

STRATEGIC PLAY PROVISION ASSESSMENT

UPPER HARBOUR LOCAL BOARD AREA

PREPARED FOR AUCKLAND COUNCIL

JUNE 2018



Boffa Miskell

Document Quality Assurance

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Auckland Council manages an extensive network of open space including 26 regional parks, over 3,000 local parks and 241 sports parks.

Auckland Council's park assets are worth over \$5 billion.

Over the next 10 years, Auckland Council anticipates spending \$2 billion on development, acquisition and renewal of parks and recreation facilities, and a further \$4.2 billion on operation and maintenance of the network.

Source: Auckland Council Open Space Provision Policy, 2016



1. Overview

1.1 Introduction

The ongoing improvement and expansion of the network of parks and open spaces across Auckland is integral to achieving the aspirational outcomes of the Auckland Plan. As noted in the Open Space Provision Policy:

“Open space makes a major contribution towards Aucklanders’ quality of life and is integral to achieving the vision and strategy of the Auckland Plan. Auckland Council invests in open space because it is important to council’s wider objectives. It contributes to a range of health, social, environmental and economic benefits for Auckland.”

To ensure that parks and open spaces positively contribute to enable these changes to occur, we need to consider the future needs of the people of Auckland and focus effort on the places which will be most in demand. The diversity of local communities should also be better reflected in the types of play spaces provided, to support inclusivity of all ages, abilities and cultural groups.

The Upper Harbour Parks Provision Strategic Assessment will be one of the first high-level plans prepared by Auckland Council to guide future enhancement of the wider parks network provision and better service the community as a whole. Ultimately, the outcome of this assessment is to provide a platform which supports Upper Harbour Local Board to deliver the outcomes set out in their Local Board Plan.

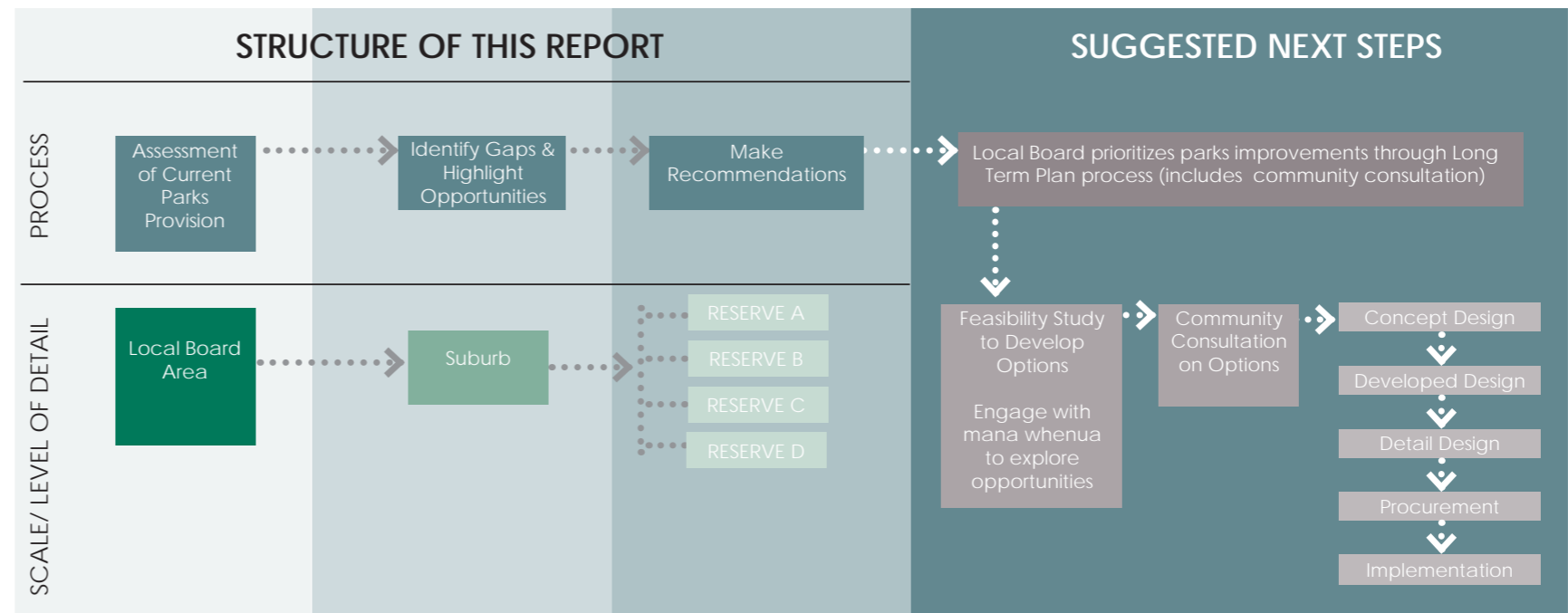
The evaluation of existing play provision and suggested options for potential development are high level indications only. The recommendations and suggestions made should be reviewed as and when development or renewals are programmed. It is recommended that a feasibility study be undertaken prior to any park asset development or upgrade to fully assess the options at the time.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- Analyse and assess current parks network provision and identify areas where projected population increase will place demand on the network
- Identify and evaluate opportunities and gaps within the current network provision, and prioritise areas with most opportunity for development
- Highlight opportunities for improving the diversity of experience across the network, including expression of Mana Whenua values, provision for cultural diversity, accessibility and environmental considerations in any potential upgrade
- Develop potential arrangements for the priority areas
- Provide a tool for discussion and feedback between Local Boards, Auckland Council and Mana Whenua
- Provide legislative and strategic planning context to the provision of play equipment across the parks network

For clarity, this report does not consider Regional Parks assets in the assessment as these are administered and funded separately.



1.3 Data Sources

Existing play provision data has been provided by Auckland Council, based on existing evaluations and play asset audits. This information has been supplemented with Geomaps, the Auckland Council Online Geographic Information System (GIS) which has an online inventory of all parks assets. The data shows reserves where assets exist; it gives no indication of the quality, age of equipment or suitability to the surrounding community.

In combination with forecasted population growth, the parks asset data informs the network gap and opportunity analysis in the next section of this document. The rationale behind the selection of parks suggested for improvement, hinges on parks where existing clusters of assets occur within areas projected to grow over the coming 30 years.

Population forecast data has been provided by Auckland Transport. Rather than New Zealand Census data which uses boundaries inconsistent with territorial authority boundaries, the population data that best fits with Local Board boundaries is generated by Auckland Transport. Auckland Regional Transport (ART3) model predictions are used by Auckland Transport for planning transport network provision, in relation to future population growth and planned change in land use (e.g. Future Urban Zones under the Auckland Unitary Plan).

Base aerial maps are sourced from the LINZ Data Service and licensed for re-use under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence Land Information New Zealand by Eagle Technology Ltd.

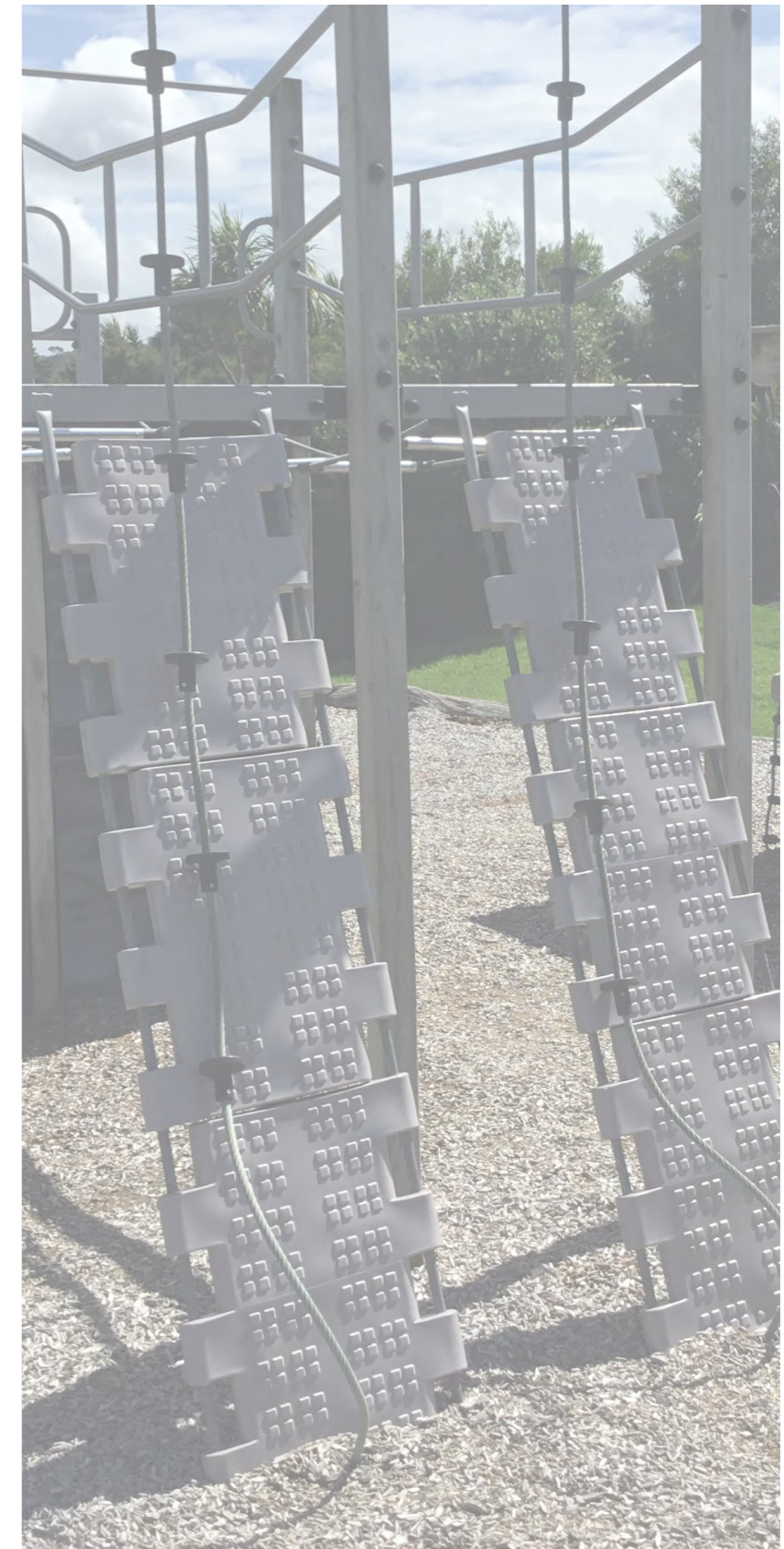
1.4 Data Limitations and Exclusions

While great care has been taken in the representation of this data, it should be noted that this data may not be complete or current, and is subject to change as renewals and upgrades are undertaken. This document is intended as a 'snapshot' in time. Where possible, projects currently underway or known to be planned have been included. However, not all projects or renewals planned across the local board area may be included as they are in early stages of planning or development.

The currency and accuracy of play asset data is unknown. Site evaluations undertaken as part of this assessment, revealed that a number of playground projects are also currently under construction. Downloadable parks asset data is restricted on Geomaps to small areas and a limited number of values. This limits the capacity for cross-checking data to a manual operation, rather than using GIS, to analyse the data. Detailed cross-checking and ground-truthing has been limited to those sites investigated in the specific areas of opportunity.

The mathematical model of population forecasting is unknown. Data is taken at face value and represented in this assessment as a relative value (persons per hectare). Change in population is expressed in each ART3 zone to compare and contrast over time, and is not absolute.

To avoid confusion, the naming of reserves is consistent with the name held on the Geomaps database, within the parks assets data set.



2. Methodology

2.1 Our Approach

The method developed for this assessment is based on evaluation of the existing provision of parks assets across the network, combined with focussing parks improvements in areas of future increased population density.

The focus is on making recommendations to improve the *existing* parks provision, at the network scale. Areas where population density is anticipated to increase and have no existing parks assets, have not been considered (e.g. greenfield sites in Future Urban Zones). These areas are assumed to potentially have parks assets provided as part of the development process through other mechanisms, such as Development Contributions. The planning and prioritisation of open spaces and parks asset provision, should be guided by the Auckland Council Open Space Policy 2016, and the metrics therein.

This assessment has been developed in two stages. Using GIS, the first stage uses Auckland Transport population forecast data to indicate the areas of most growth within the Local Board area. This is overlaid with Auckland Council data to produce a high-level view of the current levels of park asset provision across Upper Harbour, to identify where the opportunities and gaps in the network are, in line with anticipated future population growth. The timing of when greenfield sites are developed, and indeed any areas of intense population increase, is likely to fluctuate as market pressures vary. Other factors such as road or public transport improvements also affect the way and where the population grows.

Parks most suitable for future development and investment are identified for the second stage of the assessment, where a number of the most suitable parks are visited by a landscape architect and play specialist. Some of these parks are selected to develop an indicative site arrangement plan, where potential development options are identified as 'easy wins' or priority areas to address gaps in the network.

The purpose of the potential development options is to provide a starting point for discussion with the Local Board and community, and guide potential park improvements to fulfil an even distribution of play provision across the network. These potential development options are high-level only, and require further feasibility studies to fully understand the site opportunities and constraints.

The assessment of existing parks asset provision does not focus on the definition of park type, as defined by the Auckland Council Open Space Policy. Rather, the focus is on the function of the reserve, and how it operates. For example, a play space may be defined as a 'Neighbourhood Playspace' by the size and grade of equipment, but if it is located next to a popular beach, it may act more like a 'Destination Playspace'.

Sites proposed for further investigation for improvement or development are 'easy wins', where existing clusters of assets and location provide the best cost-effective improvement to the overall network. In some cases, this may mean improvements to service provision or resolution of wider issues such as pedestrian connectivity. In other cases, it may be through creative renewals of parks assets, rather than additional equipment or furniture.

2.2 How is Park Provision Assessed?

There are two key determining factors which were considered in the overall parks network provision assessment: existing pedestrian connectivity and ability for older children to independently access appropriate parks assets.

The most reliable methodology to assess walking distances is by measuring along footpaths and roads. While calculating distances "as the crow flies" is one way to conduct gap analysis, it does not take into account the way people actually travel around an area. This is particularly true when the topography is challenging, the street layout includes many cul-de-sacs or there are major roads and intersections to navigate. All of these elements are common features of the Upper Harbour landscape. The Auckland Council Open Spaces Policy 2016 suggests radial distances should only be used for greenfield developments and then at reduced distances (see table below).

		Walking Distance	Radial Distance Proxy
Neighbourhood Park	High and medium density	400m	300m
	Low Density	600m	450m
Suburb Park	High and medium density	1000m	750m
	Low Density	1500m	1125m

For the purposes of this study, actual on-street walking distances were measured from surrounding residential areas, to determine where gaps existed in current provision, as well looking at changes in population density which affects the ideal distances between parks. The other key consideration was independent mobility for 9-12 year-olds, and how easy, or otherwise, it would be for them to access recreation opportunities on foot, or by bike, in their communities (see www.kidsinthecity.ac.nz - Massey University long-term research project).

A further consideration was size and shape of existing parks, and what impact that had on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) values. The play opportunities within a park, and the age group they were aimed at, was also evaluated, as the majority of existing playground assets are designed for able-bodied 2-7 year olds (refer *Takaro* document). Guidance from this document suggests that Auckland Council seeks to move away from this type of 'stock standard' play provision in the future, to provide more diversity across the network.

This strategic document is based on a "snapshot in time" from available data sets, and may not include projects under discussion or construction, or still in the hands of developers and not yet handed over to Council. This report is intended as a 'living document' for Upper Harbour Local Board to use and develop with their community to suit their wider planning needs over time. Projects under discussion may then be included, and completed projects added when this document is renewed within the Local Board planning cycle. For Future Urban Areas, this document includes commentary only on the type of provision that should be required, as new development layouts are still unknown.

This assessment is intended as a 'living document' for Upper Harbour Local Board to use and develop with their community to suit their wider planning needs over time.

2.3 How is Play Provision Assessed?

In terms of definition of play provision (appropriate age group and type of play), Auckland Council Open Space Provision Policy terminology focuses on playspace size. Auckland Council Open Space Provision Policy establishes metrics for the provision of open space. The metrics primarily guide the type, size and location of open space sought in new greenfield developments. The metrics can also be used to assess and compare the provision of open space in existing urban areas, relative to other areas in Auckland.

The table (right) identifies 3 of the 5 open space typologies of most relevance to this assessment, and associated provision metrics that primarily achieve recreational or social outcomes.

An alternative approach is to define how the park in which the playspace is located functions. The Auckland Council *Tākaro* Play Policy discusses this, but is still some way from completion. As such, an alternative reference for this report to define playspace and park typology comes from the Wellington City Council Play Policy (opposite page).

2.4 What is Play?

Play is what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, for their own reasons; it is how they explore and make sense of the world and learn to take responsibility for their own decisions.

Play takes many varied forms and happens in a wide variety of settings. Play can be boisterous and noisy, quiet and contemplative, creative, imaginative, physically challenging, thoughtful, enjoyed alone or in the company of others, and may have no seeming purpose at all to the outside onlooker.

Places people play range from individual backyards, neighbourhood streets, local parks to formal playspaces, beaches, regional parks and town centres.

A play network consists of a group of interconnected places where play is encouraged - both formally and informally - throughout a neighbourhood, community and the wider city.

Upper Harbour Local Board has more than 200 parks and sportsfields within in its catchment, along with coastline, streams and native bush areas, that are easily accessible to local residents and visitors alike.

Formal playspaces are generally provided for and maintained by Council, and include some kind of playground equipment, safety surfacing and perhaps seating for accompanying caregivers. School playgrounds and shopping centre playgrounds are other examples of common formal playspaces. Formal playspaces range in size and scale from pocket parks to destination playspaces, with a range of amenities to match the appropriate size and scale.

Informal playspaces may be a grassy open space in the local park, a slope to roll down or tree to climb, a stream to drop twigs and leaves into, a beach and coastal rockpool to explore, or an empty carpark area when all the commuters have gone home.

AUCKLAND COUNCIL PARK DEFINITIONS

Typology	Description	Indicative amenities	Provision target
Neighbourhood Park	<p>Provides basic informal recreation and social opportunities within a short walk of surrounding residential areas.</p> <p>New neighbourhood parks are typically between 0.3 to 0.5 hectares.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> play space flat, unobstructed, kick-around space for informal games (30m by 30m) areas for socialising and respite landscaping specimen trees furniture 	<p>400m walk in high and medium density residential areas.</p> <p>600m walk in all other residential areas.</p> <p>Provides a range of different recreation opportunities between nearby neighbourhood and suburb parks.</p>
Suburb Park	<p>Provides a variety of informal recreation and social experiences for residents from across a suburb.</p> <p>Located in prominent locations and help form the identity of a suburb.</p> <p>Suburb parks will often accommodate organised sport facilities, such as sportsfields.</p> <p>New suburb parks are typically 3 to 5 hectares if providing for informal recreation uses only and up to 10 hectares or larger if also accommodating organised sport uses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> walking circuits or trails within the park multiple kick-around spaces socialising spaces, including picnic and barbeque facilities larger and more specialised informal recreation attractions, such as large playgrounds, skate parks, hard courts beaches and watercraft launching facilities organised sport facilities community event space car parking and toilets 	<p>1000m walk in high and medium density residential areas.</p> <p>1500m walk in all other residential areas.</p> <p>Provides a range of different recreation opportunities between nearby neighbourhood and suburb parks.</p> <p>Provides a neighbourhood park function for immediately neighbouring residential areas.</p>
Destination Park	<p>Provides for large numbers of visitors, who often visit for an extended period of time, and may travel from across Auckland.</p> <p>Many destination parks are tourist attractions.</p> <p>Typically they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be more than 30 hectares accommodate specialised facilities have significant or unique attributes. <p>Regional parks are considered to be destination parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> large events space networks of walking circuits and trails destination and/or multiple playgrounds specialised sport and recreation facilities distinct natural, heritage or cultural features multiple places for gatherings and socialising such as barbeque and picnic facilities 	<p>A variety of destination parks should be located to serve each of the northern, western, central and southern areas of urban Auckland.</p> <p>Future provision will be determined through network planning, which will identify if and where new destination parks are required.</p> <p>See Figure 5 on page 34 for indicative provision guidance.</p> <p>Provides neighbourhood and suburb park functions for immediately neighbouring residential areas.</p>

Source: Auckland Council Open Space Provision Policy (2016)

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT PLAY SPACE DEFINITIONS

<p>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAY SPACE</p> <p><i>Handy place for a quick play.</i></p>	<p>COMMUNITY PLAY SPACE</p> <p><i>Enough activities to keep children and/or youth aged people entertained for at least an hour.</i></p>	<p>DESTINATION PLAY SPACE</p> <p><i>A premium playground that attracts residents, visitors and tourists. Users may stay for 2 hours or more.</i></p>
<p>PLAY EQUIPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play opportunities for at least one age group (ideally junior children as a minimum) • Size of site may constrain the amount of equipment • Nature play and kick-about space will be considered to broaden play experience alongside swings/ slides for example 	<p>PLAY EQUIPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play opportunities for a range of age groups • Unique or with a point of difference to other community playgrounds around the city 	<p>PLAY EQUIPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play opportunities for multiple age groups • Regionally unique and a celebration of place
<p>TYPES OF INFORMAL PLAY OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural landscape features and opportunities for nature play • Amenity planting and/or semi-natural areas that are designed and/or managed for play • Spaces to play in groups, as individuals or for a common purpose. May have kick-about area 	<p>TYPES OF INFORMAL PLAY OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick-about area • May have informal court space (eg basketball half court) • Spaces to gather and meet and to engage in different types of play (eg both active play and relaxation/quiet contemplative play) • Natural landscape features • Where possible, designed to encourage exploration of the natural environment such as steps to a stream or a path to the bush or the beach • Amenity planting and planted areas that are designed and located to be played in or on • Include opportunities for nature play 	<p>TYPES OF INFORMAL PLAY OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick-about area • Spaces to gather and meet • Informal court space (eg basketball half court) • Natural landscape features • May have art installations or hard landscape features that offer opportunities for play • Located in spaces where there are opportunities for informal and incidental play and interaction with the natural environment
<p>TYPES OF VISITOR AND CAREGIVER AMENITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May have shade provided by trees • Seats • Paths to play equipment where possible 	<p>TYPES OF VISITOR AND CAREGIVER AMENITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic tables and seats • May have a barbecue • Drinking water at park or nearby • Security lighting where appropriate • Rubbish bins • Shade/shelter over some of the play equipment and other areas of the play space provided by structures and/or trees • Car parking • Toilets at park or nearby (may have limited open hours) • Paths to connect to the wider neighbourhood and provide access to the play equipment area 	<p>TYPES OF VISITOR AND CAREGIVER AMENITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic tables and seats • Drinking water • Lighting • Rubbish bins • Central city location • Shelter/shade over some of the play equipment and other areas of the play space provided by structures and/or trees • Car parking • Toilets
<p>CATCHMENT AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service local neighbourhood within approx. 600-metre walking distance • Likely to be located in neighbourhood parks 	<p>CATCHMENT AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service the immediate neighbourhood and local community within approximately 800-metre walking distance • Ideally located in community parks or near neighbourhood centres 	<p>CATCHMENT AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole city and region • Centrally located and easy to get to with connections to public transport routes, and linked to pedestrian pathways and cycle ways where possible

Adapted and altered from Wellington City Council Play Policy (2017)

3. What is the Local Context?

3.1 Upper Harbour Local Board Plan 2017

The Upper Harbour Local Board Plan sets out priorities, and guides the local board's activities for the next three years. To achieve this, five key outcomes are highlighted to focus and guide their work and decision making:

Outcome 1: Empowered, engaged and connected Upper Harbour communities.

