

Aotea / Great Barrier Village Parks Activation Plan

September 2022



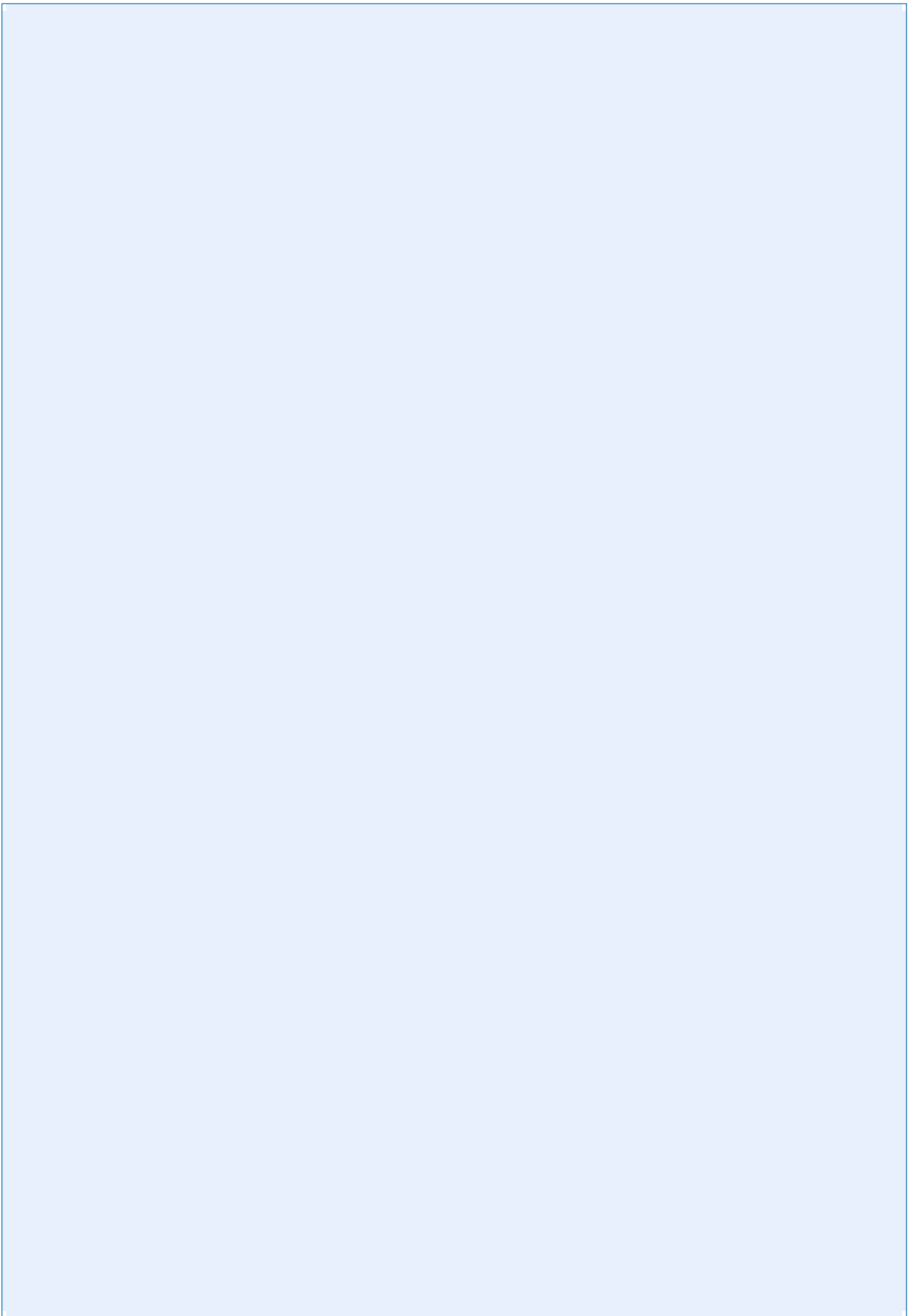


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1 Whakataki/Introduction

The draft Aotea / Great Barrier Village Parks Activation Plan sets out recommended actions for improving and activating local parks and open space in the island's eight settlements: Claris, Tryphena, Port Fitzroy, Motairehe, Medlands, Okupu, Okiwi and Whangaparapara.

The open space network on Aotea / Great Barrier Island includes parks, beaches, playgrounds, recreational facilities and walkways. Auckland Council-owned open spaces and facilities are complemented by Department of Conservation owned and administered land that makes up more than 60 percent of the island, offering residents and visitors unique and diverse range of open space experiences. Privately-owned and school facilities offer additional recreational opportunities.

This plan focuses on the Auckland Council owned local parks. The local board want to understand how parks and open space in each of the key settlements can be made more attractive to residents and visitors thereby increasing their use and enjoyment.

This plan outlines how the parks can be upgraded to provide opportunities for the local communities to meet, play and enjoy nature. There is a mix of small scale capital investments, programmes and long term aspirations for the parks.

The engagement on the plan took place in 2018 and since then a number of challenges have emerged including Auckland Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, tight budgets responding to reduction in revenue due to COVID-19.

The plan was simplified and aligned with the local board plan outcome of 'island resilience'.

Further community consultation on the draft plan took place in May 2022, feedback confirmed the community supports simple improvements and activations for local parks.

The plan has been amended to recognise the issues raised in the community feedback. These changes include removing the solar recharge stations from the plan and adding the Okiwi dog exercise area to the plan.

2 Background

In June 2018, the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board approved the development of a plan to improve and activate local parks (Resolution GBI/2018/68).

The local board wanted to understand how parks and open space in each of the key settlements can be made more attractive to residents and visitors thereby increasing their use and enjoyment.

The engagement on the plan took place in 2018 and since then a number of challenges have emerged including Auckland Council's declaration of a climate change emergency and COVID-19.

COVID-19 has had an impact on Aotea Great Barrier, the permanent population has grown, with more people permanently returning home to Aotea / Great Barrier Island, this has seen the rolls of all the local schools grow.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Auckland Council's financial position with the 10 year budget adopted in 2020 prioritising existing asset renewal and limiting new capital development budgets. Auckland Council is working in an emergency budget space which means working with tight budgets to respond to a reduction in revenue due to COVID-19.

The closure of the international border saw an increase in local visitors to Aotea / Great Barrier and a reduction in international visitors.

In response to these challenges staff have drafted a plan which focuses on simple, low-cost improvements for local parks in each of the eight main settlements.

Strategic context and scope

3 Scope/Te arohanga o te kaupapa

This plan describes the current state of the local parks in each of the settlements and identifies alignment with key actions and issues in the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2020, the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Hapū management plan 2013, the Aotea / Great Barrier Visitor Strategy 2018-23 and the Aotea / Great Barrier Island Interpretation Plan.

The plan identifies potential improvements for each local park, including capital investment programmes, operational initiatives and trial projects to gauge community interest. The plan includes recommendations for partnerships with local schools, and land owned and administered by the Department of Conservation.

