

# WONDERFUL WETLANDS

Wetlands act as giant filters and sponges in the environment. They help to improve water quality, control flooding, provide habitats for wildlife and places for people to enjoy.

Visit our Threatened Native Plant Garden, lake areas, and the Children's Garden to help complete these challenges.

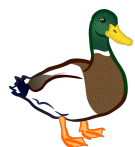


## Did you know?

Auckland has about 3,700 hectares of freshwater wetland, 14,000 hectares of estuarine wetland, 10,000km of rivers and streams and over 30 lakes. (1 hectare is about the size of a rugby field). Visit [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) and search 'Wetland' to discover more about these special places and where you can go to explore them.

## CHALLENGE 1 – Watching wetland wildlife

Wetlands are important habitats for native plants, birds and other wildlife. Find a place to sit by one of our lakes or in the Threatened Native Plant Garden to see if you can spot any of these plants and animals:



rakiraki duck



kawaiwai ducklings



warou swallow



kotare kingfisher



piwakawaka fantail



tūi



pūkeko



kapowai dragonfly



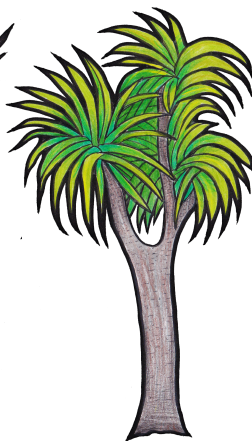
tuna eel



harakeke



nīkau



tī kōuka cabbage tree

Images not to scale

## CHALLENGE 2 – Wetland wordsearch

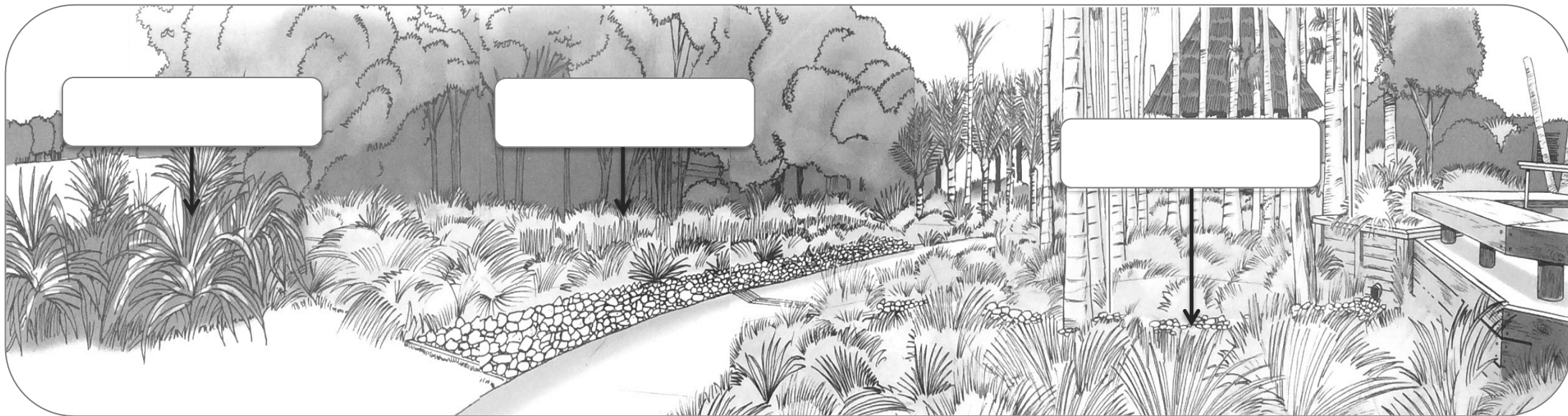
Look carefully for these wetland words - they could be written forwards, backwards, upwards or downwards in the grid.

BIRDS	R	A	K	S	R	E	T	A	W	M	R	O	T	S	A
CLEAN	E	B	B	I	N	S	E	C	T	S	C	D	N	T	E
DRAIN	T	F	G	C	L	D	T	H	I	N	J	K	A	R	L
ECOSYSTEM	L	M	N	U	D	R	M	U	Q	A	R	S	E	E	T
EELS	I	F	I	S	H	I	E	N	V	T	X	Y	L	A	Z
FILTER	F	L	V	O	W	B	P	F	O	I	W	A	C	M	B
FISH	H	A	B	I	T	A	T	C	G	V	P	X	D	E	F
FLAX	G	X	H	S	I	L	Q	U	W	E	T	L	A	N	D
HABITAT	R	V	X	W	I	L	D	L	I	F	E	O	Q	Y	R
INSECTS	B	S	W	A	Y	J	M	Z	A	E	H	H	P	R	A
NATIVE	D	E	E	L	S	I	K	N	J	S	L	F	I	Z	I
STORMWATER	G	K	T	E	C	O	S	Y	S	T	E	M	C	J	N
STREAM															
SWALE															
WETLAND															
WILDLIFE															

## JUST FOR FUN

Unscramble the letters to reveal a spongy treat that has the name of a type of wetland in it.

A R M L W A O S H M L



### CHALLENGE 3 – All aboard the stormwater treatment train!

After it rains, stormwater from the Children's Garden travels through a series of specially designed areas of rocks and grasses called 'swales' that lead into the wetland. Use the All Aboard! sign to label the picture above. You could colour in the scene and add a picture of yourself, family or friends on the pathway.

### CHALLENGE 4 – Find out about native wetland plants

Use the wetland and streamside signage in the Threatened Native Plant Garden to discover...

1. What % of Auckland's wetlands remain? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which rare fern relies on wetlands for its survival? \_\_\_\_\_  
Can you spot it growing nearby?
3. Which special adaptation does Swamp Maire have to help it survive in waterlogged soil?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How big can the Swamp Maire tree grow? \_\_\_\_\_  
Can you spot a young Swamp Maire growing nearby?
5. How many types of reeds (tall, grass-like plants) can you spot growing by the water?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Did you know?

*Traditionally for Māori, repo (wetlands) are taonga – treasured places from which plants and animals can be gathered for kai (food), rongoā (medicines) and raranga (weaving).*

*For example, reeds could be bundled to make mōkihi (small rafts) and had many other uses.*

*To find out more about the traditional uses of wetland plants visit [www.sciencelearn.org.nz](http://www.sciencelearn.org.nz) and search 'Wetlands'.*

