

Manaaki Tāmaki Makaurau

Auckland Open Space, Sport and
Recreation Strategy

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Nau mai, haere mai ki

Tāmaki Makaurau

This *tohu* and supporting *whakatauki* (proverb) highlights the importance of environmental wellbeing and its connection to the health of the people.

This *tohu* is designed by Sonny Pihema with support from Kaunuku.

At the heart of the outer ring is the **unaunahi pattern**, inspired by fish scales. It symbolises abundance and the strength found in unity. In the context of play, sport and recreation across Tāmaki Makaurau, it reflects *manaakitanga*—how we support, uplift and care for one another. It reminds us that success is not just about winning, but about creating inclusive, kind and respectful spaces for everyone—*oranga tāngata* (health of people), *oranga whenua* (health of land), *oranga whānau* (health of families) and *oranga wai* (health of water) to thrive.

The inner ring features the **ritorito pattern**, which represents nurturing and the sustainable care of *harakeke*. *Harakeke* reflects the strength and connection of *whānau*—just as the outer leaves protect the young *rito*, we uplift each other through play, sport, recreation and connection to *te taiao* (to the environment), ensuring the wellbeing of our community. The *kōrari* nestled within the *ritorito* represents the life cycle metaphor; the young shoots representing early growth and the *kōrari* speaking to the potential, continuation and future flourishing. Together, they reflect the cyclical nature of renewal and the broader idea of nurturing and supporting that journey and the important role we play in supporting those around us to grow and thrive. Guided by *manaakitanga*, we foster kindness, respect and inclusivity—ensuring that our communities, like a thriving *pā harakeke*, grow strong together, living healthy, active lives.



He mihi

Tērā tō waka te hoea ake e koe i te moana o te Waitematā.
 Ki reira, ka mihi ake ai ki ngā maunga here kōrero, ki ngā pari whakarongo tai,
 ki ngā awa tuku kiri o ōna mana whenua, ōna mana ā-iwi taketake mai, tauiwi atu.
 E koro mā, e kui mā i te wāhi ngaro, ko Tāmaki Makaurau tā koutou i whakarere
 iho ai,
 ki ngā reanga whakaheke, ki ngā uri whakatupu - ki tō iti, ki tō rahi.
 Tāmaki - makau a te rau, murau a te tini, wenerau a te mano.

Kāhore tō rite i te ao.
 Tō ahureinga titi rawa ki ngā pūmanawa o mātou kua whakakāinga ki roto i a koe.
 Kua noho mai koe hei toka herenga i ō mātou manako katoa.
 Kua ūhia nei mātou e koe ki te korowai o tō atawhai
 ki te āhuru o tō awahi,
 ki te kuku rawa o tō manawa.
 He mea tūturu tonu whakairihia,
 hei tāhuhu mō te rangi e tū iho nei,
 hei whāriki mō te papa e takoto ake nei.
 Kia kōpakina mātou e koe ki raro i te whakamarumarū o āu
 Manaakitanga.

E te marae whakatutū puehu o te mano whāioio,
 e rokohanga nei i ngā muna, te huna tonu i ō whāruarua
 i ngā hua e taea te hauhake i ō māra kai,
 i ngā rawa e āhei te kekerihia i ō pūkoro.
 Te mihia nei koe e mātou.

Tāmaki Makaurau, ko koe me tō kotahi i te ao nei, nōku te māringanui kia mōhio
 ki a koe,
 kia miria e te kakara o te hau pūangi e kawē nei i ō rongo.
 Ka whītiki nei au i taku hope ki ngā pepehā o onamata, ki ōku tūmanako mō
 āpōpō me ōku whakaritenga kua tutuki mō te rā nei.

Tāmaki Makaurau, tukuna tō wairua kia rere.