Outcome 2: Efficient and effective transport links

Outcome 3: Healthy and active communities

Outcome 4: A thriving local economy

Outcome 5: Our environment is valued, protected and enhanced

Of most relevance to this document is Outcome 3: 'Healthy and active communities' which aspires to enable "Our residents have access to open space and a wide variety of sports and recreation opportunities". Key opportunities identified include:

- Encouraging sport and recreation opportunities that appeal to a diverse range of communities and bring people together, in particular new residents, older adults and people with disabilities.
- Providing more options for free, family-friendly sport and recreation by developing under-used open spaces.

This report directly responds to one objective of Outcome 3, being "Residents have easy access to well maintained sports fields, parks and open spaces." It is one of the key initiatives, to "Identify gaps in play provision in our parks and address as funding allows."

It also provides a platform for further community engagement and fulfilment of Outcome 1: 'Empowered, engaged and connected Upper Harbour communities', whereby "People living in Upper Harbour are able to influence what happens in their neighbourhoods." By developing clusters of parks assets in consultation with the community, this will enable local residents to have direct input into creating and strengthening local networks. As identified in the Local Board Plan, this could "strengthen communities' sense of belonging" and "bolster community identity and connectedness..by co-designing public spaces".

It also gives effect, in part, to Outcome 5: 'Our environment is valued, protected and enhanced', which aspires to enable "Communities [to be] actively engaged in enjoying, preserving and restoring our natural areas". The provision of good quality and well-planned open space, can enhance the connections to the diverse natural environment of Upper Harbour. Strategic upgrades of parks assets may also provide opportunity to support sub-regional initiatives such as North-West Wildlink, through the inclusion of native planting which provides habitat for native animals and birds.

3.2 Local Board Greenways Plan

The Upper Harbour Greenways Plan seeks to "create a network of greenways that responds to Upper Harbour's unique environment, by providing and linking circulation networks that are on land and on water."

The benefit of developing greenways in conjunction with strategic improvements to parks, is that access to outdoor recreation is improved. Parks and reserves form key nodes to connect greenways with the natural environment. While most of the 5 priority routes identified are near open spaces, they are essentially transport route developments, and do not directly relate to the play space network provision.

Future connections between the play space network and greenways should be assessed as these strategic transport routes are developed. A review of the Greenways Plan priorities and scheduled timing of the implementation of these, should be undertaken with consideration of how strategic play provision could contribute to this.

Upper Harbour Local Board Plan 2017 - Outcome 3: Healthy and Active Communities

Opportunities

- “Boosting the local economy by bringing more large-scale events to Upper Harbour and maximising the use of our facilities.
- Encouraging sport and recreation opportunities that appeal to a diverse range of communities and bring people together, in particular new residents, older adults and people with disabilities.
- Providing more options for free, family-friendly sport and recreation by developing underused open spaces.
- By working with schools, we can open up their sports and recreational facilities for community use.”

Challenges

- “Limited land available for sport and recreation developments in the area and land prices are rising.
- Auckland Council funding for land acquisition and new facilities is extremely constrained.
- The Northern Corridor Improvements project will affect a number of our local parks and reserves. We will continue to work with NZ Transport Agency to identify the best solutions to offset any loss of open spaces.
- Lifestyles are generally becoming more inactive, leading to poorer health outcomes.”

Source: Upper Harbour Local Board Plan 2017



4. How Will We Grow?

4.1 Population Density

The types of residential housing, and accordingly the population distribution, of the Upper Harbour Local Board area is diverse.

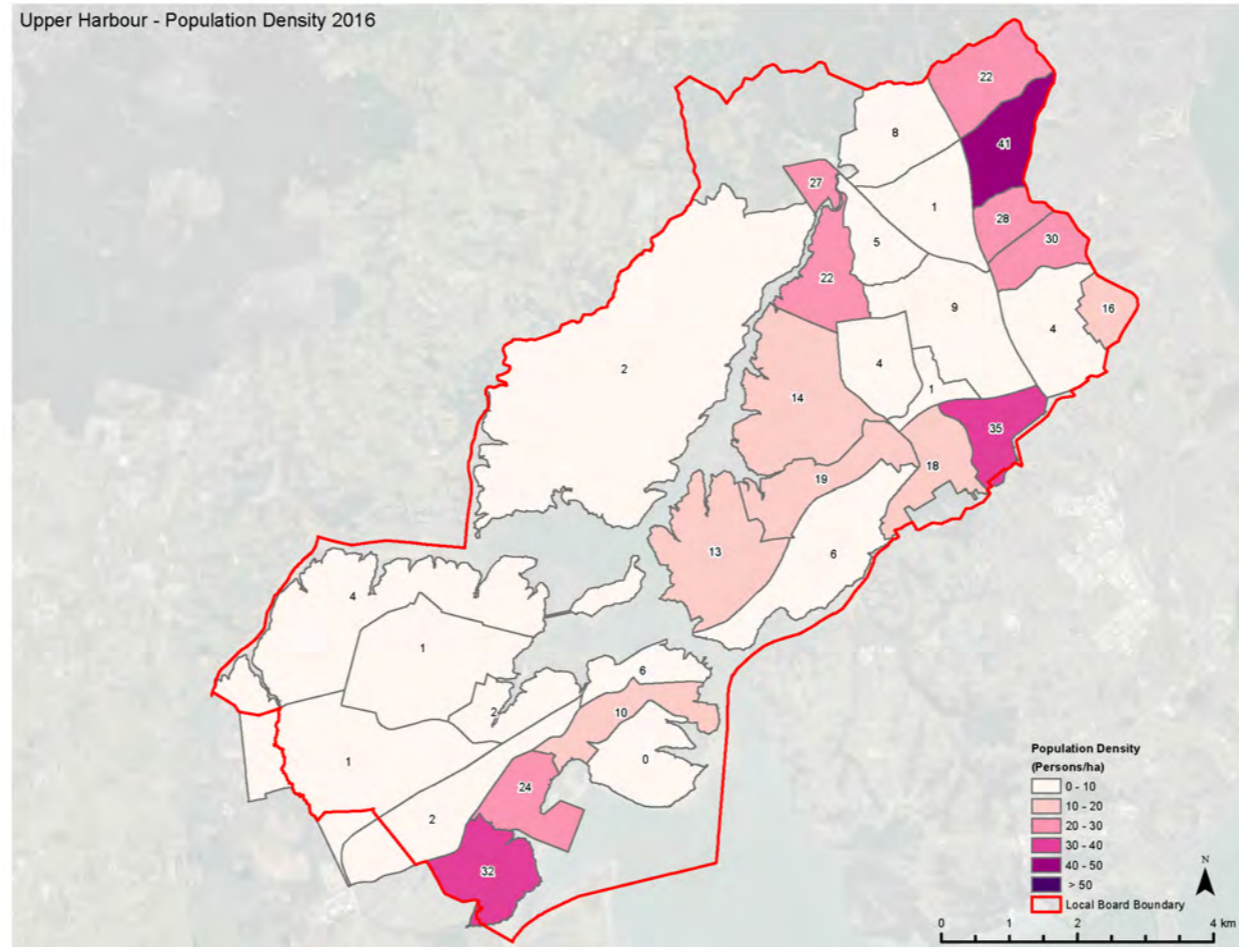
Some areas are well-established medium density residential suburbs, with a mixture of large lot and subdivided property, while others are newly built high-density neighbourhoods. Large areas remain as rural zoned land, particularly to the north-west, but are zoned as Future Urban which will result in significant land use change.

Upper Harbour is anticipated to experience significant change in population over the next 30 years, with the increase of housing density permitted under the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP), and release of greenfield land for development, along with Special Housing Areas (SHAs). The area will change from a mix of rural/suburban to suburban/urban with this continued development.

The greatest density of people is expected to be 76 people/ hectare by the year 2046. As a comparison, the current population density of central Auckland, where most residents are apartment dwellers, is around 110 people per hectare.

The following series of maps shows the current and anticipated population density between 2016-2046. A snapshot of the change is taken at 2031 to illustrate that the trend is consistent in several areas.

Upper Harbour - Population Density 2016



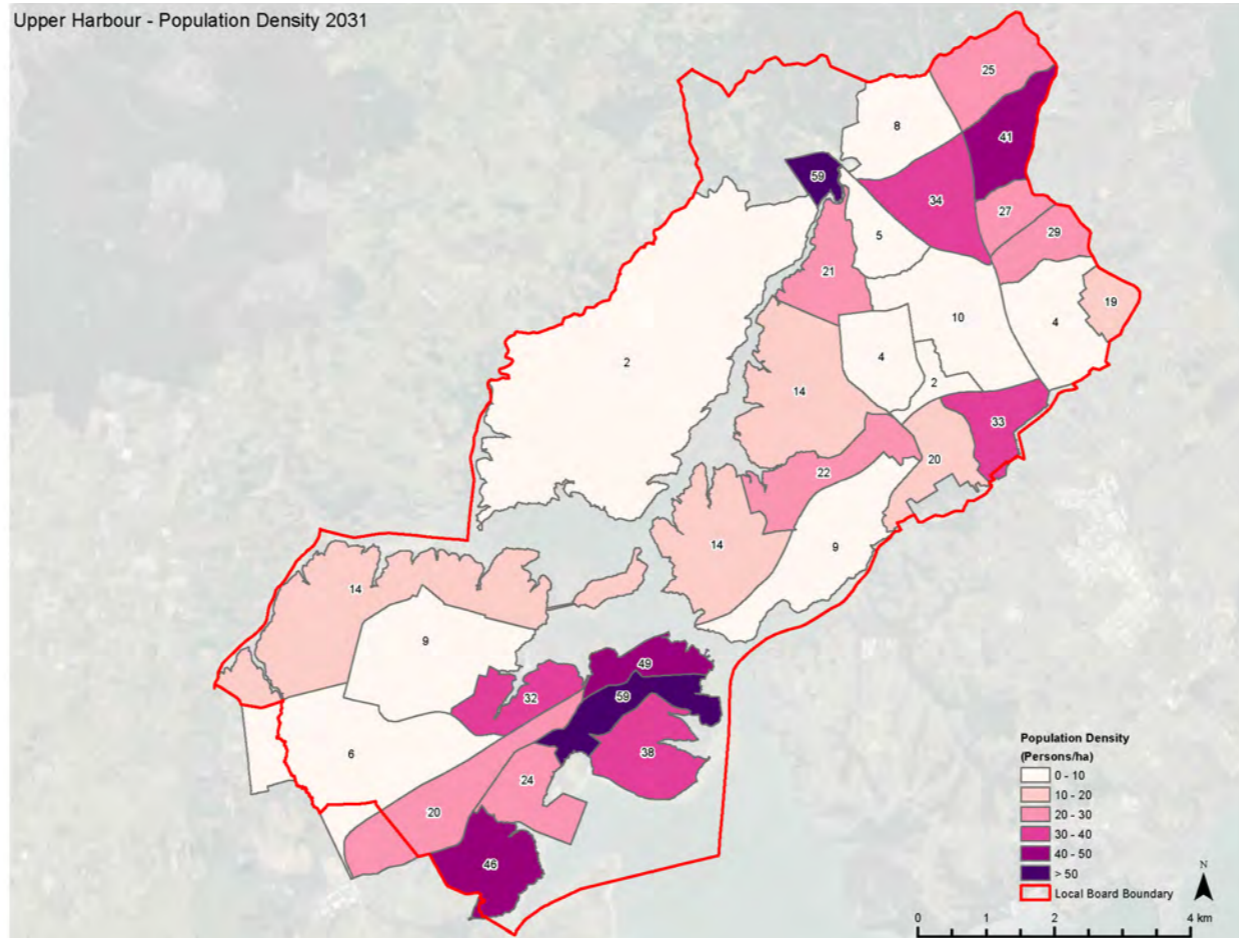
2016 - POPULATION DENSITY (NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER HECTARE)

The 2016 population data shows that Upper Harbour had a medium density of population per hectare, compared to Auckland as a whole. This is expected, given the large area of already developed land in older suburbs. There were large portions with very low population density, reflecting the rural nature of these areas.

A relatively higher density of people per hectare was clustered around these centres:

- Oteha (41 people/ hectare)
- Unsworth Heights (35 people/ hectare)
- West Harbour South (32 people/ hectare)
- Pine Hill (28-30 people/ hectare)
- Albany (Kell Park) (27 people/ hectare)
- West Harbour North (24 people/ hectare)
- Fairview Heights (22 people/ hectare)

Upper Harbour - Population Density 2031

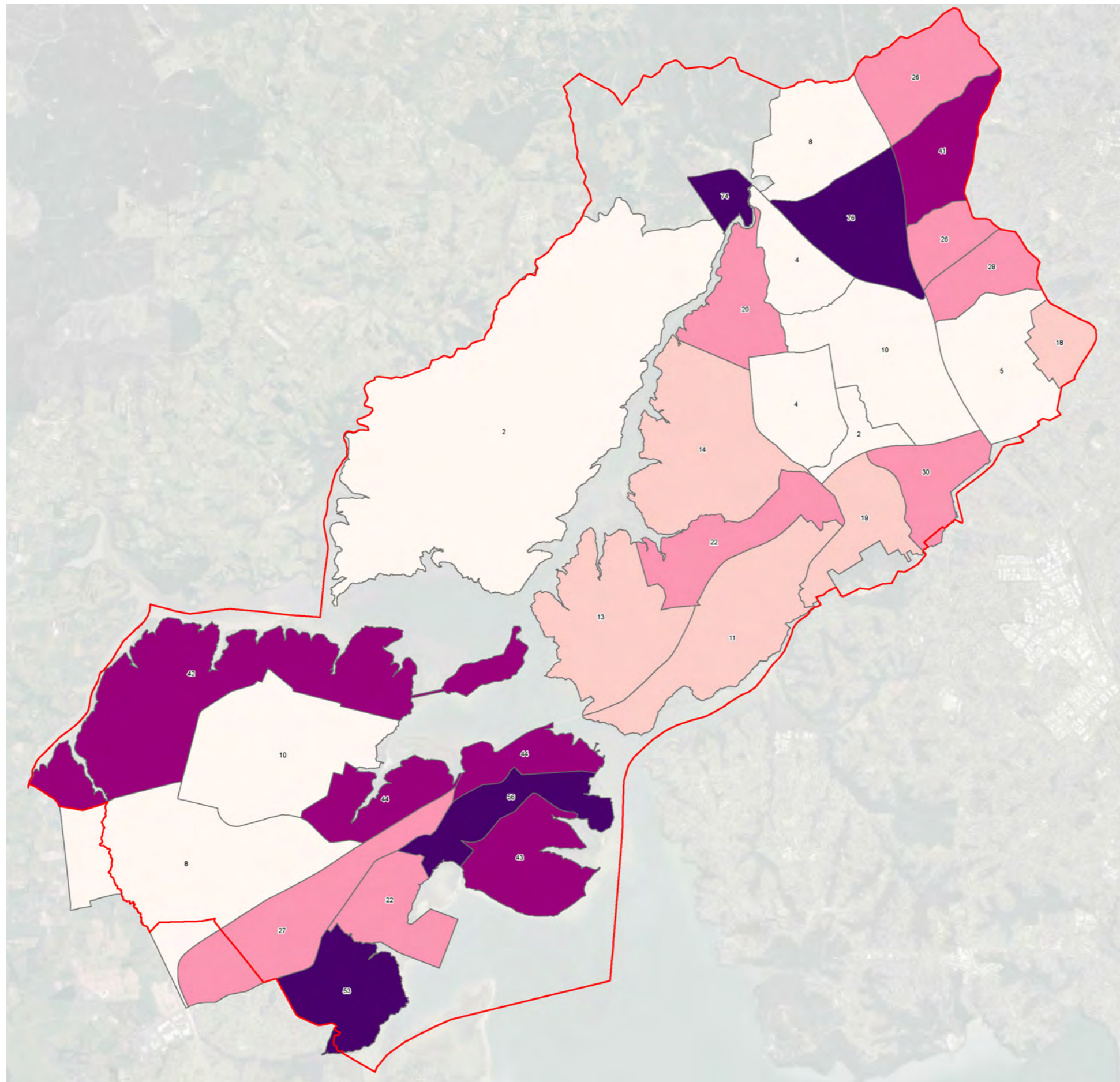


2031 - POPULATION DENSITY (NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER HECTARE)

The 2031 population data projection shows that population density per hectare in Upper Harbour is maintained at a moderate level. A higher density of people per hectare begins to intensify around Hobsonville, Hobsonville Corridor and Scott's Point, as these current developments are completed and establish. Higher population density shows around Whenuapai, as rural land is released for development under the Whenuapai Structure Plan.

