

# Activating Parks for Diverse Cultural Communities in the Puketāpapa Local Board

Point Research

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Julie Radford-Poupard and Alex Woodley

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### ***Report Disclaimer***

In preparing this report it has been necessary to make a number of assumptions on the basis of the information supplied to Point Research Limited for this research. The authors did not carry out an audit or verification of the information supplied during the preparation of this report, unless otherwise stated in the report. Whilst due care was taken during enquiries, Point Research Limited do not take any responsibility for any errors nor mis-statements in the report arising from information supplied to the authors during the preparation of this report.

Julie Radford-Poupard and Alex Woodley

Point Research Limited

[julie@pointresearch.co.nz](mailto:julie@pointresearch.co.nz)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the research is to understand how diverse cultural communities value and use local parks, with a focus on what the barriers to using parks are and what kind of one off activities and ongoing programmes are needed so that Council can better serve these communities. The local board can use this information to inform future development of open spaces that engage diverse ethnic communities to activate parks and support active and healthy lifestyles. The research was undertaken in five parts with a total of 165 participants:

1. A stocktake of community organisations within Puketāpapa Local Board area using information supplied by the Strategic Broker.
2. An online survey to develop themes on value, use, barriers and potential activities, programmes and events in parks.
3. Intercept surveys, taking around 5 minutes with people sharing their views on their local parks.
4. Two community workshops to investigate key themes from previous research and explore new themes.
5. One to one interviews with eighteen key community stakeholders in Puketāpapa and managers of a sample of community organisations connected to parks.

This report outlines the findings of this study and includes recommendations for the interventions that would best meet the needs of the Puketāpapa communities. Our review also examined (at the request of Council officers) the key themes found from a larger health and well-being study and subsequent smaller parks research projects commissioned in the Albert-Eden local board area and the report explores the themes of; health and wellbeing, cultural exchange and celebration, inclusion and access and activation of spaces (including assets and programmes) in relation to the findings.

The key priorities identified include;

### Health and Wellbeing

When respondents were asked what kind of activities and programmes they would like to do in parks, the most common responses was walking, with survey, workshop and interview respondents.

Another common response from respondents when asked what they currently liked about their local parks was enjoying nature, and they liked that parks had lots of space and a great atmosphere. When asked what else they would like to do in parks respondents wanted to pass time, chill and rest, they also wanted a place hang with their mates and areas where they could go with their families and groups. Just over a third of all park users in Puketāpapa visited with more than five people (Captive, 2015).

Survey respondents said they liked to do zumba and yoga in the parks. Free zumba classes in Keith Hay Park which run in February attract up to 100 people. Amongst Chinese and Korean respondents' dancing and singing and tai chi classes were very popular.

Playing sports was an activity people currently liked to do in parks. However, it emerged as an even stronger theme when people were asked what else they would like to do in parks. Respondents said they wanted to meet friends for sports, in particular to play football, cricket and touch rugby. Informal sporting activity was popular, however it often clashed with organised sports resulting in no free spaces.

Currently the only park in Puketāpapa local board area to have exercise equipment is Mt Roskill War Memorial Park . Exercise equipment was popular with WISE Collective Project workshop participants, especially Middle Eastern and African women and with Chinese participants in the TANI workshop, although exercise equipment was a less common response with survey respondents.

An investment in exercise equipment may warrant further investigation. It is not possible to conclude from this study whether exercise equipment is as popular for Puketāpapa residents as it is with Albert-Eden and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki residents because there are fewer examples of equipment in parks. Moreover, the types of equipment wanted by respondents is different to the equipment currently on offer.

## Cultural Exchange and Celebration

Activities that facilitate and promote cultural exchange and celebration were important across diverse communities. Respondents across surveys, workshops and interviews said they liked current festivals and wanted more. Ideas for festivals from the TANI workshop include local Chinese New Year celebrations, mid-Autumn and Spring festivals, carnivals, art festivals, lantern festival and traditional Chinese festival. Food festivals were also popular across ethnicities and a key stakeholder wanted to see a local night market. Movies were also very popular with Chinese participants and they requested more documentaries and comedy.

## Inclusion and Access

Several respondents and interviewees noted that because parks are free and open to everyone they are an important space for young people, migrant and refugee communities to access. This is significant given that 23% of Puketāpapa residents live in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

An issue raised by a few stakeholders was that residents close to parks had complained to noise control about dancing and singing. Another interviewee talked about communities not knowing how to apply for permits for events and when they did apply they found the process difficult and long.

## Activation of parks

In general, parks are increasingly seen by community organisations as places to promote exercise and grow knowledge of local food especially for recent migrants and refugees. Likewise, an Auckland Council and School's programme running in southern and eastern local boards provide opportunities for schools 'to adopt' a local park which may be extended to other boards. Parks also currently provide many opportunities for volunteering and this could be better promoted to diverse communities.

