

Oakley Creek Walkway

(distance marker from start indicated by #)



3. Wairaka Stream fed from Te Puna o Wairaka (Wairaka Spring). Wetland planted by Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre 'garden group' 2005-2006. #0.20m



4. Privet Forest - roosting for white-faced heron and habitat for puriri grub etc. Gradual transition to native species. #0.25m-0.40m

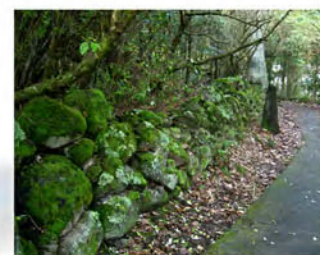
6. Old farm road from Waterview Glades and remains of old bridge across Creek. #0.60m

11. Waterview Downs Bridge - Entrance 'D'. Downstream, east, planted by students from Gladstone and Waterview Primary Schools. #1.20m

There are a number of entrances to the Oakley Creek Walkway: (n.b steps indicated by *)

- A: Gt North Rd, near the SH16 North-Western Motorway exit at Waterview, opposite Cowley Place.
 B: Gt North Rd, opposite Alverston St, Waterview. *
 C: Unitec Mt Albert campus, via Gate 3 or 4.
 D: Waterview Downs, off Gt North Rd, Waterview.
 E: Corner Blockhouse Bay & Gt North Roads. *
 F: Phyllis Reserve, off Phyllis St, Mt Albert.
 G: Harbutt Reserve, off Harbutt Ave, Mt Albert
 H: Cradock St, Avondale Heights. *

1. Walkway - Entrance 'A' (off Great North Road).
 2. Maori midden east of slope above path. #0.15m
 5. 'Open Space' - old farm road from Unitec. Variety of plantings including wetland / floodplain, lowland forest and specimen / shade trees. #0.50m



7. Fern Glade - old stone walls where track splits. #0.85m
 - west over bridge to waterfall and Great North Road - Entrance 'B'.
 - east up slope to Te Waka Mataatua sign and Unitec - Entrance 'C'.

8. Te Puna o Wairaka (Wairaka Spring) in Unitec Campus.

9. Waterfall recently upgraded with new viewing platform and amenity planting. #0.90m - #0.95m



photo: Kennedy Warne

10. Fern Glen Bridge. #1.05m

12. Phyllis Reserve. #1.40m
 - west across bridge to corner of Blockhouse Bay & Great North Roads - Entrance 'E'.
 - east up hill to Phyllis Reserve - Entrance 'F'.

Oakley Creek Te Auaunga Walkway

Away from the hustle and bustle, yet a mere stone's throw from one of Auckland's busiest roads, Oakley Creek Te Auaunga (*whirlpool or swirling waters*) remains one of Auckland's best kept secrets.

Oakley Creek, rises on the northern slopes of Hillsborough, and flows approximately 15 kilometres through Mt Roskill and Ōwairaka / Mt Albert, before converging with the Motu Manawa Marine Reserve and Waitemata Harbour. A large portion of its upper reaches were originally swamp, including the ancient Rakataura Wetland. Much of the stream in this area was channelled in the late 1930s to drain the land for farming. However, the lower reaches of the Creek (including the *Oakley Creek Esplanade Reserve*) have remained relatively natural and unmodified.

Oakley Creek has a rich historical heritage, both Māori and early European. It provided a rich source of food and resources for Māori living in the area. The surrounding land, including what is now Unitec, was farmed by the *Avondale / Whau Lunatic Asylum* (1867-1972). Signs of these early days can still be seen at various points along the walkway, including a Maori midden (#2 on accompanying map), stone walls/ fences (#7) and the remains of a number of bridges (#6).

The Oakley Creek Walkway was constructed during the early-mid 1980s to the early 1990s. A number of native plantings were undertaken in this period and in subsequent years. However, there was no overall management plan, and the stream was seen to have little ecological value. No resourcing went into the area apart from some basic maintenance and weed control.

Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga was established in 2004 with the aim of '*protecting, enhancing and restoring the ecological health of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga and its environs*'.

The 'Friends' work to improve the quality of the natural environment and develop a diversity of habitats, to support a wide range of native wildlife species. We also work to encourage people to appreciate the Creek's value and to care for it through involvement in the restoration efforts and develop a sense of community and guardianship.

The project provides the opportunity for a wide range of community groups, schools, local businesses and individuals to contribute to the restoration of the Creek and its environs. Over the past years, it has grown from strength-to-strength, and has included the planting of over 35,000 natives species, the setting up of an extensive monitoring and pest control programme, the establishment of a nursery and annual rubbish clean ups.

The restoration of Oakley Creek is a long-term project and its success is dependent on considerable volunteer efforts. If you would like to join in with the activities we would welcome your contribution.