Areas of greatest population density are:

- Hobsonville Point (59 people/ hectare)
- Albany (Kell Park) (59 people/ hectare)
- West Harbour (46 people/ hectare)
- Oteha (41 people/ hectare)
- Scott Point (38 people/ hectare)
- Albany Central (34 people/ hectare)
- Unsworth Heights (33 people/ hectare)

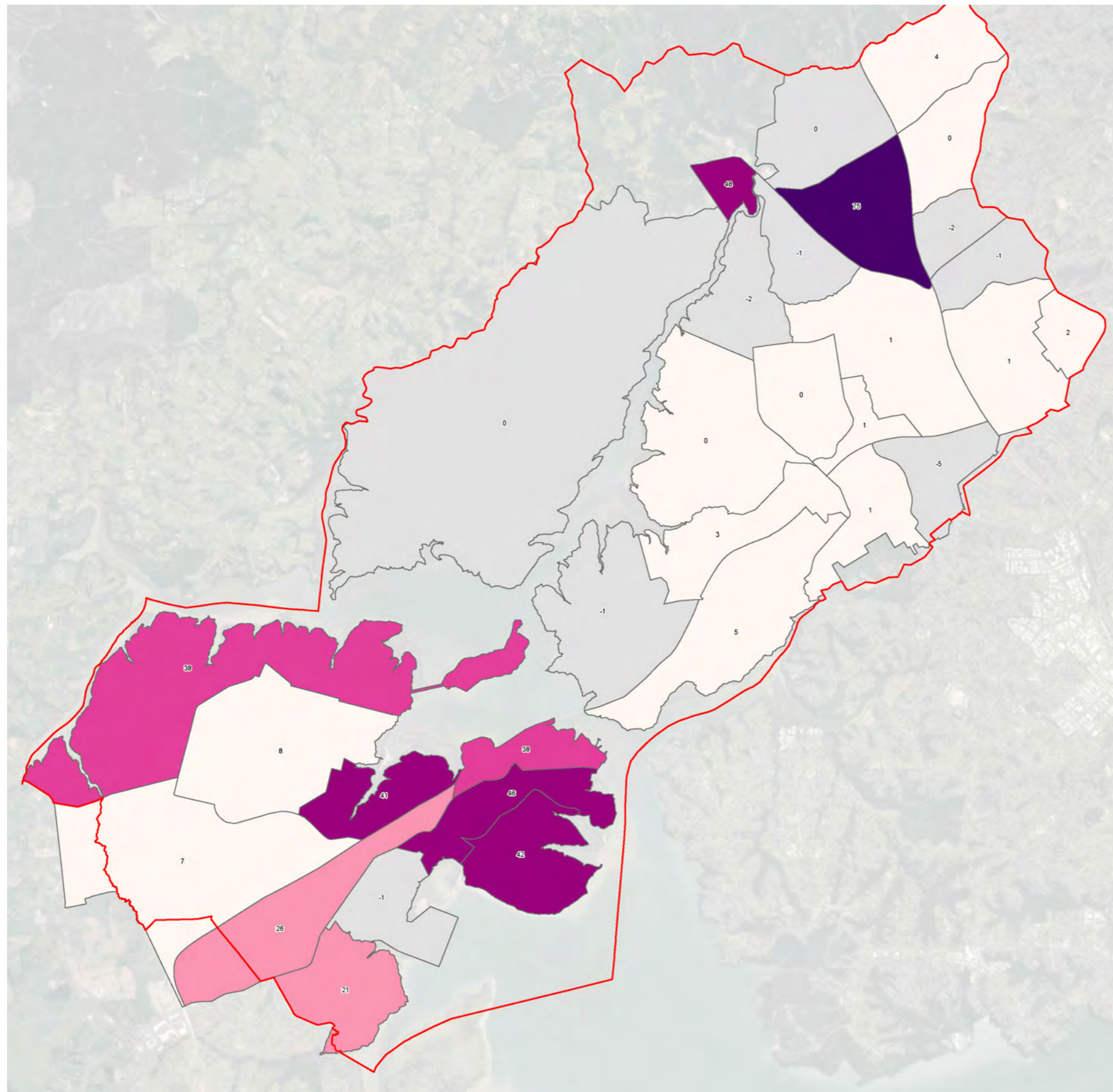


2046 - POPULATION DENSITY
(NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER HECTARE)

The 2046 population data projection shows that the increase of density of population per hectare, across the majority of Upper Harbour, is maintained. A higher density of people per hectare intensifies around Albany and Upper Harbour as more intense development replaces existing housing stock. Whenuapai continues to become more densely populated, as planned development becomes established, delivered under the Whenuapai Structure Plan (which incorporates Special Housing Areas and Future Urban Zones under the AUP).

Areas of greatest population density are:

- Albany Central (76 people/ hectare)
- Albany (Kell Park) (74 people/ hectare)
- Hobsonville Point (56 people/ hectare)
- West Harbour (53 people/ hectare)
- Whenuapai (42-44 people/ hectare)
- Scott Point (43 people/ hectare)
- Oteha (41 people/ hectare)



CHANGE IN POPULATION DENSITY 2016 - 2046

The cumulative change in population density in the next 30 years, is projected to be seen most in these areas:

- Albany Central (increase of 75 people/ hectare)
- Albany (Kell Park) (increase of 48 people/ hectare)
- Hobsonville Point (increase of 38-46 people/ hectare)
- Scott Point (increase of 42 people/ hectare)
- Whenuapai (increase of 38 people/ hectare)
- Hobsonville Corridor (increase of 26 people/ hectare)
- West Harbour (increase of 21 people/ hectare)

5. What Playspaces Do We Already Have?

The parks listed below are where existing play assets are located in public open space at the time of assessment. This list is not exhaustive, and does not include play spaces within private developments or those yet to be formally handed over from private developers to Council.

Upper Harbour Destination Playspaces

- Sanders Reserve, Paremoremo

Upper Harbour Community Playspaces

- Kell Park, Albany
- Hooton Reserve, Albany
- Wainoni Park North, Greenhithe
- Hobsonville Point Park, Hobsonville
- Pin Oak Reserve, Schnapper Rock
- Luckens Reserve, West Harbour

Upper Harbour Neighbourhood Playspaces

- Northwood Reserve, Albany
- Bushlands Park, Albany
- Wentworth Park, Albany
- Wharf Reserve, Albany
- Harrowglen Reserve, Fairview Heights
- George Deane Place Reserve, Greenhithe
- Greenhithe War Memorial Park, Greenhithe
- Collins Park, Greenhithe
- Durbin Reserve, Greenhithe
- Mauku Reserve, Greenhithe
- Shelter Reserve, Greenhithe
- Christmas Beach, Herald Island
- Herald Island Domain, Herald Island
- Hobsonville War Memorial Park, Hobsonville
- Kotuku Park, Hobsonville
- Starlight Park, Hobsonville
- Hendrika Court, Hobsonville
- Fernhill Reserve, Oteha
- Fields Reserve, Oteha
- Ponderosa Reserve, Oteha
- Glen Bay Close Reserve, Pinehill
- Taroka Reserve, Pinehill
- Parkwood Reserve, Rosedale
- Rosedale Park, Rosedale
- Schopolo East Reserve, Schnapper Rock
- Wharepapa Reserve, Schnapper Rock
- Connemara Reserve, West Harbour
- Da Vinci Park, West Harbour
- Marina View Reserve, West Harbour
- Oak Park, West Harbour
- Tornado Reserve, West Harbour
- Bill Moir Reserve, Whenuapai
- Malcolm Hahn Memorial Reserve, Whenuapai
- Whenuapai Town Park, Whenuapai
- Centorian Reserve, Windsor Park
- Bluebird Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Bronzewing Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Devonshire Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Exeter Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Meadowood Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Unsworth Reserve, Unsworth Heights

In 2017, Upper Harbour had:

48 playgrounds or parks where formal play is provided for,

within a wider network of more than 200 parks and sports fields.

These play grounds are spread unevenly across 17 suburbs;

not all with ideal size and distribution to service both current and future residents.

Source: Upper Harbour Local Board Plan (2017)

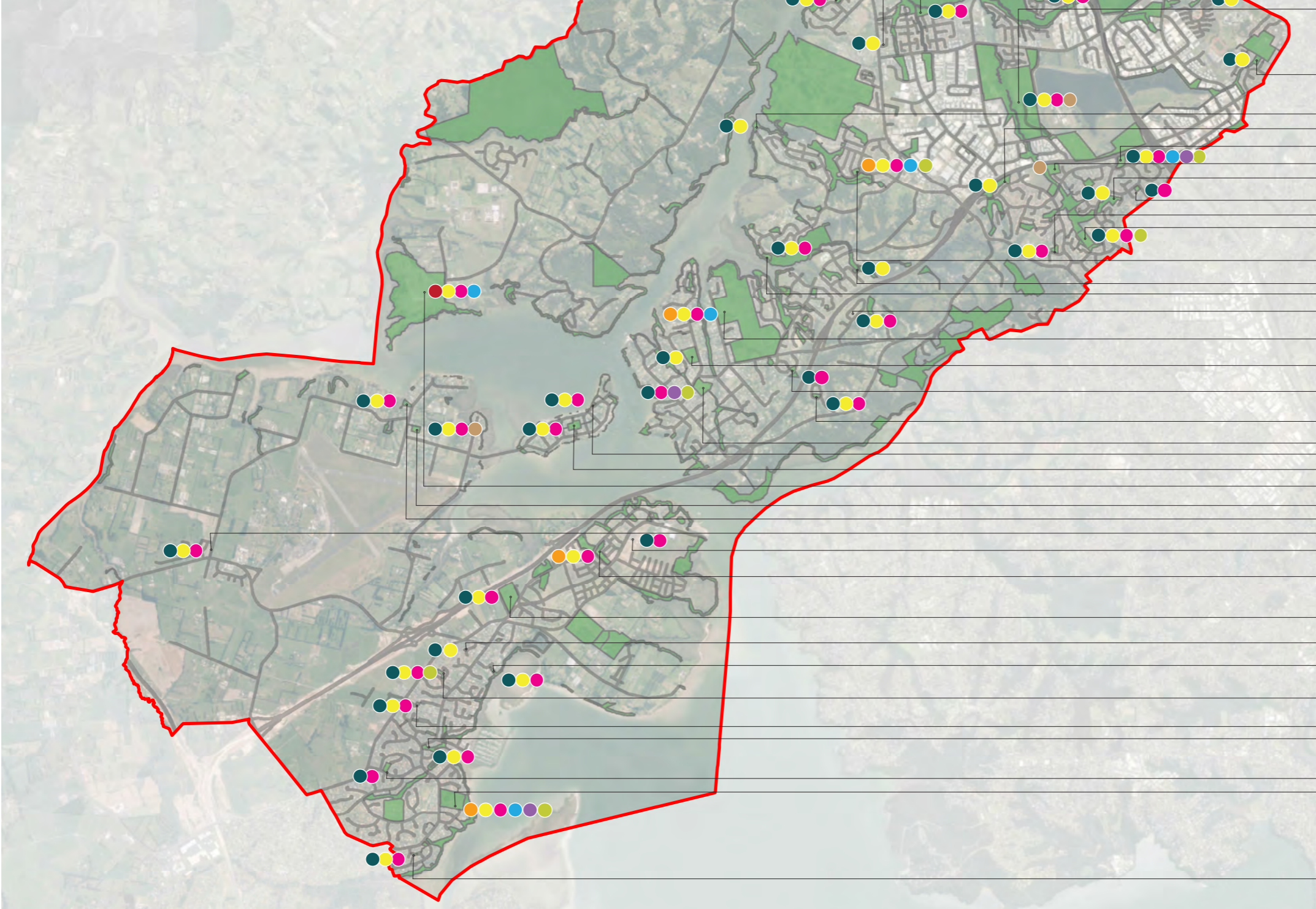
UPPER HARBOUR LOCAL BOARD AREA
EXISTING PLAY NETWORK OVERVIEW

- Public Reserve

- Play Space Size**
- Destination Play Space
- Neighbourhood Play Space
- Community Play Space

- Play By Age**
- Junior Play (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play (6 - 11 years)
- Teen Play (12+ years)

- Active Play**
- Skate
- Basketball/ Courts
- Fitness Equipment



- Wharf Reserve, Albany
- Wentworth Park, Albany
- Harrowglen Reserve, Fairview Heights
- Kell Park, Albany
- Fields Reserve, Oteha
- Hooton Reserve, Albany
- Fernhill Reserve, Oteha
- Ponderosa Reserve, Oteha
- Taroka Reserve, Pinehill
- Northwood Reserve, Albany
- Bushlands Park, Albany
- Glen Bay Close Reserve, Pinehill
- Parkwood Reserve, Rosedale
- Rosedale Park, Rosedale
- Centorian Reserve, Windsor Park
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- Bluebird Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Meadowood Reserve, Unsworth Heights
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- Hendrika Court, Hobsonville
- Marina View Reserve, West Harbour
- Tornado Reserve, West Harbour
- Luckens Reserve, West Harbour
- Da Vinci Park, West Harbour

6. How Can We Improve the Play Network?

5.1 Existing Play Provision

Generally, every community across the Upper Harbour Local Board area has some play provision. The quality and distribution varies greatly. It is mostly junior-age level equipment, with a number of renewals of these junior spaces currently underway.

Some suburbs are very short on larger parks and spaces for older children; other suburbs have large clusters of junior spaces and not enough diversity in play type between them. Some suburbs have very little play provision at all, and there is not a suburb-size park to encourage community events. In others there are very large open spaces, although not always with easy walking/cycling access from residential areas.

A very diverse landscape comprises the Local Board area. Communities are largely defined by coastal or river edges and by major regional roads. These factors currently limit pedestrian and cycle connectivity.

Because of this lack of connectivity, independent mobility of children through the area is limited and the network is fragmented. In due course, the proposed Upper Harbour Greenways Plan will address some of these disconnections, but is dependent on other transport related projects. Therefore, the play network has been considered at suburb scale, to assess where provision can be improved using existing safe access ways.

5.2 Network Gap Analysis

There is a great opportunity for enriched play experience for all ages, cultures and abilities across the whole Upper Harbour area.

Current provision of play types are repetitive, standardised and could be further enhanced. Nature play, water play, play-along-the-way is very limited, and could be expanded across the network as part of the renewals programme. This could also be an opportunity to better reflect local character and culture with public art, sculpture and heritage pieces.

No specifically designed play space or equipment is provided for children with differing abilities to their peers, such as limited mobility. Older children have very restricted choice, with good provision of skate and basketball areas limited to a few places.

Community fitness trails and exercise equipment for older people is largely absent from the network.

A specialist, bike terrain park is located at Sanders Reserve in Paremeremo, but there are few opportunities for wheel play anywhere else.

Upper Harbour is fortunate to have large regional sports facilities, but lacks local sports fields in several suburbs. New greenfield developments will need to include sports fields in within their open space frameworks, so as not to put additional pressure on existing facilities.

5.3 Area-Wide Opportunities

Significant population growth is forecast for the area, particularly in areas of greenfield expansion. This provides an excellent opportunity to address some of the existing network gaps, and better plan play provision to service existing and new communities.

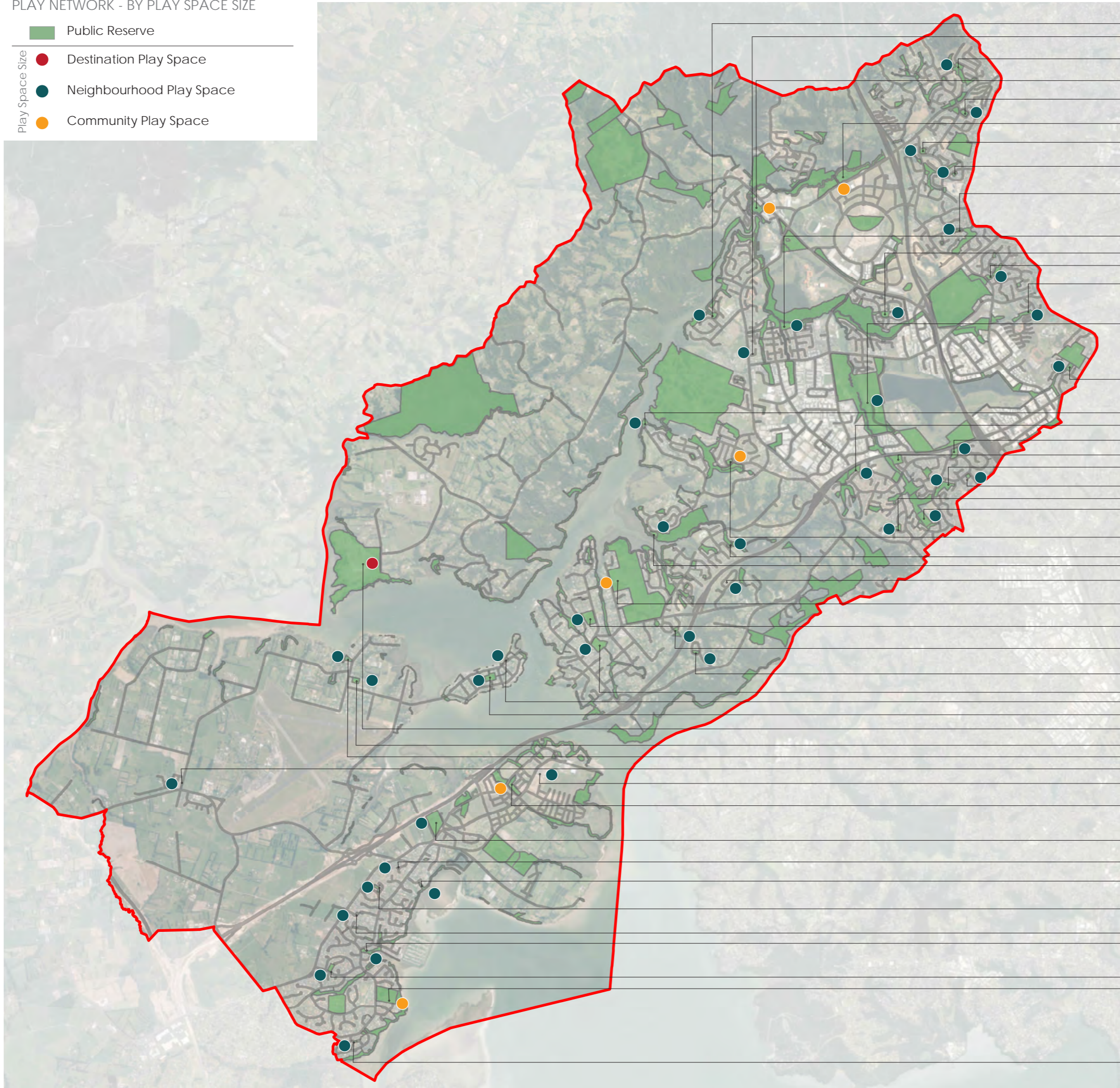
New play spaces, and reserves in future urban areas, should allow space to expand as the community demographic changes over time. Maximising the whole available space with play equipment from the outset, limits future flexibility.

Equally, pressure to accommodate storm water infrastructure in open space can limit opportunities for play provision. Community recreation networks (fitness trails, play along the way, nature play) should be integrated in these areas to balance, these needs and make best use of space, in line with the Open Space Policy.

There is opportunity to support the North-West Wildlink through ecological planting in play spaces and reserves, which is currently limited and fragmented. Even small open spaces could provide ecological 'stepping stones in the link'. This could also provide an opportunity to enhance community cohesion through community planting days, or involving local schools.

UPPER HARBOUR LOCAL BOARD AREA
PLAY NETWORK - BY PLAY SPACE SIZE

- Public Reserve
- Destination Play Space
- Neighbourhood Play Space
- Community Play Space

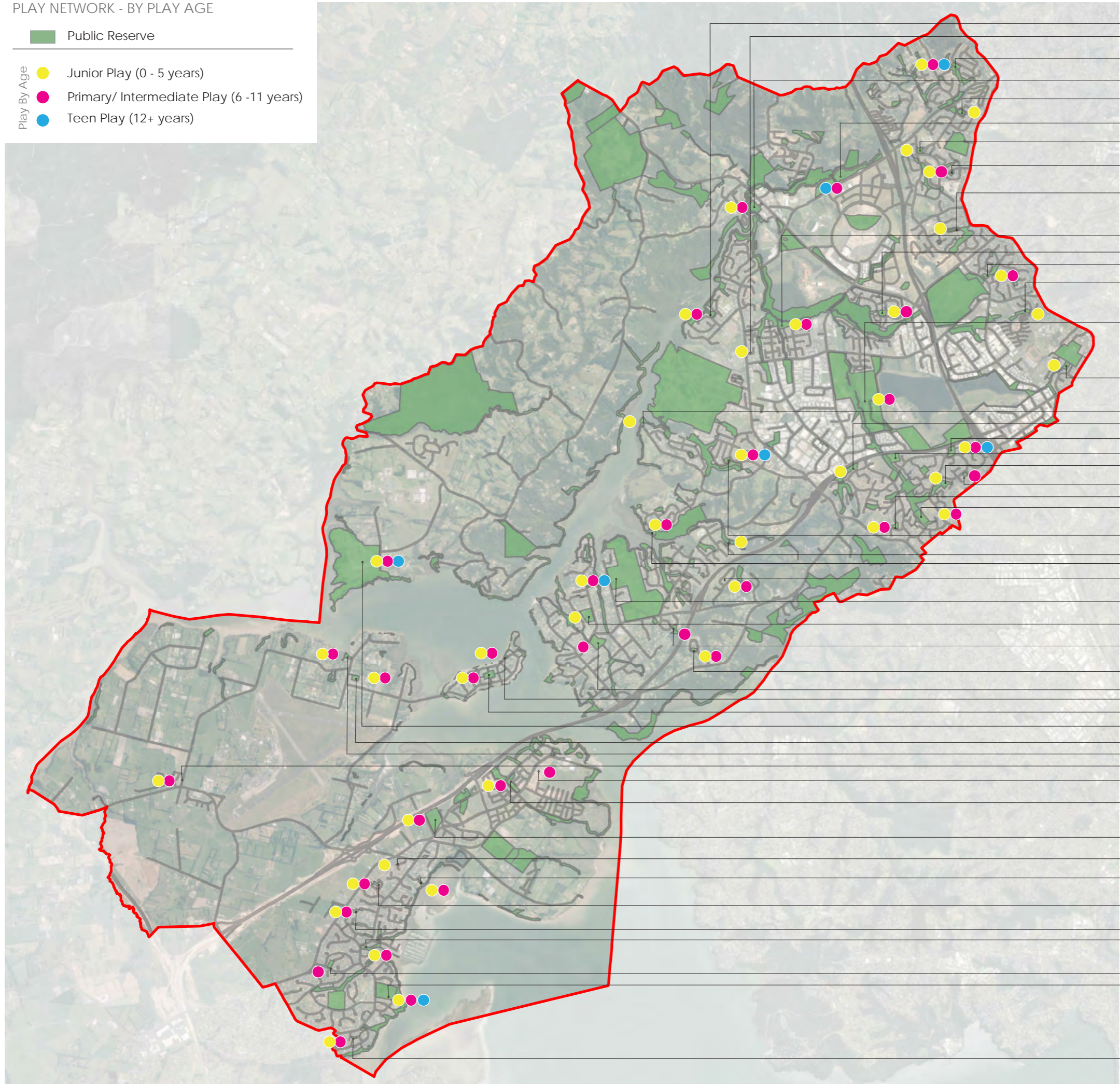


- Wharf Reserve, Albany
- Wentworth Park, Albany
- Harrowglen Reserve, Fairview Heights
- Kell Park, Albany
- Fields Reserve, Oteha
- Hooton Reserve, Albany
- Fernhill Reserve, Oteha
- Ponderosa Reserve, Oteha
- Taroka Reserve, Pinehill
- Northwood Reserve, Albany
- Bushlands Park, Albany
- Glen Bay Close Reserve, Pinehill
- Parkwood Reserve, Rosedale
- Rosedale Park, Rosedale
- Centorian Reserve, Windsor Park
- Wharepapa Reserve, Schnapper Rock
- Bluebird Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Meadowood Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Rook Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Exeter Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Devonshire Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Bronzewing Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Unsworth Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Pin Oak Reserve, Schnapper Rock
- George Deane Place Reserve, Greenhithe
- Schopolo East Reserve, Schnapper Rock
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- Wainoni Park North, Greenhithe
- Greenhithe War Memorial Park
- Durbin Reserve, Greenhithe
- Shelter Reserve, Greenhithe
- Collins Park, Greenhithe
- Christmas Beach, Herald Island
- Herald Island Domain, Herald Island
- Sanders Reserve, Paremoremo
- Bill Moir Reserve, Whenuapai
- Malcolm Hahn Memorial Reserve, Whenuapai
- Whenuapai Town Park, Whenuapai
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- Hobsonville Point Park, Hobsonville
- Hobsonville War Memorial Park, Hobsonville
- Starlight Park, Hobsonville
- Oak Park, West Harbour
- Connemara Reserve, West Harbour
- Hendrika Court, Hobsonville
- Marina View Reserve, West Harbour
- Tornado Reserve, West Harbour
- Luckens Reserve, West Harbour
- Da Vinci Park, West Harbour