*Let your canoe carry you across the waters of the Waitematā.
 There, to greet the mountains, repository of all that has been said of this place,
 there to greet the cliffs that have heard the ebb and flow of the tides of time,
 and the rivers that cleansed the forebears of all who came those born of this land and
 the newcomers among us all.
 To all who have passed into realms unseen, Auckland is the legacy you leave to those
 who follow,
 your descendants - the least, yet, greatest part of you all.
 Auckland - beloved of hundreds, famed among the multitude,
 envy of thousands.
 You are unique in the world.*

*Your beauty is infused in the hearts and minds of those of us who call you home.
 You remain the rock upon which our dreams are built.
 You have cloaked us in your care,
 taken us into the safety of your embrace,
 to the very soul of your existence.
 It is only right that you are held in high esteem,
 the solid ground on which all can stand.
 You bestow your benevolence on us all.*

*The hive of industry you have become
 motivates many to delve the undiscovered secrets of your realm,
 the fruits that can still be harvested from your food stores
 and the resources that lie fallow in your fields.
 We thank you.*

*Auckland, you stand alone in the world, it is my privilege to know you,
 to be brushed by the gentle breeze that carries the fragrance of all that is you.
 And so I gird myself with the promises of yesteryear, my hopes for tomorrow and my
 plans for today.*

Auckland let your spirit soar.

Mihi from the Auckland Plan 2050

About this document

Kei tēnei rautaki ngā kōrero mō te āhua o tā mātou whakarite i ētahi ara ki te takiraha, ki te hākinakina me te rēhia hei painga mō ngā tāngata katoa o Tāmaki Makaurau.

This strategy outlines how we will provide open spaces and sport and recreation opportunities to benefit all Aucklanders equitably.

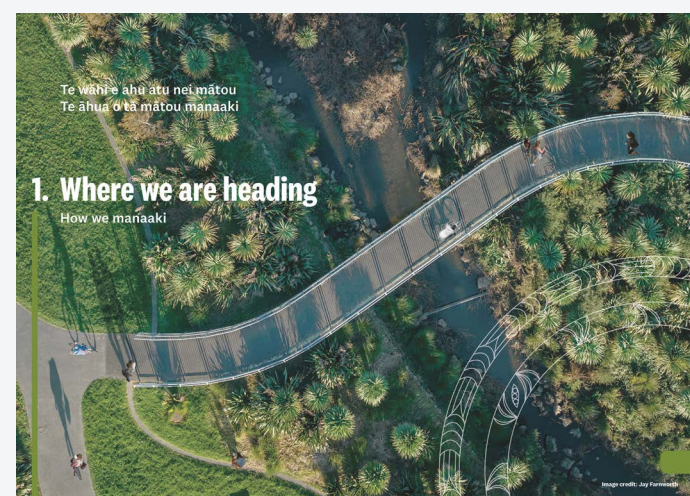
This strategy consolidates and simplifies five strategies, policies and plans that previously guided investment in open space, sport and recreation in Tāmaki Makaurau. It brings together the domains of open space and sport and recreation, reflecting the importance of open spaces for Aucklanders to live healthy, active lives.

The strategy responds to the challenges and opportunities outlined in the [background paper](#) to better contribute to the Auckland Plan 2050 outcomes as Auckland grows and changes.

It takes a wide view of open space, encompassing green spaces (such as parks), blue spaces (such as streams) and grey spaces (such as streets) to reflect the spaces Aucklanders use and value. It applies a te ao Māori lens, grounded in Te Ora ō Tāmaki Makaurau, to better deliver on Māori outcomes and ensure the oranga tāngata, oranga whānau, oranga whenua and oranga wai for current and future generations. It also reflects the council's commitment to engaging and working with Māori in ways that are consistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Our approach to implementation and monitoring will be guided by the strategic directions, investment principles and policies in this strategy and aligned to the council's seven investment areas and 23 activities. For additional information, go to [our website](#).

Adopted by Auckland Council Policy and Planning Committee on 15 May 2025 [PEPCC/2025/45].



Where we are heading

How we manaaki

Sets five strategic directions for the future provision of open spaces and sport and recreation opportunities.

