SANDRINGHAM & BALMORAL
RECOVERY

Together to Thrive

Nāku te rourou, nāu te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi



What Matters Most: Our Community Priorities

WE ASKED: What would support you, your whānau, and your community to recover and thrive after local flooding?

OUR COMMUNITY SAID: Feeling safe is essential to recovery and to feel safe our six **Community Priorities** are:

Crisis Readiness - Support and resourcing for our communities to be confident and prepared for future crises. This includes education around what to do, access to resources/tools/equipment, and access to safe spaces. Community ideas included:



- Getting to know our neighbours so we are ready to support each other
- Opportunities to develop, practice and build confidence in enacting household and street emergency plans
- Opportunities to build connections to community emergency hubs
- Resourcing of street and household emergency kits

Community-Led Decision Making - Local voices listened to and centred when making decisions about our community, especially regarding climate adaptation and local land-use. Community ideas included:



- Neighbourhood-led planning for long-term and interim use of category 3 properties
- Developing, supporting and strengthening neighborhood groups
- Support for residents to navigate systems and advocate to have needs met
- Participatory funding processes to support community-led initiatives
- Funding allocated for a community-led climate adaptation plan
- Funding community-led projects such as flood mitigation planting of berms and green spaces

Connectedness & Community Vibrancy - Opportunities to connect, collaborate, advocate and celebrate with our neighbours, community organisations, and the wider community. Connection builds our strength and resilience. Community ideas included:



- Neighbourhood hui, BBQ's, block parties and working bees
- Street action plans to welcome new neighbours and support the most vulnerable people in our neighbourhoods
- Community events and initiatives that celebrate our strengths and promote social cohesion

Ways to Wellbeing - Pathways for our community to heal and recover from the mental, emotional and physical strain caused by the ongoing impact of flooding. Community ideas included:



- Opportunities to connect and share stories and experiences
- Access to wellness services and culturally appropriate mental health support
- Safe spaces that support collective care and connection

Working with our Waterways - Kaitiakitanga, taking care of our awa (waterways) and te taiao (the natural environment). Understanding how water works in our neighbourhoods and making space for it. Community ideas included:



- Expansion of local blue-green networks
- Daylighting our local awa - Waitītiko / Meola Creek
- Community events around our awa like planting days, clean-ups and guided hīkoi
- Continued resourcing and support for wetland planting
- Considering feedback from community-led organisations such as STEPS regarding flood water flows in areas like Watea reserve
- Opportunities to learn from Te Ao Māori perspectives on kaitiakitanga

Taking Responsibility - While we lead our own individual and collective recovery, there are essential infrastructural improvements and tangible climate actions that local and central governments must make to restore trust and ensure the safety of our communities. Community ideas included:



- Halting intensification plans in our area until adequate stormwater infrastructure is in place
- Utilising land from category 3 properties to expand local blue-green networks
- A flood responsive consenting process for property development in our area
- Targeted development fees that feed directly into improving local stormwater management
- Development and communication of transparent floodwater assets mapping, measurements and monitoring that includes ground water/aquifer levels
- Improvements and maintenance to current stormwater assets, e.g. upgrading the detention basins beneath Maungawhau and Balmoral School fields to ensure they are working effectively
- Tools to log/record stormwater failings and issues in these areas during frequent heavy rain and flooding events
- Develop and action climate mitigation and adaptation plans for AELB
- Funding for catchment level stormwater mitigation projects such as constructing bunds in Watea/Taumata reserves, and wetland planting

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Auckland Council Plan Change 120

Meola Catchment Priorities

Memorandum:

On behalf of Councillor Julie Fairey, Trixi Pavey of SPICE requested a “with 5-10 priority requests for action that you would like council to take” on 27 October 26.

STEPS has now prepared a priority ordered request list, in consultation with an experienced Stormwater Engineer who is very familiar with the Meola Catchment.

Our main change is that we propose the SPICE list for Cr Julie Fairey includes:

- “Daylighting (and regenerating) our local awa - Waitītiko / Meola Creek”

This action is listed in the SPICE Recovery Priorities attachment, but for some reason is missing from list within the email.

We recommend that Waitītiko awa stream regeneration should be incorporated within the climate and stormwater mitigation projects listed last by SPICE, and it should be given a high priority. Please see our attached priority list for Auckland Council.