The Great Barrier Access and Linkages Plan is currently being developed. It complements this plan by focusing on improving walkways and trails on park land and roads across Aotea / Great Barrier whereas this plan has a place-based focus.

4 Other strategic documents/Ētahi atu tuhinga tātaki

4.1 Key themes from the Te Mahere ā-rohe o Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2020

The local board plan identifies the high-level outcome that 'Our island is resilient / Ko te tino hia hia ki a manawaroa to tatou motu'. This together with the objectives below guides the local board's choice of initiatives and budget allocation.

The local board plan sees a future where Aotea mana whenua, Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea, aspirations are realised, and relationships are respected and well communicated.

The plan responds to the challenges of a climate change emergency and the impacts of COVID-19 which includes reduced budgets, a focus on essential business only for the coming years.

The plan recognises that both Council and central government have declared a climate change emergency and the urgent needs to address the concerns of our environment by lowering our carbon emissions, becoming zero waste, ensuring food and water security, and futureproofing against coastal erosion. The local board plan meets the challenges of the coming years, it is stripped back to one focused outcome of 'island resilience'. The local board plan puts it simply that 'We need to be fiscally responsible while not losing sight of community aspirations pre COVID-19.'

In carrying out the plan the local board wants to make the best use of local assets such as community centres and parks.

The plan identifies the following objectives which are relevant to parks:

- Preservation of our island identity.
 - Protect our unique way of life by championing options that fit our place and our ethos.
- Our local economy is strong, stable and sustainable.
 - Seek local jobs for local people by having council contracts procured locally
 - Support local artists, craftspeople, writers, performers and musicians to create and teach
- Our environment is protected and enhanced
 - Support the biodiversity of our flora and fauna by funding our community-led Ecology Vision, our sanctuaries, environmental trusts, and community environment projects
- We have safe roads and walkways
 - Strive for improvements to our roads, including sealing where appropriate, to achieve safe and healthy roads for our people and environment
 - Work with community, mana whenua and DOC to identify accessways and linkages across the island

This plan seeks to deliver on the local board plan objectives.

4.2 Aotea Great Barrier Island Visitor Strategy 2018-23

The Visitor Strategy intends to guide development of the visitor industry over a five year period, focusing on growing visitor numbers in a way that does not impact the natural environment or communities' quality of life.

The Strategy outlines five core areas where it seeks to improve both the visitor and community experience of tourism. The key areas which relate to this plan are:

- improving information about the island,
- directional signage and interpretation material
- improving infrastructure.

This plan includes recommendations for improving signage and interpretation in local parks.

A destination management plan is currently being prepared for the island, the purpose of the management plan is to deliver sustainable destination management for Aotea / Great Barrier.

4.3 Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust Hapū Management Plan 2013

The Hapū management plan outlines iwi values and describes some of the ways iwi want to protect their ancestral lands. It defines their expectations of how to look after precious resources.

The inspirational dream in the Hapū management plan is Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea people are healthy; well and thriving.

The following areas from the Hapū management plan have guided the development of the Aotea / Great Barrier village park plan.

- “Visitors and community lack awareness of protected and sacred areas and taonga. Aotea and surrounding islands lack signage and informative display to explain the culture and values of Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai Ki Aotea
 - Mana whenua traditional values and practices integrated into all environmental management plans on Aotea. Create signage and informative displays (particularly on Aotea) that explain our cultural values and relationship to environment.
 - Deliver educational programmes and raise awareness of our culture among the local community and visitors. Educate people to show respect for our sacred customs, treasures and places.
- Provide for the integration of mātauranga and tikanga in design and development.
- Protection of intellectual property
 - We wish to be consulted by all groups and individuals within our rohe who wish to use Māori images, icons and kupu to ensure the cultural safety of all parties.
 - Increase the use of te reo Māori.
- Declining and ageing population
 - Build, develop and create infrastructure so whanau can come back and live well, access all levels of education and go to school and work in sustainable employment.
- Youth needs
 - Five priority areas were identified. These include; working, learning, safety and wellbeing, connecting, leading and contributing. Working towards creating better opportunities for our rangatahi.
- Inadequate health support systems
 - Our aim is to develop a comprehensive whanau ora plan that aligns with relevant health agencies and district health boards to endure wellbeing and wellness outcomes are fully realised”.

5 Demographic profile

Quick facts

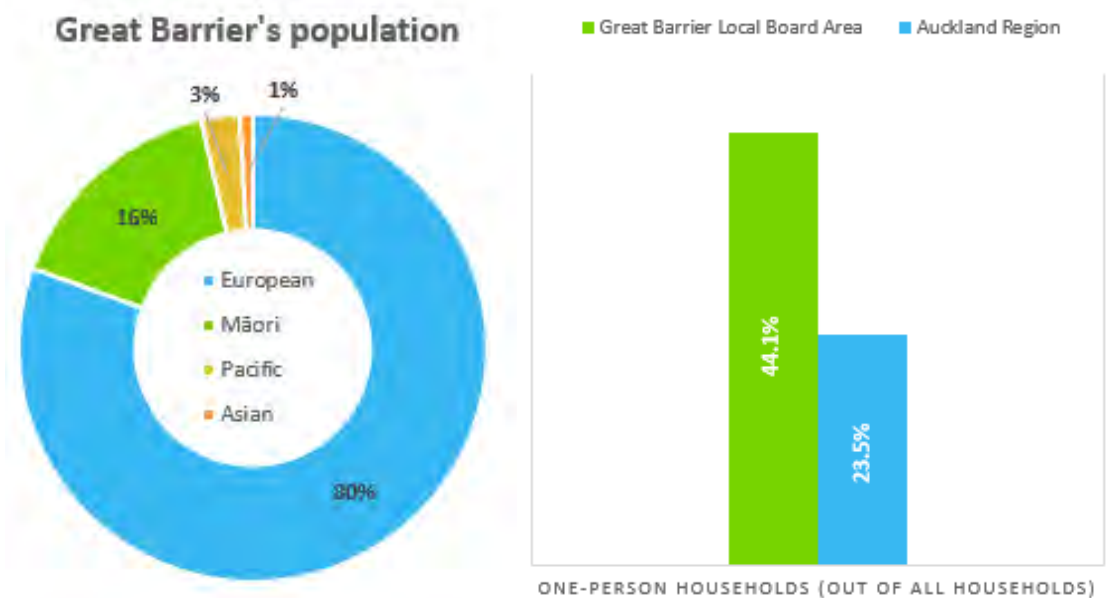


Around 100 people live in Medlands Beach



Around 190 live in the Tryphena area

Great Barrier's population



6 Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea are tāngata whenua of Aotea / Great Barrier, Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island, the Mokohīnau Islands, and other outlying islands and rocky outcrops.

Aotea / Great Barrier was first populated by Māori over 800 years ago, and many Māori living on the island today can trace their association back many centuries.

Staff have engaged with representatives of Kawa and Motairehe marae to seek the input of Kaumātua Taumata.

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Kaumātua Taumata have requested a series of pou are installed in specific places on the motu. They provided the following commentary to describe their aspirations to install pou.