UPPER HARBOUR LOCAL BOARD AREA
PLAY NETWORK - BY PLAY AGE

- Public Reserve

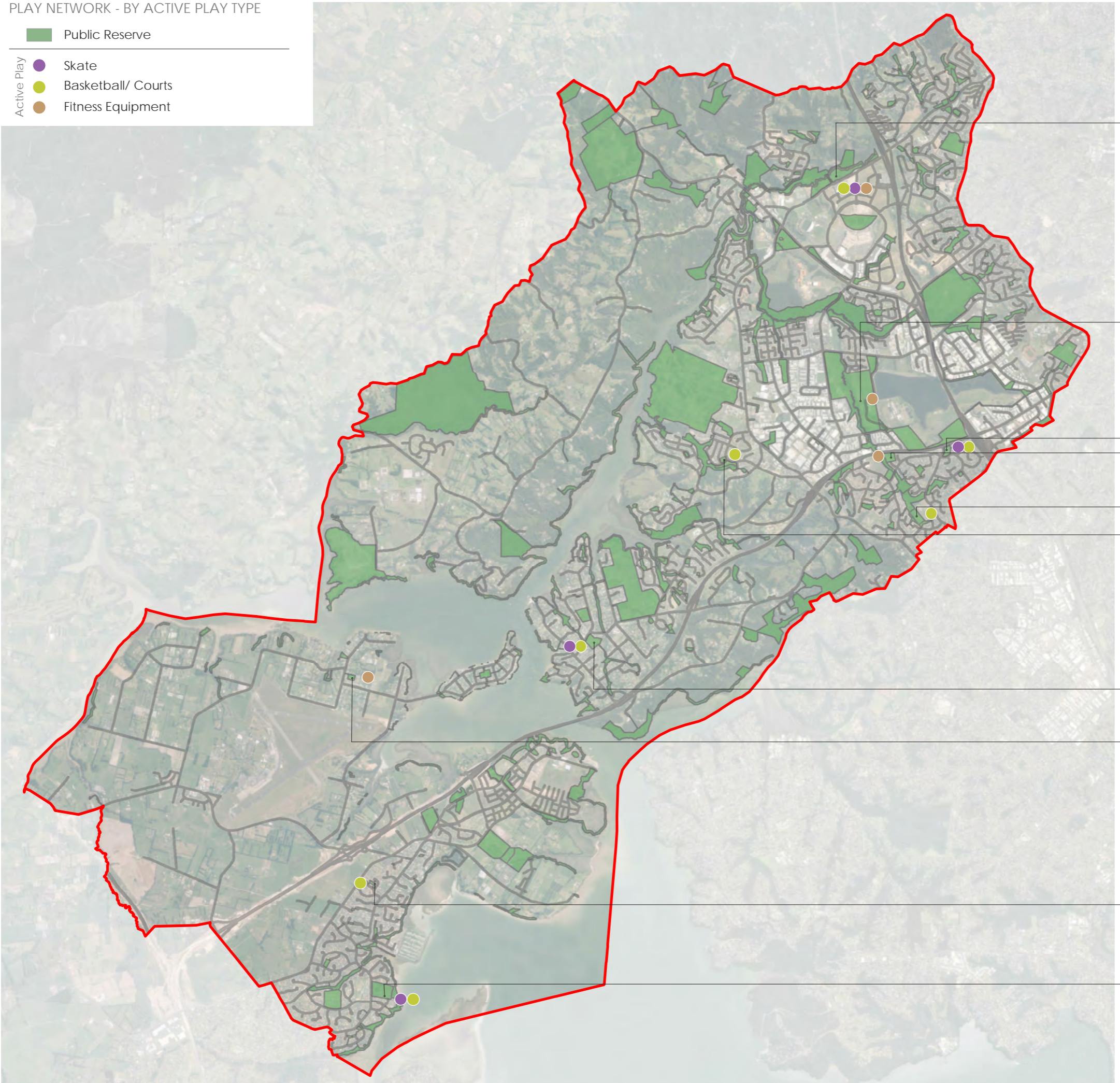
- Play By Age**
- Junior Play (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play (6 -11 years)
- Teen Play (12+ years)



- Wharf Reserve, Albany
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- Connemara Reserve, West Harbour
- Hendrika Court, Hobsonville
- Marina View Reserve, West Harbour
- Tornado Reserve, West Harbour
- Luckens Reserve, West Harbour
- Da Vinci Park, West Harbour

UPPER HARBOUR LOCAL BOARD AREA
PLAY NETWORK - BY ACTIVE PLAY TYPE

- Public Reserve
- Active Play
 - Skate
 - Basketball/ Courts
 - Fitness Equipment



- Hooton Reserve, Albany
- Rosedale Park, Rosedale
- Meadowood Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Rook Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Unsworth Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Pin Oak Reserve, Schnapper Rock
- Collins Park, Greenhithe
- Bill Moir Reserve, Whenuapai
- Connemara Reserve, West Harbour
- Luckens Reserve, West Harbour

7. What are the Key Play Network Opportunities in Upper Harbour?

- *Creative use of renewals budgets is key to revitalising playspaces in limited growth areas.*
- *Vary the play offerings on each site so that there is a reason to travel the network through local communities - don't duplicate nearby schools either.*
- *Use the ecological and historical heritage of the area to create unique playspaces in each community, that ground them in their landscape.*
- *Engage with mana whenua to explore opportunities to reflect cultural narratives within playspaces.*
- *Art and sculpture pieces – the play network can also be an opportunity for expression of the art/culture/heritage network.*
- *Nature play and playable edges can be incorporated easily into all current playspaces, through adding planting, logs, rocks, or other local materials.*
- *Water play opportunities could be considered for communities without direct access to safe beaches or rivers; either in civic spaces, existing junior play areas, or when upgrading a larger suburban park.*
- *Play provision for older children needs to be clustered, easily accessible by walking/cycling/public transport and have excellent CPTED/overview by neighbours and the street network. Close to food outlets is ideal for teens, as is free WIFI access.*
- *Universal/accessible design needs to be at the forefront of renewals, particularly with access into the playspace and choice of equipment.*

- Scooter tracks, perimeter walking paths, bike skills parks, and learn-to-ride areas would enhance provision throughout the network (could be done through community partnerships).
- 'Play along the Way' can be encouraged through playful paintmarking on footpaths, small playful interventions such as stepping stones, balance logs or sculpture pieces.
- Opportunities for all age groups to play together – eg. large suburb park with several playspaces to cater to different ages, perimeter path with some scoot/skate options and fitness equipment, table tennis tables, 3x3 basketball courts, handball court.
- Build on existing sports park amenities to create a bigger cluster – generally these already have parking and toilets in place.
- Focus on creating nodal network in new growth areas, using Open Space Policy metrics to ensure a larger suburb park with play opportunities for older children is being considered; within a 1000 -1500m walk in new residential areas; as well as more frequent neighbourhood parks (400 - 600m walk) depending on density.
- Focus on where the community lives now and the next 3 - 5 years growth, for making connections within the current play network along safe travel routes.

8. Where Are Specific Areas of Opportunity?

8.1 West Harbour

Current play provision incorporates many small neighbourhood playspaces with equipment for the junior/primary age group. Population density is anticipated to increase within existing neighbourhoods, so an increase in families with children of all ages should be expected and responded to accordingly.

The Local Board boundary bisects the suburb, excluding a number of existing parks to south-west from this assessment that in reality the community would utilise. Lack of pedestrian and cycle connectivity from cul-de-sacs to main roads and reserves, presents service provision gap when assessed against the Open Space Policy metrics.

An existing proposal (by others) for Luckens Reserve to be developed as a destination play space is supported. It has potential to develop as a community recreation hub, given the good standard of existing play assets, car parking and toilet facilities. Improvements should include all-abilities and universal access in the design.

Picasso Reserve has space to develop a potential neighbourhood play space amongst the existing tennis courts. However, a better site for compact junior space could be on the corner of Picasso and Lagoon Drives, as this has better pedestrian connectivity and passive surveillance.

Tornado Reserve has a lot of space to expand the existing playspace to serve a wider age group as nearby housing intensifies. However, it is located 800m from Luckens Reserve and could be considered too close in terms of Open Space Policy metrics. It is recommended that this reserve is assessed in more detail for potential improvements when up for renewal.

The remainder of neighbourhood playspaces require creative renewals to diversify the current play offering. Many have limited space to expand. Enhancement options could include planting, nature play, or a variety of swing types, located in different reserves to create a diverse 'mini-network'.

The Future Urban Area within the Trig Road/SH18/Hobsonville Road area should include an open space large enough for a Community Playspace. No sports fields currently exist in West Harbour apart from those in schools. Another play space to cater for older children should also be included in this area.



- Oak Park, West Harbour
- Connemara Reserve, West Harbour
- Hendrika Court, Hobsonville
- Marina View Reserve, West Harbour
- Tornado Reserve, West Harbour
- Da Vinci Park, West Harbour
- Luckens Reserve, West Harbour

UPPER HARBOUR
EXISTING PLAY NETWORK OVERVIEW

- Public Reserve
- Neighbourhood Play Space Size
- Community Play Space Size
- Junior Play (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play (6 -11 years)
- Teen Play (12+ years)
- Basketball/ Courts
- Skate



Area Location

Where Are Specific Areas of Opportunity?

8.2 Hobsonville Point and Scotts Point

A comprehensive play strategy has already been established and partially implemented for Hobsonville Point under the 'Hobsonville Point Open Space Network Plan'. This establishing community is well-served in terms of play diversity through the implementation of this plan. Support for this plan should continue as the area is further developed and intensified, to ensure the community is well-served across play types and ages groups in the future.

A new sports park and recreation reserve is proposed for Scotts Point, which will further enhance play provision for these new neighbourhoods. Small neighbourhood play spaces are anticipated as part of future development of this subdivision. These spaces should collectively offer diverse play types and cater to a variety of ages and abilities.

Hobsonville War Memorial Park, to the immediate south-west of the new residential areas, is identified as ideal site to further develop into a Community Playspace. It has existing toilets, sports fields and parking, with space to expand the existing playground footprint. A bus stop, shopping centre and new residential development are all located nearby. An important feature of this reserve is the existing pedestrian/cycle connection across SH18 to Whenuapai. This direct connection to the Future Urban Areas and Special Housing Areas, means that Hobsonville War Memorial Park could serve a wider catchment of people than at present, providing good long-term value for investment. A potential development option is shown on the next page.

Hobsonville War Memorial Park, Hobsonville - refer to opportunity diagram

Hobsonville Point Park, Hobsonville

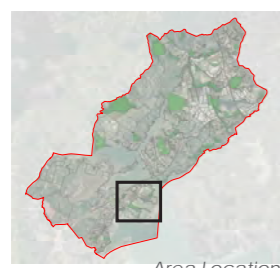
Kotuku Park, Hobsonville

Starlight Park, Hobsonville



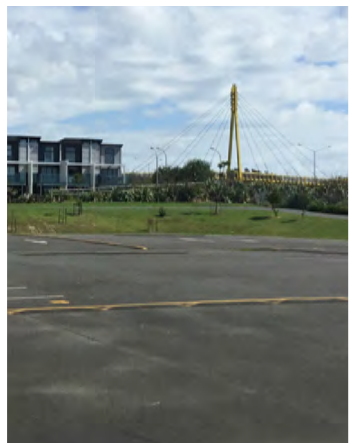
HOBSONVILLE POINT AND SCOTTS POINT EXISTING PLAY NETWORK OVERVIEW

- Public Reserve
- Neighbourhood Play Space Size
- Community Play Space Size
- Junior Play Age (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play Age (6 - 11 years)



Area Location

Potential Development Option - Hobsonville War Memorial Reserve Park



Pedestrian bridge link over SH18 to Whenuapai



Existing play provision



Site Description

Hobsonville War Memorial Park is a 3.94 hectare open space area with existing sports fields, located at the junction of 'old Hobsonville' and the new Hobsonville Point development. The park backs on to the Upper Harbour motorway, and is easily accessed from Hobsonville Road and Memorial Park Lane. A local shopping precinct with parking has been developed adjacent to the park, along with new mixed-use urban zone residential housing.

The AUP zoning is Sport and Active Recreation, and the Hobsonville Bowling Club occupies the northern part of the site, below the open sports fields and adjacent to the motorway. The iconic 'Banana Bridge' spanning the motorway provides a pedestrian and cycle link from the park across to the existing small residential area that is zoned for future urban development.

Current Assets

- existing sports field, toilet block, carparking, public transport links (bus stop).
- existing junior/intermediate playspace due for renewal within 5 years.
- space to expand and diversify play offering.
- existing pedestrian link across motorway to future urban area.
- existing bowling club with secondary carpark.
- excellent CPTED with passive surveillance from the street and surrounding residences.

Opportunities

- build on existing infrastructure to upgrade from Neighbourhood to Community Playspace, servicing new residential development to west and east of park, as well as large future urban area.
- existing junior/intermediate playspace due for renewal within 5 years.
- diversify play offering to include balancing, spinning, climbing, and nature play.
- add accessible basket swing and level entry for children and carers with limited mobility.
- add play for teens, including 3x3 basketball court and skate elements.
- complete perimeter walking path to north and east; add fitness stations for community recreation.
- secondary carpark could function as 'Learn to Ride' track with creative painted graphics.

Constraints

- playspace is close to busy roads

- Public Reserve
- Proposed Junior Play (0 - 5 years)
- Proposed Primary/ Intermediate Play (6 - 11 years)
- Proposed Teen Play (12+ years)
- ← - - - Proposed Path
- ← ····· Existing Path

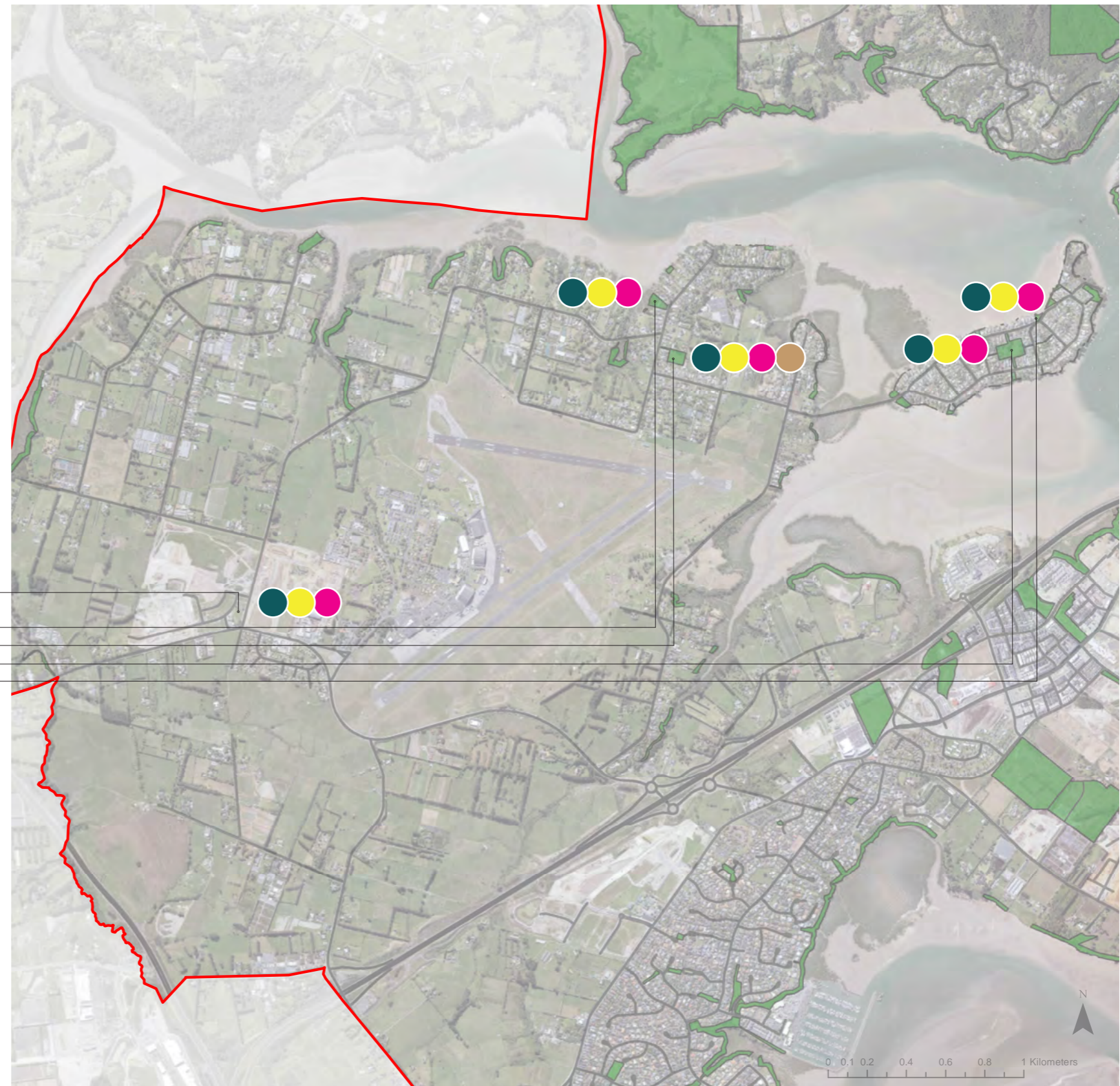
8.3 Whenuapai and Herald Island

Existing public reserves within Whenuapai are very small, with limited space to expand. Creative renewals to make improvements and redesign the existing play space at Malcolm Hahn Reserve would lift the quality of play provision at this site. Bill Moir Reserve is currently an internal reserve, being located behind existing housing, with an almost-invisible entrance from Waimarie Road. The internal location of the reserve, lack of street presence, and fence-line vegetation from neighbouring properties contributes to poor CPTED values. The time to revisit further investment in this reserve would be when the Future Urban area to the immediate east is developed, as there may be an opportunity to create another street frontage or even expand the existing open space.

Whenuapai Town Park is the first neighbourhood playspace to be developed within the new residential development along Brigham Creek Road. It has been very thoughtfully designed to provide a wide range of play opportunities for more than one age group. As more of the Future Urban Areas are developed, community playspaces with provision for informal recreation, fitness and teen play should be included. More Neighbourhood play spaces focussed on younger age groups, for new families in the area, should also be provided for.

Herald Island has two play spaces: Herald Island Domain and Christmas Beach. The Herald Island Domain lacks street frontage, and presents poor opportunity for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Christmas Beach is well-located but has limited space to expand on the site, so could be enhanced at renewal stage to diversify the play offering on the island. Community consultation with Herald Island residents would inform the local board as to which site local people would like to see further investment for play provision.