STEPS is willing to meet to discuss the underlying rationale for the priority order requests submitted, and the Society would be happy to clarify further the various engineering and other factors that have been taken into account in compiling the list. We suggest that a meeting between experts already familiar with the issues involved could be helpful. We would welcome Auckland Council Healthy Waters staff if Councillor Fairey needs further clarification.

STEPS VISION:

“To make Waitītiko-Meola Creek a thriving eco-corridor from Ōwairaka to the Waitematā”

Elizabeth Walker

Co-Chair St Lukes Environmental Protection Society Inc.

Date: 4 November 2026

References FYI

-STEPS' September PC 120 submission recommended that future daylighting of the pipe between Alberton Ave and Norgrove Ave is essential, and requested that the creek path should not be upzoned. https://www.meolacreek.org.nz/2026/09/25/steps-submissions-on-auckland-plan-change-120/

- There is a stormwater conference paper available which includes regenerating/ daylighting Meola Creek. https://www.meolacreek.org.nz/2026/06/25/daylighting-meola-creek-morphum-environmental/

Auckland Council Plan Change 120

Meola Catchment Priorities

Priority Requests for Auckland Council Action:

1. Halting intensification plans in our area until adequate stormwater infrastructure is in place.
2. Utilising land from category 3 properties to expand local blue-green networks.
3. Develop and action climate mitigation and adaptation plans for AELB and AC Healthy Waters Funding, for catchment level stormwater mitigation projects, as part of the blue-green networks program. Priority actions include: regenerating and daylighting Meola Creek 'from mountain to sea'; constructing bunds in Watea/Taumata reserves; and promoting wetland planting.
4. A flood and aquifer/stream hydrology responsive consenting process for any property development proposed in our area.
5. Introduce targeted development fees that feed directly into improving local stormwater management.
6. Enable the development and communication of transparent floodwater asset mapping, measurements and monitoring which includes ground water/aquifer levels.
7. Undertake improvement to- and better maintenance- of current stormwater assets, e.g. upgrading the various detention basins such as those beneath Maungawhau and Balmoral School fields to ensure they are working effectively.
8. Formulate and implement tools to log/record stormwater failings and issues in areas which flood during frequent heavy rain and major flooding events.

STEPS VISION:

"To make Waitītiko-Meola Creek a thriving eco-corridor from Ōwairaka to the Waitematā"

STEPS
St Lukes Environmental Protection Society

www.meolacreek.org.nz
https://facebook.com/STEPSNZ

Priority Requests from Cabbage Tree Swamp Residents:

- Halting intensification plans in our area until adequate stormwater infrastructure is in place
- Improvements and maintenance to current stormwater assets, e.g. upgrading the detention basins beneath Maungawhau and Balmoral School fields to ensure they are working effectively. Please note the manhole cover at the end of Cambourne Road was again pushed out of place with water flooding the street in the recent downpours. One thought from the group is the flows from the school detention basin should be further restricted.
- Utilising land from category 3 and abandoned KO properties to expand local blue-green networks - this could be a quick win in theory if everybody could agree. Our group is working on a localised plant to incorporate properties on Parrish Road into a blue-green stormwater asset.
- Targeted development fees that feed directly into improving local stormwater management
- We are unclear on the difference to the following two but feel they could be lumped together. This is essentially effective risk management of the current flooding risk including monitoring and measuring and then resulting actions to mitigate flood risks prior to large rain events.
    - Development and communication of transparent floodwater assets mapping, measurements and monitoring that includes grown water/aquifer levels
    - Tools to log/record stormwater failings and issues in these areas during frequent heavy rain and flooding events.
- As a small business owner we have a full risk register which outlines the various risks our business is exposed to and the very many steps we take to mitigate or minimise the risks. Does Healthy Waters have a similar risk register for flooding in our area? If yes, what are the steps they take or are planning to take to mitigate or minimise the risks?
- And lastly, in terms of the PC120 process - multiple members are finding the process incomprehensible and are finding it increasingly difficult to keep track - this is a group of ex-council staff, lawyers and stormwater engineers amongst others. I can only imagine how incredibly difficult this is for the average Aucklander.