

Whau Open Space Network Plan

March 2017





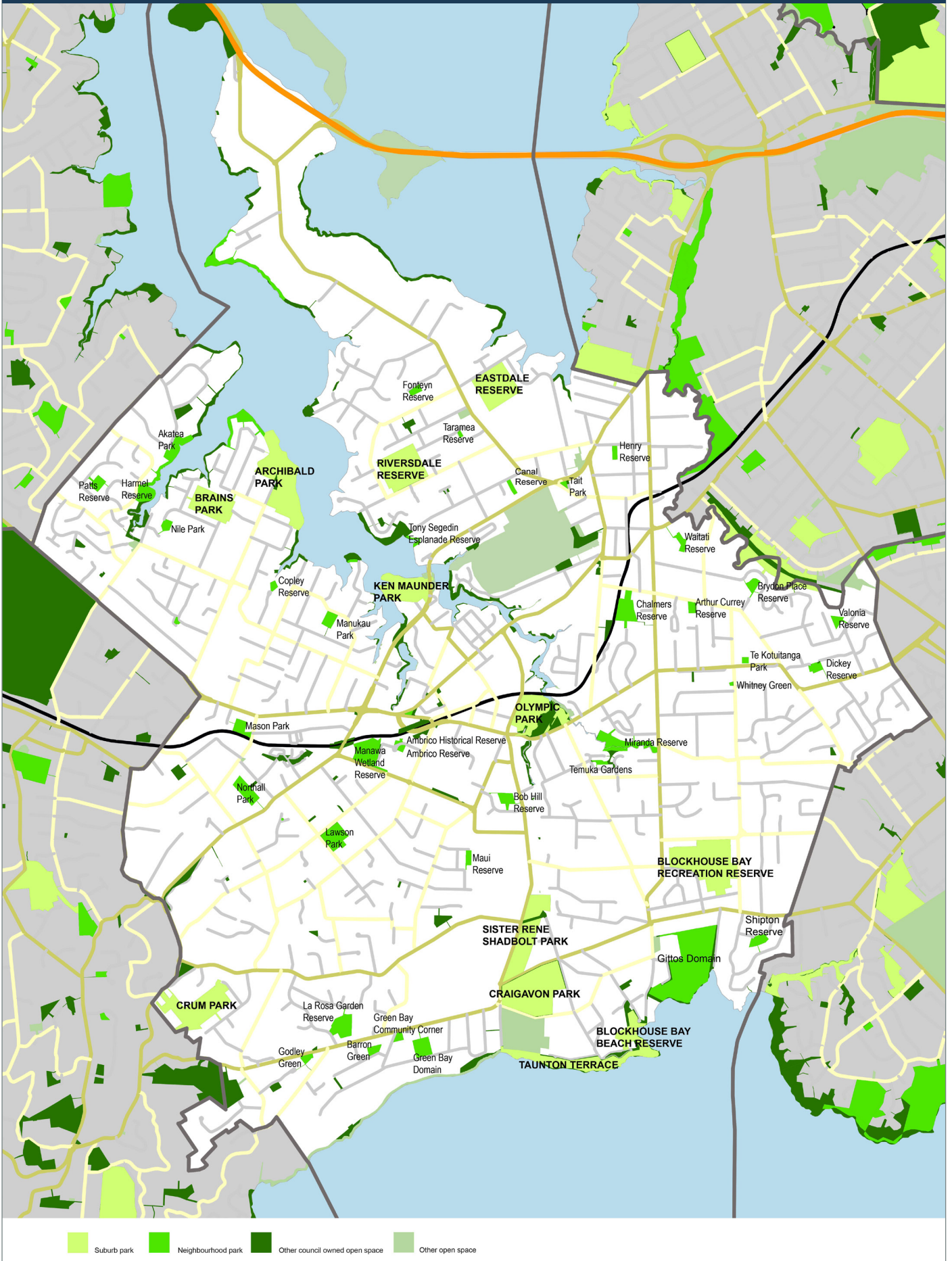
Whau River

OPEN SPACE NETWORK PLAN STRUCTURE



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Whau parks and open space



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Whau has a comprehensive network of parks and open spaces that contributes to people's quality of life. It has a collection of distinctive communities that are ethnically diverse, and the delivery of the parks and open space network should respond to their varying needs.

A number of issues and opportunities have been identified through the development of the network plan. A list of prioritised actions have been identified to improve the open space network, and deliver a sustainable quality open space network over the next ten years.

The Whau is a major growth area and this will place pressure on the open space network

Gaps in provision of open space for neighbourhood and suburb parks have been identified. The local board has an advocacy role in the provision of open space.

It is important that council makes the most of the existing open space network. Encroachments impact on the use of open space and a review of this issue is planned.

There is room for improvement in the quality of the parks and open space network

The aim is for high quality, well used and safe parks that provide a range of activities, uses and experiences for people of all ages and abilities. Parks have been identified that require concept plans to guide development.

Informal recreation facilities are limited on some parks

Seating and shade associated with areas such as playgrounds, walkways and sportsfields are important features in parks. High ultra-violet rays and low ozone levels contribute to health issues. A plan is required to identify parks that would benefit from additional seating and shade.

There are gaps in the provision of playgrounds in some areas

Inclusive, accessible play promotes equity and social cohesion between people of different ages, cultures, ethnicities and abilities. Parks have been identified where there is an opportunity for a new playground/play elements.

The Whau Greenways Plan maps the potential network of walking and cycling connections

Support of the greenways plan includes Te Whau Pathway and Motu Manawa Greenway. These pathways will link esplanade reserves and parks on the Whau River and the Waitemata Harbour.

Street tree planting is fragmented

Street tree planting contributes to green corridors, giving visual form to the urban landscape and makes it easier for people to recognise and connect the city's parts into coherent patterns. Streets have been identified that can accommodate more than ten new tree planting sites.

Limited signage impacts on the people's interpretation of sites and understanding of the environment

Effective signage can play a role in building safer and stronger communities and may include information such as place names and wayfinding. It is anticipated that the provision of signage that names the Whau's streams will raise awareness of the waterways and contribute to how they are valued.

Streams and waterways vary in quality and there is a high risk to swimmers at some Manukau beaches

Riparian ecological planting provides multiple benefits, including stabilising the banks, cleaning up the water quality and reducing flood peaks. Parks have been prioritised for planting that are located alongside Te Whau Pathway, alongside Motu Manawa Greenway and where a volunteer group has been established.

Ecological restoration is required in some parks where vegetation requires additional or succession planting

The park's ecological value, its climatic function and the users' experience are affected by ecological quality. Parks that would benefit from additional planting have been identified.

Eighty-four percent of respondents to parks research consider that their local parks are valuable or very valuable

The most popular activities undertaken in parks have been identified as active pursuits, playground use, as a place to take time out to relax and for walking dogs. A smaller number of people identified with using parks to get close to nature, socialise, picnic/barbeque and organised sport.

SECTION 1 - WHAU'S OPEN SPACE NETWORK



The Whau Open Space Network Plan has three sections.

Section one discusses the purpose of the plan, the strategic alignment with council policy and the current state of the Whau open space network.

Section two sets out the key moves that provide the framework for prioritising actions for future development and management of the Whau open space network over the next 10 years.

Section three lists the prioritised actions by suburb for individual parks.

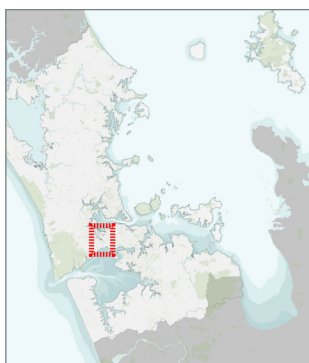


Figure 1 Whau Local Board within Auckland

1.1 Purpose of the network plan

The Whau Open Space Network Plan sets out the actions needed to deliver a sustainable quality open space network for the Whau Local Board area that will respond to the anticipated growth and provide the community with access to a range of recreational, social, cultural and environmental experiences.

The plan will assist Auckland Council to prioritise its spending for parks and open space development by identifying projects for prioritisation through the local board plan, long-term plan and annual plan processes.

Network plan implementation

Actions recommended in this plan include operational activities, developing new assets, acquiring new parks, planning asset renewals, working with community groups, and promoting recreational opportunities.

Some of these projects are ready for implementation, while others require feasibility assessments and further planning.

Progress reports on the implementation of the network plan will be coordinated by Local and Sports Parks and submitted to the Whau Local Board.

1.2 Whau Local Board area

The Whau Local Board comprises a land area of 2,675 hectares and is sited on the western edge of the central Auckland isthmus.

It is located between two coasts, the Upper Waitemata Harbour (Pacific Ocean) in the north and the Manukau Harbour (Tasman Sea) in the south. The Whau is an

urbanised area of mainly flat to rolling topography. The land generally slopes gently upwards from the low lying estuary of the Whau River in the north to the coastal cliffs of the Manukau Harbour in the south and the foothills of the Waitakere Ranges in the south west.

The Whau Local Board takes its name from the tidal estuary of the Whau River, which in turn is named after the whau tree once common along its banks. The whau tree (*Entelea arborescens*) is also known as the corkwood or New Zealand mulberry, and was traditionally used by Māori for floats on fishing nets.

Whau's parks and open spaces

The Whau Local Board area has a network of 190 council-owned parks covering 350 hectares. In addition, council leases eight sportsfields that are located on the privately owned 35.8 hectare Avondale Racecourse.

There is privately owned open space in the Whau, including the Titirangi Golf course (around 58 hectares) and Motu Moana Green Bay Scout Group (4.6 hectares).

The Department of Conservation owns 33.4 hectares of public open space in the Whau.

Figure 2 Whau Local Board area.



1.3 Strategic context

The Auckland Plan sets the vision for Auckland. The Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan sets out what needs to happen to Auckland’s parks and open space network to implement the vision of the Auckland Plan.

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan identifies four areas of focus. These focus areas are used to create the network of parks and open spaces required to achieve the outcomes identified in the Auckland Plan.

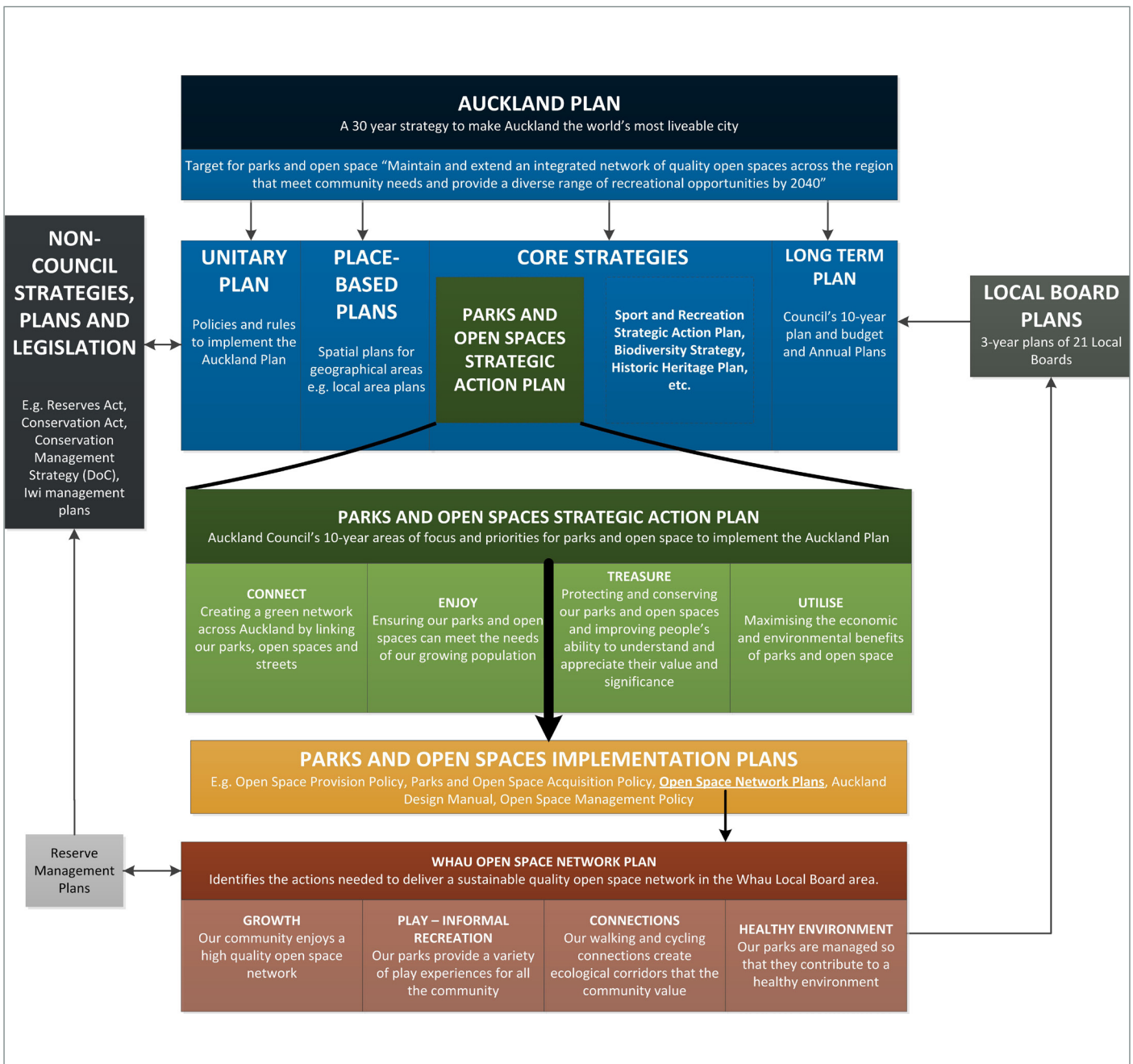
- Treasure our parks and open spaces
- Connect our parks and open spaces
- Utilise our parks and open spaces
- Enjoy our parks and open spaces

The Whau Open Space Network Plan is future focussed and a key tool for implementing the Parks and Open Space Strategic Action Plan. Network plans map the aspirations for our parks and open spaces at a local level.