- Whenuapai Town Park, Whenuapai
- Malcolm Hahn Memorial Reserve, Whenuapai
- Bill Moir Reserve, Whenuapai
- Herald Island Domain, Herald Island
- Christmas Beach, Herald Island



WHENUAPAI EXISTING PLAY NETWORK OVERVIEW

- Public Reserve
- Neighbourhood Play Space Size
- Junior Play Age (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play Age (6 -11 years)
- Fitness Equipment



8.4 Greenhithe

Greenhithe can be considered as three distinct areas: 'old' Greenhithe, the new housing areas clustered around Kyle Road and Upper Harbour Primary, and east of SH18. 'Old' Greenhithe is well-served with play spaces for different age groups in a variety of parks, including a skatepark. Greenhithe School also allows families to access the grounds and pool outside of hours. Population density in this section of Greenhithe is not anticipated to change greatly, so it is less of a priority to enhance the existing play network. The diversity of play offering could be enhanced through creative renewals, to lift the overall quality in line with the wider network.

The new housing area around Kyle Road is very dense (Mixed Housing Suburban Zone under the AUP) and has insufficient play provision. Only one under-developed neighbourhood play space is located in George Dean Place Reserve. An existing proposal (by others) suggests a new play space in Huntington Reserve. While that location is logical, the opportunity to connect with and complement the existing play space at George Dean Place Reserve should be further investigated. The existing play space is greater than 600m away from the proposed one, and has plenty of space to expand and diversify the current play opportunities.

The new housing area east of SH18 has been developed complete with a very good neighbourhood play space at Mauku Reserve. Ensuring these residents have adequate walking/cycling connections to Wainoni Park through safe travel routes should be a future focus.

- George Deane Place Reserve, Greenhithe
- Mauku Reserve, Greenhithe
- Huntington Reserve
- Wainoni Park North, Greenhithe
- Durbin Reserve, Greenhithe
- Greenhithe War Memorial Park
- Collins Park, Greenhithe
- Shelter Reserve, Greenhithe

GREENHITHE EXISTING PLAY NETWORK OVERVIEW

- Public Reserve
- Neighbourhood Play Space Size
- Junior Play Age (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play Age (6 -11 years)
- Teen Play Age (12+ years)
- Skate
- Basketball/ Courts



Area Location

8.5 Schnapper Rock

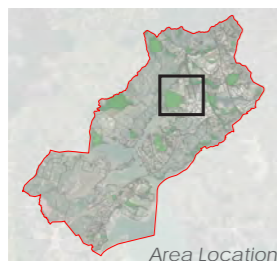
Pin Oak Reserve has had recent investment (basketball), which allows this space to function more as a community playspace, by providing play for older children, whilst still being neighbourhood size. No sports fields or large open reserves exist within Schnapper Rock suburb, with no greenfield land available for future development.

Two other small neighbourhood junior play spaces are located in Wharepapa Reserve and Schopolo East Reserve. The diversity of the play offering could be improved, with more investment in Schopolo East which is well-located on a walk/cycle path that connects to Upper Harbour Primary School.

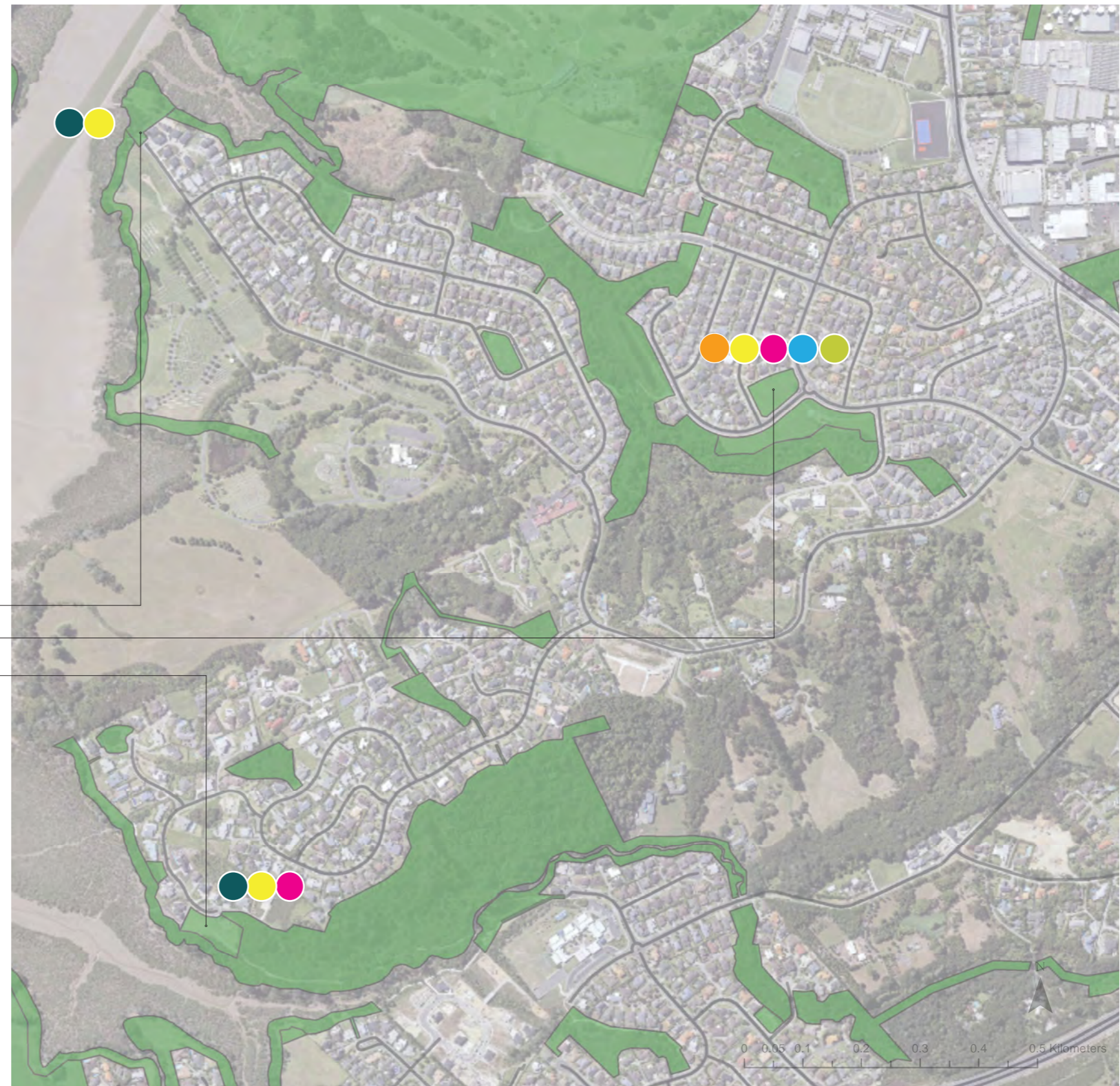
An existing proposal (by others) supports investment in Wharepapa Reserve. However, it is suggested that this proposal is taken to community consultation as the site is isolated and has very poor CPTED. Wharepapa Reserve is well-suited to informal recreation, as the majority of the open space is behind existing housing and not visible from the street. We suggest that the play space is relocated to Newbury Reserve, which is encircled by Kelmere Place/Newbury Place. The topography is flat and the open space has excellent passive surveillance from surrounding residences. Community consultation regarding playspace location, size and appropriate age group would more fully inform future investment in either site.

Wharepapa Reserve, Schnapper Rock
 Pin Oak Reserve, Schnapper Rock
 Schopolo East Reserve, Schnapper Rock

SCHNAPPER ROCK EXISTING PLAY NETWORK OVERVIEW



- Public Reserve
- Neighbourhood Play Space Size
- Junior Play Age (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play Age (6 - 11 years)
- Teen Play Age (12+ years)
- Basketball/ Courts





8.6 Albany

The suburb is very divided by main roads which is challenging for independent mobility of children. Growth of population is forecast to occur very densely within central Albany and to the north-east of Kell Park.

The southern part of Albany (above Rosedale Road and below Albany Expressway) has very low provision of neighbourhood play spaces which are aimed at junior/intermediate aged children. The equipment is repetitive at Wharf Reserve, Wentworth Park, Northcross Reserve, and Bushlands Park, and in addition Wentworth Park is extremely small. Community consultation is suggested at renewals stage to assess options to expand and diversify the play offering at the current sites. This could include nature play, challenging equipment for older children, and 3-on-3 basketball courts.

No population intensification is forecast, however current provision is below Auckland Council's Open Space Policy metrics, with no playspaces in The Landing or Clemow Lane areas. We suggest the Local Board also consider a walk/cycle connection between the Clemow Lane and Bushlands Park residential areas through Burnside Escarpment conservation area. This would link two currently-isolated communities, and has the potential to further link to Rosedale Park if required.

The Albany Triangle (civic area) is anticipated to experience very dense population growth. No play spaces are provided at present, although there is available space within Albany Domain. The structure plan for Albany Central should include for children's play in new civic and residential developments.

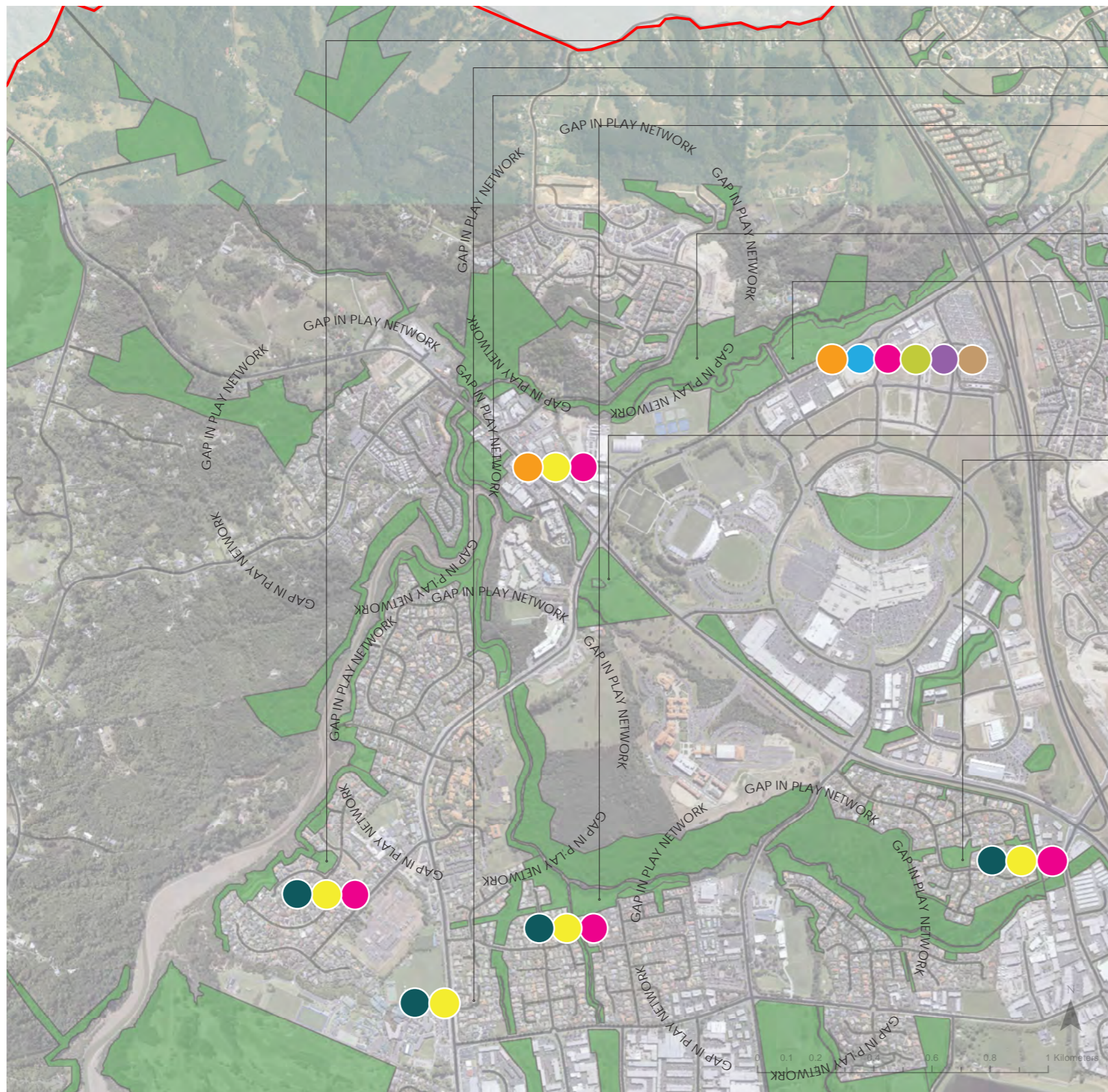
Hooton Reserve is well-serviced with appropriate play equipment, but independent access for children is limited across the busy Oteha Valley Road. Hooton Reserve could have play opportunities expanded for a greater range of ages, and include community fitness. It has good parking and CPTED values, and presents the best available large open space, aside from regional formal sports facilities.

Although well-used by the community, Kell Park has poor parking availability and challenging CPTED values on the lower slopes. There is potential to develop more play opportunities by adding intermediate age play equipment to the upper grassed area. A safe pedestrian crossing over Dairy Flat Highway (as part of the Greenways Plan), would greatly improve network connections by linking Kell Park with Gills Reserve and then on to Hooton Reserve.

In the future, new residential areas fronting Dairy Flat Highway should include neighbourhood play spaces, as there appears to be no provision in the developments either side of The Avenue. Investigating a safe travel route to Kell Park would be worthwhile for these new communities.

Hosking Reserve is considered as an open space recreation area, but is situated outside any Future Urban Areas which presents limited opportunity to benefit the greatest number of people by connecting into the current open space play network.

Desktop analysis of available Council data for Albany Heights highlighted no play spaces for this new residential area, although it is assumed that play provision has been made in these developments which will be handed back to Council when complete. This assumption should be investigated further and clarified, as the area is physically separate from rest of Albany and should have play provision across all age groups. A safe walk/cycle travel route for children from Albany Heights to access Gills Reserve and Hooton Reserve should also be considered.



- Wharf Reserve, Albany
- Wentworth Park, Albany
- Kell Park, Albany
- Northwood Reserve, Albany

- Gills Reserve, Albany
- Hooton Reserve, Albany

- Albany Domain
- Bushlands Park, Albany

ALBANY
EXISTING PLAY NETWORK OVERVIEW

- Public Reserve
- Neighbourhood Play Space Size
- Community Play Space Size
- Junior Play Age (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play Age (6 - 11 years)
- Teen Play Age (12+ years)
- Skate
- Basketball/ Courts
- Fitness Equipment



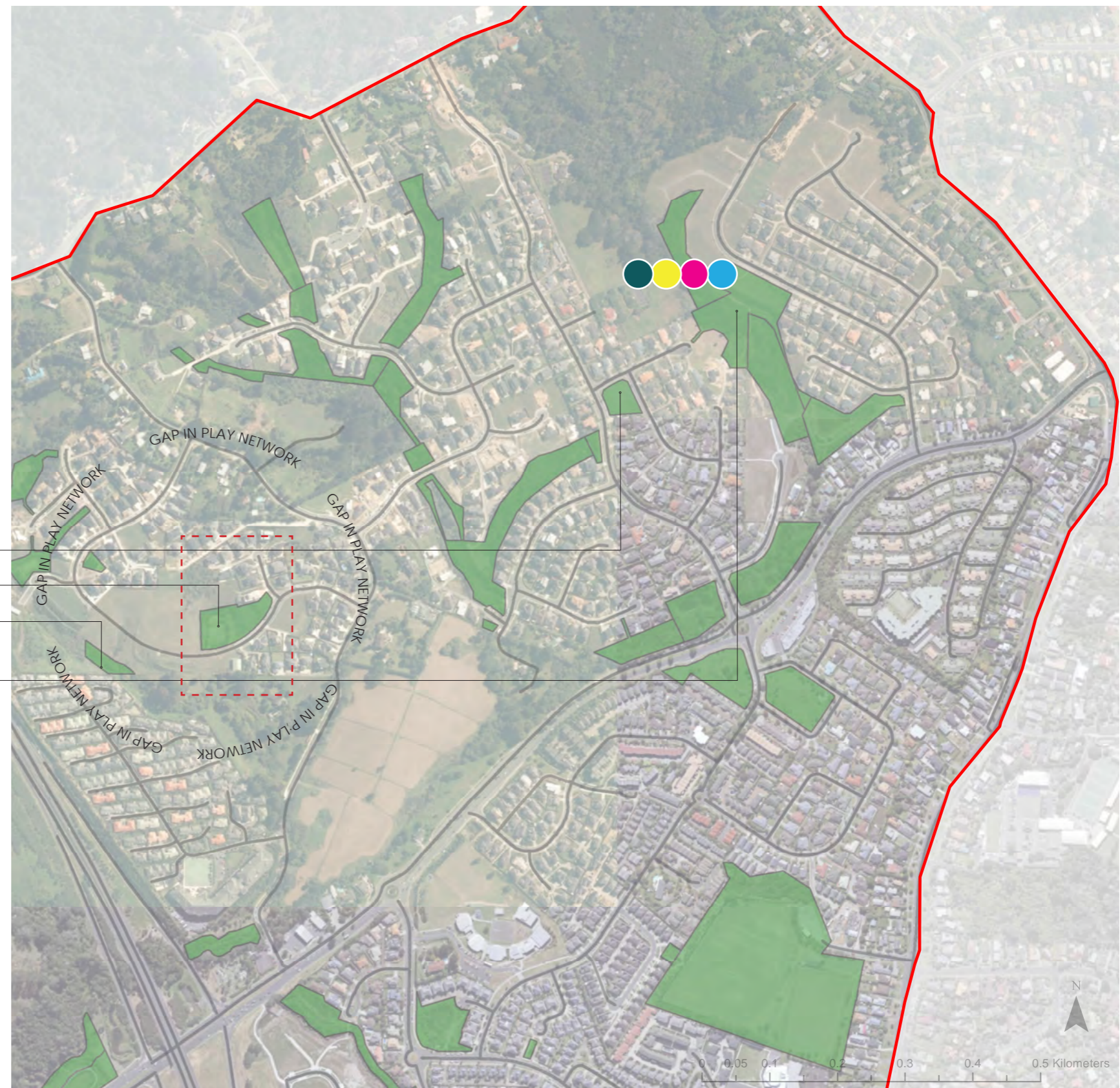
8.7 Fairview Heights

Dense residential developments are currently underway with very low play provision for the area: just one play space in desktop data at Harrowglen Reserve. This reserve does have good diversity of play offering including a bike track, but at least 1-2 more neighbourhood play spaces are required.

We suggest Travis View Reserve, Fairview Reserve, and possibly Mackwell Reserve are investigated further to create a neighbourhood play space network. A potential development option for Fairview Reserve is shown opposite. Community consultation is suggested to determine preferred playspace location.

There is no open space large enough for a community playspace, ball games or sports fields, therefore the smaller reserves need to work together to provide a connected network of community recreational space.

- Mackwell Reserve, Fairview Heights
- Fairview Reserve, Fairview Heights - refer to opportunity diagram
- Travis View Reserve, Fairview Heights
- Harrowglen Reserve, Fairview Heights

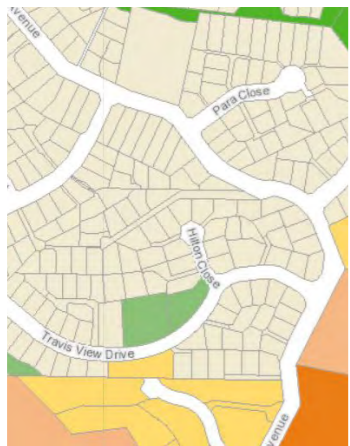


Area Location

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS EXISTING PLAY NETWORK OVERVIEW

- Public Reserve
- Neighbourhood Play Space
- Junior Play Age (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play Age (6 -11 years)
- Teen Play Age (12+ years)

Potential Development Option - Fairview Reserve



AUP Zoning
(refer section 10.8 for information)



Street view of reserve



Street view of reserve



Site Description

Fairview Reserve is located on Travis View Drive in the suburb of Fairview Heights. This is a fairly new residential housing area with large houses on small sites, and very little backyard space for children to play. Open Space provision is very limited in this suburb, with most of the reserves zoned as Conservation and covered in bush.

There is one excellent neighbourhood playspace on Harrowglen Drive, but it is more than 1.5 km away by the nearest pedestrian route, and even further by car, as the cul-de-sac layout of the roads leads down to Oteha Valley Road rather than connecting across the suburb.

We believe there is a gap in the network, and another neighbourhood playspace is needed in this residential area, to provide a social meeting place for the newly-establishing community. Fairview Reserve is 0.5 hectares in size, is zoned for Informal Recreation, and has a stormwater pond on the lower section of a fairly steep reserve.

There is also Travis View Reserve on Travis View Drive that could be suitable for a playspace. It would be useful to consult the community as to their preferred location. Both reserves are sloping, so need creative design to maximise play potential for the community.

