

# Stream restoration

## Method

Do an audit of your local stream. Can you see any of these?

- Litter
- Erosion
- Weeds

Choose one issue and brainstorm some ways to prevent it. Here are some examples of action projects which help to restore a local stream:

## Some ideas for Action Projects

Monitor your stream regularly to see how healthy it is and ask your local newspaper to publish the results and run a series of stories about the stream featuring the work that you have done to help it. You could also publish your results in the local library or supermarket.

In some cases, you may need to write to the local council and request more litterbins with lids on them so that the litter does not blow onto the street or into the stream.

Make sure there are dog poo bins also and let the local community know to use these by designing a leaflet to drop into people's letter boxes. The students may like to think of a clever slogan to put on the leaflet.

Paint a mural or make a sign about your stream. You could illustrate how you would like your stream to look in 5, 10 or 20 year's time.

Develop a theatrical production about the stream and invite adults to the show. The play might describe a day in the life of a stormdrain, showing some of the pollutants that are poured down it and where they end up.



# Take Action

Do a litter clean-up removing all the rubbish from your local stream. You will need to ask permission from the local council or landowner. The council may be able to provide you with gloves and bags.

**Health and Safety Tip:** Only adults collect any dangerous objects such as broken glass, needles, sharp objects. The students could make their own Health and Safety Plan for the clean-up event.

After your stream clean-up, you could undertake a survey of the litter to find out where most of it comes from and write to the manufacturers asking them to use less packaging.

Or you could design a litter free lunchbox as on page 36. Write to your local MP telling them about your vision for the future of your stream. You could even try to get on TV or local radio to tell as many people as possible about your stream. Or let the whole world know by setting up a website for your stream.

Establish a stream-care club at school and take turns at looking after the stream. One of your jobs might involve clearing weeds from the stream. Most of the plants growing in our streams are invasive weeds which can choke up the stream and use up all the oxygen so there is none left for the other stream dwellers. Greater Wellington can help you identify weeds in your stream.

Plant trees along the stream banks to anchor the soil and prevent erosion. Tree planting is mostly done in the winter months. Remember to ask the landowner before you plant – you need their permission and also they might like to help design where you do the planting. Our Stream Restoration leaflet can help you with which plants to use. If you live in a farming area you may need to fence off the area to keep stock out - Greater Wellington may be able to help fund the fence.

Look after your trees once you have planted them by clearing weeds regularly and mulching the base of the tree to keep the moisture in and the weeds away. You could feed your tree organic compost or worm juice from your worm bin.