Reserve management plans prepared under the Reserves Act 1977 have been approved for many of the Whau’s parks and future development must align with these plans.

The purpose of reserve management plans is to “provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and to the extent that the administering body’s resources permit, the development as appropriate of the Reserve for the purposes which it is classified” (Reserves Act 1977).

Figure 3 Strategic context



1.4 Current state

The current state of the Whau Local Board open space network is summarised by the four key focus areas of Treasure, Enjoy, Connect and Utilise. Strengths, issues and opportunities are identified, community perceptions are discussed, and future influences on the open space network are summarised below.

Treasure

Protecting and conserving our environment, heritage and landscape, and growing education opportunities

Cultural Heritage

Mana whenua of the Whau Local Board area are Ngāti Whātua and Waiohua - Tāmaki. Iwi with interests in the Whau are Te Kawerau ā Maki, Te Ākitai Waiohua, Ngāti Te Ata Waiohua, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei.

The Whau is a significant place for Māori and was historically a major portage route between the Waitemata and Manukau Harbours. Cultural heritage sites are clustered around the harbours and streams that provided resources and enabled transport and trade. Te Kawerau ā Maki provided information that informed Figure 4.

Coastline and waterways

The Manukau and Waitematā Harbour's coastlines, the Whau River, and streams are defining natural features of the area. The tidal mangrove flats of the Upper Waitematā Harbour coastline and the Whau estuary contrast with the coastal cliffs and small bays of the Manukau Harbour shoreline.

Most of the stream systems of the Whau rise in the south and flow north into the Whau River and Upper Waitematā Harbour. Many of the streams are bordered by esplanade reserves, providing opportunities for walkway connections. However, many of the esplanades, and particularly those along the Whau River, have significant encroachment and weed issues.

Planting alongside the edge of streams and harbours provides multiple ecological benefits, including shading and cooling the water, stabilising the banks, reducing flood peaks and providing water quality, wildlife food sources and habitat.

The streams within the Whau Local Board area are often the best opportunity to create ecological linkages. There is currently little or no signposting of the names of rivers and streams in the Whau.

Whau River

A priority outcome in the Whau Local Board Plan 2014 is to encourage use of the Whau River. This can be achieved by reclaiming the public space along the river banks for local connections and returning the harbours to health.

The tidal estuary of the Whau River is the major natural feature of the Whau area, extending from the

Waitematā Harbour south to New Lynn and giving a rich natural character to the coastal edge. It was the major connection with Auckland for the early European settlement along its banks. Craft plied the river, carrying passengers, bringing coal and goods needed by the settlers, and returning to Auckland with local produce such as kauri logs, ceramics, bricks and tiles from the industries established in the area.

The cultural heritage inventory identifies the sites of five industrial brickworks and a limeworks along the Whau River. Four are in the Whau Local Board area. Two of these are located within parkland at Archibald and Ken Maunder Parks.

When completed, Te Whau Pathway along the western bank of the Whau River will activate open spaces along the riverside and tell the stories of the Whau.



Motu Manawa Marine Reserve

At the mouth of the Whau River, the Motu Manawa Marine Reserve protects 500 hectares of the inner reaches of the Waitematā Harbour including intertidal mudflats, tidal channels, mangrove swamp, saltmarsh and shellbanks.

The intertidal flats to the west of Pollen Island are probably the best example of mangrove and saltmarsh habitat in the Waitematā Harbour and are rich feeding grounds for white faced herons, pukeko, spotless crane and the endangered banded rail. Other birds found in the area are kingfisher and fernbird, white fronted tern and caspian tern.

The river is host to migrating birds from north Asia such as godwits, knots and sandpipers. The South Island pied oystercatcher and the wrybill are national migrants. The area is also a feeding ground for white faced herons, and home to snapping shrimps and mud crabs.

Water quality

The water quality of the Whau waterways affects the quality and health of the coastal and marine environments of the Central Waitematā Harbour reporting area. The 2016 State of Auckland environmental quality monitoring programme reported the following:

- the water quality of the Central Waitematā Harbour has been ranked as good which is an improvement from the fair ranking it received in 2014
- the change in the overall grade from a 'D' to a 'C' is due to a combination in the method used to calculate the contaminants in sediment and the water quality score.

- there is little change in ecological health of the harbour from 2014 with sites ranking across the harbour from good, with the majority being moderate, poor or unhealthy.

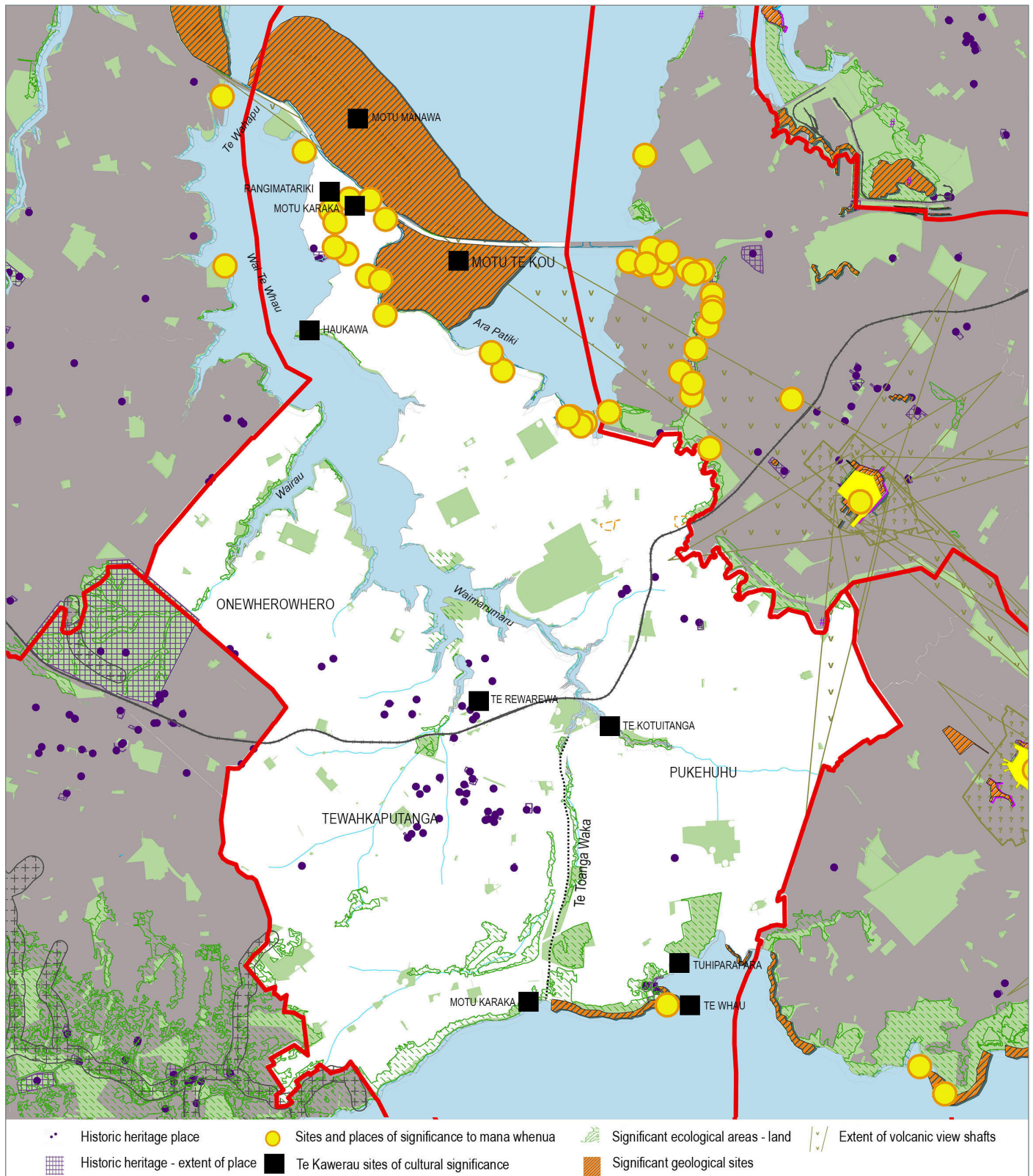
and Bird Motu Manawa Restoration group are the largest community groups in this area. These groups contribute greatly to positive outcomes for our open spaces through community participation.

A community that cares about its environment

There are many voluntary groups and organisations in the Whau who treasure the area's parks and open spaces and are working to protect and enhance the environment and community. The Whau River Catchment Trust, the Whau Coastal Walkway Environmental Trust and Forest

A number of organisations have established community gardens and orchards in the Whau. Avondale Community Gardeners Trust, the Auckland Environmental Protection Association (AEP) and the Chinese Community of West Auckland are examples. This contributes to creating a sense of community stewardship.

Figure 4 Treasures in the Whau



Enjoy
Ensuring our parks and open spaces can meet the needs of our growing population

The people of the Whau

The population of the Whau Local Board area was 72,294 at the last census in 2013. The population is ethnically diverse, with an aging population and a greater proportion of children under 5 years than wider Auckland. There are significant areas of the Whau that measure highly on the deprivation index.

Council growth models project that the Whau Local Board area will grow by approximately 15,000 people, or 5800 households, by 2023. Under the Auckland Unitary Plan, the Whau Local Board area has capacity to accommodate a further 10,305 dwellings through infill and 19,804 dwellings through redevelopment.

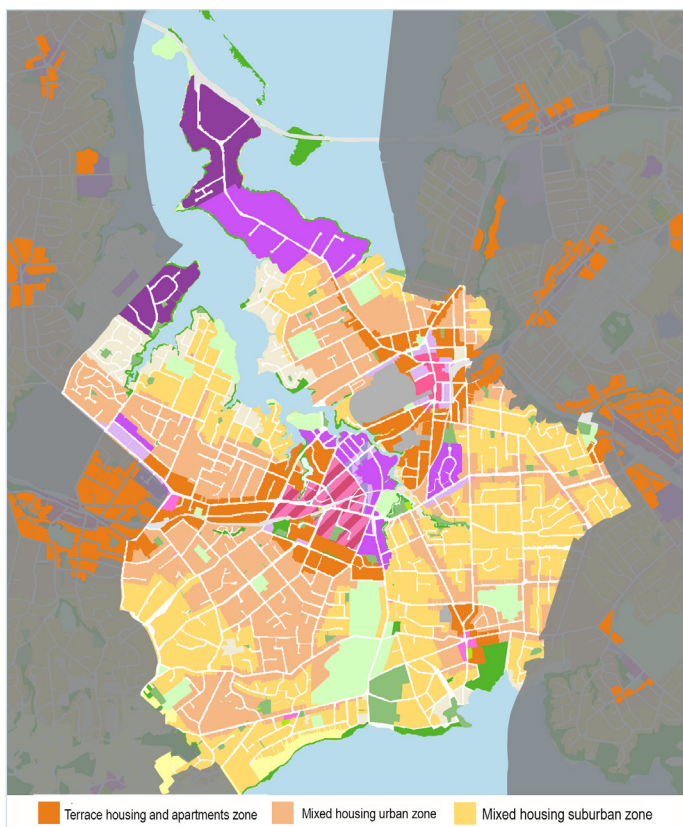
Areas of population growth

The Auckland Unitary Plan provides zoning for intensified land use for residential dwellings. Population growth and increasing housing densities will put pressure on park and open space.

