



Rodney District Council

Natural Heritage Fund

Information and Application Form

www.rodney.govt.nz





STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Natural Heritage Fund (NHF) seeks to support community initiatives to better manage, protect and enhance biodiversity and natural habitats. These initiatives are expected to have clear and enduring environmental benefits. The Fund is not intended to support natural heritage restoration or enhancement activities that will result in private or economic gain. The NHF will complement other Rodney District Council community grant initiatives and will not duplicate other incentives or the responsibilities of other organisations.

PURPOSE

To assist and actively encourage the Rodney District community to manage, protect and enhance biodiversity, indigenous vegetation and wildlife habitats.

FUND PRIORITIES

To promote environmental and conservation initiatives in the Rodney District, Council has established the Natural Heritage Fund. The Fund has \$50,000 targeted at several priority areas listed below.

The Fund is a contestable fund with grants of up to 50 percent of the total project costs generally to a maximum of \$5,000. Projects suitable for contestable funding must clearly benefit indigenous biodiversity and enhance the health of the wider ecosystems in the district. Projects that protect, enhance or restore indigenous biodiversity in the following priority areas will be considered. Support for fencing and use of native plants will be given priority, while projects that involve the covenanting of a natural area(s) will be given priority over those projects that do not involve legal protection.

- **Waterways**
Projects that protect, restore or enhance native habitats such as stream-sides and riverbanks.
- **Wetlands**
Projects that protect, restore or enhance natural wetlands.
- **Coastal**
Projects that protect, restore or enhance coastal dunes and surrounding habitats.



- **Native Forest**
Projects that protect, restore or enhance forest (e.g. lowland forests, shrubland and remnants).
- **Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement**
Projects that create ecological linkages (e.g. planting, linking forest remnants, corridors and linking planted areas), protect species or enhance habitat.

ELIGIBILITY

The Natural Heritage Fund is open to individuals or voluntary groups who intend to carry out projects in the Rodney District. Practical projects that manage, protect and enhance aspects of Rodney District's natural and physical environment and show clear evidence of wider and sustainable long-term benefits in the priority areas listed will be considered.

Some examples of projects that can be supported by the Natural Heritage Fund include:

- **Biodiversity**
Fencing and planting of a riparian link between two significant natural bush areas.
- **Conservation**
Fencing, legal protection and enhancement planting of an endangered bird nesting area.
- **SNA Protection**
Fencing and legal protection of a significant natural area of bush or wetland.
- **Rehabilitation**
Fencing and planting of a wetland area.

The Natural Heritage Fund CANNOT support projects that are:

- a government, local authority or other public body responsibility.
- for beautification, support for personal or commercial profit or compensate individuals.
- already completed.

NATURAL HERITAGE FUND APPLICATION FORM

Important:

- A photocopy of your application must accompany the original (double-side if possible)
- Do not staple information to the application form
- Please write in the spaces provided for answers prior to attaching additional information.

SECTION 1: GENERAL DETAILS

This section will provide details about you or your group and will help us effectively process your application.

1.1. Applicant name/authorised group representative

This must be a person authorised to represent the group and must be one of the signatories to this application. All correspondence will be sent to this person.

1.2. Name of your organisation (if applicable)

1.3. Mailing address

1.4. Physical location of your project

1.5. Contact details

Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Night) _____

Mobile _____ Fax _____

Email address _____

Website _____

1.6. Bank details

Please provide full bank account number and a printed bank deposit slip in the applicant or group name.

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SECTION 2: FUNDING REQUEST DETAILS

Please provide clear, concise responses.

2.1. What is the primary aim of your project?

2.2. Please provide a brief description of what you require funding for.

2.3. How does this project meet the intent of the NHF?

2.4. Tick which NHF priority area(s) your project fits under:

- Waterways
- Coastal
- Native Forest
- Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement
- Wetlands
- Other - please specify _____

2.8 Has your organisation been involved in similar projects?

Please list projects undertaken including goals, outcomes, budget and sources of funding.

2.9. Do any stages of the project require resource consent of any kind?

e.g. is planting a result of a consent condition? If so, please outline your current consent status and any conditions related to the consent (types of activities that require consent include earthworks, the building of structures and work in the coastal marine area).

SECTION 3: APPLICATION COSTING

This section requests information that relates specifically to the budget and financial information for your application.

The Natural Heritage Fund contributes up to 50 percent of the total costs of your project generally up to a maximum of \$5,000. You must be able to provide the remaining 50 percent with your time, cash costs, other funding, or contributions such as voluntary labour and donated materials.

3.1. What is the total cost of the project (GST inclusive)?

Please give details of materials, costs, labour, contractors, etc (please include quotes).

Description	\$ Amount	Rank Importance
Total Costs	\$	

3.5. Have you applied to any other organisation(s) for financial support for this project?

Yes

No

3.6. If yes, detail the name of this organisation, amount applied for and when you expect to hear back about your application.

If you receive funding after you have submitted this application, you must contact Rodney District Council.