It is recommended that the Local Board consider:

	<i>Feedback and observations</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Key agencies</i>
Key Theme: Health and wellbeing	Walking was the most popular park-based activity across all respondents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to invest in expansion and maintenance of walking and cycling routes.</li> <li>• Provide more seating under shaded areas along the pathways.</li> <li>• Support walking and cycling activation programmes.</li> <li>• Advocate for improved information and promotion of walking and cycling routes in diverse languages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Lighthouse</li> <li>• Bike Kitchen</li> </ul>
	Diverse ethnic communities showed high interest in exercise classes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate free exercise classes in parks, especially zumba, yoga, tai chi and singing/dancing.</li> <li>• Provide a solid (and ideally covered) surface for tai chi.</li> <li>• Consider lighting of parks where appropriate to allow evening use.</li> <li>• Investigate impacts of activities on nearby residents to minimise disturbance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrant Action Trust</li> <li>• TANI</li> <li>• Roskill Together</li> <li>• Lynfield YMCA Youth and Leisure Centre</li> <li>• Cameron YMCA Pool and Leisure Centre</li> <li>• Wesley Community Centre</li> </ul>
	Sharing food in parks is an important social opportunity for diverse ethnic communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in picnic and barbeque areas to accommodate large families and groups with amenities including shelter, tables and seating.</li> </ul>	
	Basketball was popular among diverse ethnic communities and especially with young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider covering basketball courts so they can be used in all weather.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Lighthouse</li> </ul>
	There is often a lack of space at sports parks for informal sport use outside of joining clubs (especially for popular sports of soccer, cricket and touch rugby).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with sport's codes and local sporting communities to ensure there are adequate spaces for community run sporting activities and informal groups to play sports in local parks.</li> <li>• Provide support and advice to community groups to book sports fields.</li> <li>• Consider erecting signage at sports parks on 'how to make' bookings.</li> <li>• Support community organisations to apply for funding to facilitate sporting events for diverse ethnic communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local sport codes</li> <li>• Global Lighthouse</li> <li>• Kiwi-Somalian Friendship Group</li> </ul>
	Diverse ethnic communities currently utilise existing equipment within parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prototype quality exercise equipment and exercise classes in a key park.</li> <li>• Consider placing exercise equipment in a container near Mt Roskill Youth Zone.</li> <li>• Consider clustering equipment together (potentially near a playground) with multiple units.</li> <li>• Consider equipment that is suitable for varied ages, from teenagers to seniors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WISE Collective Project and TANI (exercise class)</li> <li>• Global Lighthouse</li> </ul>
	Diverse ethnic communities can experience loneliness and isolation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prototype a friendship bench, designed by the local community for people to sit on, chat and connect to foster connections in the community.</li> <li>• Consider placing the bench in a busy park to minimise risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roskill Together</li> </ul>

Key Theme: Activation of parks	Parks are sometimes not safe, need better maintenance and do not provide enough varied equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider prioritising improvements, more and cleaner toilets, removing rubbish, better sightlines and lighting.</li> <li>• Provide playgrounds that have varied equipment suitable for diverse age groups from babies to teenagers.</li> </ul>	
	There is an interest in guardianship of parks through volunteering.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the current local schools partnership model adopt a park or spot for Puketāpapa.</li> <li>• Consider opportunities for diverse ethnic communities to be involved (and employ young people) in the ongoing work along Te Auaunga (Healthy Waters and Tohu projects) and other 'friends of' and planting programmes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All stakeholder organisations</li> <li>• Te Whangai Trust</li> <li>• PETER</li> <li>• Friends of Oakley Creek</li> </ul>
Key Theme: Cultural exchange and celebration	There is an interest to partner with council on projects within parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider introducing a local community night market.</li> <li>• Consider extending the Pah Homestead local community day event further into the Monte Cecilia Park</li> <li>• Consider facilitating singing and dancing activities in local parks to promote healthy exercise.</li> <li>• Advocate for more community gardens with recent migrants and refugees to grow local food knowledge and improve health outcomes.</li> <li>• Provide lighting and power sources to facilitate projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Zealand Women's Ethnic Trust</li> <li>• Pah Homestead TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre</li> <li>• Migrant Action Group</li> <li>• TANI</li> </ul>
	Diverse ethnic communities highly value local community events and festivals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support communities to partner with Council to introduce new local community festivals, for example, Chinese New Year celebrations, mid-Autumn and Spring Festivals, Lantern Festival, Tongan Day Festival and a multi-ethnic food festival.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All key stakeholders</li> </ul>
Key Theme: Inclusion and access	Diverse ethnic communities are often not aware of the parks and open spaces available to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guides and maps including key amenities and transport options and stops in key languages (see Census results due October 2018)</li> </ul>	
	Diverse ethnic communities experience applying for permits and bookings in parks challenging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide targeted community organisations and their members a workshop on 'how to plan an event; the application process for permits and bookings in parks' one year out from their planned events.</li> </ul>	

In summary, this research complements the Mental Health Foundation's Five Ways of Wellbeing, a programme supported by the Puketāpapa Local Board, activating parks for diverse cultural communities connects people through events and activities, people have opportunities to give their time and talent through community gardens and planting days, parks are an ideal place to take notice, keeping learning and be active.

The key findings of this report may also be useful to help inform the development of the Healthy Puketāpapa Action Plan and the upcoming Out and About programme for 18/19.

The Connect2Sport ([Connect2Sport.org.nz](http://Connect2Sport.org.nz)) website provides resources which guide organisations to adapt their offerings to remove barriers and better meet the needs of young diverse ethnic communities.

## PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

The purpose of the research is to understand how diverse cultural communities' value and use local parks, with a focus on what the barriers to using parks are and what kind of one off activities and ongoing programmes are needed so that Council can better serve these communities. The local board can use this information to activate parks and support active and healthy lifestyles of diverse ethnic communities and for future development of public open space and the engagement of diverse ethnic communities in these spaces.

The research was undertaken in five parts:

1. A stocktake of community organisations within Puketāpapa Local Board area using information supplied by the Strategic Broker.
2. An online survey to develop themes on value, use, barriers and potential activities, programmes and events within parks.
3. Intercept surveys cross referenced with online survey findings and research scan to formulate key themes for investigation in community workshops.
4. Four community workshops to investigate key themes from previous research, explore new themes and local board outcomes.
5. One to one interviews with key community stakeholders in Puketāpapa and managers of some community organisations connected to parks.