[Pages 10-15](#)

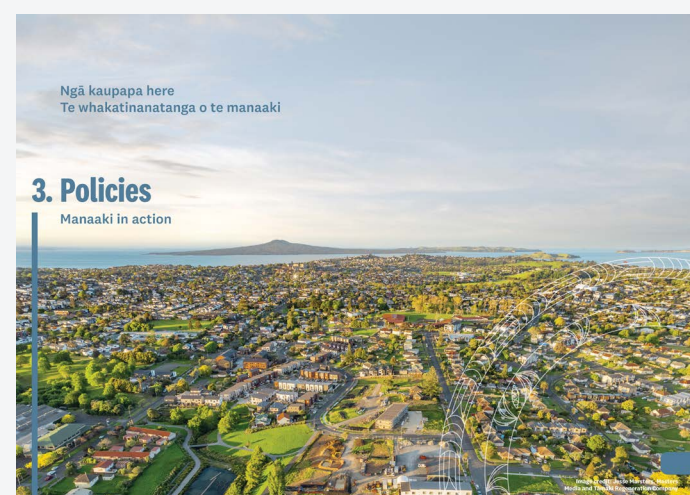


How we will get there

Our approach to investment guided by manaaki

Outlines how we will prioritise investment based on four investment principles and a wide range of delivery and funding tools.

[Pages 16-23](#)



Policies

Manaaki in action

Sets Auckland Council's expectations for making the most of our open spaces, for the provision and acquisition of open space, and for the council's investment in play, sport and recreation.

[Pages 24-89](#)

Tā mātou rautaki i te whārangi

Our strategy on a page

- Te Ora ō Tāmaki Makaurau -

Our open spaces and sport and recreation opportunities benefit all Aucklanders equitably, now and for future generations. They support oranga tāngata (health of people), oranga whenua (health of land), oranga whānau (health of families) and oranga wai (health of water), and contribute to a healthier Tāmaki Makaurau.

In all that we do, we are guided by **manaakitanga** - showing respect, generosity, and care for each other and our shared resources.

- Where we are heading -

How we manaaki

Make all of Tāmaki Makaurau our backyard

Deliver innovative open spaces in high-density areas

Enhance our response to climate disruption

Protect and enhance our environment, biodiversity and heritage

Support Aucklanders to live healthy, active lives

- How we will get there -

Our approach to investment guided by manaaki

Take a benefits-led approach to improve the holistic wellbeing of people, places and the environment

Invest based on evidence of need and the voices of Aucklanders

Honour our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations

Work together to towards a healthy future, using all our resources



- What we will deliver -

Manaaki in action

The policies for making the most of our open spaces, for open space provision and acquisition, for play, sport and recreation investment set the council's expectations for delivery

Our implementation and monitoring approach sets priorities for delivery and tracks our progress against key performance indicators

Te Ora ō Tāmaki Makaurau

The health of Auckland

Tāmaki Herenga Waka: Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland is the joining place of many canoes. Many iwi, hapū and whānau found the conditions to thrive from Te Hana in the north to Waiuku in the south, as well as the islands of the Waitemātā. They are mana whenua, embracing their ancestral role as kaitiaki of all living systems.

Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata: Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland is also the joining place of many people. It has the largest Māori population of any region in Aotearoa, many from other areas of the motu (mataawaka). It is home to people of over 180 different ethnicities (tauwi), all building a future here.

Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland is desired by all. Its inviting shores and landscapes, its rich ecosystems, nourishing waters and productive soils have provided generously for us all.

As we benefit today from all the treasures Tāmaki Makaurau offers, we must also face pressing challenges, such as climate disruption, degrading environments, increasing urbanisation and growing social inequities.

What future will we choose for our tamariki? Our collective health and wellbeing are interlinked with the health and wellbeing of the people (oranga tāngata), health of land (oranga whenua), generations (oranga whānau) and water (oranga wai).

All Aucklanders have the opportunity to enhance and protect what we love and what makes Tāmaki Makaurau such a special place: its heritage, its extensive and diverse network of open spaces and places and plenty of opportunities for play, sport and recreation. By strengthening the connections between people, water and land, we can foster a thriving environment for generations to come.

It requires our deliberate effort to manaaki (care for, uplift, nurture) the health of Auckland. Let manaakitanga be our generation’s legacy to Tāmaki Makaurau and those that chose to live here after us.



Kia manaaki tātou i te ora ō
Tāmaki Makaurau

Kia manaaki tātou i te ora o Tāmaki Makaurau

Making manaakitanga our legacy for a healthy Auckland

We all have a role to play in uplifting the health of Tāmaki Makaurau.