“Pou whenua, or Pou, are posts placed strategically on the land or in specific places to acknowledge and represent the relationship between tangata whenua, the people of the land, our tupuna (ancestors) and this environment (taiao) here on Aotea.

Pou are highly significant to us as Tangata Māori and are seen by us as reflecting our heritage and identity which is inextricably to the whenua those pou are placed in. And then, none of these Pou stand on their own, they impact on and influence one another.

Pou have been used for hundreds of years on Aotea as ownership or boundary markers.

Today they enable us as tangata whenua to identify these traditional boundaries, allowing us to continue to provide guidance, guardianship and protection.”

The installation of pou will “safeguard our mātauranga Māori while nurturing the innovation, and present/future potential of our artists here on Aotea.”

Six locations for pou have been identified, they are Oruawharo (known as Medlands Beach), three are placed at Tryphena, one at Okupu, one at Whangaparapara and “one more is placed in an area of our Kaumatua Taumata’s choice, with this last one being highly significant and special. This last one will restore the Mauri (lifeforce) of our iwi Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea on this motu.”

The pou are to be produced by local artists and are seen as a continuation of the process Noelene Ngawaka started with the pou at Claris airport and will honour that work.

7 Engagement / Te whaipānga

7.1 2018 Engagement

Community engagement undertaken in November and December 2018 sought feedback on issues affecting people's use, experience and enjoyment of local parks and ideas for improvements. The engagement included an online survey, public open days, engagement with key stakeholders and local schools.

We invited mana whenua to be involved in the development of the draft plan. This opportunity was taken up by Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea.

36 people completed the survey and/or provided feedback via the Great Barrier Local Board Facebook page.

Students from the three schools on Aotea / Great Barrier Island and the Aotea Learning Hub provided feedback at workshops.

We met with key stakeholders including the North Barrier Residents and Ratepayers Association, the Department of Conservation, Aotea Family Support Group and the Aotea Conservation Board.

Themes identified from the engagement are:

- tree swings are a popular item on Aotea / Great Barrier and there could be more in local parks
- children across the island want more challenging play equipment
- the idea of solar charging stations is well supported across the island
- people wanted bike racks provided at beaches and playgrounds
- people want more seating and picnic tables
- people want more shelters and hangout spaces
- the removal of bin and recycling sites is an opportunity to enhance local parks
- many people would benefit from exercise equipment to help them to recover from injuries as there is no physiotherapist on Aotea / Great Barrier.

Several suggestions were made for new walkways and improvements to existing walkways. These comments are being considered as part the Great Barrier Access and Linkages Plan.

7.2 2022 Engagement

Community feedback on the draft plan took place between 27 April and 26 May 2022

Staff received community feedback via:

- AK Have Your Say
- Social media
- Drops ins at local parks

- Feedback forms
- Email
- A session with Mulberry Grove School students

Approximately 90 people provided feedback on the draft plan, including 17 students from Mulberry Grove School.

General comments

- Community feedback is generally supportive of simple improvements and activations of local parks.
- Many people mentioned the natural character of the island and did not want to see too many structures or clutter in the parks.

8 Local park network

Flat parks in settlements on Aotea / Great Barrier are limited, these are the spaces used most often by communities for recreation, play, socialising and accessing the water.

Much of the park land on Aotea / Great Barrier is bush covered and steeply sloped.

Many of the parks are located on the coast and are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including erosion and rising sea levels.

The flat parks in settlements have a small amount of park infrastructure. The island is well provisioned for public toilets.

Parks lack basic infrastructure

- There are minimal hard surfaces for recreation, hard surfaces allow parks to be used in the winter and provide opportunities for a variety of ball games.
- The topography of the island means there are few kick about spaces, most of the flat grassed areas would be less than the 30 metre by 30 metre minimum recommended in the open space provision policy.
- There is a small amount of park furniture to sit on to enjoy the parks.
- Not all neighbourhood parks have play spaces, there are play spaces in each of the settlement areas.
- The large parks which provide informal recreation areas are generally the beach and water access areas.
- There are no walking/cycling circuits.
- Okiwi Park provides a large event space complemented by non-Council-owned land (e.g. DoC, Claris Sports and Social Club).
- More investment is needed to ensure the parks meet the island-wide needs of the community.

No 'formal' sportsfields

- Aotea / Great Barrier has one full-sized sportsfield at Great Barrier Island Sports & Social Club Incorporated. There are undersized fields at Kaitoke and Okiwi Schools.
- Only one full-sized field means the opportunities to play field-based sports are limited.
 - Most local parks are either too small or too steep to provide for formal sports fields.
 - There is no identified need for formal, full-sized sports fields.
- Each of the clubs has a single tennis/netball court and the schools have multi-use courts for play.

Lots of playgrounds which are all the same

- Not all parks have play spaces however, there are play spaces in each of the settlement areas.

- The island has a mixture of play spaces on local parks and privately-owned play spaces, which are available to the community to use.
- In general, the play equipment provision across the island is very similar and is targeted at younger children. Play provision doesn't provide for older children and teens.
- There are few amenities for whānau, parents and caregivers.

9 Recommendations/Ngā tūtohunga

This plan identifies a series of short and long-term actions for improving local parks and open space and providing a better experience for the community in the island's key settlements.

The actions are separated into island-wide recommendations and place-based recommendations.

The actions have been developed based on the current state analysis of each of the parks, the island-wide park network and mana whenua and the community engagement and feedback.

It's noted that the residents of Aotea / Great Barrier support a low impact approach to their village areas with minimal additional infrastructure and a preference for the natural environment.

The actions also recognise the local board has a constrained budget.

9.1 Overarching themes

1. Design exercise circuits using existing park furniture and play equipment with a focus on rehabilitation from common injuries. When they are complete, fund a physiotherapist/personal trainer to show people how to use them for a week or two.
2. Work with local artists to incorporate design into new park infrastructure like seats, and shelters.
3. Continue to provide different play experiences across the island, i.e. don't duplicate the same equipment or environment everywhere by providing a range of experiences.
4. When renewing toilets at beaches, consider adding changing rooms.
5. Fund events where people can enjoy the night sky, rather than providing telescopes in parks.
6. Fund park activations for children and young people like waterslides during the summer.

The topography of the island means there are limited flat spaces in local parks. It is unlikely any new sports space will be purchased on the island for local parks.

