on walking tracks by streams that give more information.)</p>
8	Liaison and networking	Liaise with organisations and individuals from Section 3.	<p>Establish or enhance existing formal and informal links between branches and other organisations and individuals with a commitment to the environment.</p> <p>Maintain relationships over the life of the Greening Wellington programme.</p>

Lower priority projects

Specific priorities have not been set for these project proposals, but they are considered to have lower priorities than those in the previous table and so are not part of the current programme of actions.

No	Project name	Objective	Outline
9	Establish “no filling” rules in gullies	Lobby to ensure that the District Plan does not allow filling in gullies.	<p>Where appropriate rules are in place, work on the policies to ensure they explicitly prevent filling on gullies and ephemeral streams and headwaters. This has been an ongoing problem as “greenfield” land is developed.</p> <p>The desire to have flat land in Wellington with drive-on access can only be provided by extensive cut and fill subdivisions. These subdivisions alter the landscape and reduce or remove the gullies which are the natural filtering mechanism of the Wellington landscape.</p>
10	Monitor sediment discharge from quarries	Ensure quarries’ compliance with their discharge permits.	<p>There are two major quarries in Wellington; both are very close to the sea. We understand one has a fairly good compliance record but that the Horokiwi quarry is often breaching its discharge permits. Often after rain a large plume of dirt can be seen discharging from this quarry into the harbour. We should enquire about the quarries’ records from the council and request records of breaches. If needed, request more long-term treatment solutions to reduce discharges.</p>
11	Removal of fish barriers	Remove barriers to free movement of fish in streams.	<p>Ask GWRC if they have an inventory of fish barriers and if it is regularly updated. Ask what plans they have in place to avoid new fish barriers being created.</p> <p>Determine whether there are certain streams without many fish barriers that can be earmarked for particular care so that new fish barriers are not created (for example, by setting a policy of using bridges rather than culverts — which can get drop-offs, etc).</p> <p>Organise stream walks to update the inventory.</p>

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12	New roosting sites in the city	Create new roosting sites in the city for seabirds.	<p>“Green/brown roofs” — a very loose idea based on London’s approach of creating rooftop spaces for wildlife — only worth doing if it has real benefits (principally that the birds are out of the reach of predators).</p> <p>Also: the city is big on art, especially art that has a function as well. Birds roost on all kinds of strange objects. We could create sculptural metal frames in the harbours or lagoons that birds such as shags could use.</p>
13	Organise associated activities	Develop a programme of activities that will highlight environmental issues.	Develop a programme of activities, including occasional Sunday morning walks to explore areas of particular significance, and put these before the Management Committee.
14	Carbon facts public information	Provide a public information resource on the facts of carbon.	Establish a public information resource on carbon facts; publish articles in Wellington newspapers.
15	Reduce rodent pests in gardens	Encourage Wellington residents to reduce the numbers of rats and mice in gardens.	Initiate a campaign to encourage Wellington residents to trap rats and mice in gardens and make safe havens for natives.
16	Supplementary bird feeding	Provide supplementary bird feeders in public places.	Supplementary bird feeders in public places like the Green Belt (as has been done in Karori Sanctuary) would be a tourist and public attraction as well as help increase bird population.