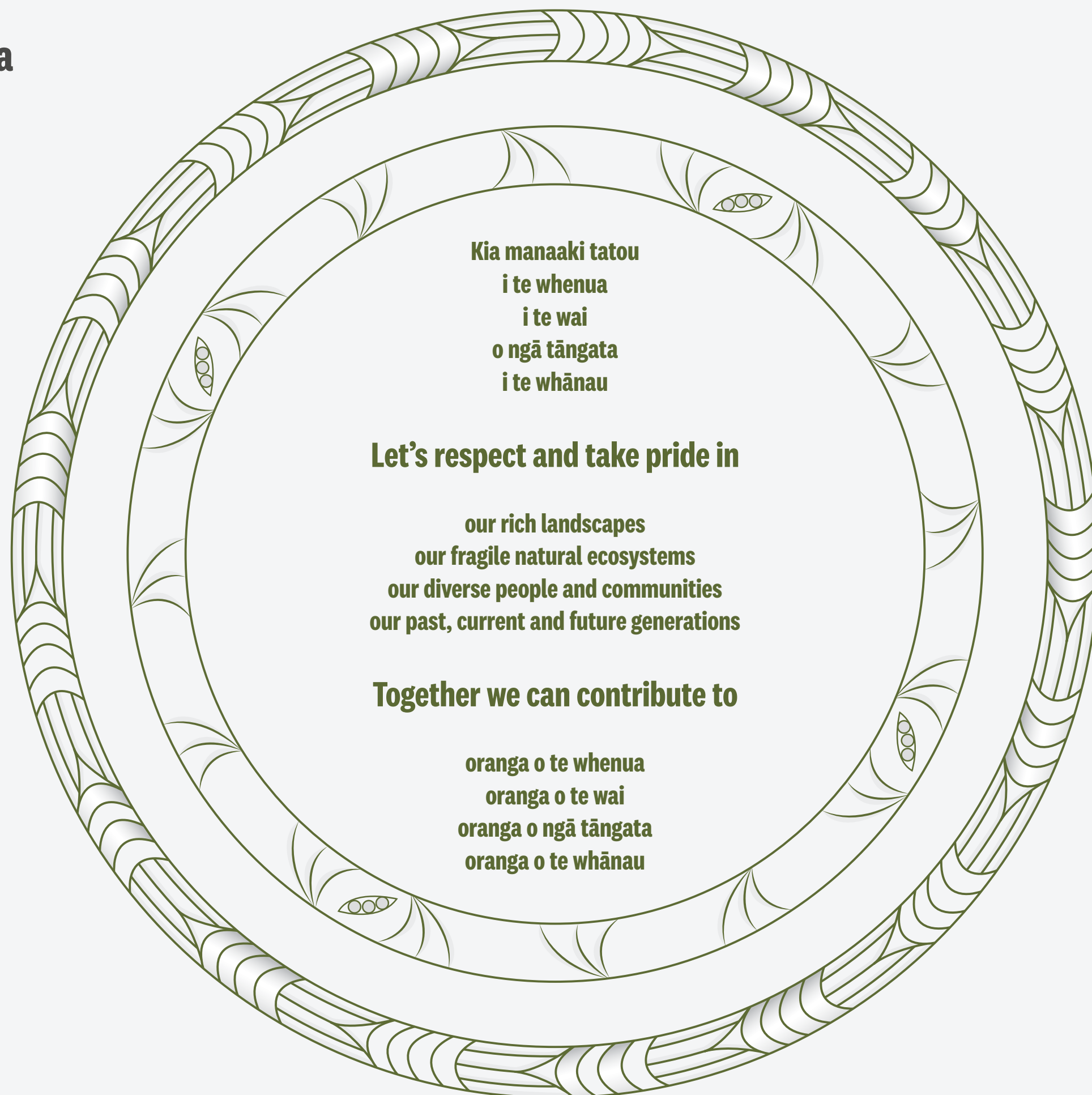
We face complex challenges that require us to deliver a unified response that goes beyond our generation.

Manaakitanga is one way we can meet these challenges. Simply, manaakitanga comprises **mana**—‘pride’ and **aki**—‘to uplift’, implying how we can all engage in acts of care and support.

It is a te ao Māori way of caring for one another and our resources, through showing support, respect, hospitality and generosity. This approach leads to positive outcomes for communities, individuals, whānau and friends.

Achieving manaakitanga means promoting a spirit of unity that benefits all Aucklanders. We can do this through supporting one another in our mahi, whether strategy and planning or delivery, and taking a deliberate approach that aligns oranga (wellbeing) with the principle of equity.

