

## Latest stream monitoring results

In November 2007, Auckland Regional Council scientists carried out Stream Ecological Valuation (SEV) assessments at four sites on Waiheke Island, repeating the assessments carried out by NIWA scientists in March 2007. SEV assessments consider the characteristics of the stream and suitability as habitat for stream organisms e.g. fish. The results at the sites were similar to those obtained by NIWA; the largest difference existed between the assessments carried out on the Tawaipareira Creek site. Each site had the same rank order as in the previous assessment.

- The Onetangi Stream site (at the Forest and Bird reserve) produced the highest scores on both occasions (NIWA=0.69; ARC=0.71). These scores indicate a site with high ecological functioning - or a relatively clean and healthy stream.
- The Church Bay Stream produced the second highest score on both occasions (NIWA=0.62; ARC=0.68). This shows that the stream has been affected by changes in the catchment – for instance land clearance and increased sediment runoff - but still has a reasonable ecological function and is therefore reasonably healthy.
- The Goodwin Stream produced the third highest score on each occasion (NIWA=0.59; ARC=0.62).
- The Tawaipareira Creek site produced the lowest score on both occasions (NIWA=0.56; ARC=0.47). It is the least healthy of the streams but its score is similar to other Auckland streams with urban development and activities that have occurred without consideration of the effects on the stream. All the scores are at the upper end of typical scores from urban areas – which indicates they are in relatively good shape.

The SEV analysis for these streams tells us that even urbanised areas on Waiheke Island have moderate-high ecological value and that future groundwater management planning should ensure that these streams are at least maintained.