This report outlines the findings of this study and includes recommendations for the interventions that would best meet the needs of the Puketāpapa communities for both assets and programmes. The study also sought to test key themes generated from a larger health and well-being study and subsequent smaller parks research projects commissioned in the Albert-Eden local board area to see if these are representative of the Puketāpapa communities.

## Method

A total of 165 people engaged in this study. A mix of methods was used to ensure that groups included people that may not normally respond to surveys or attend meetings and groups, were captured. These included:

- Intercept surveys of visitors to Auckland International Cultural Festival and Puketāpapa Wellness Expo. These were short interviews, taking around 5 minutes with people sharing their views on their local parks.
- An online survey was emailed out to diverse community organisations to share with their members and post to social media.
- Two community workshops totalling 80 residents. Point Research partnered with The Asian Network Inc (TANI), and The Wise Project (Auckland Regional Migrant Service) to bring these workshops together.



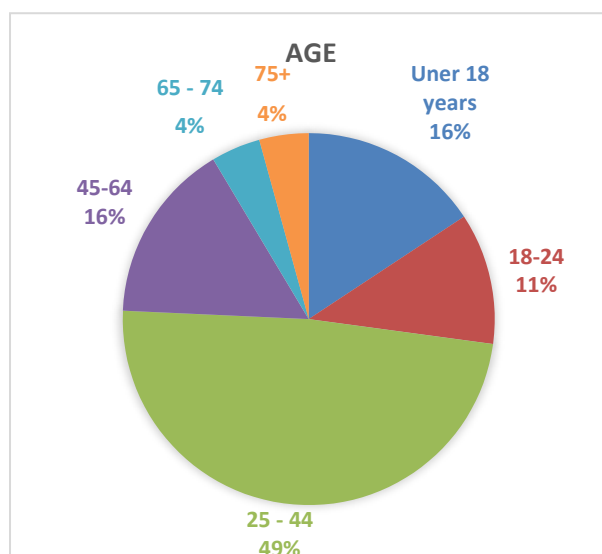
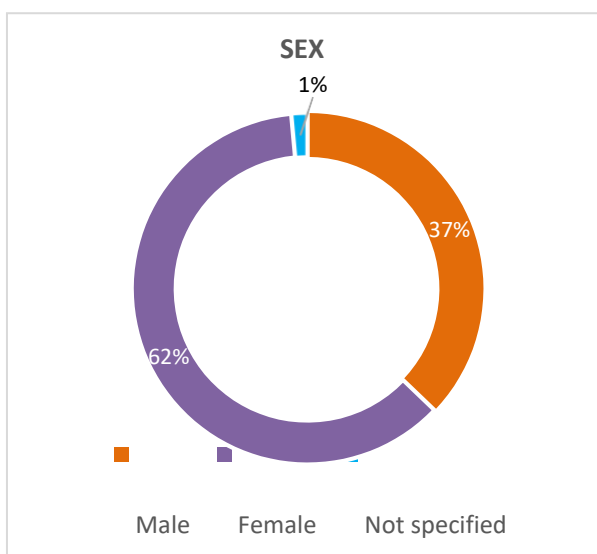
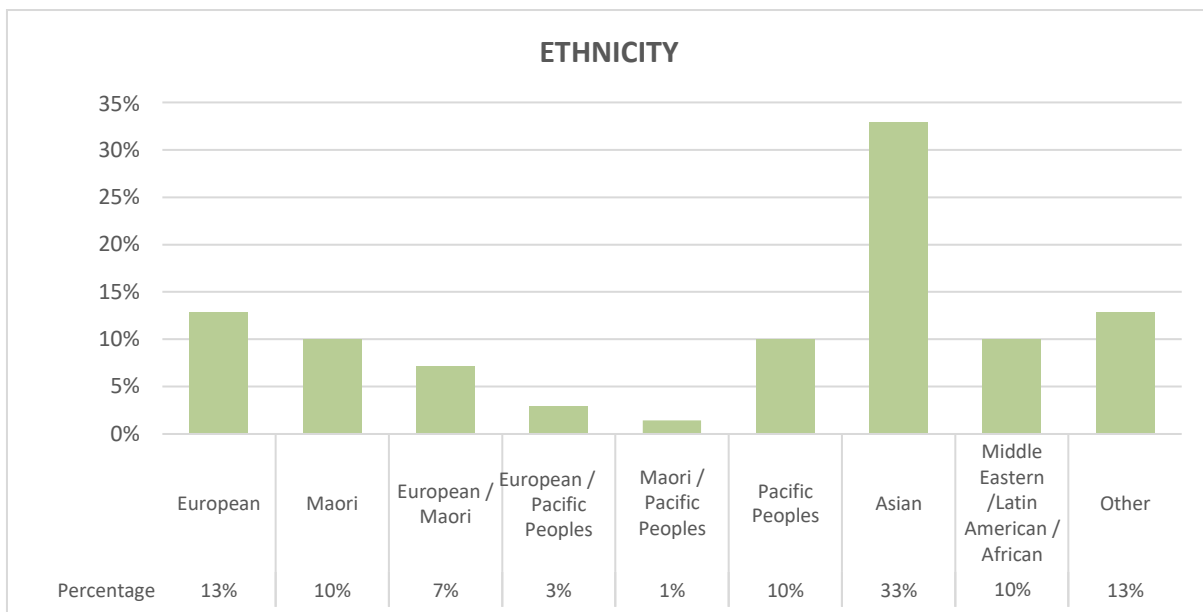
- Stakeholder interviews with eighteen local community leaders and managers from some community facilities near parks to capture current activities and programmes and opportunities for future programming and asset development.