Current Assets

- open space that is large enough for a playspace.
- stormwater pond and revegetation planting.
- off-street parking.
- good CPTED with passive surveillance from the street and surrounding residences.

Opportunities

- create a unique local playspace with nature play elements that complement the existing stormwater pond and planting.
- opportunity to involve the new community in a collaborative design process for their new playspace.
- create a community gathering space for neighbourhood events.

Constraints

- both sites are fairly steep, so would not easily provide for informal ball play without significant earthworks.
- lack of play provision in the suburb means this site needs to be well-designed to provide enough variety, and challenge in the play experiences on offer.

- Public Reserve
- Proposed Junior Play (0 - 5 years)
- Proposed Primary/ Intermediate Play (6 - 11 years)
- Proposed Path
- Existing Path

Where Are Specific Areas of Opportunity?

8.8 Oteha and Pinehill

There are five neighbourhood play spaces offering junior and intermediate play in these suburbs, which have high population growth anticipated. There is no large suburb park nor play provision for older children. Existing football fields are located at Bay City Park, but no general sports fields or courts are provided without crossing State Highway 1 into Albany and the QBE Stadium complex.

Fields Reserve is a very small fenced junior play space at the top of the large reserve area. This could be improved greatly at renewals stage, by relocating the play space further down the slope where more space is available. Enlarging it would allow more diversity in play offering for intermediate children and accommodate a senior child swing. It could provide a cluster of assets with the addition of a community recreation fitness trail.

Fernhill Reserve has junior play equipment, but is very small with limited room to expand, as a stormwater pond takes up the majority of space. Ponderosa Reserve has space to expand to include play for older children, and could be particularly suitable for combined basketball/skate elements.

Glen Bay Close Reserve is currently being upgraded. This park is large enough to function as community playspace and has good pedestrian connectivity. It could accommodate play for older children, including space for ball games and fitness equipment. However, it would require infrastructure investment in the pedestrian path and cycle network, and possibly toilets. A potential development option for Glen Bay Close Reserve is shown on the opposite page.

Taroka Reserve is a good neighbourhood playspace, which has potential to be connected to Glen Bay Close (with improvement to the path network). These connected reserves could then be renewed to offer different play experiences.

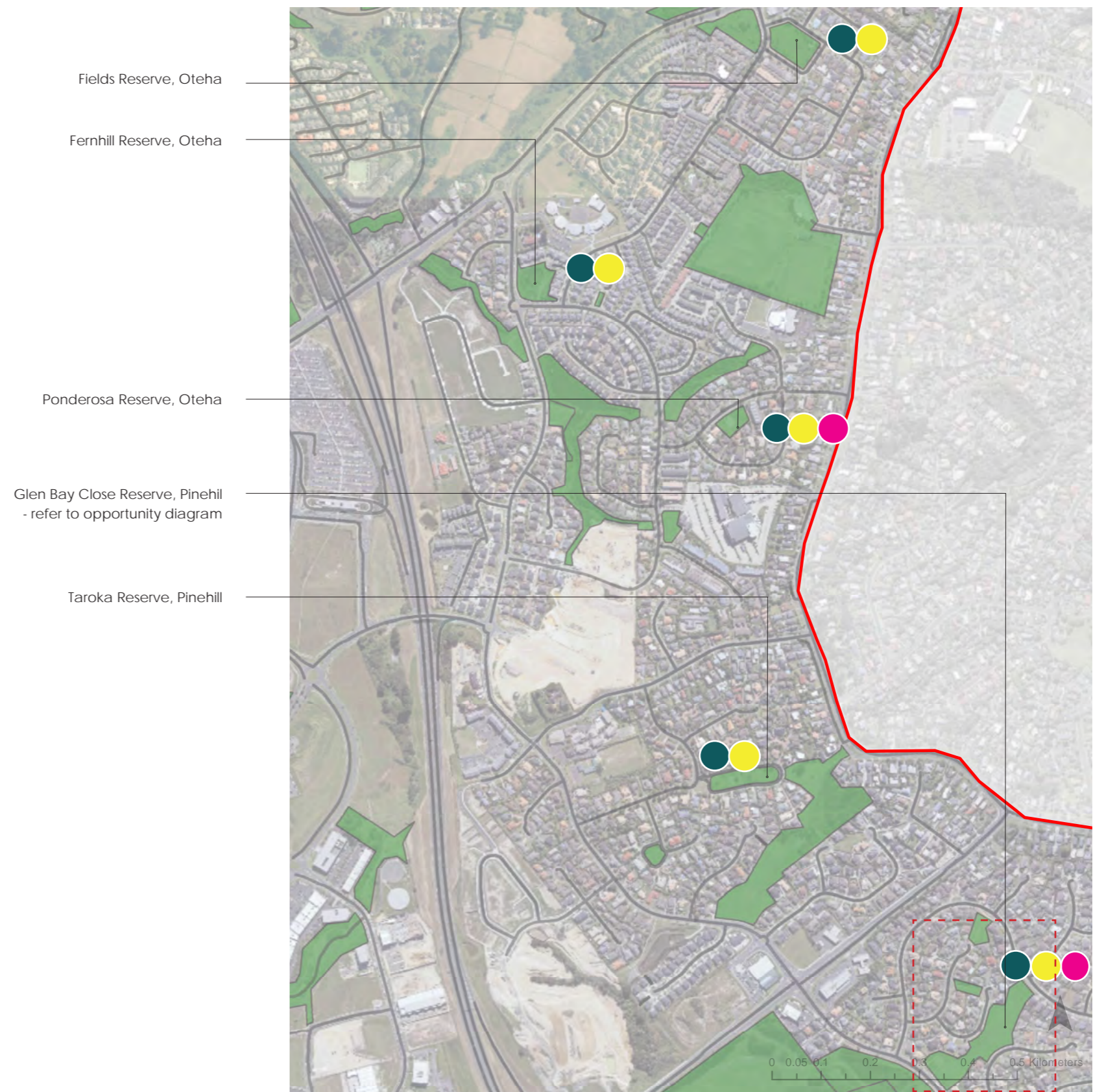
The current Rosedale Landfill site has been mooted as a future Destination Park. Such a project would likely be staged over a long period of time, and would need its own feasibility study. It falls outside the scope of this report.



Area Location

OTEHA AND PINEHILL EXISTING PLAY NETWORK OVERVIEW

- Public Reserve
- Neighbourhood Play Space Size
- Junior Play Age (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play Age (6 -11 years)



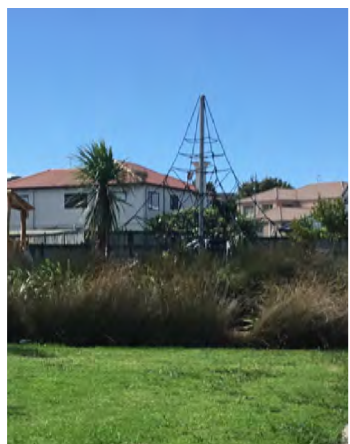
Potential Development Option - Glen Bay Close Reserve



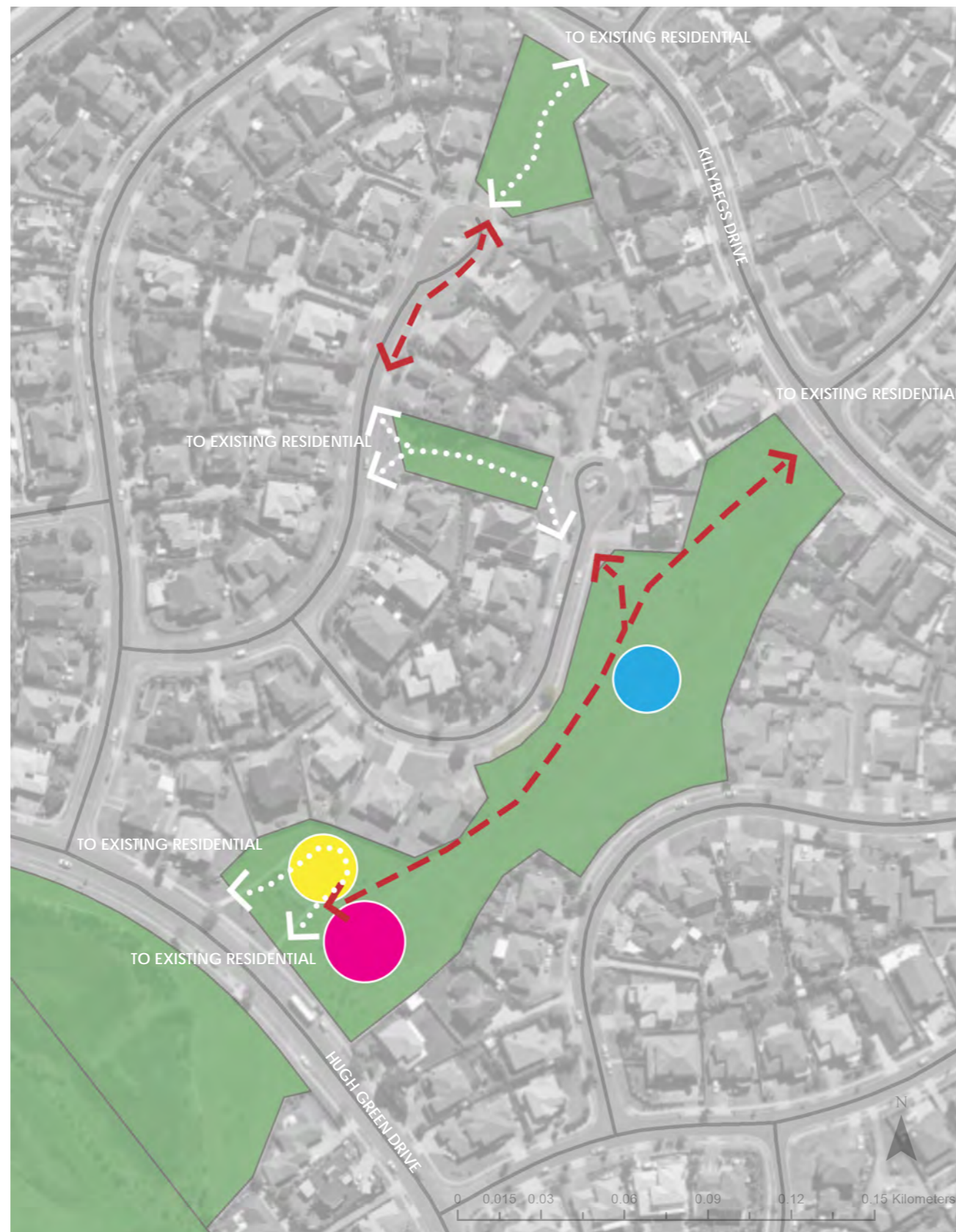
AUP Zoning
(refer section 10.8 for information)



Street view of reserve



Street view of reserve



Site Description

Glen Bay Close Reserve stretches between Hugh Green Drive and Killybegs Drive in Pinehill. It is a large open grassy reserve of 1.72 hectares, that has an existing junior playspace accessed from Hugh Green Drive. This playspace is currently undergoing renewal, and no data was available as to new provision.

The AUP zoning is Informal Recreation, and there is a flood plain overlay covering much of the site. A site that experiences areas of periodic inundation creates the opportunity for a nature play-focused playspace, that celebrates water and makes visible the unique ecology and hydrology of the site.

There is currently no Suburb Park or teen-oriented playspace in Pinehill or Oteha, and Glen Bay Close is large enough, and well-connected to main roads and public transport links to fulfil that function.

Current Assets

- existing playspace with seating and planting.
- off-street carparking.
- four street frontages in different sections of the park.
- existing path network in neighbouring reserves.
- excellent CPTED with passive surveillance from the street and surrounding residences.

Opportunities

- build on existing infrastructure to upgrade from Neighbourhood to Community Playspace, as a unique community destination.
- add informal gravel path network that is suitable for cycling and walking.
- add bike skills elements for intermediate and teen riders in the wider park, and a painted loop track around the existing junior playspace.
- create challenging nature playspace for teens that incorporates hangout spaces along with rope, rock and timber climbing/swinging/balancing equipment.
- sensitively incorporate the play elements into the stormwater function of the park, to celebrate the unique ecology and seasonal fluctuations in water flow.

Constraints

- underground services for both wastewater and stormwater cross the park.
- the majority of the park, including the existing playground, sits in a flood plain.
- an overland flow path runs the length of the park.

- Public Reserve
- Proposed Junior Play (0 - 5 years)
- Proposed Primary/ Intermediate Play (6 - 11 years)
- Proposed Teen Play (12+ years)
- ← - - - Proposed Path
- ⋯ Existing Path



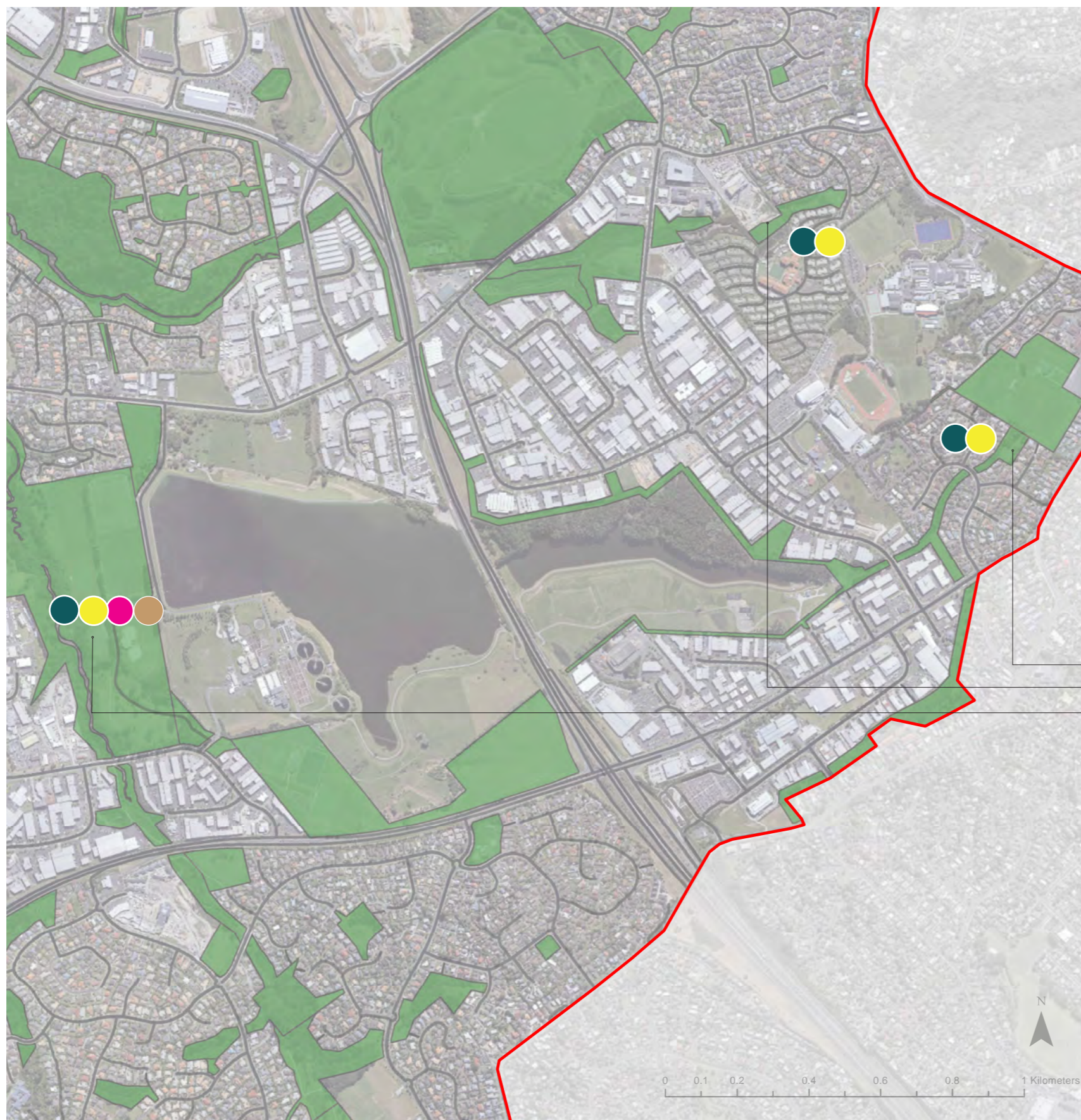
8.9 Windsor Park and Rosedale

Windsor Park and Rosedale are already fairly densely populated residential areas, separated by business/light industrial zones, Rangitoto College, AUT Millenium complex, a retirement village, and stormwater/landfill infrastructure. While no further population growth, or increase in density is anticipated, the existing community is under-served with only three junior play spaces. Centorian and Saunders Reserves are very long narrow shapes which are difficult to accommodate play equipment. They have poor CPTED values, with little street frontage nor passive surveillance from overlooking neighbours. As such, it is recommended that they are not developed further for play provision.

The existing Centorian Reserve play space is very isolated, located near the back of Windsor Park sports field. CPTED could be improved if sightlines were opened up by pruning back established trees. Improved passive surveillance may be achievable if more people were brought to the area, with the addition of a perimeter path to Windsor Park. This path could serve as a recreational walking/cycling asset, and improved further with community fitness equipment. As there is very little space available it would require careful planning, it is recommended that any proposed development be undertaken with community consultation. Parkwood Reserve has existing junior play equipment, yet is located next to a retirement village and high school. The land is steep but there is great potential to renew as a teen, outdoor fitness trail or parkour recreational space, to better suit the surrounding community at present.

The Rosedale area warrants further investigation before major investment in playspace upgrades, as there is very little connected residential area; most housing is separated from Rosedale Park by major arterial roads or industrial/commercial areas. It is more a "drive-to-and-use" destination rather than easily accessible if walking or cycling from home. There is an existing playspace in Rosedale Park that could be expanded to offer more play opportunities for a wider age group if required.

Parkwood Reserve, Rosedale
 Centorian Reserve, Windsor Park
 Rosedale Park, Rosedale



WINDSOR PARK AND ROSEDALE
 EXISTING PLAY NETWORK OVERVIEW

- Public Reserve
- Neighbourhood Play Space Size
- Junior Play Age (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play Age (6 -11 years)
- Fitness Equipment



Area Location

8.10 Unsworth Heights

Further population growth is anticipated for this medium-density neighbourhood. Existing neighbourhood-scale play spaces are not well distributed across the suburb to serve the current residents.

There is a lack of provision of formal sports fields, a suburb scale park or play spaces for older children. Several junior play spaces are either currently, or have recently been renewed, but did not appear to provide for older children in these upgrades. The existing junior play space under renewal in Unsworth Park is located within a flood plain, which may present ongoing maintenance issues. We suggest additional play provision for older children is added on higher ground and the topography is used to create challenging play connection with the sports fields.

Unsworth Reserve and Caribbean Drive sports fields (not zoned as Open Space) present a good opportunity to develop a community recreation hub. Existing pedestrian and cycle pathways are already in place, which could be extended to connect other parts of the suburb to the open space network. Existing fitness provision could be enhanced, with more equipment added along link pathways, to form a diverse community fitness trail.

Caribbean Drive sports fields could be improved to cater for older children and teenagers, with the addition of basketball and skate assets. It is recommended that these proposals are investigated further, in conjunction with community consultation.

Meadowood Reserve has excellent opportunities for mixed ages play. Located adjacent to the Community House, and partially fenced, this site is attractive to the parents of pre-schoolers. There is potential space for additional play provision for older children and teens. It is recommended that this is investigated further, to better understand if local teenagers would use this space.