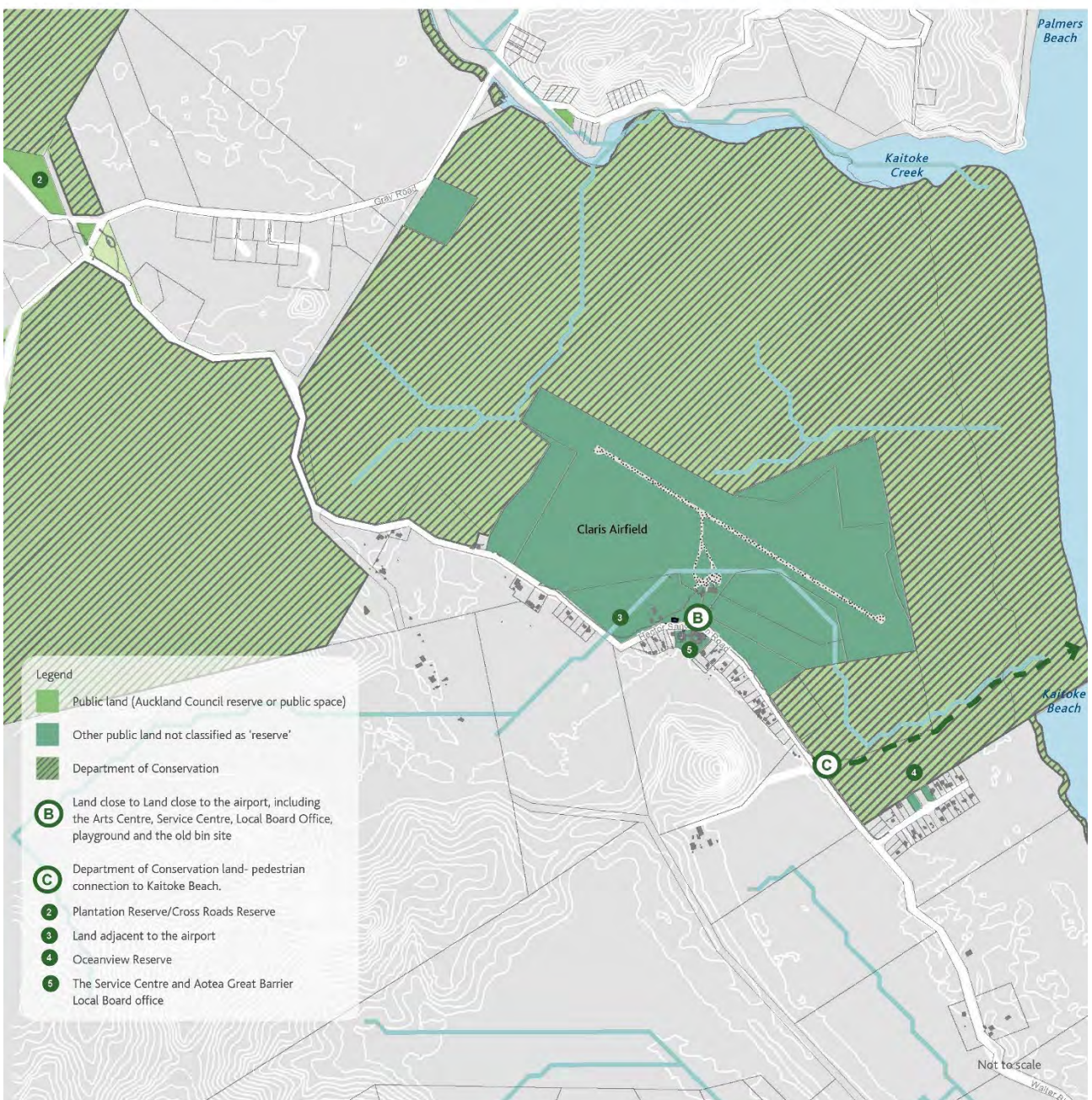
To provide for recreation activities requiring flat areas like sports fields and courts, we recommend that the local board work with local schools to identify ways their grounds could be made available to the wider community. This could include provision of maintenance and investment in new sport and recreation assets. Sport New Zealand has developed guidelines that support school / community partnerships.

<https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/territorial-authority-and-school-partnerships-a-guide/>

9.2 Claris

The main open spaces in Claris are the playground next to the Medical Centre and the golf course. There is undeveloped open space in Claris which includes Department of Conservation land and land surrounding the airport. There are some areas of the airport which are out of the operational area which could be utilised for local park needs.

Current state	
Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest areas of flat park spaces on the island • Airport waiting area is a well-used public space
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant rubbish and recycling station site at the airport • Wayfinding and signposting, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ visitors are not aware of the local produce and souvenirs available at the arts village or the southern part of Claris ○ the public toilets at the airport, Arts Centre, and near the shops are not well sign-posted ○ the clutter of signage on the fence at the Auckland Council Service Centre isn't very informative for visitors • Healthy Waters currently have a project to provide an emergency water supply, including a drinking fountain
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sense of welcome/manaakitanga • Limited orientation/welcome signage leaving the airport • There is no connection between the golf club and sports club, and to the wider settlement • No legally formed or clear access to Kaitoke Beach • Pedestrian connection from the airport to the arts village unclear
Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Māori name for Claris is Waipareira



What people said about Claris

Park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide bike racks at playgrounds and beaches • More seating • Somewhere nice for the community to meet and for people to wait for transport
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide play for a wider range of ages
Access and circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seal the path between the airport and the shop to create a safe off road path which is good for scooters too. • Provide a pedestrian connection to Kaitoke Beach • Connect a walking loop around the golf course and the Great Barrier Island Sports & Social Club Incorporated. • Upgrade the walking track from the airport to Ocean View Road • Continue the walkway from Claris to Cross Roads

9.2.1 Recommendations

Golf course area

1. Look at creating a walking/cycling circuit around the Claris Golf Course and connect to the Great Barrier Island Sports & Social Club.

Central Claris

2. Seal the path between the airport and the shop to create a safe off road path which is good for scooters too.
3. Consider the land close to the airport, including the Arts Centre, Service Centre, Local Board Office, playground, old bin site and airport entry as the entry to Great Barrier.
4. Add to the playground to include equipment for older children including tree swings, hammocks and a tree house.
5. Provide a hard stand for basketball. This could be trialled in the former recycling bin station with a portable basketball hoop.
6. Provide a water bottle refilling station at either the airport or the arts centre.
7. Work with a physiotherapist to design and use play equipment and park furniture to create a series of exercise circuits which focus on injury rehabilitation
8. Work with artists to design and construct the tree house, seats and shelters.
9. Provide directional signage for visitors at the exit to the airport
10. Clear clutter/fence at Service Centre to improve the connection to the Service Centre and direct visitors to the arts centre for information/orientation information.

Land in the wider Claris area:

11. Work with the Department of Conservation to provide a pedestrian connection to Kaitoke Beach.

9.3 Tryphena

Current state	
Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area is characterised by multiple small open spaces separated by Shoal Bay Road • Larger parks are inland from the coast • Gooseberry Flat Cemetery and the small flat area where the playground is located are the only flat open space areas • The pōhutukawa at Mulberry Grove provide lots of shade • Restore traditional Māori names for places along the coast
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued implementation of the Tryphena Coastal Trail will provide for improved pedestrian connections along the Tryphena Waterfront • The connection from Pah Beach to Tryphena Hall is poor. There is potential to better connect these areas
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal parks are at risk from erosion and coastal inundation • Coastal erosion at Gooseberry Flat has had impacts on the playground, such as changing the location of the slide. The playground will need to be removed in the future • Crossing between school and skate ramp is a problem with the speed and amount of traffic travelling from the ferry • The Hayman Memorial Library is not well utilised and a variety of other library options are now available. A recent investigation has shown that the buildings are structurally unsound and will require demolition or a significant investment to bring up to a safe standard • Rangitāwhiri Reserve is not well connected to Mulberry Grove
Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tryphena Harbour is a key site of significance • Rangitāwhiri Whanga (Tryphena Harbour) has place names which refer to the landing of the Aotea waka • There are two sites identified as being of value to mana whenua

What people said about Tryphena Coast	
Park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More picnic tables around the coast and parks • Interpretive signage
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put more swings in the big trees • Provide more challenging play equipment
Access and circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide better walkways to connect up the beaches and to provide an alternative to walking on the road
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased pest control • Plant more fruit trees
Management/maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent cars from driving over pōhutukawa roots • Restore traditional Māori names for places along the coast.

