

# Sanctuary Mahi Whenua

## Sustainability – Community Project

March 2022

Sanctuary Mahi Whenua have been fostering and preserving rich sources of biodiversity for decades, welcoming anyone and everyone into their lush green haven. The sanctuary not only maintains the local practice of horticulture, they encourage people to learn, engage and establish their own relationship with nature. The garden is run solely by volunteers who all share the same passion for sustainability and protection of the land, as well as those which live and grow on it.

On 16 January, Sanctuary Mahi Whenua installed Iplex Greenline® pipes to aid in water reticulation around the gardens. The process took four hours and seven volunteers, one of which was a retired builder.

The sanctuary has upgraded from having a singular water outlet at the top of the garden, to now having eight in total. The seven additional outlets are placed all around the garden in different areas. The volunteers each have their own sections as groups, these outlets have been strategically placed to help make the volunteer's work easier.

“They have made a world of difference” says Trevor Crosby the sanctuary's treasurer, the water outlets have made it easier for people to fill their watering pots. People do not have to wait in long lines anymore. It is overall more accessible and as a bonus the water pressure has increased.



One of the Water Outlets filling a Watering Can.



Sanctuary Mahi Whenua Flourishing in the Summer.

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The flow on effect caused from the additional water outlets has increased people’s passion and motivations for gardening and horticulture. Prior to the installation, the previous water system made caring for the garden difficult, walking up hill to use the solitary outlet took up precious time and in Aotearoa’s summer humidity, took extra energy. Iplex pipes have aided in the sanctuary’s nourishment by empowering the volunteers to do what they love.

Sanctuary Mahi Whenua have seen a “huge difference” from January to February and the “garden is flourishing”. The gardens need to be watered roughly four times a day and the seven outlets have helped bring “life back during this hot summer” says Trevor.

In early February, Unitech Campus re-discovered a stream next to the garden and after some maintenance and digging, the Sanctuary and Unitech realised just how close it was to the garden. Sanctuary Mahi Whenua have spoken to the council and Unitech about utilising this water. Trevor mentioned the sanctuary are in talks about pumping the stream water up to the top of the gardens to further help in the hot months where rainfall is scarce. Iplex are excited about this discovery and are keen to see how the sanctuary utilises this great natural resource to ensure the future flourishing of the garden.

Iplex are happy to have been able to contribute and make a difference to the Mahi Whenua garden and are keeping a keen eye on the future of the sanctuary and their success.



Water Flow Distribution Control System.



Unitech Stream next to Sanctuary Mahi Whenua.

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