High density development of apartments and terrace housing (five to seven storeys) are provided for around the town centres of Avondale and New Lynn, along the east west corridor, and on Rosebank Road (see Figure 5).

Much of Rosebank, western Whau and the arterial routes in eastern Whau are zoned for mixed housing urban. This zone provides for dwellings up to three storeys.

Figure 5 Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in part)



Improving the parks we have and identifying where more parks will need to be acquired are key responses to population increase in the Whau area.

Population trends

Ethnically diverse population

In 2013 the Whau population identified as European 45%, Asian 35.4%, Pacific peoples 18.4% , and Māori 9.4%. Samoan, Hindi and Chinese languages were spoken by a greater proportion of people in Whau than in Auckland as a whole.

The 2007/08 Active New Zealand Survey showed that walking and gardening rate highly amongst Europeans for recreation activities. Non-Europeans have a range of interests. For example fishing among Māori, yoga and badminton among the Asian population, and rugby and touch rugby among Māori and Pacific peoples. Multi-functional open space is required to accommodate a diverse range of activities.

Aging population

There will be more people in older age groups over the next few decades in the Whau area. This is in line with the long-term national and global trend as people live longer and fertility rates decline. In 2013, those aged 70 years of age and over constituted a greater proportion of the population in Whau (9.0%) than in Auckland as a whole (7.8%).

The 2007/08 Active New Zealand Survey identified that there is increasing participation in walking and gardening with age and a declining preference for swimming, equipment-based exercise and dance. A connected network of walkways is important for this sector of the community with associated infrastructure (for example seating).

Figure 6 Ethnicity by census unit area

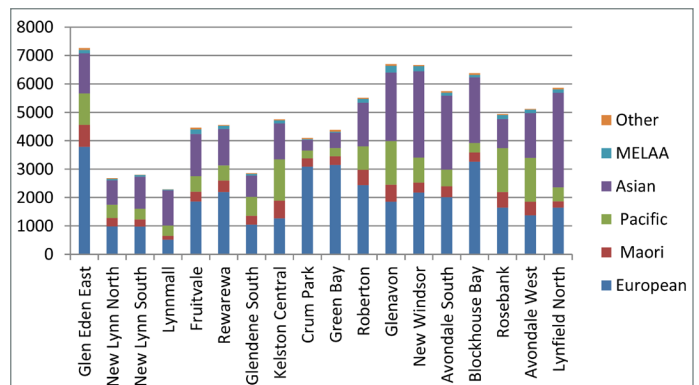
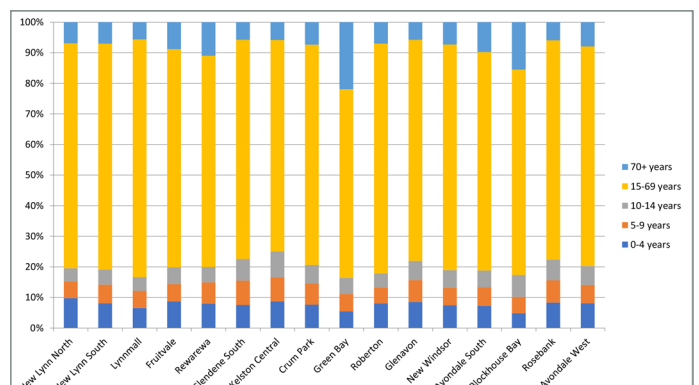


Figure 7 Population by age group



Young people

In 2013, 20% of the Whau's population was less than 15 years of age. The percentage under 5 years was higher than for Auckland as a whole. Play opportunities for all age groups are an important function in parks.

Parks provision

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

Neighbourhood parks

Neighbourhood parks provide basic informal recreation and social opportunities within a short walk of people's homes.

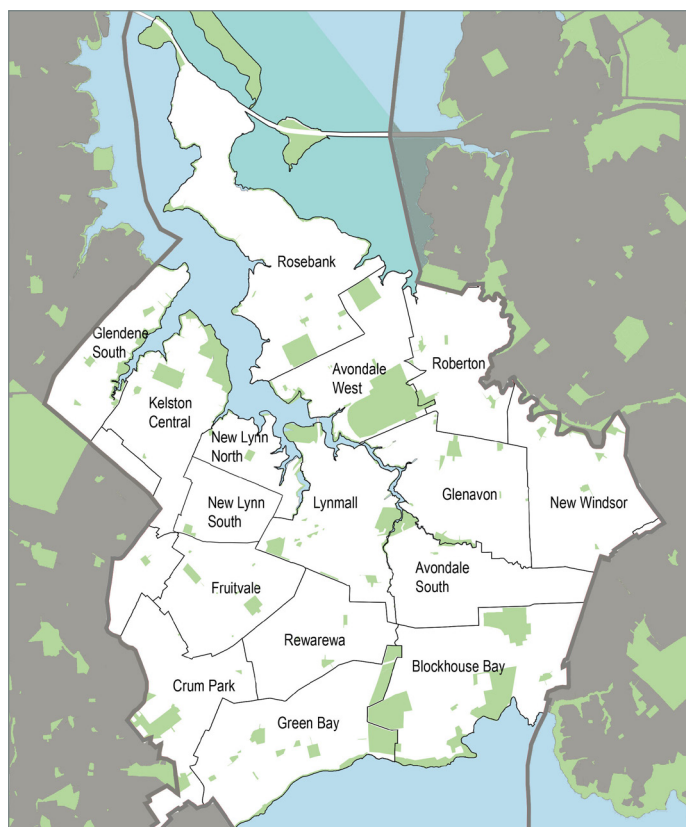
There are gaps in provision. These areas are around Glen Eden East, New Lynn, Avondale, small areas on the Rosebank Peninsula, Holly Street and New Lynn south of Margan Avenue. Major gaps occur in New Windsor and in Green Bay north of Golf Road.

Suburb parks

Suburb parks provide a variety of informal recreation and social experiences and will often accommodate organised sport facilities such as sportsfields.

The main areas where there are gaps in the suburb park network are the high density areas along, and north of, the Great North Road corridor, New Lynn, Avondale, and south of Avondale Racecourse. Other suburb park provision gaps include New Lynn South and Fruitvale, with small gaps in New Lynn North, Glendene South, along the bank of the Whau River and near Holly Street/ Eastdale Road.

Figure 8 Census unit areas



Sportsfield provision

The Whau is well supplied with sportsfields, although provision includes 12 fields council leases on the Avondale Racecourse. If these sportsfields were lost, there would be a shortfall of sportsfields in the Whau.

Any loss of the Avondale Racecourse sportsfields would also impact residents in the adjacent Albert-Eden Local Board area, who make significant use of them.

Playground provision

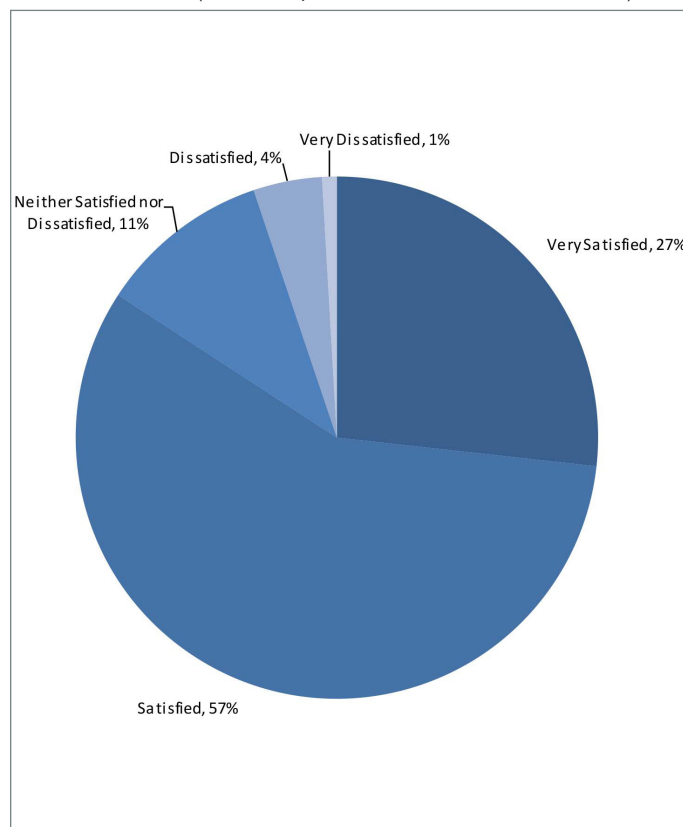
There are approximately 39 playgrounds that vary in size in the Whau. Research found 50% of respondents would like to visit parks more often. The main reason why people did not visit more often related to the playground layout, the lack of interesting activities or because the park facilities were unexciting.

Satisfaction with parks

Parks research carried out in the Whau over the summer of 2014/2015 found that 76% of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the number, size and location of neighbourhood parks.

Eighty-four percent of respondents considered that their local parks were valuable or very valuable to their community. Barriers to using the parks included the lack of interesting activities for older children, people were short of time, poor weather conditions and a perception that the park is not safe. Forty-five percent of respondents wanted improvements to the facilities in parks, including toilets, shade trees and seating areas.

Figure 9 Auckland Council Whau Local Board Neighbourhood Parks Research Results March 2015 (Source: Captivate research and communications)



Connect

Creating a green network across Auckland by linking our parks, open spaces and streets

Walking and cycling networks

A Whau Local Board Plan 2014 priority outcome is to improve the quality of paths, creating safer connections for walkers, cyclists, pushchairs and mobility scooters and include more shelter from the sun and rain.

A further outcome is to have local walking and cycling paths connecting neighbourhoods from one side of the Whau river to the other and re-establishing a new portage from one harbour to the other.

Whau Neighbourhood Greenways Plan

The Whau Neighbourhood Greenways Plan 2015, is a long-term plan aimed at improving walking, cycling and ecological connections across the Whau Local Board area. The Greenways Plan identifies existing and potential greenways connections, as shown in Figure 11.

Existing walkways

There are a number of walkways along the east bank of the Whau River, and in reserves such as Riversdale, Archibald Park, Gittos Domain and Craigavon Park.



Miranda Reserve

Existing cycle routes

Cycling is a safe and convenient mode of transport, especially for commuting. There are three types of cycleways – highways, connectors and feeder routes. Existing cycleways and proposed routes are shown in Figure 11.

Cycle highways offer the highest level of service to the cyclist, being continuous, direct and vehicle free. In the Whau, there is a cycle highway along the Northwestern Motorway and another planned along the railway corridor. The New Lynn to Waterview section of this cycleway is to be constructed over the next few years.

Connector routes follow arterial roads, and are designed to connect people quickly and directly to the cycle highways, key destinations and public transport nodes.

Feeder routes are intended to connect residents with parks, and are likely to follow quieter streets and generally focus on local connections.

Biodiversity

Eighty percent of New Zealand native plant species are endemic. Parks and open spaces have an important function in the protection and restoration of ecological and biodiversity values through native forest restoration on parks and the creation of ecological linkages. Public spaces are often the only areas available.

The Whau was originally covered with dense lowland podocarp forest. Very little of the Whau's original forest cover remains, and the areas that do are often small and fragmented. Remnant and restored patches of native vegetation are mainly located along the waterways or adjacent to the Whau estuary and coastal margins, forming the basis for green corridors.

Vegetation helps sustain healthy ecosystems and life-maintaining processes, such as replenishment of oxygen in air and water, and the protection of water quality.

Connecting areas of fragmented habitats by restoration and enhancement of the vegetation will provide for the movement of native wildlife species to new food sources. This will enhance the sustainability of native animal life and the fragments of native vegetation.

Green corridors and spaces across the Whau help to define the visual structure and pattern of the Whau area, and contribute to a 'green Auckland'. Flowering plants provide food for nectar-eating birds and contribute to 'pollinator pathways'.

North-West Wildlink

The Whau is located on the southern edge of the North-West Wildlink. This is a broad corridor of native habitat restoration activity that connects the gulf islands including Tiritiri Matangi, Rangitoto and Motutapu in the east, Orewa in the north, Muriwai in the west, the Waitakere Ranges, and the Whau in the south.

