

Our wild and precious coasts

We love our beaches here in the Waikato! Did you know that these beautiful spaces are also really important? Sand dunes buffer us from storms, our coastlines filter water runoff from the land and our coasts are home to a special mix of native plants and animals that are found nowhere else in the world!

Sadly, over 75 per cent of the Waikato coastline has been degraded and continues to face numerous pressures like urban development, pest animals, weeds, vehicles and litter.

Protect our dunes and they'll protect us

Our native coastal plants (spinifex and pingao) hold sand together to form dunes which act as a buffer between the land and sea.

These plants are fragile and can easily be killed by vehicles or even by walking on them. If we destroy our dune plants, we destroy our dunes. This leaves us unprotected from storm events which can cause significant erosion and sand inundation.



Coastcare Waikato is a community partnership programme which works to restore coastal areas throughout the Waikato region. This programme involves local communities, iwi and government organisations working together to restore, protect and look after our coasts and all the species that live and grow here. In the Waikato region, there are over 20 Coastcare groups.



Protecting our coast together

We all need to work together to protect our beaches, minimise our impact and make our coastlines a safe place for the plants and animals that call it home.



How you can help

Leave your vehicle in the car park

Vehicles destroy dunes, plants and wildlife.

Driving is prohibited on many beaches in the Waikato region. Check with your local district council for bylaws in your area. Where permitted, please stay off the dunes and keep an eye out for birds which may be breeding along the coast.

Watch where you walk and play

Walking through sand dunes kills the plants. Please use marked accessways to get to your beach. Only walk, play and sit on bare sand on the beach, not in dune areas with plants.

Please don't slide down the seaward face of dunes – this area is especially fragile.

Be kind to wildlife

Some native birds only nest on beaches. Please stay clear of nesting birds and any fenced off areas. Always keep dogs under control or on a leash around wildlife.

Be a tidy kiwi

Everything you bring to the beach needs to go home with you or into a nearby rubbish bin. If you see rubbish, do the right thing – pick it up. Every bit counts!

Bust those pests and weeds

Rabbits and possums eat our coastal plants. Join the fight against these pests and get trapping at home.

Garden plants and weeds smother native vegetation. Join a coastal weeding event to help protect our coastal plants and to learn about pest plant management.

Get involved

Together, we plant over 50,000 coastal plants each year and host weeding, planting and beach cleanup events.

To learn more:

- find us on Facebook (facebook.com/coastcarewaikato)
- contact us at coastcare@waikatoregion.govt.nz
- or follow our work on Instagram (instagram.com/coastcarewaikato).