To manaaki Tāmaki Makaurau we all have to work together, including Auckland Council, mana whenua and mataawaka, partners and regional organisations, volunteers and community groups, developers, sports clubs and more.



Te whakamōrahi painga ki Tāmaki Makaurau me ngā tāngata o Tāmaki Makaurau

Maximising benefits to Auckland and Aucklanders

Open spaces and sport and recreation opportunities are highly valued by communities across the region. They contribute to the liveability and identity of Auckland and provide benefits across all six Auckland Plan outcomes.

Using mātauranga Māori to sustain and enhance mauri of places and spaces

Oranga tāngata

Oranga whenua

Oranga whānau

Oranga wai

Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and protecting the region's unique Māori identity

Protecting sites of significance and cultural value

Stormwater management and flood mitigation

Indigenous biodiversity, ecosystems and access to nature

Active transport and reduced congestion

Crime reduction

Social connection and cohesion

Tourism, events and film opportunities

Climate mitigation and resilience

Improved water quality

Cleaning and cooling the air

Improved physical and mental health and wellbeing

Noise reduction

Improved property values

Economic stimulation and improved productivity

Enhancing spiritual and cultural connections for Māori

He wāhi tō te Ranga Hautū me ngā poari ā-rohe ki te whakatinana i ō mātou ahunga whai rautaki

As a strategy developed under the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act, both the Governing Body and local boards have a role in implementation

Auckland Council has two complimentary but distinct decision-making bodies with responsibilities for open spaces and sport and recreation.

Through their decision-making, the Governing Body and local boards can together manaaki the wellbeing of communities, the environment, current and future generations and mana whenua. As such, both play a critical role in the successful implementation of the strategy.

There is a more detailed description of the decision-making allocations on [our website](#).



Governing Body

Focuses on region-wide strategic and investment decisions, including on regional parks.

Develop regional open space and sport and recreation policies and strategies.

Sets budgets for investment through the long-term plan process.

Acquire and determine the location and use of regional parks, sports parks and regional sport and recreation facilities.

Govern regional sport and recreation programmes, funding and grants.



Local Boards

Represent their communities and make decisions on local matters, including on local parks and sport and recreation facilities and programmes.

Set aspirations and priorities for local sport and recreation through local board plans.

Identify local needs and advocate for investment through the long-term plan process.

Acquire and determine the location and use of local parks and local sport and recreation facilities.

Govern local sport and recreation programmes, funding and grants.

Te wāhi e ahū atu nei mātou
Te āhua o tā mātou manaaki

1. Where we are heading

How we manaaki

Me whakarite te katoa o Tāmaki Makaurau hei āpure pārekareka mō tātou

Make all of Tāmaki Makaurau our backyard

Enable safe, equitable access to all our open spaces, whether they be green, blue or grey, to better meet the needs of Aucklanders.

Why this matters

Auckland's current and future population growth means less private open space and an ever-increasing demand for public open space. In addition to continuing to provide high-quality green spaces for Aucklanders, we have an opportunity to take a wide view of open space to better reflect the places and spaces Aucklanders use and value and better support Aucklanders' oranga. This means opening up public access to the extensive network of green, blue and grey open spaces for relaxation and connection, finding respite in nature, physical activity, work, growing food and much more across Tāmaki Makaurau.

How we manaaki

- Partner with other providers of open spaces and places to improve public access.
- Continue to improve the quality and functionality of our open space network to deliver equitable recreation opportunities for Aucklanders and showcase Māori identity and culture as our point of difference in the world.
- Continue to provide new high-quality open spaces to keep pace with growth, prioritising areas that need it most, and reflect and celebrate our cultural landscapes.
- Continue to enable public access to our streams, coastlines and ecological areas, for example by developing paths in our blue-green network.
- Work closely with Auckland Transport to help people to move safely and easily across our parks and streets for recreation as well as active transport.
- Work with Auckland Transport to embed and accelerate emerging practices that enable using civic squares, streets and carparks for people-centred activities and greening the city.
- Consider geographic, physical, social, cultural and economic barriers to ensure all Aucklanders have equitable access to open spaces and play, sport and recreation opportunities.