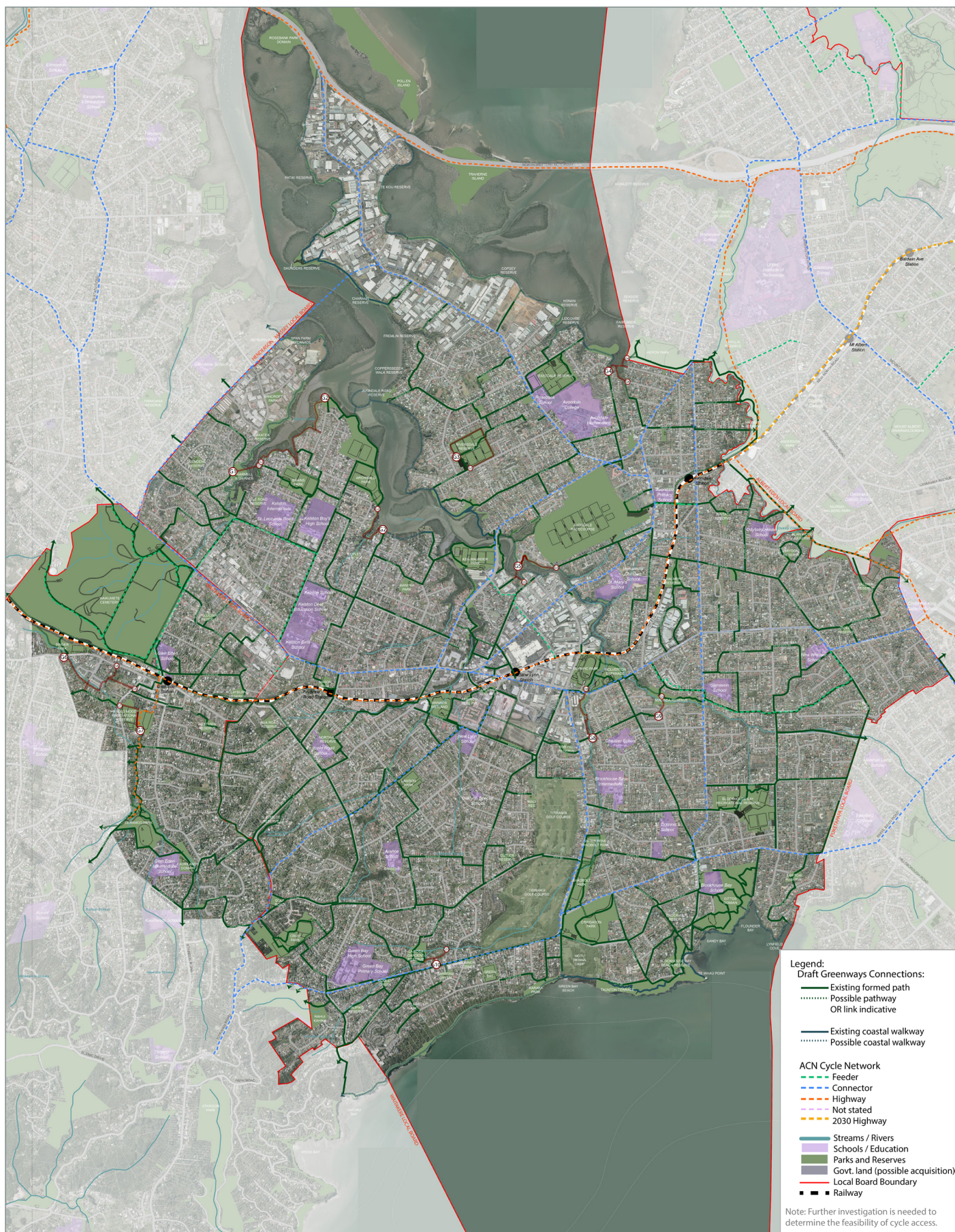
Figure 10 North West Wildlink area



The project links community, individual and agency effort, contributing to a patchwork of habitats and refuges in parks, esplanade reserves, stream banks, coastal fringes, open space and backyards to eventually create safe wildlife pathways.

The vision of the North-West Wildlink is: 'connecting nature and communities so the North-West Wildlink overflows with native birds'.

Figure 11 Whau Neighbourhood Greenways August 2015



Utilise

Using our parks and open spaces to create a green, resilient and prosperous city with thriving communities.

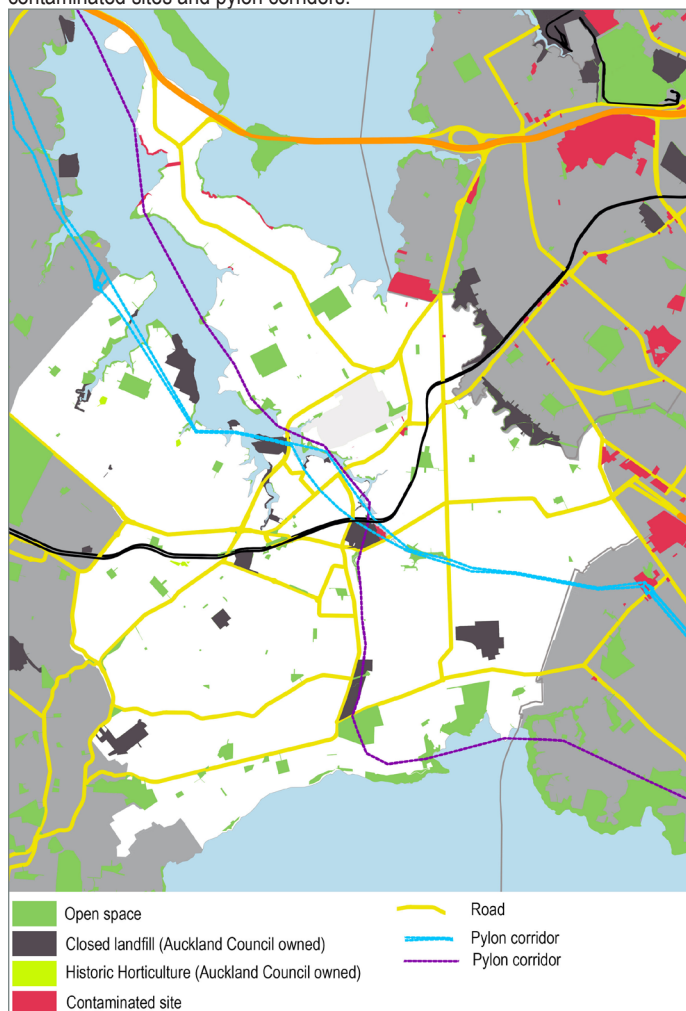
Environmental quality

The beach water monitoring programme shows that the Manukau beaches in the Whau have grades ranging from A (good) to D (high risk of swimmers becoming sick). The quality of the central Waitematā Harbour received a D grade with water quality being ranked as 'poor' at Whau River/Pollen Island. This reflects many decades of human impact, including sedimentation and contamination from the urban area. Planting of riparian margins of streams and harbours and treatment of stormwater from roads and carparks can help to mitigate these impacts.

Stream water quality results at the two monitoring sites in the Whau (Avondale Stream and Oakley Creek near Motu Manawa Marine Reserve) show a poor and fair result respectively. This is a common result in Auckland's urban streams due to the many pollutant sources in urban environments.

In the past, streams have been treasured for their natural and scenic values. However some have been lost through being piped underground and others have been treated as waste disposal areas for polluted stormwater and household rubbish, with their riparian edges unplanted and weedy.

Figure 12 Known or suspected closed landfills, historic horticultural sites, contaminated sites and pylon corridors.



Planting along stream edges lowers water temperatures and helps to filter pollution from contaminated stormwater. While most streams in the Whau have not been undergrounded, a number have. A recent project has focused on uncovering or 'daylighting' the La Rosa Stream through La Rosa Garden Reserve.

Contaminated soil

Land may be contaminated in a number of ways, mainly as a result of landfill, industrial, commercial or horticultural land uses that have released hazardous substances to the land.

Approximately 18 Whau parks are, in part, known or suspected closed landfill sites.

The types and significance of hazards vary from each site and can severely limit the type of construction and planting that can occur on the contaminated areas of the parks. When new facilities or activities are planned, such as new planting, buildings, establishment of community gardens, or events using marquees where pegs may penetrate the clay cap, additional investigations are needed to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to address any hazards.

Known or suspected to be in part closed landfill sites

- Archibald Park
- Blockhouse Bay Recreation Reserve
- Crum Park
- Delta Esplanade
- Drury Street Esplanade
- Kelman Square
- Ken Maunder Park
- Lawson Park
- Manawa Wetland
- Olympic Park,
- Portage Road Esplanade
- Queen Mary Reserve
- Rata Street Esplanade
- Rewarewa Esplanade
- Rerewai Reserve
- Sister Renee Shadbolt Reserve
- Span Farm Esplanade
- Wolverton Esplanade

Historic horticultural sites

- Nile Reserve
- Chettle Reserve
- Copley Reserve
- Akatea Park

Known or suspected contaminated sites

- Patiki Reserve Esplanade
- Timothy Reserve
- Rosebank Esplanade Reserve
- Saunders Reserve
- Fremlin Reserve
- Wolverton Esplanade Reserve

Power pylons

Three lines of power pylons stretch across the Whau along both banks of the Whau River.

These lines and towers are a constraint for redevelopment. They restrict the range of activities that can be located beneath them, not only due to operational constraints, but also because of the effect they have on the quality of the surrounding landscape and perceived health effects.

Community leases

There are community leases on 18 parks with multiple leases on some parks. As land use is intensified for residential houses, privately owned open space is diminishing in size and this will increase the demand for public open space.

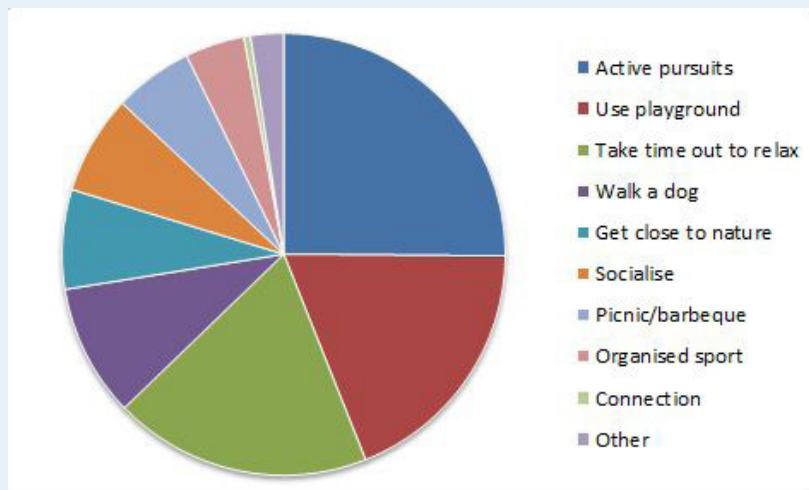
Council has guidelines for the use of park land by community groups that includes eligibility and assessment criteria. A community group is defined as a non-profit organisation or association of persons who have the primary aim of working to provide services and benefits to the community.

It is important that careful consideration is given to the continued use of open space by community groups. Discussions with groups regarding lease renewals should happen well in advance of lease expiry dates, particularly when it is known that an alternative use of the site is being considered.

