

Community Waterways Partnership: Action Plan

The Community Waterways Partnership's three-year (mid-2025 to mid-2028) Action Plan sets out our shared goals and practical actions to progress them. Guided by the desired outcomes in our Charter, the Action Plan is a road map to supporting healthy, connected waterways and communities.



Goals	Objectives	Actions	Desired Outcomes	
1. Protect Our Wai Reduce stormwater pollution and enhance the holistic health of our waterways.	1.1 Collaborate on waterways projects and support partner initiatives: Drive collective action through the CWP and strengthen partner-led efforts.	1.1.1 Compile a comprehensive overview of partners' visions, goals, projects and activities to improve coordination, visibility, and align direction.	Develop research to evaluate outcomes and improvements in our knowledge of best practice community interventions (8). Establish, facilitate or support projects to deliver these outcomes (9).	
		1.1.2 Collaborate on selected projects under the CWP.		
		1.1.3 Identify opportunities to support and amplify partners' initiatives that align with the CWP's goals.		
	1.2 Implement a behaviour change programme: Promote sustainable practices that reduce pollution at the source and protect waterways.	1.2.1 Integrate behaviour change strategies to address source control and waterway pollution.		
		1.2.2 Encourage improved industry practices, including source control and best practice site management.		
		1.2.3 Promote accessible, practical source control solutions for homeowners and property managers to reduce everyday pollution in our waterways.		
2. Stronger Together Establish and maintain a supportive and collaborative partnership.	2.1 Strengthen active partnership: Build and nurture meaningful and active engagement with iwi, community groups, businesses, researchers, the education sector, and local, regional and central government.	2.1.1 Strengthen relationship with and seek guidance from mana whenua.	Establish a strong, collaborative partnership between community groups, businesses, researchers, and local, regional and central government (1). Establish and facilitate a network of water care champions and kaitiaki (6). Advocate for resources to sustain the partnership and deliver these outcomes (10).	
		2.1.2 Promote the partnership to attract new members and enhance its reputation.		
		2.1.3 Foster strong, individual relationships with all partner groups to support collaboration and a working relationship.		
	2.2 Develop and implement a partnership model and strategic framework: Establish structure, strategic direction, and operational plans to ensure sustainable partnership success.	2.2.1 Formalise the role and responsibilities of the Steering Group to provide oversight.		
		2.2.2 Define Christchurch City Council's role, responsibilities, and ongoing involvement within the CWP as the coordinating body.		
		2.2.3 Identify and align with relevant guiding documents and policies to help inform and direct the CWP.		
		2.2.4 Develop a comprehensive Action Plan to establish and implement goals, objectives, and actions that support the outcomes of the Charter.		
		2.3 Act as a central hub to connect and support partners: Coordinate resources, communication, and research to strengthen collective waterways efforts.		2.3.1 Manage and sustain the CWP fund to support the work of the partnership and advise partners about relevant funding opportunities.
				2.3.2 Develop a shared resource directory for partner use.
	2.3.3 Support and explore research and studies that inform and enhance partner efforts.			
		2.3.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of community-led interventions to inform best practice.		
		2.3.5 Develop and implement a CWP communications plan to strengthen engagement, enhance connectivity, and amplify the impact of the partnership's work.		
2.3.6 Launch and maintain a dedicated partnership website as a central information hub.				
3.1 Develop shared messaging and engagement tools: Align public engagement through shared messaging.		3.1.1 Develop and implement a unified set of key messages that reflect the partnership's shared values and goals.	Achieve consensus on messaging interwoven with appropriate cultural narrative, and market these with an innovative package of shared and consistent material suitable for a variety of audiences (2).	
		3.2 Provide an umbrella framework for waterways education: Support waterways education that builds community knowledge and capacity.		3.2.1 Identify and promote educational programmes, activities and resources that empower schools and the community to learn about their local waterways and stormwater, and to take meaningful action.
	3.2.2 Support schools in building long-term engagement with and guardianship of their local waterways.			
3.3 Build and promote community capacity to protect urban waterways: Use events, collaboration, and shared planning to raise public awareness and celebrate the partnership.	3.3.1 Co-organise, support, and participate in waterways-related events.	Develop a network of trained people to deliver the key messages professionally and consistently (3). Design and implement stormwater, habitat and water conservation educational resources to supplement existing resources for use in schools and community events (4).		
	3.3.2 Identify and pursue new opportunities to further broaden community engagement with urban waterways.			
	3.3.3 Host an annual get-together conference to strengthen collaboration and highlight partners' work and achievements.			
	3.3.4 Empower partners with access to the latest water quality information to support informed action and engagement.			
	3.3.5 Foster relationship building amongst partners, through social and networking opportunities.			
	3.3.6 Identify, promote and facilitate workshops and field trips to upskill and support partners (aim for at least two annually).			
3.3.7 Establish a calendar of annual CWP-led activities that reinforce partnership goals.				
3.3.8 Actively contribute to the Community Goal in the Christchurch City Council's Stormwater Management Plans.				
4. Amplify Change Advocate for resources and rules to improve our waterways.	4.1 Support the partners to drive legislative and systemic change: Aid community-led action and engagement to improve waterway health through policy influence.	4.1.1 Promote the partnership and its partners' initiatives to enhance visibility and influence, particularly among key decision-makers and stakeholders.	Advocate for incentives that enable community implementation of positive stormwater, habitat and water conservation actions and solutions (5). Advocate for national legislative change to better address stormwater contaminants (7).	
		4.1.2 Strengthen partner advocacy by facilitating public submission opportunities and capacity-building workshops and identify incentives that inspire sustained action.		