

Want to help create a future where native flora and fauna thrive in Auckland’s urban heart?

Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao is looking for **two people** to join our Trust Board: a new **Chair**, and a **Trustee** with experience in community engagement, communications, fundraising, or ecology.

Urban Ark – Manawa Taiao is a charitable trust working with community groups to improve native biodiversity in the Waitematā, Albert-Eden, and Puketāpapa Local Board areas - home to a population larger than Wellington’s. We connect habitats across boundaries, bridge public and private sectors, and bring people closer to nature. Our Trust Board, comprised of volunteers, provides strategic direction and is accountable for all aspects of the Trust.

From grassroots beginnings, we’ve grown into a trust with six paid contractors and real momentum. We’re expanding our Board deliberately - to match our ambition and bring in the skills we need to grow our impact further.

	Chair	Trustee
Role	Lead the Board strategically, maintain strong governance, and represent Urban Ark to external stakeholders.	Strengthen the Board's capability in community engagement, communications, fundraising, or ecology.
Type and Term	Voluntary (unpaid) 3-year term · Maximum three terms	Voluntary (unpaid) 3-year term · Maximum three terms
Time Commitment	~1–2 days per month, including 10 Board meetings per year, regular touchpoints with the operational team, and occasional events, stakeholder meetings, and subcommittee work.	~1 day per month, including 10 Board meetings per year and occasional events. Lead strategic work in the area of community engagement, communications, fundraising, or ecology – in close collaboration with our operational team
Key Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the Board in setting and pursuing strategy • Ensure sound governance, legal compliance, and financial oversight • Foster a collaborative, inclusive Board culture • Bridge the Board and operational team • Represent Urban Ark to local boards, Auckland Council, funders, and community partner • Champion our mission in every room you're in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute actively at Board level drawing on your specialist expertise • Support strategic discussions with practical, on-the-ground perspective • Assist with relevant subcommittee or project work as needed
Skills and Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership: Proven ability to lead and inspire a team, with a collaborative and inclusive approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domain Expertise: Hands-on experience in one or more of: community engagement,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Thinking: Experience in developing and implementing long-term strategies. • Governance: Understanding of not-for-profit governance, including legal and financial oversight. • Stakeholder Engagement: Strong networks and ability to build relationships with diverse stakeholders. • Communication: Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to represent the organisation effectively. • Commitment to Mission: Passion for biodiversity, community engagement, and equity in environmental outcomes. • Cultural Competency: Respect for and understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori perspectives on biodiversity and community. 	<p>communications, fundraising, or ecology and a readiness to apply it actively at Board level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Practice: Ability to work constructively within a small, purpose-driven team and contribute to collective decision-making. • Strategic Contribution: Capacity to connect your specialist knowledge to broader organisational strategy and long-term thinking. • Stakeholder Awareness: Understanding of, or experience working with, community groups, funders, or environmental networks. • Communication: Ability to share ideas and expertise clearly, and to represent the organisation's mission with confidence. • Commitment to Mission: Passion for biodiversity, community engagement, and equity in environmental outcomes. • Cultural Competency: Respect for and understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori perspectives on biodiversity and community.
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To apply or find out more

Send a brief expression of interest to Siân at sian@urbanark.nz by 30 April 2026. Include a short statement on your relevant experience and what draws you to the role.

Have questions? You're welcome to reach out to our Secretary Siân (sian@urbanark.nz) or our outgoing Chair Stefan (stefan@urbanark.nz).