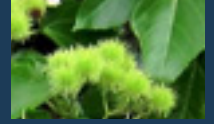
Community leases on parks		
Park	Community Group	Lease expiry date
Ambrico Historical Reserve	Portage Ceramics Trust	2020.03.11
Avondale South Domain/ Gittos Domain	Auckland Playcentres Association	2019.11.30
	Royal New Zealand Plunket Society - Blockhouse Bay	2021.07.11
Bancroft Park	West Auckland Radio Control Car Club	2021.04.30 + 5 years
Barrons Green	Green Bay Community House	2019.06.30
	New Zealand Plunket Society Inc - Green Bay	2023.07.10 + 10 years
Blockhouse Bay Recreation Reserve	Western Area Tennis Trust	2020.06.30 + 5 years
	Blockhouse Bay Bowls Incorporated	2022.08.31 + 10 years
Brains Park	West Auckland Association Football & Sports Club	2023.06.30 + 2 x 10 years
	Scout Association of New Zealand (Kelston)	2024.02.18 + 10 years
Golf Road Domain	Titirangi Tennis and Squash Club	2025.11.30
Ken Maunder Park	Ken Maunder Park Community Trust - indoor training building	2020.05.20 + 10 years
	Ken Maunder Park Community Trust - cricket building	2020.05.20 + 10 years
La Rosa Garden Reserve	AKA - Green Bay Kindergarten	2025.03.31 + 10 years
Lawon Park	New Lynn Rugby League Football Club	2020.10.28 + 5 years
Mason Park	New Lynn Tennis Sports & Social Club	2020.03.31 + 5 years
Memorial Square	Waitakere Citizens Advice Bureau - New Lynn	2018.06.30 + 2 x 3 years
Olympic Park	Western Indoor Bowling	2019.04.30 + 5 years
	Bay Olympic Soccer and Sport	2020.01.31 renewal term to be negotiated
	Waitakere Gymnastics Incorporated	2020.10.26 + 5 years
	Waitakere City Brass Incorporated	2020.10.31 + 5 years
	Lynndale Amateur Athletic and Harrier Club	2022.01.31
	Ecomatters Environment Trust - Sustainable House	2023.03.01 + 10 years
	Ecomatters Environment Trust - EcoHouse (formerly Now House)	2024.11.30 + 10 years
Tag out Trust	2025.04.07 + 10 years	
Patts Reserve	Te Akoranga Playcentre Glendene	2023.07.10 + 10 years
Rosebank Domain	Power Sports Association Incorporated	2019.08.25
Saunders Reserve	The Westend Community Charitable Trust Board	2018.08.18
Sister Rene Shadbolt Park	Suburbs Rugby Football Club Incorporated	2046.08.08 + 17 years
Totara Triangle	New Zealand Plunket Society Incorporated - New Lynn	2011.06.30
Whau Bridge Reserve	Western Suburbs Radio Club	2024.03.19 + 10 years

People visit parks in the Whau to enjoy these activities

Source: *Captivate research and communications*
Auckland Council Whau Local Board Neighbourhood Parks Research Results March 2015



SECTION 2 – KEY MOVES



Four key moves have been identified to structure actions to develop Whau's open space network. They respond to the issues and opportunities identified through the current state analysis.

The key moves provide the framework for future development and management of the Whau's open space network over the next 10 years. The long term goal is for a sustainable quality open space network.

The four key moves are:

- 1. Growth – responding to residential intensification and our changing environment**
 - Open space provision
 - Quality parks
- 2. Informal recreation – providing a variety of play experiences for all the community**
 - Passive recreation
 - Play
- 3. Connections – developing walking, cycling and green networks that the community value**
 - Walking and cycling connections
 - Street trees
 - Signage
- 4. Healthy environment – managing our parks so that the biodiversity of our open space contributes to a sustainable green Auckland**
 - Waterways
 - Ecological restoration



Olympic Park

2.1 Growth

Responding to residential intensification and our changing environment

Open space provision

It is important that we invest in our park network to ensure that we have high quality open space. Our parks need to be developed with spaces that are flexible and multi-functional to cater for our diverse cultural society.

Land acquisition

The Open Space Provision Policy 2016 describes the outcomes sought by Auckland Council for the provision of open space. The Auckland Unitary Plan provides for considerable growth in the Whau Local Board area. Based on this growth there are gaps in open space provision over much of the Whau. Areas have been identified where land acquisition for open space could address gaps in the provision of open space and where parks have poor street frontage impacting on the safety of users.

The Parks and Open Spaces Acquisition Policy 2013 states how Auckland Council will prioritise opportunities to acquire land. The council has a limited budget to acquire land for new parks and open space. Not all acquisition proposals that align with the acquisition criteria will be able to be purchased.

Street frontages of parks

A number of parks are largely landlocked with minimal street frontage. This creates a safety issue. In some cases street frontages and sightlines can be improved through vegetation management or expanding the park.

Eight parks have been identified as requiring further land to provide additional street frontage.

Sportsfield provision

The Sportsfield Capacity Programme provides the direction on the provision of land for sportsfield supply. Currently the Whau has good sportsfields provision, which includes land leased from the Avondale Jockey Club. Any loss of the leased land would impact on supply and further land would be required for sportsfields.

Encroachments

Addressing encroachments on park land is one way of making the most of parks that we already have. Encroachments may include unauthorised private structures such as buildings, decks, fences, gardens, and driveways. Some encroachments create health and safety issues and contribute to contamination of land and waterways.

Encroachments on open space are an issue in the Whau and a review of the matter is required to determine the scope of the problem. Some encroachments have been identified and are listed as priorities.

Actions: open space provision

- Consider acquisition of land for parks where there is an identified shortfall in the following areas.

Neighbourhood parks	Suburb parks
Avondale/Rosebank	Avondale/Rosebank
New Lynn	New Lynn
Kelston	Kelston
New Windsor	Green Bay
Blockhouse Bay	
Green Bay	

- Consider acquisition of land or land exchanges to improve street frontages on the following parks.

Suburb	Park
Avondale/Rosebank	Waitati Reserve
New Lynn	Bob Hill Reserve
	Cutler Reserve
	Reid Esplanade
	Rua Reserve
New Windsor	Brydon Place Reserve
Blockhouse Bay	Miranda Reserve
Green Bay	La Rosa Garden Reserve

- Identify encroachments on open space and develop a prioritised plan to address all encroachments, with the following parks prioritised.

Suburb	Park
Avondale	Te Kou Reserve
	Timothy Reserve
New Lynn	Delta Esplanade
	Drury Street Esplanade
Kelston	Akatea Reserve
	Cobham Reserve
	Harbour Reserve



Quality parks

Well used and safe parks

The aim is to provide high quality parks that are safe, inviting and provide a range of activities, uses and experiences for people of all ages and abilities. Parks should also provide opportunities for people to improve their health and well being.

Parks that are attractive and well connected with the surrounding environment both visually and physically with legible movement networks will make people feel safer and activate the open space. A variety of activities will provide opportunities for use by a wide range of people. Wide street frontages and clear sight lines will contribute to safe environments.

Park experiences and quality

Parks provide a variety of experiences such as formal sport activities, informal active recreation, informal play, playgrounds, socialising, nature and connections. These experiences have been identified in the parks and mapped in Figure 13.

Different experiences can be offered across a cluster of neighbourhood parks that target different activities and age groups providing activities that suit all the community.

Park quality affects how usable, useful and valued a park is to the community. The quality of the Whau parks have been determined and a rating of high, medium and low has been credited to each park and mapped in Figure 13.

The following have been considered in determining the quality of each park:

- street frontage
- safety and surveillance
- amenity (for example seating, toilets, drinking fountains, bins etc.)
- play areas (including provision of shade)
- park layout (for example pathways)
- planting (sustainability).

The following are examples of parks that are considered to be high quality parks: Olympic Park, Blockhouse Bay Beach Reserve, La Rosa Garden Reserve, Te Kotuitanga Park and Valonia Park.

Many of the parks in Kelston, Rosebank and Avondale are considered to be low quality parks. The Auckland Unitary Plan provides for significant growth in these areas and improving the quality of these parks will be important as intensification occurs.

Many parks in New Lynn, Green Bay, Blockhouse Bay and New Windsor are deemed to be of medium quality and there is room for improvement.

Developing a plan

Whau is an ethnically diverse community and the delivery of park facilities needs to be in response to the varying needs of the community.

A range of experiences at different parks will enhance delivery of the open space network and may include features such as:

- large covered outdoor gathering spaces for family gatherings
- open space for activities such as meditation, tai chi and exercise
- short loop trails
- shaded/sheltered tables and benches adjacent to play areas
- seating adjacent to walkways that provide respite for the elderly.

Actions: quality parks

- Develop and implement concept plans for the parks identified in the table below.

A concept plan will provide a high level vision for the layout and use of the park that can then be broken down into stages for development. It provides an opportunity to consider a variety of factors to improve the quality of the park such as community preferences, how the park fits into the open space network, activity preferences, park layout, play areas, pathway network, seating and shade.

Suburb	Park
Avondale /Rosebank	Avondale Central Reserve
	Chalmers Reserve
	Eastdale Reserve
	Sandy Lane Reserve
	Taramea Reserve*
	Wingate Reserve
New Lynn	Bob Hill Reserve
	Cutler Reserve
	Crown Lynn Park
	Grandison Green
	Mason Park
	Maui Reserve*
	Northall Park
	Rua Reserve
Kelston	Trojan Crescent Reserve
	Akatea Park
	Archibald Park
	Brains Park
	Harmel Reserve
New Windsor	Heversham Green
	Whitney Green*
Green Bay	Crum Park
	Green Bay Domain
	Taupiko Reserve*

*small parks – the need for a concept plan to be explored as part of undertaking a strategic assessment to implement actions related to the park.

- Develop and implement a masterplan for Craigavon Park and Sister Rene Shadbolt Park.

A masterplan will provide a high level vision and mutually beneficial outcomes for both parks. The same factors considered in developing a concept plan will be considered in the development of a masterplan.

Reserve Management Plans

Legacy councils prepared and adopted Reserve Management Plans for some parks under the Reserves Act 1977. Concept and masterplans must align with the outcomes sought in a park's individual management plan.

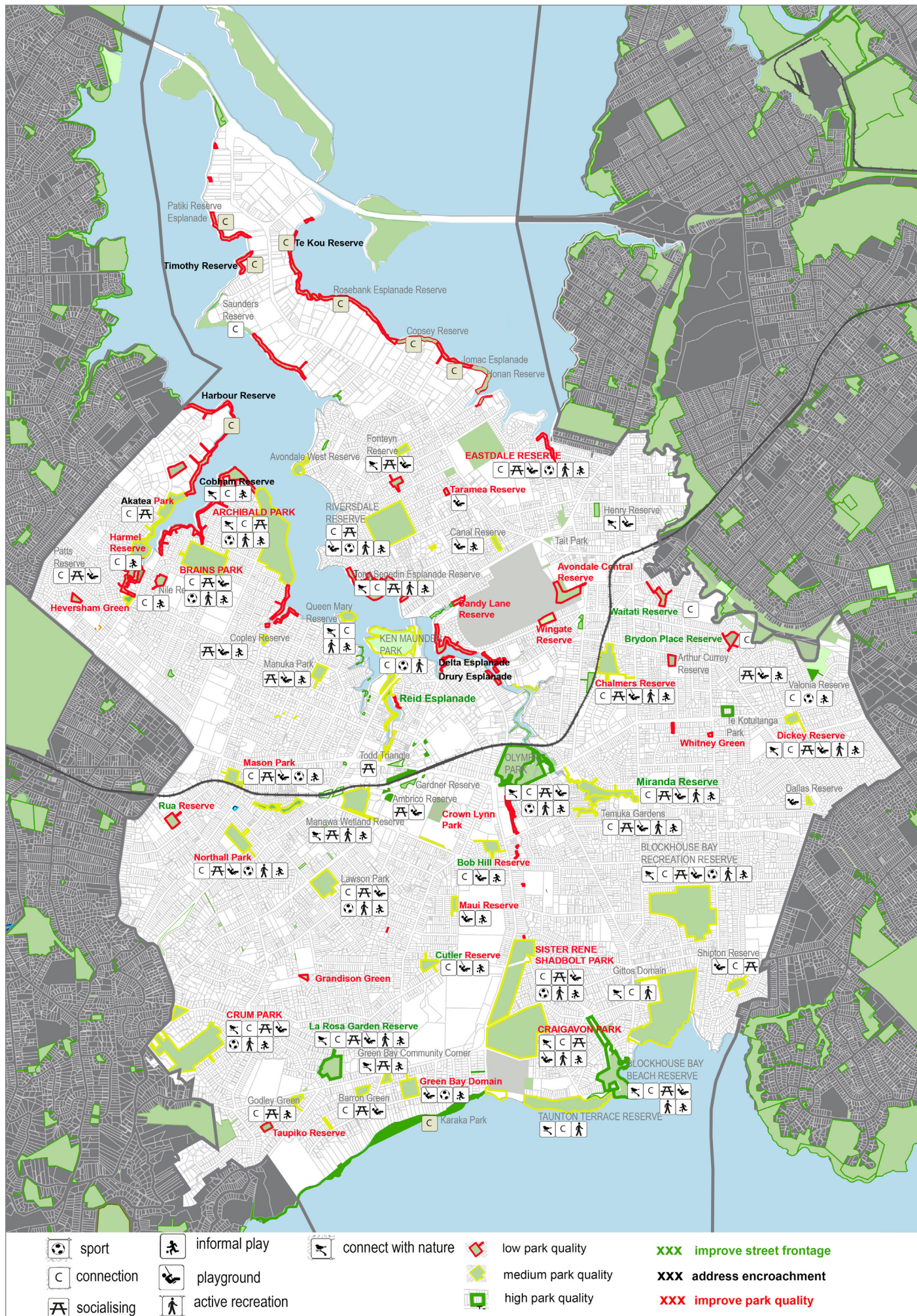
Parks with management plans are listed below.