Implementation focus

- **Embed emerging practices** - make new things we do well part of business as usual
- **Continue** - keep doing things that work and align with our new strategic directions

Westhaven Promenade, Westhaven

Image credit: Auckland Council



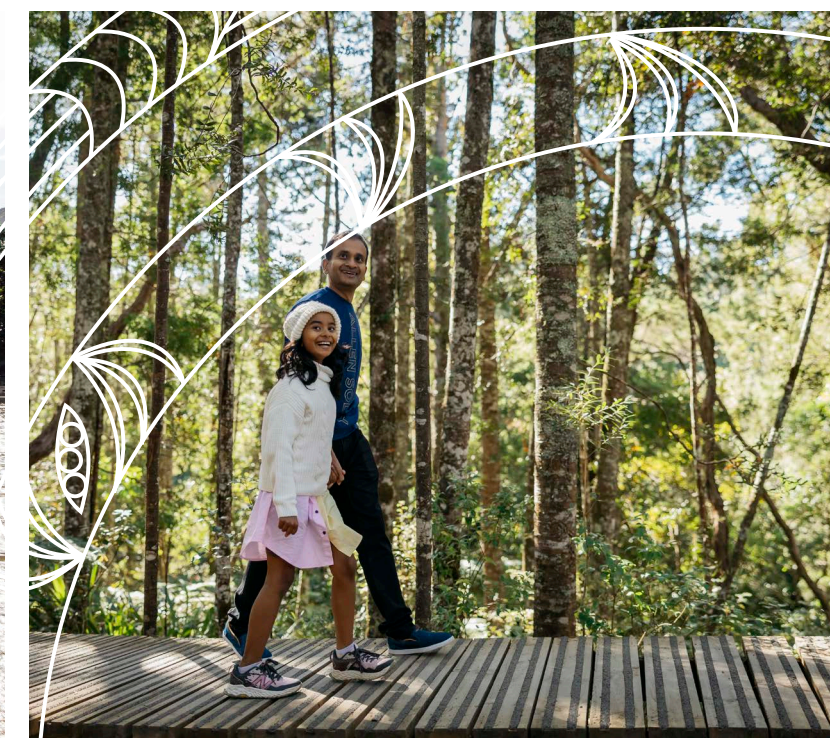
Come Fly a Kite, Orangihina Park

Image credit: Auckland Council



Great Barrier Island

Image credit: Auckland Council



Kauri Glen Bush Reserve Walkway, Northcote

Image credit: Auckland Council

Me whakatakoto takiraha auaha i ngā rohe e nui ana te mātotoru taupori

Deliver innovative open spaces in high-density areas

Make the most of all open spaces and places to provide more opportunities for Aucklanders to enjoy nature, socialise and be active.

Why this matters

Auckland is becoming a more compact city: more people live closer together, private green space is becoming scarcer, and our opportunity to deliver more parks is limited by financial constraints and land availability. In high-density areas, streets play a critical role in providing open space. There is also potential to better use our buildings and the space around and within them to provide communal outdoor space. To help take the pressure off our public green spaces, we need to make the most of all our opportunities to provide space for Aucklanders.

How we manaaki

- Prioritise acquiring new parks in high-density areas.
- Support the development of regulatory tools to ensure high-quality, functional private and communal open space is provided for developments on sites and in areas where intensification occurs.
- Encourage private developments to provide private open space, such as on rooftops, for play, sport and recreation in addition to any regulatory requirements.
- Adapt our council-owned facilities, such as carparking buildings, to provide space for play, sport and recreation.

Implementation focus

- **Embed emerging practices** - make new things we do well part of business as usual
- **Do differently** - make changes to current approaches to address challenges
- **Do more** - improve what we do to better deliver for Auckland and Aucklanders