SECTION 4: SITE DETAILS

Please include a location map, photos, drawings, project plans and any other information which you think will support your application.

4.1. Will the project be carried out on public or private land, or a combination of both?

Please give contact details of the landowners. If the project, or part of the project, is not on your own land, please provide a letter or support from the landowner (whether public or private) giving permission, details of who is going to look after the project in the long-term, and details of any covenants. The letter of support for the project must include names and contact details. Please provide a copy of certificate of title for affected properties and a legal description.

NB. Projects that are part of a current or future subdivision consent which is contingent on the proposed activity which would be supported by the fund will not be eligible for funding (refer to NHF Statement of Intent).

4.2. Are there any reports available on the project area (e.g. management plans, Auckland Regional Council, Department of Conservation or QEII Trust reports, archaeological surveys, etc)?

Please include copies if available.

4.3. Is there any other similar work being performed in the area (profit or non-profit)?

If so, give details.

SECTION 5: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I/We hereby declare all details contained in this application are true and correct and I/we have the authority to make this application, including on behalf of the group or organisation (if relevant). I/We consent to Rodney District Council collecting personal information provided in this application, retaining and using these details.

If receiving funds from Rodney District Council for the purposes in this application, I/we agree to be accountable for funds granted and to submit a final report by November of the year the application is submitted. I/We also agree to be available to participate in random accountability audit if required.

I/we agree to the terms and conditions contained in this application.

Signatory

Signatory

Name

Name

Organisation Position

Organisation Position

Date

Date

Acknowledgement Receipt

If you complete this section we will write to confirm receipt of your application. If you prefer acknowledgement by email please provide your email address on the front of this application.

Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ City _____

Office Use Only

Application Reference No. _____

RDC acknowledges the receipt of this application to the Natural Heritage Fund.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please remove application form and post it to the address provided



CRITERIA FOR FUNDING

In assessing all applications to the Rodney District Council Natural Heritage Fund, the following criteria will be used:

- **Significance of Area**

The significance of the natural area and the extent to which it represents a habitat type or ecosystem. Proposed projects should protect or enhance natural areas of significance, coastal or wetland habitats or have the potential to re-establish natural areas of significance.
- **Ecological Integrity**

Projects must demonstrate a positive outcome towards the protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity and habitats. Projects must contribute to the long-term health of the natural heritage of Rodney District.
- **Enduring Environmental Outcomes**

Proposals must clearly explain how the project contributes to the purpose and intent of the fund and demonstrate positive long-term and enduring environmental outcomes.
- **Legal Protection**

Proposed projects on private land should result in legal protection of the area of natural value (e.g. through a QE II Open Space Covenant). Projects on public land will also be given preference. If the project is on public land under the responsibility of another body or private party, that body must also contribute towards and demonstrate their support for the project.
- **Partnership**

Projects with identified sources of co-funding will be given priority (e.g. Auckland Regional Council's Environmental Initiatives Fund, QEII National Trust's contribution to fencing and survey costs, Biodiversity Condition or Advice Funds administered by DoC, etc). Proposed projects, which will be undertaken by groups, need identified leadership.



SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

If an application is successful, Rodney District Council requires the successful applicant to sign a Terms of Agreement. This is an agreement between the Rodney District Council and the applicant stating that the applicant agrees to carry out the objectives of the proposed project, including finalising (when relevant) the formal registering of a covenant over the subject natural area on the title of the land. If the applicant fails to do so, the applicant may be refused funding or be required to reimburse Council for the amount received by the applicant.

Funded projects must be started within 12 months of the grant being approved and are expected to be completed within two years of the date started. A final report must be provided to Rodney District Council upon completion of the project. Follow-up monitoring may be undertaken to ensure projects continue to meet the intent of the Fund.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are required to submit two completed copies of the application form and all supporting information to Council.

All applications will be assessed by Council staff to determine if proposals meet the Fund's criteria. Applications for approval of funding for more than \$2,000 will be reported to the Rodney District Council Community and Environment Committee for decision in June and December of each year. Applications for approval of funding less than \$2,000 will be evaluated by Council staff throughout the year under delegated authority. All decisions will be final.

An application form is included in this booklet. You can also download the form from Rodney District Council's website (www.rodney.govt.nz) or pick one up from Customer Services. For more information, please call Rodney District Council on 0800 426 5169.



SEND YOUR APPLICATION TO:

The Natural Heritage Fund
C/- Craig Pratt
Rodney District Council
Private Bag 500
Orewa
AUCKLAND 0931

NB. You will be notified of the outcome of your application in either July or January for applications over \$2,000, or following receipt and processing of all other applications.

YOUR CHECKLIST

- Have you answered all the questions?
- Have you supplied quotes?
- Have you signed the application?
- Have you attached a bank deposit slip?
- Have you supplied a site map, if applicable?
- Do your sums add up? Check!
- A photocopy of your application must accompany the original.
If possible we recommend double-siding any copies.