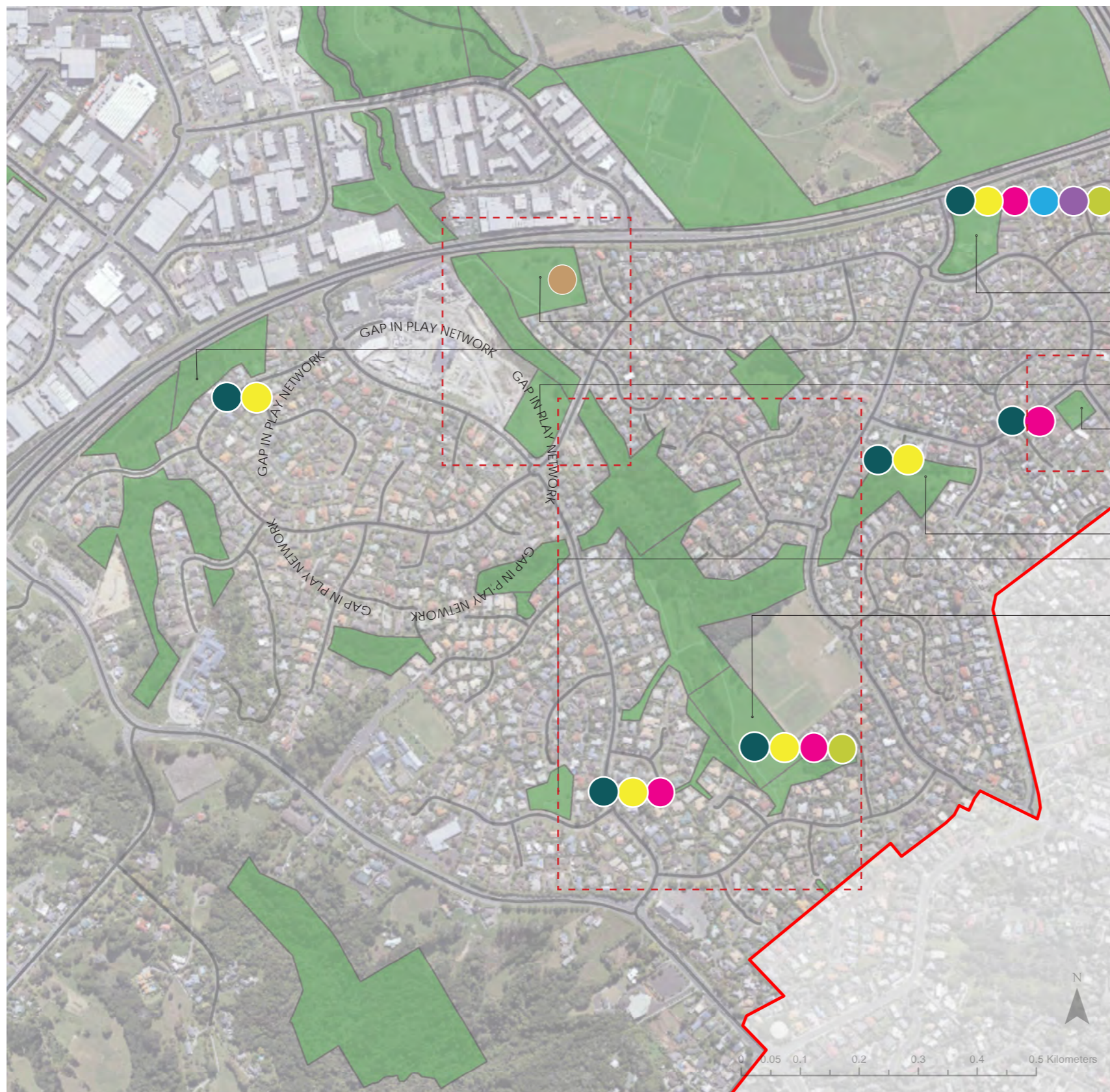
Not far from Meadowood Reserve, Exeter and Devonshire Reserves are located very close together. Both have basic proprietary modular play equipment. We suggest that the play assets at Exeter Reserve are retired, and additional resource put into Devonshire Reserve at renewals stage. Devonshire Reserve has better pedestrian connectivity and better CPTED values.

More provision for intermediate ages should be included in this proposal, with a bike/scooter track which could link with cycle/walkways, through to Caribbean Drive and Unsworth Reserve. A potential development option is shown in the following pages.

Bronzewing Reserve has recently been renewed as junior/intermediate aged neighbourhood play space. Should Unsworth Reserve be developed to provide play for older children, it would not be necessary to change the play offering in this reserve.

Residential areas north-west of Unsworth Heights have very little play provision: just one junior neighbourhood play space at Bluebird Reserve. Another neighbourhood-scale play space is suggested on the corner of Unsworth Drive and Barbados Drive. This would link to Unsworth Heights Reserve and Rook Reserve. The existing Bluebird Reserve play space requires creative renewal, and some further investment to diversify the play offering for junior/intermediate age group.

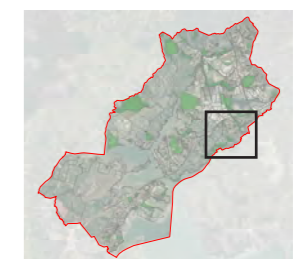
Rook Reserve has existing fitness equipment which could potentially be expanded. There is opportunity to provide an integrated mapped trail through Unsworth Reserve, which connects to other neighbourhood spaces. This could also enhance the connectedness of the play and open space network.



- Meadowood Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Rook Reserve- refer to opportunity diagram over page
- Bluebird Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Barbados Reserve - refer to opportunity diagram
- Devonshire Reserve, Unsworth Heights - refer to opportunity diagram over page
- Exeter Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Bronzewing Reserve, Unsworth Heights
- Unsworth Reserve, Unsworth Heights - refer to opportunity diagram over page

UNSWORTH HEIGHTS
EXISTING PLAY NETWORK OVERVIEW

- Public Reserve
- Neighbourhood Play Space Size
- Junior Play Age (0 - 5 years)
- Primary/ Intermediate Play Age (6 - 11 years)
- Teen Play Age (12+ years)
- Skate
- Basketball/ Courts
- Fitness Equipment



Area Location

Potential Development Option - Unsworth Reserve

Site Description

Unsworth Reserve is a large linear reserve in the centre of Unsworth Heights. It has a well-established and signposted path network at each of the narrow street entrances. The bulk of the park lies behind existing residential housing down in the gully. A number of recreational walkers were observed in the park, and the existing playspace at the Goldfinch Rise entrance, is being renewed and expanded. Data around the playspace equipment being installed was unavailable at the time of this report. The local board has identified the need for a feasibility study on the use of the Caribbean Drive sports fields, which we would support as there are no other public sports fields in Unsworth Heights.

The AUP zoning is a mix of Active Sport and Recreation, Informal Recreation and Conservation zones. This reflects the varied nature of the park, with vegetated stream gullies and open grass areas. The Alexandra Stream flows through Unsworth Reserve, although some sections are piped. Consequently there are overland flow paths and flood-prone areas bisecting the park; including the site of the existing playspace under renewal.

Current Assets

- existing and popular walking track network that connects to surrounding residential areas and through to Rook Reserve.
- existing fitness equipment stations near the Goldfinch Rise entrance.
- variety of open space areas for formal and informal recreation.

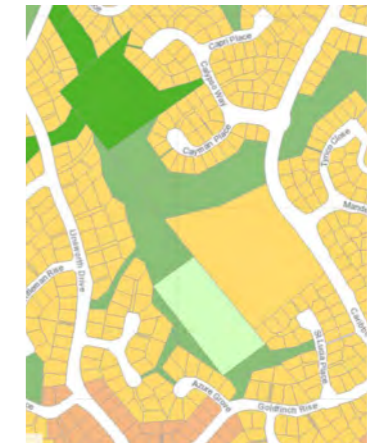
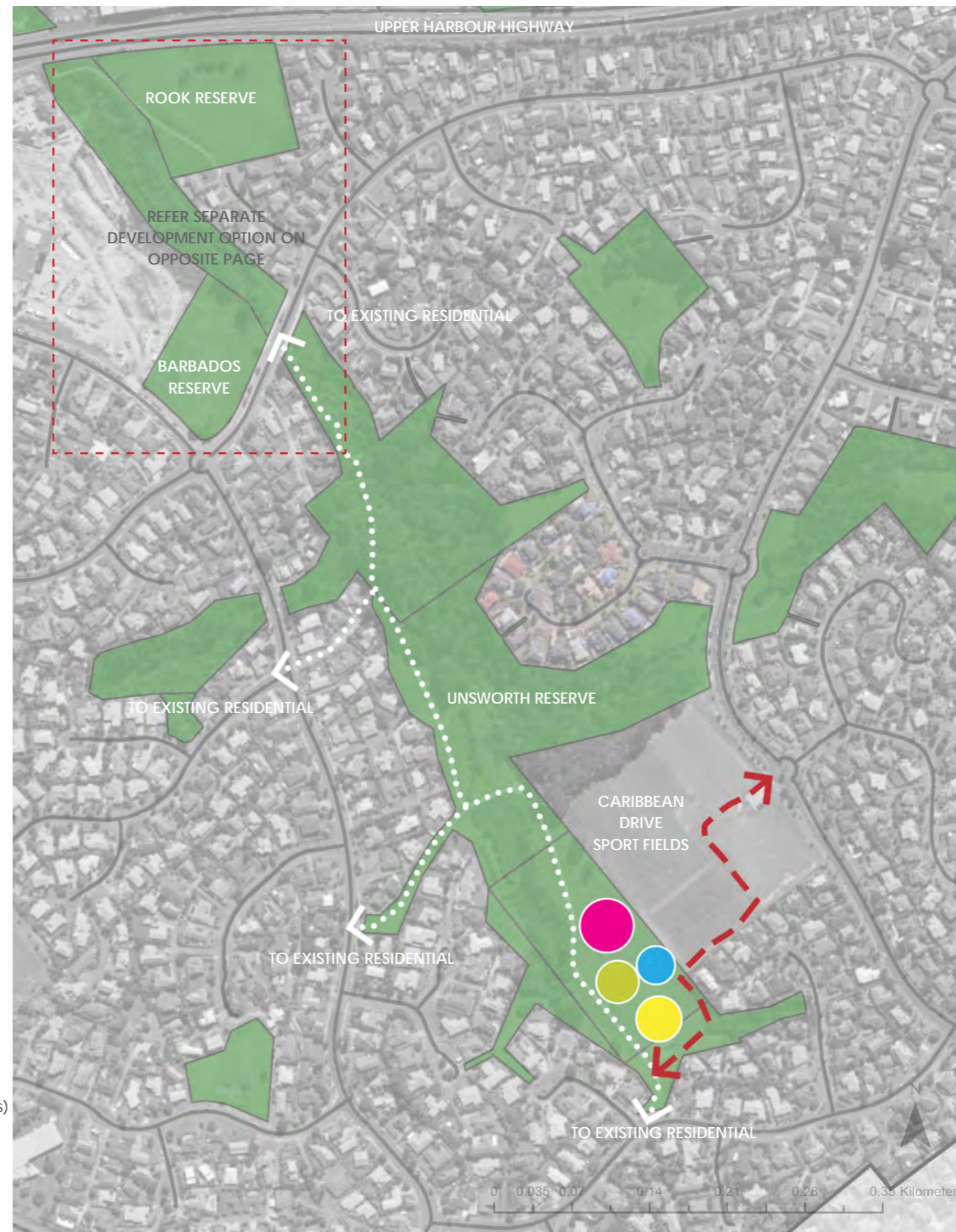
Opportunities

- build on existing infrastructure to upgrade from neighbourhood to community playspace, with more play opportunities for teens and community fitness - could be parkour activities that incorporate challenging topography.
- possibility to connect with Caribbean Drive and associated residential areas, via potential future sportsfield developments.
- opportunity to add bike track, as there is no current provision in the community.
- diversify play opportunities to include low-key nature play at several points along the walkway network - further investigation of possible sites would be recommended.
- add to existing signage boards to show the playspaces in nearby reserves, to raise awareness of the play network in the wider community.

Constraints

- reserve has very limited street frontages, so passive surveillance is limited from both the street and the backs of surrounding residential neighbourhoods.
- underground services for wastewater and stormwater bisect the reserve.

- Public Reserve
- Proposed Junior Play (0 - 5 years)
- Proposed Primary/ Intermediate Play (6 - 11 years)
- Proposed Teen Play (12+ years)
- Proposed Basketball/ Courts
- Proposed Path
- Existing Path



AUP Zoning
(refer section 10.8 for information)

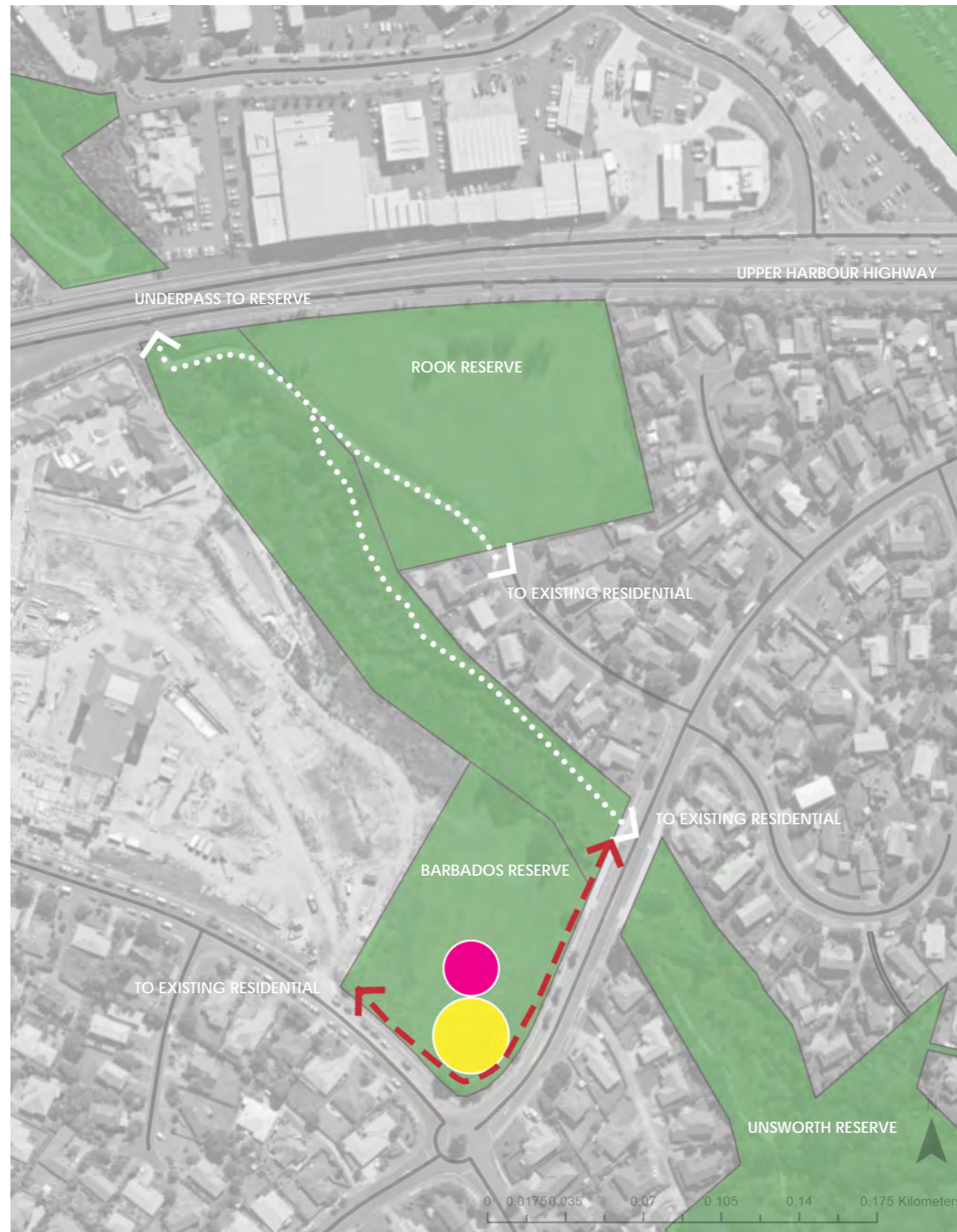
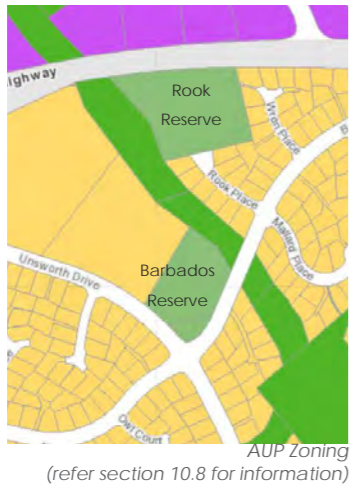


Existing walkway



Current renewal work

Potential Development Option - Barbados And Rook Reserves



Site Description

Barbados and Rook Reserves are located in Unsworth Heights, adjacent to the Upper Harbour Highway. Rook Reserve forms part of the existing open space network walking and cycling trail, and Barbados Reserve has potential as a new Neighbourhood Park in an under-served residential area.

Both reserves are zoned for Informal Recreation, and are well-connected to the existing road network, with Barbados Reserve having bus stops on both boundary roads. The walking/cycling paths through Rook Reserve connect north to Rosedale Park, and south to Unsworth Reserve. Barbados Reserve would link into this existing network, although it has no supporting infrastructure at present.

Current Assets

- Rook: well-signposted walking/cycling trail with several fitness equipment stations.
- Rook: existing connections to Rosedale Park and Unsworth Reserve.
- Rook: new multiuse court to be built shortly, providing much-needed play opportunities for teens in northern Unsworth Heights.
- Barbados: on-street parking on two sides of reserve, and two bus stops.
- Barbados: excellent CPTED values, with passive surveillance from the street and surrounding residences.

Opportunities

- Rook: space to expand community recreation and teen play opportunities, if community requires further provision (reserve size 1.48 hectares).
- Barbados: add a new junior play neighbourhood park, with some intermediate play elements, to complement Bluebird Reserve in the eastern part of the suburb.
- focus on nature play elements, local ecology, and creative use of sloping topography.
- playful pavement-marking along Unsworth Drive and Bluebird Crescent, would help link Bluebird Reserve into the play network, and encourage local families to walk and cycle between the sites.
- increase play provision in this dense residential area with only one existing playspace.

Constraints

- Barbados Reserve is a sloping site, so will need a creative design to maximise play potential.
- both reserves have underground wastewater services across the park, that need consideration.

- Public Reserve
- Proposed Junior Play (0 - 5 years)
- Proposed Primary/ Intermediate Play (6 - 11 years)
- ← - - - Proposed Path
- ← ····· Existing Path

Potential Development Option - Devonshire Reserve

Site Description

Devonshire Reserve is an existing Neighbourhood Park in Unsworth Heights with street frontages on both Devonshire Road and Meadowood Drive. The park is 0.25 hectares in size, and has an existing, and rather tired, playspace that is due for renewal within the next 5 years.

Devonshire Reserve is one of a cluster of neighbourhood parks in this section of Unsworth Heights; the other two being Meadowood Reserve (attached to the local Community House) and Exeter Reserve. Exeter Reserve has far less play provision than Devonshire, and is also due for renewal in the very near future. We would suggest retiring Exeter Reserve playspace at renewals time, in favour of expanding and diversifying the play offering at Devonshire Reserve. The two playspaces are situated within 250m of each other and Devonshire has a more favourable site and street frontage.

Current Assets

- existing swings, module and other junior play equipment that is due for renewal within 5 years.
- existing path network through the reserve.
- space to expand and diversify play offering.
- playspace is set back from the road with plenty of on-street parking.
- open grassy lawn for picnics and informal ball games.
- good CPTED with passive surveillance from the street - some mature trees may need pruning to improve viewshafts.

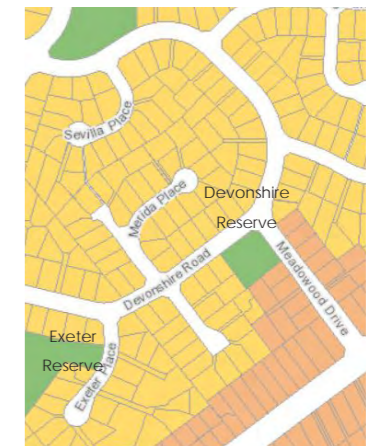
Opportunities

- build on existing infrastructure to rejuvenate and expand a tired playspace, to cater for young children of all abilities.
- ensure different play opportunities to nearby Meadowood Reserve.
- plan defined junior and intermediate play areas, and link with sensory planting and nature play elements.
- add accessible basket swing, spinner, ramp and slide for children and their carers with limited mobility.
- consider artificial grass or wetpour surfacing for all-abilities access.
- consider water play in the form of a water sphere, or bubblers that can be safely enjoyed by very young children.

Constraints

- reserve is not huge, and a dedicated all-abilities playspace may bring a larger number of visitors than currently use this reserve.
- there are no toilets and limited seating at present.

- Public Reserve
- Proposed Junior Play (0 - 5 years)
- Proposed Primary/ Intermediate Play (6 -11 years)
- ← - - - Proposed Path
- ← ····· Existing Path



AUP Zoning
(refer section 10.8 for information)



Devonshire Reserve



Exeter Reserve



9. What are our Play Aspirations?

9.1 Tākaro - Investing in Play

Auckland Council is developing a plan for how it invests in play; clarifying the Council's vision for play, and providing decision-making and evaluation tools for future play investment throughout Auckland's diverse communities.

The initial Tākaro discussion document went out for public feedback in May 2017, with the first round of consultation feedback being released in February 2018.

Key Points from the consultation feedback:

- Investment in play can help support a range of outcomes such as community identity and social cohesion
- Play is for all ages and abilities, together
- Bring play closer to where people work and live
- Provide a mix of different-sized play spaces
- Make play spaces safe, welcoming and socially inclusive
- Make play more varied and more challenging
- Align investment with local needs

Of the series of discussion points in the Tākaro document, one in particular was very relevant to this piece of work.

Q. 7 How can council provide a play network that welcomes and accommodates all ages, abilities and cultures?

Responses from the public consultation included:

- Make it easier for the public to identify relevant play spaces
- Address gaps in the regional play network
- Increase the variety of play experiences - especially nature play
- Cluster investment together to create micro-networks or trails of playspaces, that include existing community facilities
- Reflect identity and place - history, culture, natural environment
- Accessibility - apply universal design principles in a consistent way
- Invest in supporting facilities - seating, toilets, BBQs, parking
- Embed play in the public realm with playful urban design

Tākaro - Investing in play is intended as a strategic document, and Council has identified that the next step forward from the initial round of consultation, is to develop a draft plan for a second round of public consultation in mid-2018.