The Puketāpapa Local Board identified two further organisations they would have liked included in the report, unfortunately they were unavailable for interviews.

## Surveys

The demographics of the surveys are;

- 62% identified as female and 37% as male with no respondents identifying as gender diverse.
- 33% of respondents were Asian, 13% European, 10% Pacific Peoples, 10% Māori and 10% Middle Eastern/Latin American and African
- Most respondents were aged between 25-44 (49%) 18-24 (16%) and 45-64 (16%) and 65-74 and over 75 both 4%.



### *Intercept*

An intercept survey was undertaken, where interviewers invited people attending events to answer questions in a face to face stand up interview. Although not representative of a population, it is way of reaching people who may not normally attend focus groups or answer online surveys. Point Research team members attended two key community events, Auckland International Cultural Festival and Puketāpapa Wellness Expo and interviewers were mindful to select interviewees from less visible communities, and especially diverse ethnicities.

### *Online*

Online surveys were distributed through local community organisations, groups, and networks who shared them with their members via email and social media. Point Research also boosted the survey facebook post on their page.

Both surveys focused on which parks respondents go to, what they like about these parks, and any programmes, events and activities they would like to see happening in their local parks.

The surveys asked residents about:

1. Whether they currently went to parks in their area?
2. What sorts of things they like to do in their local parks?
3. What they liked about the parks they go to?
4. What else they would like to do in their local parks?
5. Where there any other programmes, activities or events they would like to see happening?
6. Was there anything they didn't like or was preventing them using local parks?
7. What could be changed to make their local park more usable?
8. How often they used a local park?
9. How often they would go to a local park if the changes they had suggested were made?
10. If they would like to receive a copy of the report and/or attend a workshop.

## Community workshops

The community workshops utilised size specific approaches to ensure in-depth feedback was captured.

Workshops were held with 80 community members. Specifically, these included partnered workshops with;

- The WISE Collective Project (Auckland Regional Migrant Services Charitable Trust) which provides a weekly hub at Wesley community centre linking women to support, information, wellbeing, training and social enterprise opportunities in a multicultural environment with women from refugee and migrant backgrounds including Middle Eastern, African and Indian.
- The Asian Network Incorporated (TANI) with primarily Chinese and Korean participants.



The workshop with 55 participants were facilitated using Speak Out activities as the preferred model of engagement, as it is interactive and provides an environment where a wide range of people can participate and move around. Translators were available at each station and participants were encouraged to answer in their preferred language.

The community workshop had four stations with three themes and a mapping station (where participants mapped where they lived). The themes that were explored resulted from analysis of the on-line survey and intercept surveys.

Participants were asked;

- What kind of one off activities do you want to do in parks? (with options of festivals, movies, events, children’s activities and other). Accompanied by pictures to prompt conversation.
- What kind of programmes, e.g. weekly, monthly do you want to do in parks? (with options of exercise; equipment, sports, walking/cycling, classes; children’s programmes and other). Accompanied with pictures to prompt conversation.
- When you visit a park what makes you feel safe, unsafe, welcome and happy?
- Each participant was invited to choose three informal activities on the fun graph they most like to do in parks (sleeping/resting, reading books, enjoying nature, being with friends, walking/jogging, playing, getting together, cycling, animals/walking dog, playing sport with friends, skateboarding, other) and write up post it notes about what can be done to make their experience of these things better?



The WISE Collective Project followed a semi-structured interview schedule and participants were asked;

- What are parks to you?
- What should they be?
- What kinds of cultural activities would you love to do?
- Which parks could you see this happening in?
- What kinds of classes and equipment would you love?
- Which parks could you see classes and equipment happening in?
- What would make people feel welcome in parks? (canvassed under inclusion and access)
- What kinds of programmes and pop up activities would you love to do?
- What would make you want to gather in a park and go back again and again?
- Can you think of any groups, schools, community groups that might want to do activities in a park?
- Which parks could you see these activities in?

## Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder interviews were conducted with eighteen organisational leaders and with facility management to understand local facility relationships to parks and programming possibilities. Key organisations were identified by the Puketāpapa strategic broker and each interviewee was asked who else should Point Research talk with, resulting in snowballing interviews.

Interviews were conducted with key stakeholders from;

The Asian Network (TANI), The Global Lighthouse, Wesley Community Centre, Te Whangai Trust, Roskill Together, Migrant Action Trust, Somalian-Kiwi Association, New Zealand Women's Ethnic Trust, Earth Action Trust, Puketāpapa Education, Training and Employment Readiness (PETER), Wesley Community Centre, Lynfield YMCA Youth and Leisure Centre, Cameron YMCA Pool and Leisure Centre, Bike Kitchen, Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, Gecko Trust, TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre Pah Homestead, and Ella Kumar.

## Analysis

The data from the surveys (intercept and online), interviews, and workshops and relevant reports were collated and analysed to identify themes and priorities across the Puketāpapa area. It is noted that as the responses came in a wide range of forms, the feedback has been treated largely qualitatively, analysed and reported thematically and triangulated. This is because the surveys, by and large, may not be representative of the population and most of the questions were open ended, lending themselves to thematic analysis. Giving undue weight to survey percentages could be misleading. The report tries to reflect the weight of answers across the different forums and formats. Where participants have raised issues in one forum, but not another, these have been noted.