9.3.1 Recommendation

12. Work with mana whenua to identify traditional names for local parks.
13. Complete the Tryphena Coastal Trail.
14. Reconfigure the car park at Pah Beach as per Tryphena Coastal Trail.
15. Work with the Tryphena Hall to relocate the Gooseberry Flat Playground to the hall if erosion means it has to be relocated.



What people said about Gooseberry Flat

Park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Don’t add any more stuff” • Another suggestion was to increase the number of car parks at Gooseberry Flat if the playground is decommissioned.
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict playgrounds to the school area • Fence the pōhutukawa tree swing • Fence the playground, not just from the road • Provide a swimming pontoon
Management/maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly identify the parks e.g. 3 Mulberry Grove Reserves. • Suggestion that Mulberry Grove School Reserve be renamed Graeme Wratt Memorial Reserve

9.3.2 Recommendations

16. The park area at Gooseberry Flat is limited and subject to erosion. The park assets should be removed from this area and focus as a natural space without assets.
17. Work with mana whenua to identify traditional names for local parks.

What people said about Mulberry Grove

Park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more places to sit
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The playground feels like it is part of the school” • Skate ramp and playground are separated by a busy road
Access and circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a walkway from Mulberry Grove around to the Tryphena Wharf • Provide steps from Mulberry Grove School to access the water • Traffic calming is required on Shoal Bay Road
Management/maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pōhutukawa drop seeds on the skate ramp

9.3.3 Recommendations

18. Focus park assets on the land side of the road to avoid erosion and to take advantage of the shade and flat areas.
19. Work with Auckland Transport and the community to provide traffic calming to slow vehicles and give pedestrian priority in this area.
20. Provide a basketball ½ court, test the demand for this by providing a portable basketball hoop and balls on the paved area in front of the library.
21. Install more picnic tables and benches.
22. Provide a solar recharge station.
23. Relocate BBQ to reserve, away from the beach front.

24. Work with the private property owners to connect Rangitawhiri Reserve to Mulberry Grove.
25. In the long-term work with Auckland Transport to reroute Shoal Bay Road at Mulberry Grove away from the coast to create a single uninterrupted park on the coast.
26. Either relocate the Hayman Library buildings to the school or provide for a new small building on the park to accommodate the library and book exchange.

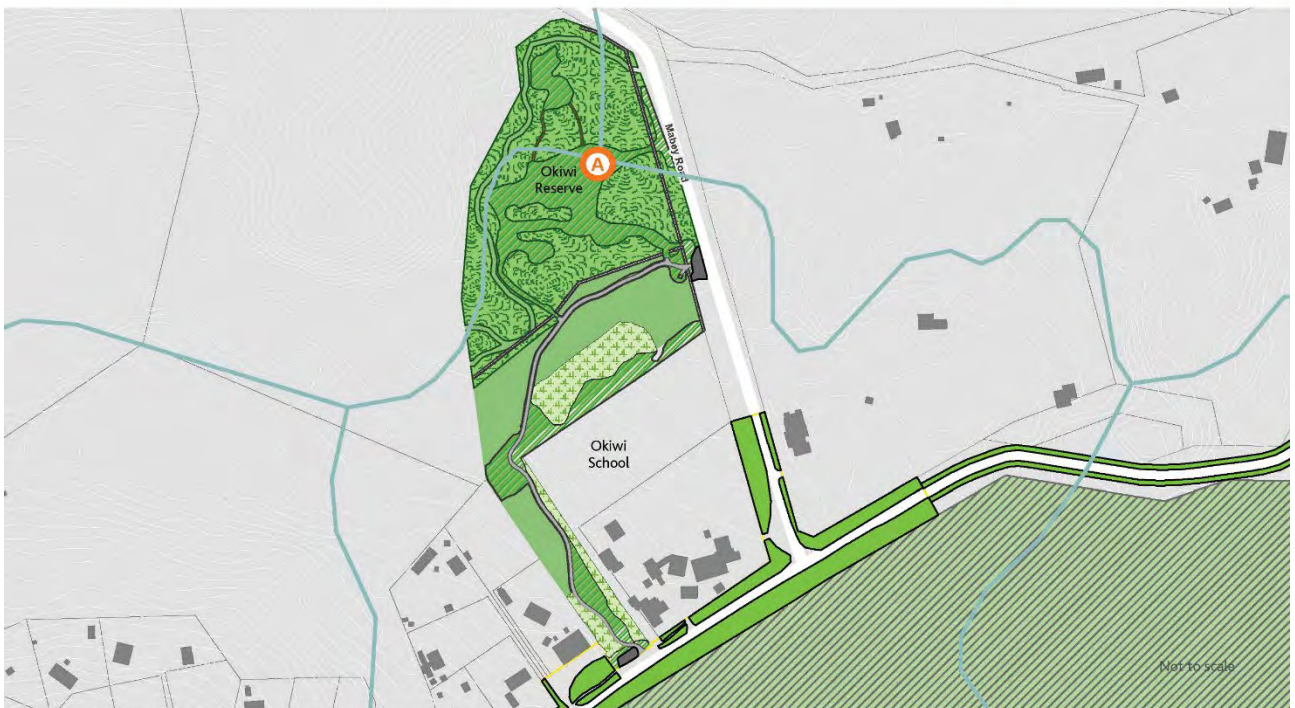


9.4 Okiwi

Current state	
Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Okiwi Park is a much-loved park developed by the community. • The mature trees and the river provide the character for this park. • The park is integrally linked to the school
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concrete path/bike track and pump track provide one of the few paved spaces on the island to ride a bike or scooter • The boundary between the park and the school is seamless and the whole area is available to the community to use
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mown mountain bike track was not well used and this track is not currently maintained
Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not specifically referenced

What people said about Okiwi	
Park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide exercise equipment • More seats and places to sit in the shade • Provide a drinking water tap • No dog walking (community signage) • Telescopes to enjoy the night sky and on the Harataonga walkway to enjoy the view • Move Okiwi park toilet out of flood zone • Provide for succession planting along the stream edge to replace the mature kanuka • Keep people to the front of the reserve as this will protect pateke and other ground feeding birds • Provide shade near the pump track and pump track users and spectators could benefit from some natural shade.
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more challenging play equipment e.g. Floor is lava obstacle course, mouse wheel, basketball, space net, massive chess • More play equipment like a flying fox, tree swings, tree hut and a chalk board

