

WE'RE BUILDING A WETLAND AT GROOM CREEK!

If you've spent any time in the Maitai Valley before the Christmas break, you'll have seen the diggers and trucks working on the new wetland at the confluence of Groom Creek and the Maitai River. This work is being done to rebuild a wetland that previously existed here but was drained and turned into grassland many years ago.

By rebuilding the wetland we'll be helping to re-instate the natural biodiversity of this area. We'll be planting wetland plants with their unique filtering abilities, and creating habitats for wetland birds and fauna – maybe one day we'll see native fish species taking up residence in the pools.

Stage one of the project has involved the construction of two ponds with a connecting channel, which follows the original course of Groom Creek. Impurities carried by the stream will be filtered out during its journey through the ponds, so the water that makes its way into the Maitai River will be clearer and cleaner.

Stage two will involve installing a culvert under the existing forestry access road and the construction of an upper sediment catchment pond. Once this is complete the stream will be redirected along its new pathway. At this stage we'll also get the community involved with a large scale planting around the riparian margins of the ponds and the stream itself.

During stage one of the construction, plans had to change as we uncovered an unexpectedly wet area on one of the pond margins, and the impenetrable

bedrock of the original river bed on the other. As a result, we'll have a larger natural wetland area for planting, and the ponds are filling sooner than expected through groundwater seepage.

The standing water means we'll be able to plant earlier in the season, so our wetland will get a bit of a head start!



TOXIC ALGAE UPDATE

Council has been monitoring toxic algae (Cyanobacteria) levels in the Maitai River over the recent warm months. Toxic algae forms naturally at this time of year, in clean water. It attaches itself to rocks in the river bed where it grows into thick brown or black mats, which then detach from the rocks and float on the river surface.

In times of low rainfall, the mats can collect on the river margins, where they are more accessible to dogs or children playing on the riverbank.

River users and dog walkers can keep up with the current toxic algae status of the Maitai River, which is updated weekly, at nelson.govt.nz/toxic-algae.

nelson.govt.nz/toxic-algae



YORK STREAM UPDATE

Over the last six months, the Te Wairepo/York Stream Project, which is part of Project Maitai/Mahitahi, has been working to bring the Victory Community together to care for its stream.

Events have included two Team Up to Clean Up days, which saw people clearing rubbish and weeds from York Stream. In the next six months, the project will see the planting of margins and stream banks.

We've teamed up with NMIT students to produce a Te Wairepo Project booklet – an informative guide for any community wanting to find out how this project was conceived and delivered. If you would like a copy please contact susan.moore-lavo@ncc.govt.nz.

There will be a number of events rolling out over the next few months, including Race Unity Day (Sunday 18 March), Matariki (Friday 15 June), and Walk the Chalk – a walking symposium of York Stream. Stay tuned for dates and events.



Rubbish collected during Team Up to Clean Up

projectmaitai.nz/te-wairepo

ENABLING FISH PASSAGE IN URBAN STREAMS

Many of our native fish species migrate upstream from the sea, and stream infrastructure such as concrete channelling and culverts can be a real barrier to their natural lifecycle.

York Stream in particular is a heavily channelled and culverted stream, including the St Vincent Street Culvert.

To try and help our fish complete their lifecycle, we've been working to improve fish passage in both the St Vincent Street Culvert, and at Tukuka Street. We've fitted over 200 baffles and 60 tunnel houses which we hope will make it easier for fish to swim the length of the stream.

We have already received reports of inanga in the pools created by the remediation work, and will look with interest at monitoring/surveying results in the future.

This action, combined with the improved water quality which has resulted from the Te Wairepo/York Stream Project (Project Maitai/Mahitahi) is developing into a great example of how urban streams can support native wildlife.



Fish passage barrier remediation in York Stream