9.2 Thematic Play

Unique and Local

Every playspace needs a point of difference, and can create reasons to travel the network of playspaces within the local board area. Ideas to reflect local character could include:

- Add local artwork and carvings
- Vary the play offering from site to site
- A variety of swings
- Reflect the local landscape in the playspace
- Connect with the heritage of the area
- Have one cool piece of equipment
- Use planting to add personality
- Involve local children in design
- Refresh an old site with colour
- Vary the surfacing
- Be generous with seating provision



What are our Play Aspirations?



Design for Teens

Play space provision for teens is generally lacking across the network, particular in the Upper Harbour Local Board Area. Opportunities to include teen play include:

- Provide a challenge and make it big
- Add a variety of 'hang out' spaces
- Include free WiFi where possible
- Cluster activities rather than single items
- Steer clear of primary colours
- Consult local kids and implement their ideas
- Performance space
- Seating for groups
- Add equipment for multiple users at once
- Basket swings and spinners
- Ensure good sightlines and pedestrian routes
- Consider lighting
- Add possibilities for competition
- Test limits: strength, height, balance
- Outdoor study space
- Make it unique



Nature Play

- formal or informal
- non-prescriptive
- fixed or loose parts
- reflects landscape context
- encourages social interaction
- imaginative
- creative
- extends play value of existing site
- incorporate planting
- utilise local materials
- play with topography
- create 'playable edges' for existing spaces
- ideal for 'play along the way' moments
- combine elements into a nature trail
- use feature rocks and logs for informal seats
- encourages balance and co-ordination
- endless combinations of simple materials
- low-cost
- encourage participation through pop-up activation events

What are our Play Aspirations?

9.3 Play Age Groups

Junior

- 0 - 5 year old age group
- play centres around caregiver
- small pieces, low to the ground
- running and rolling down gentle slopes
- manipulation of tactile elements such as sand
- interaction with natural elements and wildlife e.g. birds

Primary/Intermediate

- 6 - 11 year old age group
- play is more child-directed
- climbing, running, agility skills
- larger pieces that can function as a circuit for social games
- more challenge and risk and opportunity for dramatic, imaginative play
- variety of play experiences on offer, including small-scale areas for bikes

Teen

- Age 12 and over
- highly varied play, potentially unsupervised
- large scale equipment with height, physical challenge and perceived risk
- gathering spaces for mucking around, parading and socialising
- more complicated manipulation of the natural environment
- spaces for riding bikes, skateboards, competitive ball games



9.4 Existing Play Elements in Upper Harbour

Surfacing

All formal playspaces have some type of safety surface under the play equipment to protect children from head injuries if they have a fall. The New Zealand Playground Equipment and Surfacing Standard NZS828:2015 sets the requirements for safety surfacing, and includes a wide variety of options

- grass
- cushionfall bark
- sand
- rubber tiles
- rubber wetpour
- artificial grass
- gravel
- plain or painted concrete is the preferred surface for wheeled play

Playspace Edging

- consider accessibility for children and carers with mobility issues
- variety of materials
- playable
- most Upper Harbour playspaces have a boxed edge

Play Equipment Styles

- module
- basic swing
- individual pieces
- bespoke items
- skate
- basketball



10. Strategic Background

10.1 Auckland Plan

The Auckland Plan (the Plan) is a comprehensive, strategic plan to guide the growth and development of Auckland over the next 30 years, including social, economic, environmental and cultural aspirations. It is anticipated more intensive development will distribute 60-70 % of Auckland's population growth within existing urban areas, while 25% of growth will be accommodated in greenfield developments, with the small remaining proportion in rural areas and outlying settlements.

The Plan identifies 6 'transformation shifts' to achieve this, the most relevant to this assessment being to 'Radically improve the quality of urban living'. Part of achieving this, is by improving and growing the network of parks and open spaces across Auckland, as the city expands physically and the population increases.

A target is included in the Plan to 'Maintain and extend an integrated network of quality open spaces across the region, that meet community needs and provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities by 2040'.

The timeframes used in this assessment are in line with the 30-year period set out in the Auckland Plan, with an interim 'snapshot' to demonstrate the pattern of growth.

Based on population forecast data provided by Auckland Transport, the timeframe used to assess the need for play provision is based on the relative population growth between 2016 –2046, consistent with the 30-year vision of the Auckland Plan. An interim date of 2031 has also been included to demonstrate emerging growth patterns, and gives insight to the prioritisation of funding and decision making processes for the current 2018-2028 Long Term Plan. Further discussion around the data used in this assessment is set out in the Overview section of this report.

10.2 Parks and Open Spaces Acquisition Policy 2013

The Open Space Provision Policy informs Auckland Council's investment decision-making in land for parks and open space purposes, reflecting the way the region is expected to grow over the next 30 years. Greenfield areas, and the existing urban area, will require different investment approaches, which is expanded on further in the Open Space Strategic Plan.

The policy covers:

- guidance on providing open space across the region
- strategic context for acquiring land for parks and open space
- principles used to plan high quality parks and open spaces
- provision metrics that guide the type, size and location of parks and open space, particularly in new urban areas
- how the acquisition of open space is funded

This document has been referenced in this assessment to inform the prioritisation of areas for future investment.

10.3 Auckland Council Open Space Provision Policy 2016

The Open Space Provision Policy informs and directs Auckland Council's investment decisions to 'create a high quality open space network that contributes to Aucklanders' quality of life'.

The policy provides direction on open space provision at a network scale, that is multiple open spaces across the region rather than an individual site, and is considered on the basis of four inter-related factors:

- function
- distribution
- location
- configuration

These factors are used for this assessment, to determine the existing levels of open space provision across the Upper Harbour Local Board area, and to highlight gaps in the network where there may be areas of opportunity.

10.4 Open Space Strategic Asset Management Plan 2015-2025

This is the tactical framework which guides planning principles and priorities for the asset network within open space owned by Auckland Council. It informs and guides the renewal and maintenance programmes of assets across the network, following 3 key principles:

1. Effectively maintaining the current portfolio in the first instance, before acquiring more assets by:
 - Implementing an appropriate asset renewal regime
 - Harmonisation of levels of service provision across asset portfolios and geographic location
 - Realise opportunities for flexible, multi-purpose open spaces where possible and desirable.
2. Optimise existing asset performance and utilisation through:
 - Disposing of under-performing assets that no longer meet community needs
 - Ensuring assets are fit-for-purpose for their defined activity, including lifting levels of service (only where appropriate to higher utilisation).
3. Take a holistic and evidence based approach to planning by:
 - Ensuring a consistent process for asset planning, before allocation of funding and resources
 - Considering non-asset solutions and partnerships at every opportunity
 - Ensuring that the provision of assets meet local board and communities' actual needs
 - Aligning future provision to spatial prioritisation areas, improving value realised from the entire useful life of an asset, using a whole of life value approach.

These principles guide the overarching purpose of this document, ensuring that funding is allocated where it is needed most, with consideration to future needs.

10.5 Parks and Open Space Strategic Action Plan 2013

The Auckland Council Open Space Provision Policy gives effect to the Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan. This is the core strategy for parks and open space, which identifies the challenges, opportunities, priorities and actions for Auckland Council over the next 10 years, and establishes four areas of focus to improve the network:

1. connect
2. enjoy
3. treasure
4. utilise

It is identified that this will occur in two main ways: network improvements within the existing urban area, and network expansion in greenfield development areas.

Due to land supply and budget constraints, the ability to expand the existing urban network is limited, and Council's investment in these areas prioritises improvements to existing parks and open space infrastructure, being:

- investing in the established open space network, to offer a wider range of activities for more people
- improving linkages between open space, such as establishing greenways
- optimising assets through land exchange and reconfiguration
- acquiring new open spaces as opportunities allow, particularly in large brownfield developments.

As development occurs in greenfield areas, new open space networks will need to be established to meet the recreational, cultural and social needs of residents, and enhance the environment of new residential areas. Subsequently, development of open space in greenfield areas focuses on:

- investing in new open space when growth occurs
- integrating open space with stormwater, transport, schools and community facilities
- creating a resilient and multi-functional open space network, that can evolve with changing community needs over time
- connecting new and existing open space networks.

10.6 Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan 2014-2024

The Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan is a comprehensive 10-year plan for Auckland's sport and recreation sector, which focuses on getting residents more active, more often.

Provision of, and access to, the parks and open space network is a key component of this strategy, with particular reference to recreational activity.

Four priority areas are identified:

- Participation
- Infrastructure
- Excellence in recreation and sport
- Sector development

Of these the most relevant to this assessment is 'Infrastructure'. It focuses on providing access to the open space network, and a fit-for-purpose network of facilities that enables participation in physical activity, recreation and sport at all levels.

10.7 Auckland Design Manual

In the second part of this assessment, indicative improvements to parks have been developed for discussion purposes. It is anticipated that these diagrammatic arrangements are used as a starting point for discussion for the local board and community. Auckland Design Manual principles and guidance have been referenced in the production of these diagrams such as:

- Accessible, convenient and safe circulation within parks and connections with surrounding cycle, walking and public transport networks
- Consideration of different cultures to use and enjoy our parks for various activities.
- Opportunities for expression of mana whenua values
- Opportunities for reflection of local heritage and ecological values
- Use of planting for natural shade provision
- Provision of built structures, such as shelters or pavilions, to encourage larger groups of people to gather
- Consideration of visual connections to the wider landscape, including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

It is expected that these concepts be developed further with community engagement, to better understand and reflect their needs and aspirations in the design.



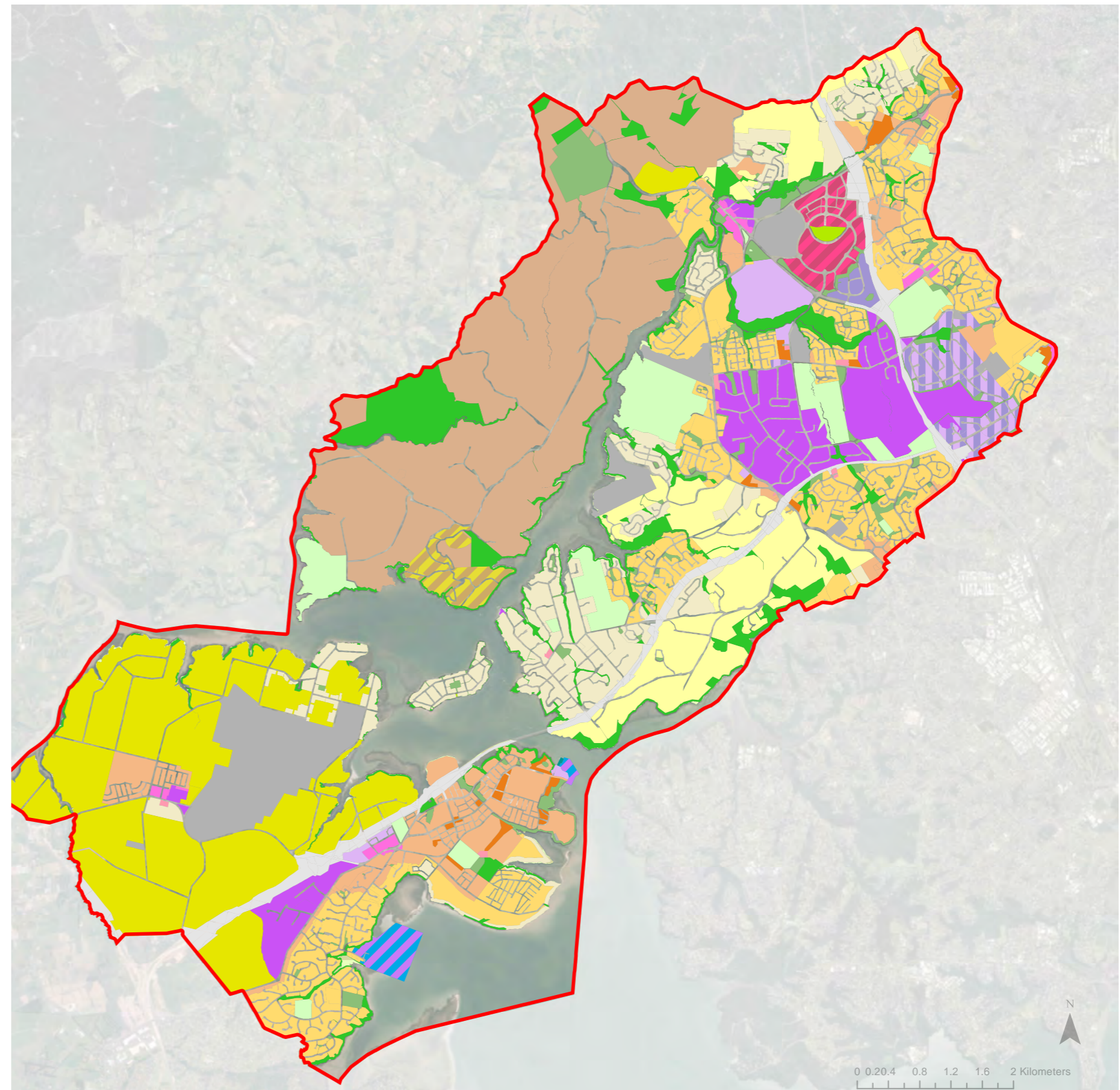
10.8 Auckland Unitary Plan Zones

One of the key drivers of forecasted population growth is the underlying planning zones under the Auckland Unitary Plan. Increased housing stock and density (Mixed Housing Urban and Terrace Housing and Apartment Building Zones) within existing residential areas, is reflected in the growth of some existing areas. Areas with little growth forecast are those in either the Rural or Single House Zone. The areas of most change are those zoned as Future Urban Zones, where currently Rural Zone greenfield land will be released for development over the coming decades.

Where the land through use changes from Rural to Residential, the creation of new play infrastructure by development contributions should be supported by the local board. In these areas it is essential to provide a balance of play types, to meet the needs of the new communities as they age. Pressure to incorporate other functions, such as storm water management, into open space created in new developments, should be carefully balanced to ensure that appropriate play spaces are still adequately provided.

Legend

- Local Board Boundary
- Residential - Large Lot Zone
- Residential - Rural and Coastal Settlement Zone
- Residential - Single House Zone
- Residential - Mixed Housing Suburban Zone
- Residential - Mixed Housing Urban Zone
- Residential - Terrace Housing and Apartment Buildings Zone
- Open Space - Conservation Zone
- Open Space - Informal Recreation Zone
- Open Space - Sport and Active Recreation Zone
- Open Space - Civic Spaces Zone
- Open Space - Community Zone
- Business - City Centre Zone
- Business - Metropolitan Centre Zone
- Business - Town Centre Zone
- Business - Local Centre Zone
- Business - Neighbourhood Centre Zone
- Business - Mixed Use Zone
- Business - General Business Zone
- Business - Business Park Zone
- Business - Heavy Industry Zone
- Business - Light Industry Zone
- Future Urban Zone
- Green Infrastructure Corridor
- Rural - Rural Production Zone
- Rural - Mixed Rural Zone
- Rural - Rural Coastal Zone
- Rural - Rural Conservation Zone
- Rural - Countryside Living Zone
- Rural - Waitakere Foothills Zone
- Rural - Waitakere Ranges Zone
- Strategic Transport Corridor Zone
- Special Purpose Zone
- Coastal - Marina Zone [rcp/rp/dp]
- Coastal - Ferry Terminal Zone [rcp/dp]
- Coastal - Defence Zone [rcp/dp]
- Coastal - Coastal Transition Zone
- Public Open Space



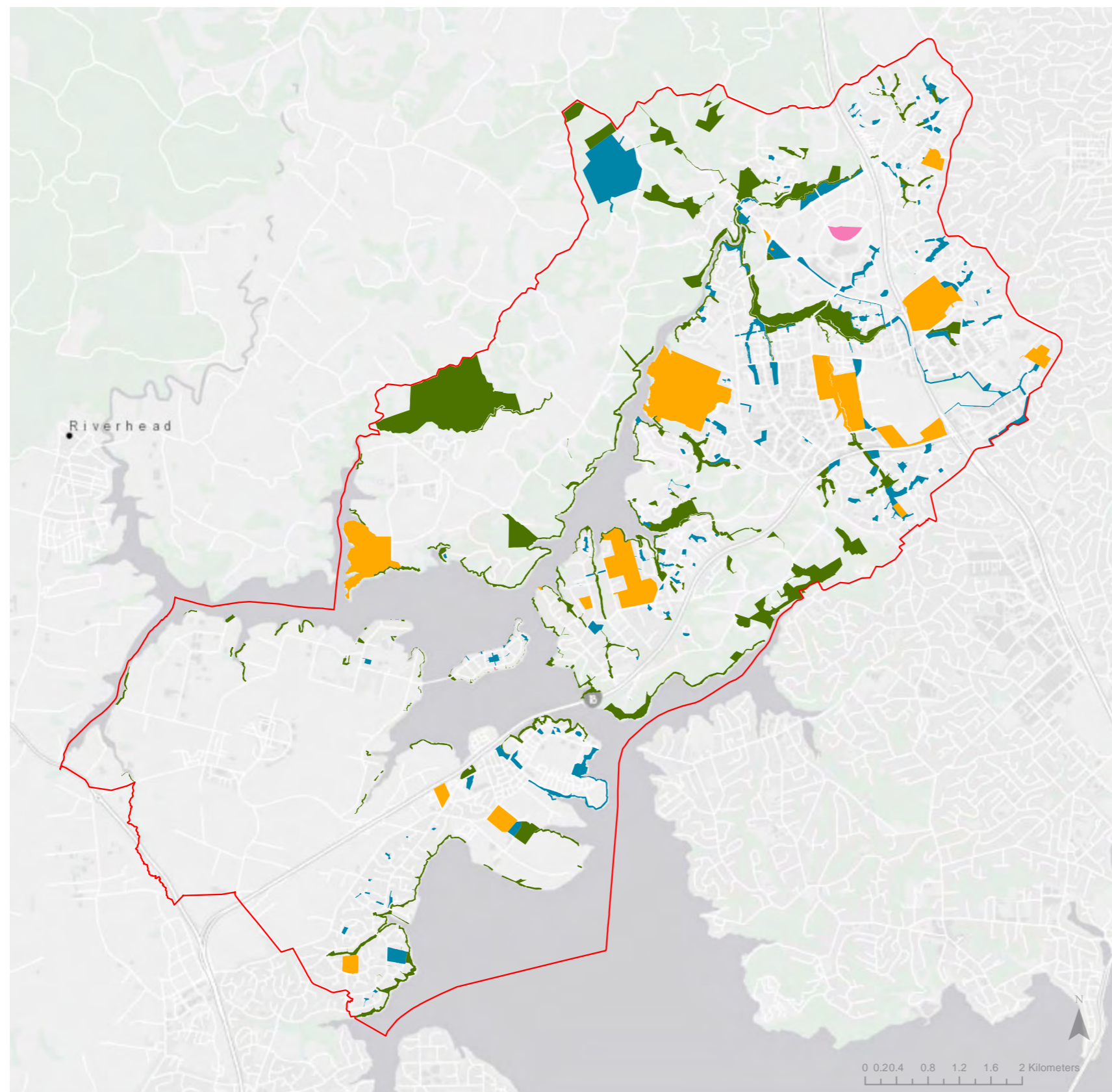
10.9 Open Space Zones

The Auckland Unitary Plan Chapter H7: Open Space Zones states:

‘The majority of land zoned as open space is vested in the Council or is owned by the Crown. However some areas zoned open space are privately owned. While the open space zones generally provide for public use, some privately owned, or Crown-owned sites may restrict public use and access.’

Five zones are used to manage activities on land zoned open space:

- Open Space – Conservation Zone: open spaces with natural, ecological, landscape, and cultural and historic heritage values
- Open Space – Informal Recreation Zone: open spaces that range in size from small local parks to large regional parks. These areas are used for a variety of outdoor informal recreation activities and community uses, such as walking, running, cycling, relaxing and socialising, picnics, playing and enjoying the environment
- Open Space – Sports and Active Recreation Zone: open spaces used for indoor and outdoor organised sports, active recreation and community activities
- Open Space – Civic Spaces Zone: open spaces such as squares and plazas in centres and other urban areas. Civic spaces are becoming increasingly important as Auckland grows and becomes more compact, and access to high amenity open spaces is needed for residents, workers and visitors
- Open Space – Community Zone: primarily accommodates community buildings and activities. These include libraries, arts and cultural centres, marae, community houses, halls, early childhood learning facilities and recreation centres





About Boffa Miskell

Boffa Miskell is a 100% employee owned environmental consultancy established in 1972 in Christchurch. We bring together over 150 professional staff with expertise in planning, ecology, urban design, cultural advisory, landscape architecture, sustainability and digital environmental services. Over the past three and a half decades we have built a reputation for innovation and excellence in integrated development and design. During this time we have been associated with a significant number of projects that have led changes in shaping New Zealand's landscape.