

Welcome to our new natural swimming pool.

What exactly do we mean when we say 'natural'?

A natural swimming pool uses no chlorine or other toxic chemicals. It doesn't use salt either (salt releases chlorine into the water).

A natural pool does not try to sterilise the water with chemicals, rather, much like natural streams and creeks, flowing water through gravels with living aquatic ecosystems cleanses particles and removes nutrients keeping it healthy and safe for swimming.

A Non - toxic environment

Our family feels happier and healthier in a home environment that's free of pesticides and other toxic chemicals. We find the company of wildlife, including microbes and most insects, much more pleasant than living in a sterilised, toxic environment. It was therefore natural to us to build a non-chemical swimming pool.

Don't be surprised (or scared) if you see small fish, a dragonfly or a frog ;-)

The Waterfall System:

Water flows out of bottom of the pool to a pump which, sends the water upwards, forcing it through a deep gravel bed, planted with aquatic plants, in the first of the waterfall ponds.

The filtered water overflows, via a small waterfall, to the *bottom* of the next pond down, where it filters up through another gravel bed, also filled with plants. This process is repeated through a total of four gravel beds before flowing back into the swimming pool.

The Wetland System:

Water flows from the top of the pool, over a retaining wall, into the wetland where it filters downwards through a gravel bed which, has aquatic plants and vetiver rafts for nutrient-harvesting. Filtered water flows from the bottom of the wetland to the pump which, sends it back into the pool via a central (nice massage) jet.

The wetland system is connected to the skimmer box which, is also the connecting point for the vacuum hose.

Operation:

We've just commissioned the new pool and we're learning it's management day by day. It may take time to evolve a management system which, in any case will likely change with changing conditions. Weather plays a part; cloudy weather means algae will grow more slowly while the cooler water also carries more oxygen. Cooler weather may also mean less humans, and their impacts, in the pool.

We hope, over time, as the plants grow and their roots systems develop, as microbial populations colonise the gravels and other lifeforms fill the various niche's available to them, we'll be able to reduce the amount of time we run the pumps. For now, we're running the two systems alternately to maintain flows while conserving energy.

Please enjoy!