Throughout the report the term respondents are used to include all people who have contributed to the study including people participating in the intercept survey, on line survey, workshops and one to one stakeholder interviews.

## Limitations

Every attempt was made to triangulate the findings through the mix of methods used (surveys, workshops, and interviews). It is noted that the whilst the overall themes remained largely consistent between the different data collection methods, there was often considerable variation in the information underpinning these themes. The broad themes have been reported in the body of the report.

## About the area and parks

- The population of Puketāpapa is 60,000, projected to increase 74,000 by 2033 with growth areas in Royal Oak, Three Kings, Mount Roskill South and Wesley.
- There are 76 local parks in the Puketāpapa local board area.
- Puketāpapa is a diverse local board area, with more residents of non-European background than any other region in Auckland.
- 44% of Puketāpapa residents identify as Asian, which includes Indian, Chinese, Sri Lankan, Filipino and Korean communities, 16% Pacific and 6% Māori.
- 49% of people in the local board area were born overseas.

Research in 2015 into Puketāpapa Local Board Neighbourhood Parks found the following key findings;

- 81% of respondents living in the Puketāpapa Local Board area visit a neighbourhood park. Compared to the overall average, Pacific peoples (97%), and Asian peoples (88%) were more likely to visit a neighbourhood park.
- 89% of respondents indicated they visited their neighbourhood park with someone else, with 35% visiting with between 5 and 20+ other people.

## KEY FINDINGS

The first aim of this current investigation was to identify and survey a wide range of diverse cultural community groups within the local board area to gain an understanding of how these communities value and use the parks available to them, resulting in suggestions for how local government could better serve these communities by producing key recommendations for future development and engagement.

The second aim of this study examines key themes selected by Council officers found from a larger health and well-being study and subsequent smaller parks research project commissioned in the Albert-Eden local board area (Sewell & Owens, 2017).

The themes chosen for investigation are; health and wellbeing, cultural exchange and celebration, inclusion and access and activation of parks and these are examined below.

## Health and Wellbeing

### Walking tracks

When respondents were asked what kind of activities and programmes they would like to do in parks, the most common responses was walking. This response was popular with survey, workshop and interviewee respondents. Paths were considered to be of good quality (and relatively new) and well connected. Through the creation of the walking and cycle network in Puketāpapa, one key stakeholder believed that Puketāpapa offered a unique opportunity in New Zealand, “to do life by bicycle”. This has also offered extensive walking tracks and diverse cultural communities are currently using and want to use these networks more.

Although a barrier to going walking, especially amongst seniors was a lack of benches situated under shade.

Given that walking is the most popular pursuit in parks for diverse cultural communities, investment in signage and collateral in key languages about the network might further encourage use.

Biking was not a popular theme amongst respondents, however, Bike Kitchen does offer a well-attended programme for refugee women to learn to ride bikes in women only classes which have had promising results in building their confidence.

## RESPONDENT'S VOICES

*I would like activities to attend, somewhere to go on Sundays, get out instead of watching TV (online survey)*

*I like May Road, lots of space to enjoy and walk, very vibrant (online survey)*

*Like more attractive public spaces, ways that the public can interact, be together every few weeks (intercept survey)*

*Need things for all ages nothing for babies and 10 years + and they are refusing to come to the park because they are bored (WISE Collective Project workshop)*

*You can't isolate parks from other social determinants (key stakeholder)*

## Enjoying nature and places to meet up

When asked what parks are, respondents talked about liking that parks had “lots of space”, a great atmosphere (Mt Roskill War Memorial Park), and they liked park spaces that were vibrant and ambient with wildlife. Respondents also wanted more attractive spaces, with more trees and especially flowers.

When asked what else they would like to do in parks people said they wanted to pass time, chill and rest. Quite a few respondents in the 18-24-year age group liked parks to sleep and study in.

Respondents also wanted a place to hang with their mates and areas where they could go with their families and groups. Just over a third of all park users in Puketāpapa visited with more than five people (Captivate, 2015). They also wanted to see spaces where children can play, which had places where they could meet up together for picnics and barbeques. Some respondents and key interviewees felt that that Puketāpapa did not have these kinds of welcoming spaces (like One Tree Hill) but believed there was potential to create them, for example in the reserve above Three Kings. A key stakeholder from the Migrant Action Trust believed that new migrants in Puketāpapa didn't think of parks as a place for family to come together because of the lack of free space, tables and chairs. “It doesn't need to be fancy, we just need these amenities, we bring our whole families and we (migrant communities) are all about food, so we need to have a table, seating areas and protection from the elements”. Respondents also felt it was necessary to have free spaces for celebrations (like Eid and Diwali) as many low-income families could not afford to drive to One Tree Hill.

## Connection and Loneliness

In the last Quality of Life Survey (2016) Puketāpapa local board residents were asked over the past 12 months how often, if ever you have felt lonely or isolated? 44% of respondents said they were sometimes lonely, considerably higher than any other local board area in Auckland. There is a significant contribution that parks can play as a social connective space in the wellbeing of the people of Puketāpapa. Several stakeholders talked about recent migrant, refugee and older people feeling socially isolated and lacking community connectedness.

The New Zealand Longitudinal Study of Ageing, which surveyed older people aged between 54 and 70 years found the strongest predictor of both physical and mental ill health was loneliness (Budge C, 2014).

A potential small, low cost project aimed at reducing loneliness is to prototype in a busy park (to minimise risk) a friendship bench. Designed by the local community for people to sit on, chat and connect. Historically these have been used widely in school settings and are also known as a buddy bench and are usually located in a special place in a school playground where a child can go when they want someone to talk to. Recently, in Zimbabwe, the Friendship Bench has been used more therapeutically and is personed by trained lay counsellor grandmothers.