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a water hole for swimming• Make more bumps in the walkway for bikes and scooters
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carry out weed work on Jerusalem Cherry, Mexican Daisy and other environmentally threatening weeds.• More fruit tree planting
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music in the park• Would not like to see any more structural work in Okiwi Park• Include Okiwi River Reserve and the dog exercise area



9.4.1 Recommendations

Okiwi Park

27. Look at the ability to install hammocks in the trees.
28. Work with a physiotherapist to use play equipment and park furniture to create a series of exercise circuits which focus on injury rehabilitation.
29. Support the guerrilla tree planting. The local board will not maintain any fruit trees in the reserve.
30. Work with the community to identify ways to provide drinking water.
31. The school is linked to the park and people move freely between the two spaces, there is no need to duplicate the play equipment provided at the school in the park. If there is a demand for more formal play equipment the board could fund more play equipment at the school. Consider installing hūpara (traditional Māori) play equipment. This would supplement the play equipment at the school and complement the natural environment and form part of the physiotherapy trail.
32. Work with local children to design and install more signage about no dog walking.
33. Consider funding a regular dark sky programme for local people to use telescopes and enjoy the dark sky.
34. Focus park furniture in the southern part of the park.
35. Put a picnic table with some planted shade near the pump track.
36. Provide for succession planting along the stream edge.

Okiwi River Reserve

37. Potential land exchange with the Department of Conservation.
38. Future walkway projects.
39. Install interpretative signage to inform visitors about the dotterels.

Okiwi dog exercise park

The dog exercise area in Okiwi was excluded from the draft plan. It should be included in the plan.

The Okiwi dog exercise area is difficult to access, has parking for a single car and is very wet and boggy. It is also in a pateke habitat.

There are only a few local parks in Okiwi, none of the other parks are suitable for dog exercise.

40. Improve the access, parking and the surface of the dog exercise area.

9.5 Port Fitzroy

Current state	
Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locals use the Port Fitzroy Wharf to swim and socialise Port Fitzroy Harbour is well used by boaties who come ashore for food, refuelling and exercise
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port Fitzroy Landing Reserve is not well known and the entrance currently feels like private property Connecting Department of Conservation's Fitzroy Landing Reserve, Glenfern Regional Park and Port Fitzroy Wharf to provide more park space
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is minimal local park land at Port Fitzroy Kaiaraara Bay is not well-known to the community. Access is steep and the private jetty makes it feel like it is privately owned
Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not specifically referenced

What people said about Port Fitzroy Wharf	
Park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A solar recharge station would be useful Book exchange at the information station
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big swing off the wharf Diving board off pontoon Connect across the harbour with pontoons for playing and swimming A diving board from the reclamation would be fun
Access and circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect Port Fitzroy Landing Reserve with the Wharf and Glenfern Create a better connection to Glenfern Regional Park from the wharf

What people said about Port Fitzroy Landing Reserve	
Park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more seating
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A playground would be good here
Access and circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the access to the park, it feels private



9.5.1 Recommendations

Port Fitzroy Wharf

41. Work with the regional parks team to install signage and information about Glenfern Sanctuary Regional Park at the wharf.
42. Connect Port Fitzroy Landing Reserve with the Wharf and Glenfern.
43. Solar recharge station.
44. Big swing.
45. Diving board off pontoon.
46. Diving board from the reclamation.
47. More seating.

Port Fitzroy Landing Reserve (Department of Conservation)

48. Work with the Department of Conservation to improve access to the park, provide more seating and create a better connection to Glenfern and the wharf.

9.6 Okupu

Current state	
Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The boat ramp at Okupu Reserve is well used and much of the flat open space is used for boat parking The beach and the mature trees create the character of Okupu Reserve. Birds breed on the eastern edge of the beach Macmillian Reserve is a steep, bush-covered reserve which contains firefighting water storage tanks
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The large grassed area on the west side of Okupu Reserve is underutilised
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The western and eastern boundaries of Okupu Reserve are unclear. Needs clearer definition of boundary between public and private land at the western end of Okupu Beach.
Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Okupe (mis-spelt as Okupu) is a significant fishing area and a pa known as Te Pa o Kupe Work with mana whenua to amend the naming

What people said about Okupu	
Park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on natural character, minimal built elements Largely needs leaving alone Clear rocks from the shore Improve vehicle access to the beach/boat ramp Improve the boat ramp at the base Boat parking takes up most of the useable space More BBQ's More car parking
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No playground Provide more tree swings A flying fox over the grass area would be great Provide a playground here
Access and circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mine and Foreshore track to provide foot access only A proper path/sealed walk track around the park so that families could use it, particularly those with small children and prams. There is no area for this on island
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore the stream Continue pest control Provide interpretative info Restrictions on dogs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue weed control
Management/maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Discourage residents from Workington Road properties putting permanent seating in and using fragile part of the reserve as beach access and recreation”

9.6.1 Recommendations

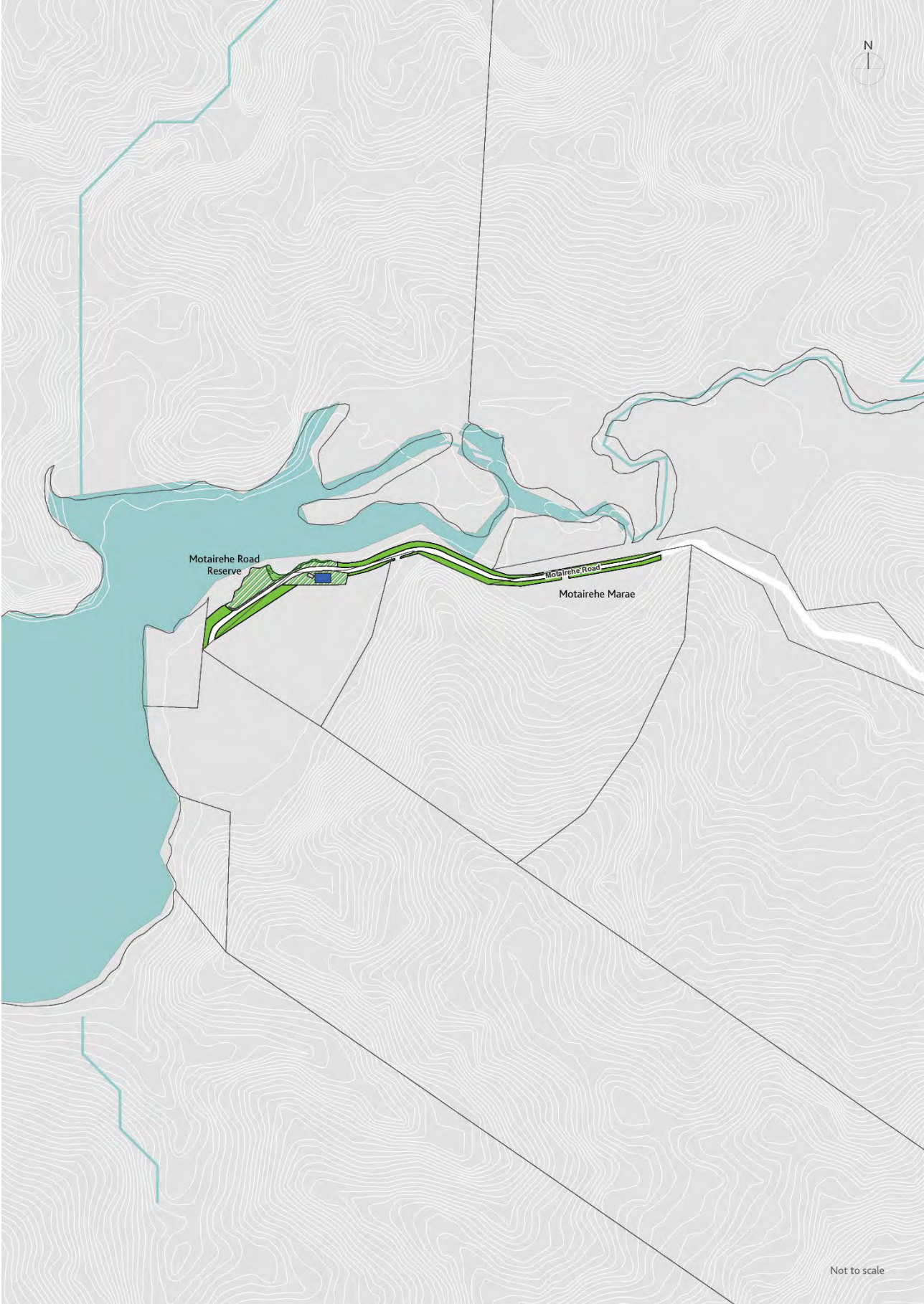
49. Focus on natural character and minimise the built elements.
50. Provide for nature play and mara hupara (traditional māori play) opportunities like tree swings and hammocks.
51. Work with Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea to tell the stories of Okupe - Include information about the early industry, mining and farming, wildlife.
52. Provide dog access information.



