

ENVIRONMENT

Otago is renowned internationally for its natural environment. The Otago Community Trust supports the protection and conservation of this unique environment, including flora, fauna and areas of indigenous biodiversity. A healthy and sustainable local environment will have positive affects for the community today as well as future generations.



Our Priorities

Projects that protect, enhance and preserve Otago's unique biodiversity today and into the future. These should be evidence based and:

- protect and preserve habitats and species through the use of measures in line with national and regional policy and legislation and/or;
- support community education and engagement in environmental issues and/or;
- provide responsible public access to the environment supported by plans for maintenance and long-term management.

The Trust has a particular interest in tracks and trails that support the National Cycle Trail Project .

Our Support

We support community based groups working to protect the local environment, provide community education and information, improve responsible access to the environment and strengthen our local biodiversity.

Projects should proactively support volunteers and engage the broader community to nurture a culture and understanding of the environment. Projects should be evidence based, collaborative and able to describe their contribution to national and international priorities.

Background

We recognise that our environment is strongly linked to community wellbeing for today's and future generations. It is important to protect and conserve NZ's unique biodiversity on land, freshwater and marine areas.

Categories

Biodiversity: Conservation and protection of Otago's unique biodiversity that helps to build a resilient landscape (habitats, ecosystems, flora and fauna).

Sustainable Communities: Issues of energy efficiency and local resilience.

Infrastructure: To responsibly improve public access to, and appreciation of, the natural environment .

Education: To raise awareness and engagement.

What we provide donations for

Examples of projects we will consider are:

- projects that enable and encourage the community to appreciate the environment;
- reintroduction of native flora and fauna;
- conserve critical habitats and ecosystems ;
- protection of rare, endangered or threatened species in their natural habitat, for example fencing, weed control or raising awareness in local communities;
- increasing local sustainability for example through reducing energy usage and the development of community gardens;
- volunteer costs (transport and training);
- tracks and trails;
- educational programmes and resources.

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What we support.....

Who we provide donations to

Organisations should be not for profit community based groups. Applicants are likely to be:

- conservation groups;
- sanctuaries;
- volunteer groups.

What you will need to apply

Application Form

Please complete the application form available from our web site.

For larger projects:

- Please ensure you include a clear description of the value of the item or place .
- All projects should demonstrate how they have considered broader environmental issues and national policies.
- If the project proposes an intervention it should be evidence based.
- Demonstrate community consultation.
- Have an aspect of public education and awareness raising.
- Have good coordination and support for any volunteer effort.
- Have support of Local Territorial Authorities and relevant government departments.

Restrictions

The Trust is not a principal funder and would generally not consider giving a donation to:

- political advocacy;
- resource recovery, recycling projects;
- contaminated land clean up;
- private land and private land owners;
- consultants research;
- non native animal rescue;
- legal costs;
- projects considered the responsibility of an other agency including Local Authorities.

The staff at the Trust are happy to answer any questions you may have. If you are thinking of applying for a donation we recommend you contact us to discuss your ideas before filling out an application form. Application Forms are available from our web site www.oct.org.nz.

- privately owned residential or commercial premises;
- work that does not promote, or has limited public access;
- projects that do not include planning for ongoing maintenance.

Glossary

Biodiversity: This describes the variety of all biological life (plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms) the genes they contain and the ecosystems on land or in the water where they live. It is the diversity of life on earth and includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Habitat: The place or area in which a living thing naturally occurs.

Ecosystem: An interacting system of living and non-living parts, including sunlight, air, water, minerals and nutrients. Ecosystems can be small and short-lived, for example, water-filled tree holes or logs rotting on a forest floor; or they can be large and long-lived such as forests and lakes.



Contact us for an application form or more information:

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