Craigavon Park

Parks with management plans
Archibald Park 1998
Crum Park 1998
New Lynn Omnibus Plan 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambrico Historical Reserve • Ambrico Reserve • Bessie Preston Reserve • Bob Hill Reserve • Chettle Reserve • Clarke Street Common • Copley Reserve • Cutler Reserve • Davern Reserve • Delta Reserve • Delta Triangle • Drury Street Esplanade • Durrant Place Reserve • Gardner Reserve • Grandison Green • Hinau Reserve • Ken Maunder Park • Lawson Park • Lynwood Esplanade Reseve • Manawa Wetland • Manukau Park • Margan Green • Margan Reserve • Mason Park • Maui Reserve • Miro Esplanade • Northalll Park • Portage Road Esplanade • Pouri Reserve • Queen Mary Reserve • Rankin Avenue Reserve • Rata Street Reserve • Reid Esplanade • Rewarewa Esplanade • Seabrook Reserve • Shadbolt Park (Sister Rene Shadbolt Park) • Todd Triangle Reserve • Totara Triangle Clock Tower • Todd Triangle • Trojan Crescent Reserve • Whau Bridge Reserve • Willerton Reserve
Olympic Park 2003

Figure 13 Open space network plan showing the quality of the parks, the attributes and actions to improve park quality



2.2 Informal recreation

Providing a variety of play experiences for all the community

Passive recreation

Parks provide for a variety of informal recreation. They provide open space for informal sports and for passive recreation such as walking and observing nature. As dwellings become smaller, parks provide public open space for activities that were previously undertaken at home.

Seating

The provision of seating in parks can contribute to activating the open space. It encourages use by all the community and is a cost effective way of improving park use.

Seating may be considered for the following locations:

- next to areas of activities such as playgrounds, sportsfields and barbeques
- in shaded areas for respite
- adjacent to walkways.

Factors that should be taken into consideration include:

- wind and seasonal changes
- views
- social settings and traditions
- clear sight lines to ensure safety.

Shade

New Zealand has high levels of ultra violet rays and low ozone levels that contribute to health issues. It is important that adequate shade is provided in our parks so that people's exposure to harmful rays is minimised.

The provision of shade is important in areas where people undertake an activity for an extended period of time. This includes the following areas:

- playgrounds
- seating associated with playgrounds, sportsfields walkways, barbeques
- areas of respite.

There are options for the provision of shade, natural and man-made. The consideration of factors such as levels of use and site characteristics must be considered for each setting. The preferred option is for the use of trees as they contribute to the amenity of parks and are environmentally friendly.

Actions: seating and shade

- Identify parks that require shade and seating associated with playgrounds, sportsfields, walkways, barbeques and to provide areas of respite.



La Rosa Garden Reserve

Play

Playground provision

There are 39 parks in the Whau with playground facilities. Many have a similar range of activities.

Neighbourhood parks

Playgrounds located on neighbourhood parks are usually small or medium size, having up to nine different play experiences. A few neighbourhood parks will be able to accommodate more play experiences, however this may compromise the provision of open space for informal play. Not all neighbourhood parks require play equipment and there are benefits in keeping open space uncluttered to allow for unstructured informal play.

Suburb parks

In suburb parks playgrounds vary in size and are developed in response to the needs of the community. Large and destination playgrounds are typically sited on these parks.



Craigavon Park

The table below sets out guidelines for the number of play experiences, age ranges provided for and supporting facilities.

<p>Small playground One or two age ranges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to three play experiences • Seating • Shade • Rubbish bin
<p>Medium playground Two or more age ranges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or more age groups • Four to nine play experiences • Seating and/or picnic tables • Shade • Rubbish bin
<p>Large playground All age ranges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 - 15 play experiences with a special play attraction • Seating and/or picnic tables • Shade • BBQ facilities if appropriate for site • Toilet facilities if appropriate for site • Rubbish bins
<p>Destination playground All age ranges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16+ play experiences with at least one special play attraction • Seating and/or picnic tables • Shade • BBQ facilities • Toilet facilities • Rubbish bins

Successful play

Good quality play spaces are those that facilitate a range of play opportunities and achieve the social and developmental benefits of play.

Play does not have to happen entirely in the playground. Where possible, opportunities for unstructured play can be planned and designed in parks and in places such as street and civic spaces. For example, letting grass grow longer or leaving fallen trees will activate play in the natural environment.

Many of the Whau parks have coastal and stream riparian edges that are not accessible. Making the waterways accessible will create play opportunities and could contribute to providing linkages and connections for communities.

Where practical, play spaces and equipment should be flexible and multi-functional so that they may be used and interpreted differently by different people. A range of experiences may include movement, creativity, social play and sensory experiences – sounds, tastes, textures, smells and sights.

Inclusive, accessible play promotes equity and social cohesion between people of different ages, cultures, ethnicities, abilities and deprivation status. This is important as the Whau Local Board has an ethnically diverse population with areas of high deprivation identified in Rosebank, Avondale, New Lynn and Kelston.

Technology is now emerging as a trend to encourage outdoor physical activity and can be incorporated into the play space.



Avondale Central Reserve

Actions: playground renewals and provision

Playground renewals/upgrades and/or relocation are required for the following parks with some already scheduled. Prior to renewals/upgrades confirmation of site suitability and assessment of the best use of the open space is required.

Suburb	Park	Renewal
Avondale	Avondale Central Reserve*	2020/2021
	Bellgrove Reserve East	
	Canal Reserve	
	Chalmers Reserve*	2019/2020
	Eastdale Reserve*	2020/2021
	Fonteyn Reserve	2016/2017
	Orchard Reserve	2019/2020
	Taramea Reserve*	2018/2019
New Lynn	Bob Hill Reserve*	
	Maui Reserve*	2018/2019
	Northall Park*	
Kelston	Brains Park*	2017/2018
New Windsor	Dallas Reserve	2016/2017
Blockhouse Bay	Blockhouse Bay Recreation Reserve	2016/2017 2020/2021
	Craigavon Park*	
	Miranda Reserve	2020/2021
Green Bay	Temuka Gardens	2020/2021
	Crum Park*	2020/2021
	La Rosa Garden Reserve	2019/2020

Parks that are located in an area where there is an opportunity for a new playground/play elements have been identified.

Suburb	Park	size
New Lynn	Avondale West Reserve	small
	Chettle Reserve	small
	Crown Lynn Park*	small
	Davern Reserve	small
	Grandison Green	small
	Ken Maunder Park	small
Kelston	Akatea Park*	youth
	Archibald Park*	large
	Harmel Reserve*	small
	Heversham Green*	medium
New Windsor	Arthur Currey Reserve	small
Green Bay	Crum Park*	med/large
	Godley Green	small
	Taupiko Reserve	medium

*These parks have been identified for a concept plan or masterplan which should consider the play opportunities in the open space, including the best location for a playground and supporting infrastructure.



Brains Park

Figure 14 Open space network plan showing the existing, renewal and proposed playgrounds



2.3 Connections

Developing walking, cycling and green networks that the community value

Walking and cycling connections

Whau Neighbourhood Greenways Plan

The Whau Greenways Plan maps the potential network of local greenways connections in the Whau area and identifies priority projects (in no particular order):

- Motu Manawa Greenway
- Te Whau Pathway
- Riversdale Reserve perimeter
- Miranda Reserve connections
- McWhirter Place to Busby Street shared walk/cycle bridge
- Cliff View Drive to Godley Road
- La Rosa Gardens Reserve to Godley Reserve.

Motu Manawa Greenway – a shared path

The Motu Moana Greenway will link at both ends with the Western Cycle Highway, providing a coastal loop trail along the edge of the Motu Manawa Marine Reserve. The eastern section of this loop is within the Albert-Eden Local Board area. The development has three stages.

Stage 1: Holly Street to Heron Park (currently under construction).

Stage 2: Holly Street to Eastdale Road – this section of the walkway crosses 1.7 hectare of public land that has the following attributes:

- landlocked
- contains flat space for informal play
- adjoins the Motu Manawa Marine Reserve
- contains sites and places of significance to Mana Whenua
- is located in an area within 400 metres of a high density gap and an urban residential gap for neighbourhood park provision.

Stage 3: Eastern coastline of Rosebank Peninsula.

Te Whau Pathway – a destination corridor

Te Whau Pathway is a shared path (walkway/cycleway). It will connect numerous linear esplanade and riparian reserves, and roads along the banks of the Whau River, from Te Atatu Peninsula through to Green Bay.

Many of the Local Board's larger suburb parks are located along the route of Te Whau Pathway – Archibald Park, Ken Maunder Park, Olympic Park, Craigavon Park and Sister Renee Shadbolt Park.

Other parks in Whau that are located along the route include Karaka Park, Rizal Reserve, Queen Mary Reserve, Lynwood Esplanade Reserve, Cobham Reserve, Span Farm Esplanade and Harbour Reserve.

A scheme plan and preliminary design is being developed. It will address opportunities on the pathway such as branded gateways, wayfinding, interpretation (history), events, water access and informal recreation such as shade and areas for picnics and socialising.

A masterplan is proposed and will be an extension of the scheme plan. The aim of the masterplan will be to activate and co-ordinate the parks and open space along the linear corridor.

The pathway will extend into the Henderson/Massey Local Board area to link with the Te Atatu Peninsula walkway and the north-west cycleway. Planning needs to be developed jointly by the two local boards and in close consultation with the Whau Coastal Walkway Environmental Trust.

With good planning the pathway could become a major destination corridor for Auckland, attracting people region-wide and contributing to the economy of the Whau area.

Figure 15 Whau Neighbourhood Greenways Plan – maps cycling and walking connections



Figure 16 Landlocked Holly Street land



Actions: walking and cycling connections

- Support the actions identified in the Whau Neighbourhood Greenways Plan.
- Activate the landlocked land at Holly Street (1.7 hectares).
- Replace Tony Segedin Esplanade to Great North Road walkway with a 3.0 wide walkway.
- Seek opportunities to connect Great North Road through the Arawahata Reserve to Wingate Street.
- Develop a concept plan for a walkway on Ulster Road Esplanade Reserve (proposed new route for greenway).
- Consider walkway options at Span Farm Esplanade.
- Consider rationalising the tracks and upgrading the network in Gittos Domain.
- The following parks have pathways that need upgrading/widening:
 - Blockhouse Bay Recreation Reserve
 - Sister Rene Shadbolt Park.
- Develop a masterplan (on completion of the scheme plan and preliminary design) to activate and coordinate use, facilities and activities along the linear corridor of Te Whau Pathway.
- Form pathway connections from Sandy Lane to Rizal Reserve and Wingate Road.
- Undertake a risk review and continue monitoring Kurt Brehmer walkway. Consider walkway options.



Te Whau Pathway

Street trees

The Whau Local Board Plan 2014 identifies the need for more and older trees. Council's local parks team maintains the city's street trees. Street planting contributes to green corridors, giving visual form to the urban landscape. It creates identity and continuity for a path or street and makes it easier for people to recognise and connect the city's parts into coherent patterns. They also provide shade and shelter and provide a sense of place.

Street planting contributes to the North-West Wildlink, providing habitats and corridors for wildlife and further use of street trees would enhance this opportunity.

Species selection is important with consideration given to site conditions, future growth and potential issues of shading residential properties. They must be in proportion to the scale of the streets and open space in which they are planted.

Actions: street trees

Fifty-six streets in the Whau Local Board area have been identified as being able to accommodate more than ten new tree-planting sites. To prioritise the streets, the following criteria were used:

- identified as a Greenway or part of the Auckland Cycle Network
- within or close to a growth area
- close to, or feeds into, Te Whau Pathway
- on a walking school bus route
- identified in the New Lynn Urban Plan as a green loop or link.

Twelve streets meet three or more of the criteria and are prioritised for street tree planting. Astley Avenue is the only street that meets four of the criteria and should be the first project for implementation. The streets are listed below.

Suburb	Park
Avondale	Ash Street
	Wingate Street
New Lynn	Astley Avenue
	Fruitvale Road
	Hill Crescent
	Links Road
	Nikau Street
	Rimu Street
	Riverbank Road
	Seabrook Avenue
	Sheridan Drive
Blockhouse Bay	Ulster Road

Signage

The Whau's network of parks and public open space is a valuable resource for the community and it is important that public ownership is recognised. Effective signage can play a role in building stronger and safer communities. Signs may include information such as place names, site interpretation, regulations, wayfinding, directional information and contact details.

The Whau is a significant area for Māori. Promoting a Māori identity through the development of our parks is an opportunity to celebrate our cultural identity. Interpretative signage will help recognise places as sites to treasure.

Raising awareness of the area's streams, identifying places of interest and telling our stories will help to raise people's awareness of our parks and open spaces and contribute to how they are valued and used.