## Exercise classes

Survey respondents said they liked to do Zumba and Yoga in the parks. Free Zumba classes run throughout February (by Cameron Pool and Leisure Centre YMCA) in Keith Hay Park near the playground had between 60 to 100 locals attending them. It is considered a family friendly activity with no age restriction. YMCA staff promote Zumba through flyers, mail drop, but mostly it works on word of mouth. Lynfield YMCA Youth and Leisure Centre in Griffen Park also offer free Zumba classes in the summer, however, they run their classes inside their premise (with around 45 people regularly attending).

Free yoga classes in the park at Wesley (by Auckland Council and in the Wesley Community Centre when it rains) were run last summer. Wesley Community Centre saw this as a good partnership.

These are popular activities and could be extended to other parks in the Puketāpapa local board area.

Amongst Chinese and Korean respondents' dancing and singing and tai chi classes were very popular. Singing and dancing classes had similar popularity to walking amongst TANI workshop participants as activity that they would like to do. Also, in the TANI workshop one third of respondents already did tai chi in the park and another third wanted to be able to do tai chi (in a group setting) in a park. The Migrant Action Trust are seeking ways to improve physical health of their members and would consider starting dancing classes in the park. The potential barriers are access in the evenings and lighting and safety considerations.

## Playing sports

Playing sports was an activity people currently liked to do in parks. However, it emerged as an even stronger theme when people were asked what else they would like to do in parks. Respondents said wanted to meet friends for sports, in particular to play football, cricket and touch rugby. It was noted that young people were often not using parks unless they were hooked into sports and it was hard to find practice space (in May Road) and informal space to use. Many of the larger sports parks throughout Puketāpapa are booked out the majority of the time for organised sport.

This echoed the experiences of Global Lighthouse who facilitate a sports academy for children aged from intermediate to 25 years and they also said they struggled to find space for group sport. Likewise, a key stakeholder from Cameron Pool and Leisure Centre YMCA observed that the park was mainly used for cricket in the summer and soccer in winter, which limited how inclusive the park could be.

A key stakeholder from the Kiwi-Somalian Friendship Association talked about African youth struggling in New Zealand, with some young people dropping out of school, becoming unemployed and using drugs. He believed they needed somewhere to belong and mentorship and a starting place could be activities, such as sports which could help to provide social connection. He believed soccer and baseball would be particularly popular. Space to play and funding to facilitate these activities is needed as well as support to make funding applications.

Basketball was also identified as a popular sport by respondents and it was suggested that the court outside the Roskill Youth Zone could be covered so it could be used when it's cold and wet.



## Playgrounds and playing

When participants were asked what they liked about their local parks, playgrounds featured highly especially amongst parents and to a lesser extent grandparents. Parks with a variety of things to play on were popular, Mt Roskill War Memorial Park, Margaret Griffen, May Road and Lynfield and outside of Puketāpapa Rocket Park, Keith Hay and Cornwall were popular parks for playgrounds. Parents in the WISE Collective workshop told us that playgrounds tended to engage only limited age groups of children and respondents reported that babies and older children (post 10+) were rarely catered for. Parents often had different aged children and were frustrated by the lack of variety with play equipment.

When asked what parks could be, the strong themes related to play were development of a water park (splash pads) ziplines and more varied equipment to suit varied aged children.

The WISE Collective workshop wanted sensory activities in a park with a local playgroup that could bring along equipment, Mum's wanted fun for the little ones and a chance to chat. They also wanted competitions in the park, small events where you bring your own equipment. Playing was not only in the domain of the young, stakeholders talked about seniors playing games in the park like Kokla Chappaki (the handkerchief game) and TANI workshop participants also wanted to play games in parks (although didn't specify which games).

## Exercise equipment

Currently the only park in Puketāpapa local board area to have exercise equipment is the Mt Roskill War Memorial Park. Although an interviewee and frequent park user felt the exercise equipment was rarely used, others disagreed. The respondents in the WISE Collective Project group for example (primarily women from the Middle East, Africa and India) said they currently used this exercise equipment, however, they were critical of the waiting times to use it and noted it was frequently broken. The WISE Collective project participants also would like exercise equipment classes, as a way to come together but also to reduce waiting times and promote sharing. One interviewee observed that older people didn't use the equipment as the seats were too far down and they felt that they may slip or fall down.

Survey respondents also liked or said they would like to use exercise equipment in parks, but this was a less common response than walking and relaxing in parks.

Roskill Together found that play equipment was really important for seniors in parks. Likewise, the TANI workshop group also wanted exercise equipment. The use of exercise equipment was considered a group activity and therefore grouping equipment together was a common request and exercise bikes amongst Chinese respondents was also popular. There were also requests for exercise equipment to be moved closer to playgrounds.

One interviewee talked about it being too cold to use the exercise equipment in parks and several community leaders thought that the spaced-out equipment may make people feel intimidated as they could easily be observed. A manager of a sports facility observed that where exercise equipment was grouped together it seemed to be "more popular and inclusive for families, groups of people use it, give it a go". Likewise, they thought that equipment that was spaced along a walk way seemed to be designed for the already fit.

Several respondents and stakeholders talked about the importance of recent migrants and refugees needing to access free equipment (and activities) with many people not being able to afford gym memberships.

A key stakeholder from Global Lighthouse who facilitates sports for young people advocated for containers with exercise equipment to go near the Roskill Youth Zone for the use of everyone in the community.