9.7 Motairehe

Current state	
Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No local park land, the road reserve provides the open space which has a playground
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broaden the range of play experiences
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no opportunity to acquire more open space here
Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not specifically referenced

What people said about Motairehe	
Park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide shelter/hangout space Provide drinking taps
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more challenging play equipment Provide a basketball half court Provide a solar recharge station Provide a skate ramp
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Māori sculptures representing the area and people”



9.8 Whangaparapara

Current state	
Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space at Whangaparapara consists of the esplanade to the south of the wharf and reserve in front of the lodge • A number of Department of Conservation tracks are accessed from Whangaparapara including Old Mill, Whangaparapara and the Green Campground • In an emergency the Whangaparapara Lodge Reserve is used for the emergency helicopter to land
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More clearly delineate public open space from private property
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car parking for the Department of Conservation tracks is limited • At Whangaparapara Lodge Reserve it is difficult to understand what is park land and what is car park
Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whangaparapara is an important fishing area • Along the harbour there are sites and places which are significant to mana whenua

What people said about Whangaparapara	
Access and circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “This is another piece of public land that is not seen as public but perceived to be the front lawn of the lodge it is difficult to see how you can reconcile the use of the space outside of lodge activities currently it is mostly a car park noting that it is road reserve”
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarseal the road

9.8.1 Recommendations

53. Install bollards, a fence or rocks along the boundary to make it clear where the park land is located.
54. Work with the Department of Conservation to develop car parking off the road at the track access.

9.9 Medlands

Current state	
Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medlands Beach provides access to Oruawharo Bay. There are multiple access point to the beach along Sandhills Road • The most well-known playground on Aotea / Great Barrier is Medlands Playground Reserve, known locally as Twin Pines • The Medlands playground is well-used and like all playgrounds on the island would benefit from more challenging play equipment • Sandhills Reserve is a 1700m² mown grassed area at the western end of Sandhills Road which provides a connection to the neighbouring Department of Conservation wetland.
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of street frontage for Sandhills Reserve means that it is not well known or used
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are access barriers at Sugar Loaf which prevents a pedestrian connection between Medlands and Kaitoke Beaches
Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai Ki Aotea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wai-Oruawharo or Medlands Beach is an environmentally and culturally sensitive water body • Te Wai o Ruawharo is the place where they anchored the waka Tākitimu • Two sites identified as being of significance to mana whenua



What people said about Medlands	
Park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better signage and information boards at the carparks or along the walk to the beach • Provide showers • Don't change anything • More dog restrictions • Tarseal the car park • Petanque court • Tennis court • Freshwater fountain • Grass short enough to play cricket • Much of the grass at these parks is Onehunga weed which is prickly
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more challenging play elements like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ trampoline ○ space for older teens ○ skate ramp ○ shade sail over playground
Access and circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealed walkway from the playground to the car park (prickles) • There is nothing to invite you in at the Sandhills Reserve it is a large open space that is underused. It doesn't have great access or parking and is constantly being destroyed by pigs
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fruit trees • Restoration of dune system, boat shed and memory park islands by weed and invasive plant removal and preservation of threatened native plants. • Preservation of wild surf beach
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach huts/shelters • Slow traffic speed on Sandhills Road

9.9.1 Recommendations

55. Provide shade at the playground.
56. Expand the playground to include more challenging equipment including a flying fox and trampolines.
57. Consider including a dark sky themed playground incorporating Māori cultural elements when adding to or upgrading the playground.
58. Consider increasing the car park size.
59. Develop a path from the car park to the playground to connect with the learn to ride track.
60. Resolve the long standing encroachment.

Policy and statutory context

10 Open space provision

The Open Space Provision Policy 2016 sets out the distribution, quantity and configuration of open space for neighbourhood and suburb parks.

Rural and coastal settlements like Aotea / Great Barrier are classified as low density residential areas.

The open space network on Aotea / Great Barrier Island includes a variety of parks, beaches, playgrounds, recreational facilities and walkways. Local settlements are well served by 56 local parks, as well as Glenfern Sanctuary Regional Park.

Auckland Council-owned open spaces and facilities are complemented by Department of Conservation owned and administered land that makes up more than 60 percent of the island, offering residents and visitors unique and diverse range of open space experiences.

10.1 Neighbourhood parks

Neighbourhood parks provide basic informal recreation and social opportunities within a short walk of people's homes. In low density residential areas, the Open Space Provision Policy target is to provide access to a neighbourhood park within 600 metres or seven-minute walk of every household.

10.2 Suburb parks

Suburb parks provide a variety of informal recreation and social experiences for residents from across a suburb. The Open Space Provision Policy target is to provide access to a suburb park within a 1500 metre walk of every household.

Gooseberry Flat Reserve, Okiwi Park and Medlands Beach are the parks on the island which meet the size and location criteria for suburb parks.

10.3 Current open space provision

Table one below shows the current open space provision and the extent to which the local parks on Aotea / Great Barrier meet this provision and amenity.

The current provision of open space generally meets the council's provision targets as the island's population is not predicted to grow significantly.