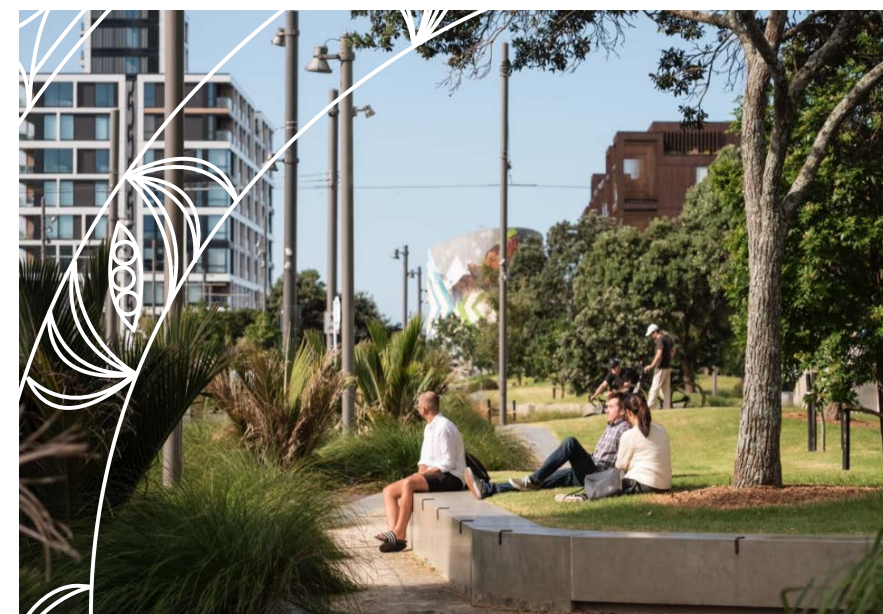
Freyberg Place, City Centre
Image credit: Auckland Council



Grey Lynn rooftop, Grey Lynn
Image credit: Auckland Council



Waiwharariki Anzac Square, Takapuna
Image credit: Eke Panuku



Daldy Street, Wynyard Quarter
Image credit: Samuel Hartnett

Me whakapakari ake tā tātou urupare ki ngā raruraru āhuarangi

Enhance our response to climate disruption

Better plan and design our open spaces and places network to enhance its contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and build resilience and contribute to delivering Te Tāruke ā Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan.

Why this matters

Tāmaki Makaurau is already being impacted by climate disruption, including through extreme weather events. We need to make changes to respond to climate disruption and build resilience in our open spaces and places network. This means prioritising our investment to make Auckland greener and spongier. This will benefit the wellbeing of people and the environment and honour our responsibility to mana whenua and to future generations.

How we manaaki

- Develop our blue-green network to better manage stormwater, enhance waterways, and deliver benefits for people and nature.
- Accelerate the use of nature-based solutions in our parks and other open spaces, and our built environment, to increase their contribution to water capture and storage, greening the city and reducing temperatures in urban areas.
- Increase the application of mātauranga Māori together with western approaches to respond to climate disruption.
- Improve the performance of our open spaces and facilities to reduce negative environmental impacts, including carbon emissions, and prevent the potential release of on-site contaminants due to the impacts of climate disruption.
- Adapt our open spaces and facilities on the coast and in flood areas using the most considerate response, ranging from no active intervention to managed realignment.

Implementation focus

- **Do differently** - make changes to current approaches to address challenges
- **Do more** - improve what we do to better deliver for Auckland and Aucklanders

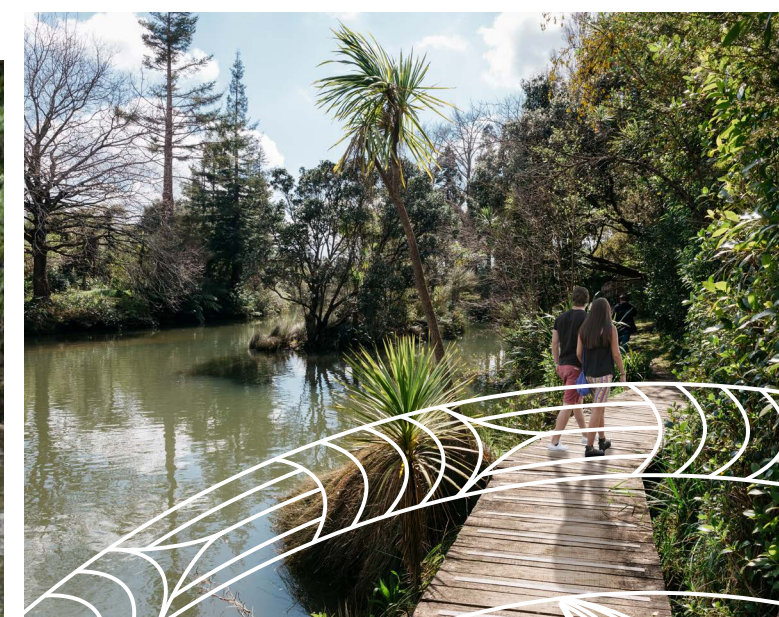
Puhinui Stream volunteer clean up, Manukau