Actions: signage

- Māori cultural heritage – promote Māori identity in the development of the open space network and celebrate our unique cultural heritage with provision of information signage/artwork so that people will recognise and learn about places to treasure (use the Auckland Design Manual Te Aranga Māori Design Principles where appropriate).
- Provide signage for the names of the streams and rivers of the Whau.
- Provide signs to raise awareness of the location of parks that have poor street frontages. The parks are listed below.

Suburb	Park
Avondale	Waitati Reserve
New Lynn	Cutler Reserve
	Rua Reserve
New Windsor	Dickey Park

- Provide wayfinding/information signage for the following pathways and parks.

Te Whau Pathway
Motu Manawa Greenway
Blockhouse Bay Recreation Reserve
Blockhouse Bay Beach Reserve
Gittos Domain
Green Bay Beach



La Rosa Garden Reserve

Figure 17 Open space network plan showing the parks identified for proposed walking and cycling connections, streets for street trees and parks and streams for signage.



2.4 Healthy environment

Managing our parks so that the biodiversity of our open space contributes to a sustainable green Auckland

Waterways

Stream daylighting and naturalising

There are multiple benefits of daylighting and naturalising streams. These include:

- flood mitigation
- water quality improvement
- community and economic revitalisation
- improved habitat and nutrient retention.

The La Rosa Reserve Stream Daylighting project has successfully enhanced ecological, cultural and community values. The reserve was underutilised, but is now highly valued by the neighbouring community and is a very well used park.

Healthy Waters have identified a stream in Craigavon Park that would benefit from daylighting.

Riparian planting

Planting alongside the edge of streams and harbours provides multiple ecological benefits including:

- shading and cooling the water
- stabilising the banks
- cleaning up the water quality
- providing wildlife with food sources and habitat
- reducing flood peaks.

The streams within the Whau area provide opportunities to create ecological linkages. Seventy-four parks and open spaces with stream banks or harbour edges have been identified that require ecological restoration.

To prioritise the parks that require planting, the following criteria were considered:

- alongside Te Whau pathway
- alongside Motu Manawa Greenway
- a volunteer group is established for the park.

Thirty-four parks have been prioritised for riparian ecological restoration. There are 23 parks that have established volunteer groups working on establishing healthier streams. Volunteer groups are working in seven parks that are located on Te Whau Pathway and seven parks that are located on Motu Manawa Greenway.

Actions: waterways

- Develop a business case to daylight the stream through Craigavon Park.
- Prioritise riparian planting in the following parks.

Parks that require riparian planting	Te Whau Pathway	Motu Manawa Greenway	Volunteer
Avondale			
Arawhata Reserve	√		√
Copsey Reserve		√	√
Holly Street Esplanade Reserve		√	√
Honan Reserve		√	√
Jomac Esplanade		√	√
Kurt Brehmer Walkway			√
Lidcombe Reserve		√	√
Rizal Reserve	√		
Rosebank Esplanade Reserve		√	√
Rosebank Park Domain			√
Te Kou Reserve		√	√
Tony Segedin Reserve			√
Wingate Reserve			√
New Lynn			
Ken Mauder Park	√		√
Olympic Esplanade Reserve	√		√
Rewarewa Esplanade			√
Kelston			
Archibald Park	√		√
Cobham Reserve	√		
Harbour Reserve	√		
Harmel Reserve	√		
Kiernan Esplanade	√		
Lynwood Esplanade Reserve	√		
Queen Mary Reserve	√		
Rerewai Reserve	√		
Span Farm Esplanade	√		
Blockhouse Bay			
Blockhouse Bay Recreation Reserve			√
Craigavon Park	√		√
Miranda Reserve			√
Sister Rene Shadbolt	√		√
Green Bay			
Crum Park			√
Green Bay Beach	√		
Karaka Park	√		
La Rosa Garden Reserve			√
Rahui Kahika Reserve			√

Ecological restoration

Vegetation is a key element of parks, whether it is a natural system or part of a constructed site. It provides character, comfort, amenity, habitat, climate control, site stabilisation and aesthetic beauty. The park's ecological value, its climatic function and the user's experience are affected by ecological quality.

Many of the parks have mature trees and opportunities for additional or succession planting have been identified.

The use of native plants for ecological restoration and where suitable the inclusion of the whau tree (*Entelea arborescens*), particularly along the Whau River is recommended. Where possible, plants should be eco-sourced.

An ecological restoration strategy is currently being developed that will provide further direction for the management of the open space network.

The Western Line rail corridor creates an opportunity to develop an east-west biodiversity and landscape corridor through the Whau Local Board area. Advocacy for weed removal and restoration work is required.

Actions: ecological restoration

- Work with the council's biosecurity team to advocate for KiwiRail to undertake weed removal and restoration work along the western rail corridor within the Whau Local Board area.
- Support development of the ecological restoration strategy.
- A planting plan is required for the following parks:
 - Gittos Domain
 - Endeavour Reserve.
- Additional/succession planting is required in the following parks.

Parks that require additional/succession planting	
Avondale	1 Trent Street
	Bellgrove Reserve
	Canal Reserve
	Chalmers Reserve
	Eastdale Reserve
	Orchard Reserve
	Timothy Reserve
New Lynn	Bob Hill Reserve
	Northall Park
Blockhouse Bay	Blockhouse Bay Recreation Reserve
	Blockhouse Bay Beach Reserve
Green Bay	Brandon Reserve



Archibald Park

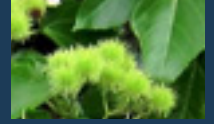


La Rosa Garden Reserve

Figure 18 Open space network plan showing parks identified for ecological restoration planting



SECTION 3 – PRIORITISED ACTIONS



Actions have been identified that will contribute to council delivering a sustainable quality open space network. These actions respond to the anticipated growth and provide the community with access to a range of recreational, social, cultural and environmental experiences.

The actions have been structured as follows.

- Whau Local Board advocacy
- Whau wide projects
- High priority actions
- Prioritised actions for parks and open spaces

3.1 Prioritisation principles

The key purpose of the open space network plan is to prioritise actions to improve the open space network. Prioritisation provides direction for planning and implementing park development and improvements.

The following list of principles have been considered when prioritising actions:

- existing capital works programmes and contractual commitments
- areas zoned for high growth (metropolitan centre, town centres, local centres, mixed use, terrace housing and apartments) and where there is a gap in provision identified
- areas of deficiency and/or poor quality open space prioritised over areas of good provision and/or good quality open space.
- cost benefit of individual actions
- planning and funding cycles.
- other influences such as land acquisitions, large infrastructure projects, integrated planning with neighbouring local boards and other stakeholders such as environmental services and stormwater.

Each action has been prioritised using the prioritisation principles. The actions have been prioritised as follows.

- High priority – year one to three
- Medium priority – year four to seven
- High priority – year eight to ten



3.2 Whau Local Board advocacy

A number of actions require advocacy from the Local Board. These include advocating for projects that will improve the open space network relating to the key moves of growth, connections and healthy environment.

- **Neighbourhood park acquisitions** – advocate for acquisition of a neighbourhood park in the following areas where there is an identified shortfall: Avondale/Rosebank, New Lynn, Kelston, New Windsor, Blockhouse Bay, Green Bay.
Key move: growth
- **Suburb park acquisitions** – advocate for the acquisition of a suburb park in the following areas where there is an identified shortfall: Avondale (If the Avondale Racecourse is sold further land will be required for a suburb park that includes sports fields), New Lynn, Kelston, Green Bay.
Key move: growth
- **Whau Neighbourhood Greenways Plan** – support the actions identified in the Whau Greenways Neighbourhood Plan.
Key move: connections
- **Māori cultural heritage** – promote Māori identity in the development of the open space network and celebrate our unique cultural heritage with provision of information signage/artwork so that people will recognise and learn about places to treasure (use the Auckland Design Manual Te Aranga Māori Design Principles where appropriate).
Key move: connections
- **Volunteers** – continue to support volunteer community groups that are working on environmental improvement initiatives.
Key move: healthy environment
- **Western line rail corridor** – work with council's biosecurity team to advocate for KiwiRail to undertake weed removal and restoration work along the east west corridor.
Key move: healthy environment
- **Ecological restoration strategy** – support the development of the Ecological Restoration Strategy.
Key move: healthy environment



Ken Maunder Park

3.3 Actions

Whau wide projects

The following actions relate to projects that are Whau wide.

- **Encroachments** – identify encroachments on open space and develop a prioritised plan to address all encroachments, with Te Kou Reserve, Timothy Reserve, Delta Esplanade, Drury Street Esplanade, Akatea Reserve, Cobham Reserve and Harbour Reserve prioritised.
Key move: growth
- **Shade and seating** – identify parks that require shade and seating associated with existing playgrounds, walkways and to provide areas of respite.
Key move: informal recreation
- **Te Whau Pathway** – develop a masterplan on completion of the scheme plan and preliminary design to activate and coordinate use, facilities and activities along the linear corridor of Te Whau Pathway.
Key move: connections
- **Signage** – provide signage for the rivers and streams to raise community awareness.
Key move: connections
- **Street trees** – undertake street tree planting on: Ash Street, Wingate Street, Astley Street, Fruitvale Road, Hill Crescent, Links Road, Nikau Street, Rimu Street, Riverbank Road, Seabrook Avenue, Sheridan Drive, Ulster Road.
Key move: connections

High priority actions for parks and open spaces

Park	High priority actions	Key move
Arawhata Reserve	Seek opportunities to connect Great North Road through the park to Wingate Street.	Connections
Archibald Park*	Develop and implement a concept plan – consider developing playground, pontoon, picnic tables and seating along the Whau River.	Growth Informal Recreation
Avondale Central Reserve	Coordinate concept plan with possible community centre development. Consider developing a basketball court with playground renewal 2020/2021.	Growth
Blockhouse Bay Recreation Reserve	Expand Terry Street playground as part of renewals in 2016/2017 and 2020/2021.	Informal Recreation
Brains Park	Develop and implement a concept plan – consider upgrading playground as part of 2017/2018 renewal and developing wider and more extensive footpaths.	Growth Informal Recreation
Canal Reserve	Upgrade playground – consider extending basketball court and developing a small learn to ride.	Informal Recreation
Chalmers Reserve	Develop and implement concept plan – address stormwater function of park and consider cycleway (Auckland Transport), relocating playground, developing open space to provide for further activities and additional/succession tree planting.	Growth
Cobham Reserve*	Undertake ecological restoration on harbour edge and address encroachments on reserve.	Healthy Environment Growth
Craigavon Park	Continue riparian planting with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment
Copsey Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment
Crown Lynn Park	Develop a concept plan for a high quality urban park with a small playground.	Growth
Crum Park	Develop and implement a concept plan – include old depot area; consider expanding play area as part of renewal in 2020/2021; consider youth options, picnic tables, walking tracks.	Growth Informal Recreation Connections
Cutler Reserve	Consider acquisition of land to improve street frontage.	Growth
Dallas Reserve	Renew playground in 2016/2017.	Informal Recreation
Fonteyn Reserve	Renew playground in 2016/2017.	Informal Recreation
Green Bay Domain	Develop and implement a concept plan – include footpath/greenway from Cliff View Drive to Godley Road.	Growth Connections
Harbour Reserve*	Address encroachments on reserve.	Growth
Holly Street	Activate landlocked land (1.7 hectares) for a pedestrian linkage from Holly Street and Eastdale Road.	Growth
Holly Street Esplanade Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment
Honan Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment
Jomac Esplanade	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment
Karaka Park	Undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment
Ken Maunder Park*	Continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group and explore opportunity for small play elements.	Healthy Environment Informal Recreation
Kiernan Esplanade	Undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment
Kurt Brehmer Walkway	Undertake risk review and continue monitoring the site. Consider walkway options.	Connections
La Rosa Garden Reserve	Renew playground in 2019/2020 and continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Informal Recreation Healthy Environment
Lidcombe Reserve	Under riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment
Maui Reserve	Improve park quality (consider implications of footpath to link Maui Street to Tane Street), upgrade playground (extend experiences) along side FY19 renewal and provide seating and shade.	Growth Informal Recreation
Miranda Reserve	Consider acquisition of land or a land exchange to widen street frontage onto Wolverton Road to provide for greenways connections. Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group. Provide several view shafts and accesses to the stream edge to encourage natural play opportunities and connections. Upgrade play space, park furniture and footpath as part of renewal in 2020/2021.	Growth Healthy Environment Informal Recreation

