



River restoration and access at Otorohanga



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This is a series of projects to improve the water quality entering the Waipa River, providing for eel passage and improved recreational access to the river.

The old Waipa River bed which runs through the centre of Otorohanga adjacent to Lake Huiputea will be "cleaned out" filled and a wetland built along the southernmost stretch.

The silt and weed build up in Lake Huiputea will be removed and storm water flowing into the lake will be redirected through a new wetland.

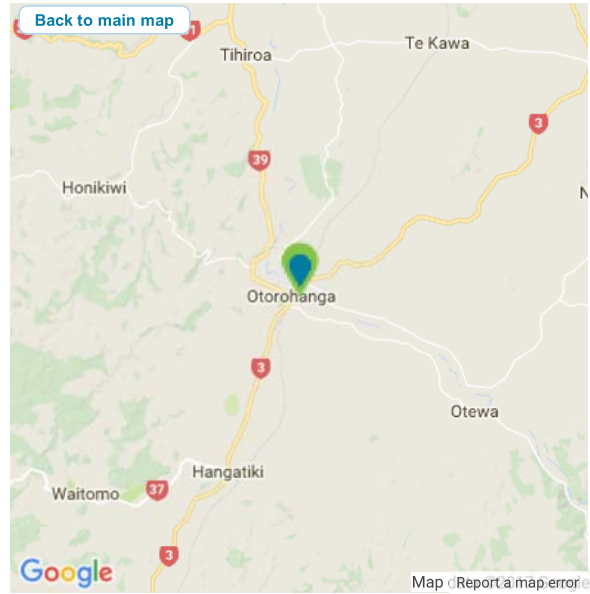
Riverside access to the Waipa River will improved and a "beach" will be built allowing kayakers easy access to the river and a safe place for children to play. There will also be modification to the storm water system to allow the upstream movement of eels.

The project will incorporate a number of symbolic elements, namely reclaiming and landscaping the old Waipa River bed, cleaning Lake Huiputea, building a wetland, creating recreational river access and creating access for eels to and from the river. Collectively this will dramatically improve the quality of the water flowing into the Waipa River by controlling the amount of silt and microbe contamination from storm water containing decaying "rubbish", fertiliser and animal faeces and at the same time add significant social benefits to Otorohanga residents and visitors alike.

The project will be completed by the Otorohanga District Council services division who will also utilise local subcontractors under the direct supervision of the council staff. Work has already started in a small way but the bulk of the project is scheduled from January to October 2014.

This project is funded by the Waikato River Authority (WRA 13-027)

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