11 Play provision

Auckland Council prepared the discussion document Tākaro Investing in Play in 2017 and sought feedback from local boards and the community. The feedback was summarised and reported to the Environment and Community Committee in February 2018. An investment plan is being prepared but is not yet completed. In the absence of a formal play policy, the Tākaro Investing in Play discussion document is referenced for guidance.

What is play?

Play is an activity engaged in for enjoyment and recreation, especially by children. It is informal, spontaneous and uses both body and mind. It differs from sport and other recreational activities as it is freely chosen, personally directed and performed for no external goal or reward.

What is a play space?

Play can happen anywhere. For the purpose of this document, we are interested in play that happens outdoors and away from the family home. This includes play that happens in your immediate neighbourhood or street, at parks and playgrounds, and in natural environments such as the bush or beach.

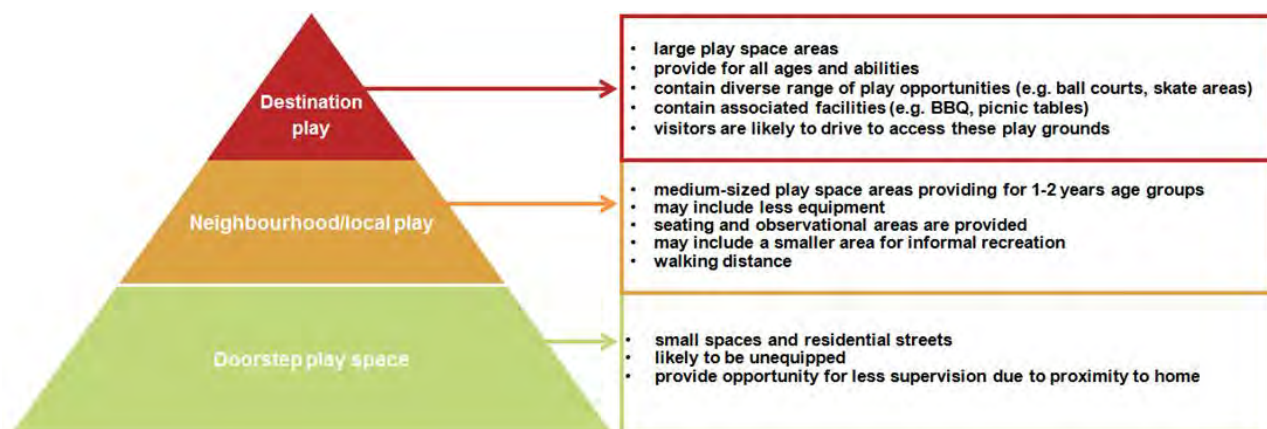
A hierarchy of play

It is not possible or desirable to provide the same types of play experiences at every park or play space.

Each play space needs to be tailored to the unique needs of the local community. It should consider differences in demography, population density and the natural environment.

A hierarchical approach recognises that most play opportunities happen close to home, requiring a lower level of play equipment or associated facilities. Destination play spaces are fewer and visited less frequently. They are equipped with the widest range of facilities, meaning people spend more time there and are usually prepared to travel a distance to get there.

Figure one is an example of a hierarchy of play provision. There is no direct correlation between the play hierarchy and the open space provision categories.



For Aotea / Great Barrier Island, doorstep and neighbourhood/local play spaces form the majority of the play spaces. The natural environment including beaches and the bush provide opportunities for nature play.

The population of the island does not meet the general threshold to consider providing a destination play space and the recommended approach is to invest in a variety of local play spaces that offer a range of experiences.

The island has a mixture of play spaces on local parks and privately-owned play spaces, which are available to the community to use. In general, the play equipment provision across the island is very similar and is targeted at younger children. Play provision currently doesn't provide for older children and teens and there are few amenities for caregivers and whanau.

Table one: Current play provision

Playground name	Category	Owner
Claris Reserve	Neighbourhood/local play	Auckland Council
Great Barrier Island Sports and Social Club	Neighbourhood/local play	Great Barrier Island Sports and Social Club
Kaitoke School	Neighbourhood/local play	Kaitoke School
Gooseberry Flat	Doorstep play space	Auckland Council
Medlands	Neighbourhood/local play	Auckland Council
Mulberry Grove	Neighbourhood/local play	Auckland Council
Mulberry Grove School	Neighbourhood/local play	Mulberry Grove School
Okiwi	Neighbourhood/local play	Auckland Council
Okiwi School	Neighbourhood/local play	Okiwi School
Okupu	Doorstep play space	Auckland Council
Motairehe	Doorstep play space	Auckland Council

12 Sports and recreation provision

Participation in recreation and sport covers a wide range of activities. It may include walking or cycling in parks and neighbourhoods, walking the dog, swimming or boating in the waterways or harbour, playing netball, football or beach cricket, or competing in a sporting event.

The Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan 2014 has the following vision: “More Aucklanders, more active, more often”.

Provision of formal sporting infrastructure on Aotea / Great Barrier Island is limited. Most local parks are either too small or too steep to provide for formal sportsfields.

There are no ‘formal’ sports fields on the island. Great Barrier Island Sports & Social Club Incorporated has a full size sportsfield. There are undersized fields at Kaitoke and Okiwi Schools. Each of the clubs has a single tennis/netball court and the schools have multi-use courts for play.

The 24-hectare nine-hole golf course is leased to the Great Barrier Golf Club on a community lease basis. Auckland Council is currently preparing a golf facility investment plan. The plan focuses on increasing sport and recreation, community and social, environmental and economic benefits across council golf courses. Increasing public access to the golf course would increase the sport and recreation and community and social benefits for the Aotea / Great Barrier community.

It is unlikely that any new land would be purchased for formal sport on the island. The Open Space Provision Policy recommends improving existing facilities. For Aotea / Great Barrier Island this would primarily be through partnerships with local schools or the sports clubs to invest in their fields or courts to provide access to the fields and to improve the quality of the fields or courts.

This plan primarily looks at how informal sport and recreation can be provided for in the settlements across the island. It also makes recommendations as to how the local board can support the provision of organised sport and recreation

The provision of walking and cycling infrastructure is being considered as part of the considered as part the Great Barrier Access and Linkages project.

13 Statutory context / Horopaki ā-ture

The Reserves Act 1977 sets out the core statutory and regulatory functions of local authorities in managing local park land.

13.1 Reserves Act 1977

All 55 local parks on Aotea / Great Barrier are held under the Reserves Act. Section 13 of this report outlines the status of each of the parcels held under the Reserves Act.

The Reserves Act sets out how reserves held under the Act are to be managed based on their classification under the Act. Most reserves on Aotea / Great Barrier are unclassified recreation or esplanade reserves.

The Reserves Act requires that a reserve management plan is prepared for each park held under the Act (except local purpose reserves such as esplanade reserves). A plan will contain objectives and policies for the management, protection, use and future development of a reserve. None of the local parks on Aotea / Great Barrier have a reserve management plan. Preparing a local park management plan for Aotea / Great Barrier is not currently a priority for the local board.

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