Park	High priority actions	Key move
Orchard Reserve	Renew and consider upgrading playground in 2019/2020.	Informal Recreation
Rahui Kahika Reserve	Continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment
Rosebank Esplanade Reserve	Continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment
Rosebank Park Domain	Continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment
Sandy Lane Reserve	Develop and implement a concept plan – address walkway connection, seating and trees.	Growth
Shipton Reserve	Undertake ecological restoration of bush area.	Healthy Environment
Sister Rene Shadbolt Park*	Continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment
Span Farm Esplanade	Consider walkway options and seating and undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Connections Healthy Environment
Taramea Reserve	Develop park – consider relocating playground upon renewal (2018/2019) and bringing to street front.	Informal Recreation
Taupiko Reserve	Develop park – consider a medium sized playground with shade and seating.	Informal Recreation
Te Kou Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment
Whitney Green	Develop park – consider play elements and park furniture.	Informal Recreation

Prioritised actions for parks and open spaces by suburb

AVONDALE/ROSEBANK			
PARK	ACTION	KEY MOVE	PRIORITY
1 Trent Street	Undertake ecological restoration in FY19 following the development of the Waterview cycleway.	Healthy Environment	
Arawhata Reserve	Seek opportunities to connect Great North Road through the reserve to Wingate Street.	Connections	
	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with the volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Avondale Central Reserve	Coordinate preparation of a concept plan with community centre development.	Growth	
	Consider developing a basketball court in conjunction with playground renewal in 2020/2021.	Informal Recreation	
Avondale West Reserve	Consider a small playground (i.e. swing). Install BBQ and picnic tables (development on reserve needs to consider Greenways Plan).	Informal Recreation	
Bellgrove Reserve East & West	Upgrade play equipment.	Informal Recreation	
	Plant park boundary (fruit trees).	Healthy Environment	
Canal Reserve	Upgrade playground – consider extending basketball court and developing a small learn to ride.	Informal Recreation	
	Undertake additional / succession tree planting.	Healthy Environment	
Chalmers Reserve	Develop and implement a concept plan – address stormwater function of park; consider: cycleway (Auckland Transport), relocating playground, developing open space to provide for further activities, and additional or succession tree planting.	Growth Connections Informal Recreation, Healthy Environment	
	Renew playground in 2019/2020.	Informal Recreation	
Copsey Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Eastdale Reserve	Develop and implement a concept plan – address sportsfield lease, park perimeter; consider extending and upgrading playground as part of renewal in 2020/2021, and picnic facilities; seek opportunities for additional and succession tree planting.	Growth Informal Recreation Healthy Environment	
	Renew playground in 2020/2021.	Informal Recreation	
Fonteyn Reserve	Provide signage on Avondale Road.	Connections	
	Renew playground in 2016/2017.	Informal Recreation	
Holly Street	Activate landlocked land (1.7 hectares) for a pedestrian linkage from Holly Street and Eastdale Road.	Connections	
Holly Street Esplanade Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Honan Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Jomac Esplanade	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Kurt Brehmer Walkway Connections	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
	Undertake risk review of walkway and continue monitoring the site. Consider walkway options.	Connections	
Lidcombe Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Orchard Reserve	Undertake additional / succession tree planting.	Healthy Environment	
	Upgrade boundary fences.	Growth	
	Renew and consider upgrading playground in 2019/2020.	Informal Recreation	
Rizal Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
Rosebank Esplanade Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Rosebank Park Domain	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Sandy Lane Reserve	Develop and implement a concept plan – address walkway connection, seating and trees.	Growth	
Taramea Reserve	Develop park – consider relocating playground upon renewal (2018/2019) and bringing to street front.	Informal Recreation	

Prioritised actions for parks and open spaces by suburb

AVONDALE/ROSEBANK			
PARK	ACTION	KEY MOVE	PRIORITY
Taramea Reserve	Develop park – consider relocating playground upon renewal (2018/2019) and bringing to street front.	Growth Informal Recreation	High
Te Kou Reserve	Address encroachment issues.	Growth	Medium
	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	High
Timothy Reserve	Address encroachment issues.	Growth	Medium
Tony Segedin Esplanade Reserve	Renew boardwalk from Tony Segedin Esplanade Reserve to Great North Road (widen to 3 metres).	Connections	Medium
	Continue riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	Medium
Waitati Reserve	Consider acquisition of land or land exchanges to address lack of street frontage.	Growth	Medium
	Poor street frontage. Improve signage to raise awareness of park.	Connections	Medium
Wingate Reserve	Develop and implement a concept plan – future use dependent on Avondale Racecourse sportsfield lease.	Growth	Medium
	Undertake riparian restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	Medium

Prioritised actions for parks and open spaces by suburb

NEW LYNN			
PARK	ACTION	KEY MOVE	PRIORITY
Bob Hill Reserve	Consider acquisition or land swap to address poor street frontage.	Growth	
	Develop and implement a concept plan – upgrade park recognising the importance of the historical skate park. Consider expanding the basketball half-court and upgrading playground.	Growth	
	Seek opportunities for additional or succession tree planting.	Healthy Environment	
Chettle Reserve	Develop a small playground.	Informal Recreation	
Cutler Reserve	Consider acquisition of land to improve street frontage.	Growth	
	Develop and implement a concept plan – aim to improve opportunities for informal/passive recreation.	Growth	
Crown Lynn Park	Develop and implement a concept plan for a high quality urban park.	Growth	
	Develop a small playground.	Informal Recreation	
Davern Reserve	Develop play elements (i.e. swing set).	Informal Recreation	
Delta Esplanade	Address encroachment.	Growth	
Drury Street Esplanade	Address encroachment.	Growth	
Grandison Green	Develop and implement a concept plan – consider a small play area with park furniture and shade.	Growth	
Ken Maunder Park*	Continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
	Explore opportunity for small play elements.	Informal Recreation	
Mason Park	Develop and implement a concept plan – consider reconfiguring the parking area, widening the driveway to the boundary to provide for angle parking, and increasing seating.	Growth	
Maui Reserve	Improve park quality; consider footpath to link Maui Street to Tane Street; upgrade playground (extend experiences) along side FY19 renewal; provide seating and shade.	Growth Connections, Informal Recreation	
Northall Park	Develop and implement a concept plan – consider: future requirement for changing block and relocation of playground.	Growth Informal Recreation	
	Undertake ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
Olympic Esplanade Reserve	Continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Railway embankment	Undertake ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
Reid Esplanade	Consider acquisition of land to widen street frontage of park (prior to any development) and for connections through neighbouring properties (should development occur).	Growth	
Rewarewa Esplanade	Continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Rua Reserve	Provide signage to raise awareness of park (poor street frontage).	Connections	
	Consider acquisition of land or land exchange to widen street frontage.	Growth	
	Develop and implement a concept plan – address drainage issues; consider a loop trail.	Growth	
Trojan Crescent Reserve	Develop and implement a concept plan – consider play opportunities.	Informal Recreation	
Ulster Road Esplanade Reserve	Develop and implement a concept plan for walkway (proposed new route in Greenways Plan).	Connections	

Prioritised actions for parks and open spaces by suburb

KELSTON			
PARK	ACTION	KEY MOVE	PRIORITY
Akatea Reserve	Address encroachments on reserve.	Growth	
	Develop and implement a concept plan – consider developing youth options – skate park, hard courts.	Growth Informal Recreation	
Archibald Park*	Develop and implement a concept plan – consider developing: playground, pontoon, picnic tables and seating along the Te Whau pathway.	Growth Informal Recreation	
	Continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Brains Park	Develop and implement a concept plan – consider development of the following: upgrading playground as part of 2017/2018 renewal, wider and more extensive footpaths.	Growth Informal Recreation	
Cobham Reserve*	Undertake ecological restoration on harbour edge.	Healthy Environment	
	Address encroachments on reserve.	Growth	
Copley Reserve	Install bollards on adjoining driveway and park furniture near trees.	Informal Recreation	
Harbour Reserve*	Address encroachments on reserve.	Growth	
	Undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
Harmel Reserve	Develop and implement a concept plan – consider development of: playground, youth, learn to ride, shelter/shade, toilets, barbeque, tables and seating.	Growth Informal Recreation	
	Undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
Heversham Green	Develop and implement a concept plan – consider: play space, seating, shade trees and footpaths.	Growth Connections Informal Recreation	
Kiernan Esplanade	Undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
Lynwood Esplanade Reserve*	Undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
Nile Reserve	Install play elements (swings) and seating.	Informal Recreation	
	Improve footpath connections and provide way finding signage.	Connections	
Queen Mary Reserve*	Provide seating (park located on Te Whau Pathway).	Connections	
	Undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
Rerewai Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
Span Farm Esplanade	Consider walkway options and seating.	Connections	
	Undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	

Prioritised actions for parks and open spaces by suburb

BLOCKHOUSE BAY			
PARK	ACTION	KEY MOVE	PRIORITY
Blockhouse Bay Beach Reserve	Provide signage with information on historical unique sites.	Connections	
	Undertake ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
Blockhouse Bay Recreation Reserve	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
	Undertake additional / succession tree planting.	Healthy Environment	
	Develop wayfinding signage for trails in the park.	Connections	
	Widen footpaths and install additional bench seats along trails for rest stops.	Connections	
	Expand Terry Street playground as part of renewals in 2016/2017 and 2020/2021.	Informal Recreation	
	Investigate opportunities to incorporate youth play options on Whitney St entrance.	Informal Recreation	
Craigavon Park*	Develop masterplan for Craigavon Park and Sister Rene Shadbolt that will coordinate open space planning for the area.	Growth	
	Continue riparian planting with volunteer group and develop business case for daylighting stream.	Healthy Environment	
	Renew playground in 2016/2017.	Informal Recreation	
Endeavour Reserve	Develop an ecological restoration plan.	Healthy Environment	
Gittos Domain	Develop an ecological restoration plan.	Healthy Environment	
	Rationalise tracks. Consider closing some existing paths and upgrading the remaining ones.	Connections	
	Provide wayfinding signage.	Connections	
Miranda Reserve	Consider acquisition of land or a land exchange to widen street frontage onto Wolverton Road to provide for greenways connections.	Connections	
	Undertake riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group. Provide several view shafts and accesses to the stream edge to encourage natural play opportunities and connections.	Healthy Environment	
	Upgrade play space, park furniture and footpath as part of renewal in 2020/2021.	Informal Recreation	
Shipton Reserve	Undertake ecological restoration of bush area.	Healthy Environment	
Sister Rene Shadbolt Park*	Develop masterplan for Sister Rene Shadbolt and Craigavon Park. Consider play activities that complement Craigavon Park activities.	Growth	
	Upgrade tracks and footpaths.	Connections	
	Continue stream restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	

Prioritised actions for parks and open spaces by suburb

NEW WINDSOR			
PARK	ACTION	KEY MOVE	PRIORITY
Arthur Currey Reserve	Consider play elements (i.e. swing set) and park furniture.	Informal Recreation	
Brydon Place Reserve	Consider acquisition of land or land exchange to improve street frontage.	Growth	
Dallas Reserve	Renew playground in 2016/2017.	Informal Recreation	
Dickey Reserve	Upgrade quality of park – widen paths.	Growth	
	Encourage permeable fencing along entranceways.	Growth	
	Provide signage to raise awareness of park.	Connections	
Whitney Green	Develop park – consider play elements and park furniture.	Informal Recreation	

GREEN BAY			
Brandon Reserve – Green Bay	Continue ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
Crum Park	Develop and implement a concept plan – include old depot area; consider expanding play area as part of renewal in 2020/2021; consider youth options, picnic tables, walking tracks.	Growth Informal Recreation Connections	
	Undertake ecological restoration along the stream and steep bank in the west of the park with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
	Undertake additional / succession tree planting.	Healthy Environment	
Godley Green	Develop play elements (consider installing a learn to ride track).	Informal Recreation	
Green Bay Beach*	Upgrade park – provide seating, shade, information signage (Manukau coastal walkway and Te Whau Pathway) and consider relocating BBQ.	Connections	
	Undertake ecological restoration.	Health Environment	
Green Bay Domain	Develop and implement a concept plan – include footpath/greenway from Cliff View Drive to Godley Road.	Growth Connections	
Karaka Park	Undertake riparian ecological restoration.	Healthy Environment	
La Rosa Garden Reserve	Consider acquisition of land to improve street frontage on Lantana Road.	Growth	
	Renew playground in 2019/2020.	Informal Recreation	
	Continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy environment	
Rahui Kahika Reserve	Continue riparian ecological restoration with volunteer group.	Healthy Environment	
Taupiko Reserve	Develop park – consider a medium sized playground with shade and seating.	Informal Recreation	