

# *Te Ara Pū Hā: The South Frame*

## TE WAO-NUI KI TE TAONE DISCOVER NATURE IN THE CITY

The reinvigorated southern corner of Christchurch's Central Business District will celebrate nature by providing opportunities for the public to see, touch and learn about local native flora, fauna and significant stones in an urban setting.

Ngāi Tūāhuriri, through the Matapopore Charitable Trust has provided advice from a mana whenua viewpoint on Te Ara Pū Hā: The South Frame – a key project within the Crown's Christchurch Central Recovery Plan.

Comprising a series of gardens, pavements, laneways and public gathering spaces, Te Ara Pū Hā: The South Frame is designed to bring multiple forms of life back into the city and draw people together in a setting that celebrates the city's cultural and natural heritage values and provides opportunities for informal 'outside the classroom' learning.

The finished development will clearly show the critical role of nature in our lives. Even though people live in increasingly urban areas, our reliance on nature for survival is essential.



*The Story of Stone: Showing the raw form of stone. An opportunity for tamariki to climb.*

## HE KŌHATU NŌ TE MOTU THE STORY OF STONE

Matapopore Project Leader for Te Ara Pū Hā: The South Frame, Te Marino Lenihan, says a major narrative within the development is ‘The Story of Stone’, which celebrates the significance of stone to pre-colonial Māori society.

The laneways which run from North to South across the frame will reinforce the connection and traditional trails between Kaiapoi Pā and Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū (Bank Peninsula). The volcanic geography of the Peninsula will be expressed through use of basalt pavers and rocks.

Te Marino says The Story of Stone will be integrated into the South Frame in a variety of ways from paving inserts, touchstones to feature seating and outcrop clusters. The Story of Stone will celebrate the spiritual, mythological and functional values of stone to mana whenua.

“In collaboration with iwi and hapū representatives from throughout Te Wai Pounamu as well as from Tuhua (Mayor Island) in the Bay of Plenty, Matapopore is honoured to be able to represent their taonga (treasures) within Te Ara Pū Hā: The South Frame,” Te Marino says.

“Clusters of stone boulders will provide seating and play opportunities and touch stones. Cut pounamu inlays will be set into the paved area of the greenway and up-lit. All stones hold value and importance to Ngāi Tahu, and by integrating them into the public realm for the public to see, touch and learn about adds another layer of depth and meaning to Te Ara Pū Hā: The South Frame.”

## STORY OF STONE FEATURE FURNITURE DESIGNS



WHAO/CHISEL



MĀHĒ/SINKER



TOKI/ADZE



WHAIURU/CHISEL



HŌANGA/WHETSTONE

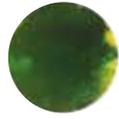
Examples of stone include...



**Kiripaka** (Silcrete) from Manuherehia (Central Otago), a quartz like rock used for making cutting tools.



**Pakohe** (Argillite) from Murihiku (Southland) and Te Hoiere (Pelorus River), recognised for its strength for tools and facility to shape.



**Pounamu** (Nephrite) from the Te Tai Poutini (West Coast) for its superior quality strength for tools and beauty for jewellery (e.g. kuru, kapeu, poria)



**Tuhua / Matā** (Obsidian) from Mayor Island, a volcanic glass prized as for making cutting implements, scraping tools and weaponry.



**Karā / Pakawera** (Basalt) from Te Pātaka o Raikaihautu (Banks Peninsula), a dark volcanic rock used primarily for tools and cooking. A key material in the South Frame landscape, large basalt pavers sandblasted with images and text will reference the connection Ngāi Tahu villages and settlements have from Banks Peninsula through to Kaiapoi.





## TĀNE-TE-WAIORA ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A key feature of the South Frame is the Greenway, a pedestrian and cycle corridor running the entire length of the frame that will connect the Innovation Precinct, The East Frame and Hagley Park.

As opposed to planting for aesthetic reasons, as so often happens in urban landscape design, Matapopore has influenced the design of Te Ara Pū Hā: The South Frame so that it becomes a showcase of ecosystem services demonstrating nature's function and value to humans.