An investment in exercise equipment may warrant further investigation. It is not possible to conclude from this study whether exercise equipment is as popular for Puketāpapa residents as it is with Albert-Eden and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki residents because there are fewer examples of equipment in parks. Moreover, the types of equipment wanted by respondents is different to the equipment currently on offer.

## Cultural exchange and celebration

Like the Albert-Eden and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki studies there was a positive response from diverse cultural communities towards activities that promote cultural exchange and celebration. When asked what wanted more of seniors (with Roskill Together) who recently participated in a showcase, with participants primarily from India, China and Samoa, said they wanted more activities that were multi-ethnic and that facilitated cultural exchange and celebration. Bhartiya Samaj is currently using their local park (weather permitting) to celebrate festivals.

Respondents across surveys, workshops and stakeholders said they liked current festivals and wanted more. Ideas for festivals from the TANI workshop include local Chinese New Year celebrations, mid-Autumn and Spring festivals, carnivals, art festivals, lantern festivals, traditional Chinese festival. Food festivals were also popular across ethnicities.

## Inclusion and access

Because parks are free and open to everyone they are an important space for migrants and refugees to access. Free and open access is significant given that 23% of Puketāpapa residents live in Quintile 5 areas (the most deprived neighbourhoods according to the New Zealand Deprivation). Therefore, compared with other communities in New Zealand, many people living in Puketāpapa have relatively poor social and economic living conditions (Auckland District Health Board, 2012). One stakeholder also observed that, “we can’t isolate parks with other social determinants”.

Another potential issue raised by a few interviewees was that residents close to parks had complained to noise control about dancing and singing groups. Although this was anecdotal the impact of activities in parks on local residents may need to be more deeply understood to minimise disturbance.

## Activation of Parks

A key objective in the Puketāpapa Local Board Plan 2017 (Puketāpapa Local Board, 2017) is ‘our cultural diversity is valued, and communities feel recognised and included’ and a key initiative is ‘to encourage and support a community-led approach to addressing local issues and developing neighbourhood identity, e.g. events, community gardens and public art.’

Likewise, the Draft Open Space Network is proposing to prioritise supporting events and programmes which enable cultural identity in parks (e.g. Holi Festival of Lights, Auckland International Cultural Festival).

A few interviewees suggested bringing together community leaders with the local board at Wesley (on a market day) to really understand the needs of the community.

### Kaitiaki of parks

A stakeholder with Te Whangai Trust saw the potential for more planting days, and “friends of” groups. He also encouraged more activities like the Wesley Intermediate and partners and Lovelock Track initiative (a 100-metre mural hung depicting what would happen if one million trees were planted).

Te Whangai Trust also saw more opportunities for the employment of young people in parks (like Healthy Waters).



Auckland Council currently partners with local schools in the southern and eastern local board areas providing opportunities for students to learn about their local park and their habitats so they can do something good for the environment. The programmes are currently tailored to meet the school’s needs. Some current activities include;

- Picking up rubbish
- Monitoring wildlife or pests
- Reporting damage to parks furniture
- Planting trees.

There may be plans to extend this programme to other local boards in the future. Likewise, there are many existing volunteering opportunities in Puketāpapa and could be promoted to diverse cultural communities through existing stakeholder organisations.

### Parks as places to promote exercise and growing knowledge of local food

Lack of support and poor access to health services for recent immigrants, non-English speaking residents, and low-income families were identified as issues in this community (Auckland District Health Board,

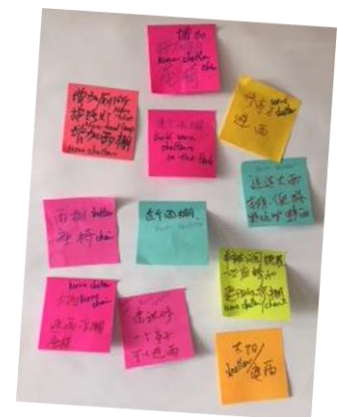
2012). Among other factors, residents rated exercise and diet and nutrition as having the most positive impact on health. Facilitating free exercise classes and potentially investing in strategically placed exercise equipment could assist in impacting resident's health. Key organisations were also looking at activities that improved physical health (for example, Migrant Action Trust are considering introducing dancing in the park).

The Kitchen Garden (community garden) in John Moore Reserve is open to all and the New Zealand Women's Ethnic Trust talked about it involving local people, and many refugees who are sometimes unwell on arrival and the garden is an opportunity to learn about food and to become more familiar with New Zealand vegetables. Another community garden trialled in the Waikowhai area was not as successful with a key interviewee from TANI believing that residents there were often transient as they were accommodated in rental or Housing New Zealand accommodation and they did not have a sense of belonging to the place. The aim of the garden was to create belonging and an inclusive neighbourhood through the garden project, but it didn't have the expected results. Understanding why this community garden didn't succeed may help to ensure the success of future gardens.

Some barriers to accessing parks for diverse communities according to a few interviewees could be not knowing how to get to parks using bus services. Producing a 'how to guide' (including how to use the bus system) and a map of the parks in Puketāpapa which show playgrounds, toilet facilities, drinking water, skate parks, walking/cycling path network, café's, (in collaboration with Taste Puketāpapa), off leash dog areas and beaches could help further activate parks.

## What is preventing people from using parks?

When asked what was preventing people from using parks the most common theme was a lack of shelter and seating (particularly prominent with Chinese and Korean participants), more toilets (and cleaner), unleashed dogs and feeling unsafe at night. The Earth Action Trust interviewee also observed with increasing adverse weather events and effects of climate change there will be even more of a need for covered areas in parks.