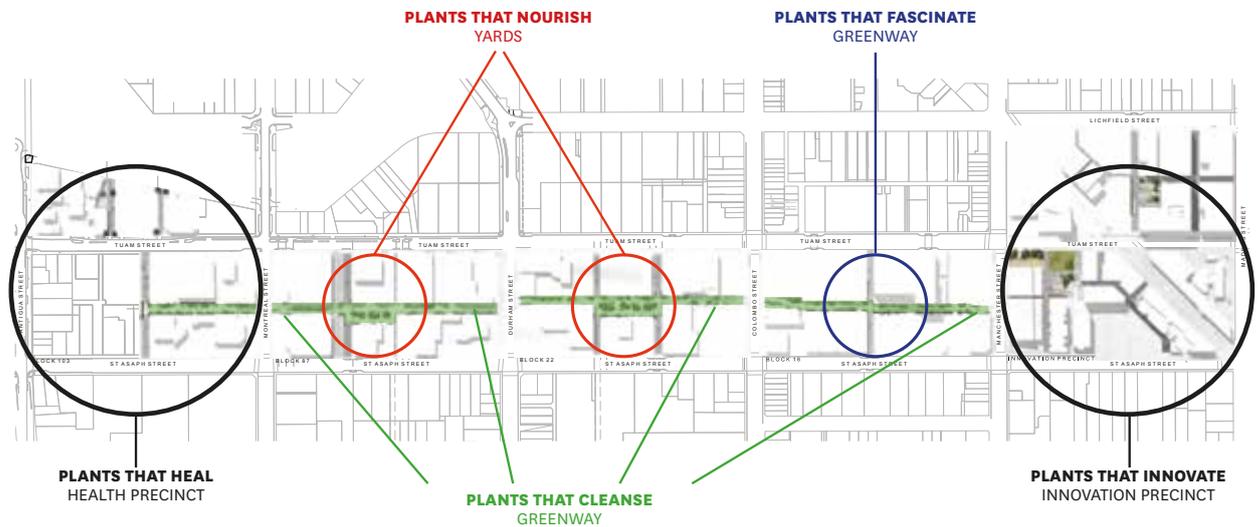
Planting has been carefully thought out to demonstrate the critical role plants play in the health and well-being of humans and the environment. Selected from the Wet Plains ecosystem endemic to Canterbury, the native plantings will be laid out in a mosaic along the length of the Greenway. 

Matapopore General Manager Debbie Tikao says the underlying concept for Te Ara Pū Hā: The South Frame is to bring nature back into the urban environment and to demonstrate several interconnected purposes:

1. To create a central city environment rich in biodiversity to encourage birds back into the city, by providing perching islands and kai for bush manu flying between the peninsular and Pūtaringamotu (Riccarton Bush);

2. For educational reasons – so people can see tangible examples of how nature works to support humanity and
3. To create an environment which is ‘connecting’ through the establishment of settings that connect us to natural processes, the natural environment and eco systems.

## ECOSYSTEM SERVICES THE VALUES OF PLANTS TO PEOPLE



Matapopore Trustee and University of Canterbury Kaiārahi Māori Research, Nigel Harris says the finished development will clearly show the critical role of nature in our lives. Even though people live in increasingly urban areas, our reliance on nature for survival is essential. Nigel adds it's easy for people living in cities and urban areas to forget this.

“When nature’s functions are laid out right there in front of them, people will stop and think about it and their understanding will increase. We want to soften the concrete and bring nature back into the urban environment.”

Selected to thrive in the local soil, the plantings will also be relevant to their location – for example plants with healing qualities and used in rongoā (traditional Māori medicine) will be in proximity to Christchurch Hospital and Te Papa Hauora/Health Precinct. Plants with innovative qualities will be a highlight of the Innovation Precinct, and plants that are nourishing and provide a source of kai will feature in market and public seating areas. Plants which have purifying and water cleansing qualities will be planted in clusters as ‘rain gardens’ demonstrating their function of soaking, filtering and evenly distributing storm water run-off through the soil.

In an urban environment it is typical to see single species planted alone. In contrast, Matapopore has recommended cluster plantings throughout the South Frame, to allow plants to work together to carry out their functions in nature.

“Kahore te tōtara e tū noa ki te parae.” The tōtara tree never stands alone on the plain says Nigel, quoting the ancient proverb.

“The plants will also draw all the good insects – for natural pest control – and attract native bird life back into the city. The plantings have so many purposes – to provide food, shelter, act as a temperature moderato and also carbon sequestration – converting the carbon from vehicle exhaust back into oxygen. Plants that attract native birds and butterflies will encourage native wildlife into the city.

“So look out, there’s going to be a natural invasion of good fauna into this city!”  
Nigel says.

Te Ara Pū Hā: The South Frame runs parallel to Moorhouse Avenue between St Asaph St and Tuam St, extending from Te Papa Hauora/Health Precinct in the west, to the Innovation Precinct in the east.

The Crown has budgeted up to \$20m for development of public spaces designed to accommodate community activities such as weekend festivals and markets.

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## KIA HIWA RĀ! LOOK OUT FOR:

**He rākau tūroa: the great trees** – two of the main gathering spaces along Te Ara Pū Hā: The South Frame have been named after two of the tallest noble native trees endemic to the city’s ecology – mataī and kahikatea. Both of these species were extensively harvested in the building of Christchurch and within the nation’s dairy industry for butter boxes. Matapopore intends to highlight their significance, uphold their mana, and reintroduce them to the city as a taonga for the future.

**He pūrei whakamatuatanga: furniture design** – Matapopore has instigated the inclusion of whānau friendly public tables and seating in public spaces. Inspired by the shapes of traditional stone tools, specially designed furniture will be positioned to encourage people to interact with each other and share kai.

**Rākau Pū-Mahara: Forest of Memories** – to acknowledge the past industrial use of the southern corner of the CBD, the Forest of Memories is intended to reuse timber and steel beams from old warehouses to form an art instillation.

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