This echoes the findings of the neighbourhood park study (Captivate, 2015) where the main themes for improvements related to facilities (e.g. more toilets, an increase in shade and seated areas); improvements relating to children, playgrounds and activities (e.g. providing a playground, adding more activities to existing playgrounds); and increased maintenance/safety (e.g. removing rubbish, cleaning toilets, adding lighting, improving safety aspects).

In the Captivate (2015) study those who identified themselves as Asian or Indian indicated a lower level of satisfaction overall with their neighbourhood parks, their suggestions for improvement and reasons for giving a neutral or dissatisfied rating were similar to overall findings. The highest dissatisfaction rates of 22% of people identified as Indian.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Local Board consider:

	<i>Feedback and observations</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Key agencies</i>
Key Theme: Health and wellbeing	Walking was the most popular park-based activity across all respondents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to invest in expansion and maintenance of walking and cycling routes.</li> <li>• Provide more seating under shaded areas along the pathways.</li> <li>• Support walking and cycling activation programmes.</li> <li>• Advocate for improved information and promotion of walking and cycling routes in diverse languages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Lighthouse</li> <li>• Bike Kitchen</li> </ul>
	Diverse ethnic communities showed high interest in exercise classes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate free exercise classes in parks, especially zumba, yoga, tai chi and singing/dancing.</li> <li>• Provide a solid (and ideally covered) surface for tai chi.</li> <li>• Consider lighting of parks where appropriate to allow evening use.</li> <li>• Investigate impacts of activities on nearby residents to minimise disturbance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrant Action Trust</li> <li>• TANI</li> <li>• Roskill Together</li> <li>• Lynfield YMCA Youth and Leisure Centre</li> <li>• Cameron YMCA Pool and Leisure Centre</li> <li>• Wesley Community Centre</li> </ul>
	Sharing food in parks is an important social opportunity for diverse ethnic communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in picnic and barbeque areas to accommodate large families and groups with amenities including shelter, tables and seating.</li> </ul>	
	Basketball was popular among diverse ethnic communities and especially with young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider covering basketball courts so they can be used in all weather.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Lighthouse</li> </ul>
	There is often a lack of space at sports parks for informal sport use outside of joining clubs (especially for popular sports of soccer, cricket and touch rugby).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with sport's codes and local sporting communities to ensure there are adequate spaces for community run sporting activities and informal groups to play sports in local parks.</li> <li>• Provide support and advice to community groups to book sports fields.</li> <li>• Consider erecting signage at sports parks on 'how to make' bookings.</li> <li>• Support community organisations to apply for funding to facilitate sporting events for diverse ethnic communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local sport codes</li> <li>• Global Lighthouse</li> <li>• Kiwi-Somalian Friendship Group</li> </ul>
	Diverse ethnic communities currently utilise existing equipment within parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prototype quality exercise equipment and exercise classes in a key park.</li> <li>• Consider placing exercise equipment in a container near Mt Roskill Youth Zone.</li> <li>• Consider clustering equipment together (potentially near a playground) with multiple units.</li> <li>• Consider equipment that is suitable for varied ages, from teenagers to seniors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WISE Collective Project and TANI (exercise class)</li> <li>• Global Lighthouse</li> </ul>

	Diverse ethnic communities can experience loneliness and isolation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prototype a friendship bench, designed by the local community for people to sit on, chat and connect to foster connections in the community.</li> <li>• Consider placing the bench in a busy park to minimise risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roskill Together</li> </ul>
Key Theme: Activation of parks	Parks are sometimes not safe, need better maintenance and do not provide enough varied equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider prioritising improvements, more and cleaner toilets, removing rubbish, better sightlines and lighting.</li> <li>• Provide playgrounds that have varied equipment suitable for diverse age groups from babies to teenagers.</li> </ul>	
	There is an interest in guardianship of parks through volunteering.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the current local schools partnership model adopt a park or spot for Puketāpapa.</li> <li>• Consider opportunities for diverse ethnic communities to be involved (and employ young people) in the ongoing work along Te Auaunga (Healthy Waters and Tohu projects) and other 'friends of' and planting programmes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All stakeholder organisations</li> <li>• Te Whangai Trust</li> <li>• PETER</li> <li>• Friends of Oakley Creek</li> </ul>
Key Theme: Cultural exchange and celebration	There is an interest to partner with council on projects within parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider introducing a local community night market.</li> <li>• Consider extending the Pah Homestead local community day event further into the Monte Cecilia Park</li> <li>• Consider facilitating singing and dancing activities in local parks to promote healthy exercise.</li> <li>• Advocate for more community gardens with recent migrants and refugees to grow local food knowledge and improve health outcomes.</li> <li>• Provide lighting and power sources to facilitate projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Zealand Women's Ethnic Trust</li> <li>• Pah Homestead TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre</li> <li>• Migrant Action Group</li> <li>• TANI</li> </ul>
	Diverse ethnic communities highly value local community events and festivals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support communities to partner with Council to introduce new local community festivals, for example, Chinese New Year celebrations, mid-Autumn and Spring Festivals, Lantern Festival, Tongan Day Festival and a multi-ethnic food festival.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All key stakeholders</li> </ul>
Key Theme: Inclusion and access	Diverse ethnic communities are often not aware of the parks and open spaces available to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guides and maps including key amenities and transport options and stops in key languages.</li> </ul>	
	Diverse ethnic communities experience applying for permits and bookings in parks challenging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide targeted community organisations and their members a workshop on 'how to plan an event; the application process for permits and bookings in parks' one year out from their planned events.</li> </ul>	

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