Image credit: Beautification Trust



Twin Streams, Opanuku

Image credit: Auckland Council



Te Kaitaka / Greenslade Reserve, Northcote

Image credit: Isthmus Group, David St George



Awakeri, Papakura

Image credit: Auckland Council

Me tiaki, me whakapakari ake hoki tō tātou taiao, te kanorau koiora me te tuku ihotanga

Protect and enhance our environment, biodiversity and heritage

Take an ecosystem approach to manage our open space network in ways that increasingly benefit the environment and indigenous biodiversity, as well as Aucklanders, and protect our historic and cultural heritage.

Why this matters

The health of Auckland's environment is improving but challenges remain. Auckland's growth, along with associated habitat loss and other threats such as invasive pest species and diseases, is putting pressure on the environment and biodiversity, threatening indigenous species and ecosystems. Our open spaces also play an important role in protecting Auckland's historic and cultural heritage.

How we manaaki

- Protect and maintain indigenous ecosystems and connect open spaces and habitats to support indigenous biodiversity.
- Continue planting, applying mātauranga Māori and prioritising indigenous species, to accelerate the restoration of indigenous ecosystems in parks and other open spaces.
- Partner with others to increase tree canopy cover across the city and to continue delivering the Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy.
- Continue to ensure our open spaces and places reflect and celebrate mana whenua cultural heritage, narratives and names.
- Continue to protect and care for the significant natural environment areas and cultural heritage (Māori and non-Māori) in our open space and places.

Implementation focus

- **Continue** - keep doing things that work and align with our new strategic directions

Tieke (saddleback)
Image credit: Martin Sanders



Comans Track, Karekare
Image credit: Auckland Council



Harakeke harvesting
Image credit: : Bryan Lowe



Planting volunteers, Ōrākei Basin
Image credit: Auckland Council

Me tautoko ngā tāngata o Tāmaki Makaurau kia hauora, kia hauori te noho ora

Support Aucklanders to live healthy, active lives

Support Aucklanders to be more active more often through programmes, spaces and places that manaaki whānau and communities and can adapt to future needs.

Why this matters

Regular physical activity, whether it be play, sport or recreation, provides significant health and wellbeing benefits. While many Aucklanders are physically active, not everyone is getting enough physical activity in their lives and some are missing out as they face barriers to participation. As Aucklanders’ preferences and behaviours change, we need to evolve our existing open spaces and facilities to provide a wide range of opportunities. We also need to target our investment to support those who need it the most and adopt flexible delivery approaches.

How we manaaki

- Target programmes and resources to support Aucklanders who are less physically active and face barriers to access, with a stronger focus on community and intergenerational participation.
- Plan for a regional sport and recreation facilities network in collaboration with our partners, with clear investment priorities to support more equitable participation.
- Support the delivery of a diverse range of play, sport and recreation opportunities across our open space network.
- Partner with others to improve public access to non-council sport and recreation assets such as school fields and facilities.
- Support and enable communities to deliver services, including Māori-led services where appropriate.
- Accelerate the transition to multi-use and adaptable spaces and facilities to deliver multiple benefits for our communities and clubs.
- Work with the community and mana whenua to design spaces and facilities that are welcoming, safe and inclusive, meet community needs, foster a sense of belonging and respectfully honour and celebrate mana whenua culture heritage and identity.

Implementation focus

- **Embed emerging practices** - make new things we do well part of business as usual
- **Do differently** - make changes to current approaches to address challenges

Cultural performers
Image credit: Auckland Council



Round the Bays, Tāmaki Drive
Image credit: Auckland Council



Waitakere Hockey Turf, Henderson
Image credit: Auckland Council



Iwi of Origin, Bruce Pulman Park
Image credit: Aktive

Te ara ka whāia ki reira
Te tikanga ka whāia ki te haumitanga i runga i te manaaki

2. How we will get there

Our approach to investment guided by manaaki



Image credit: Auckland Council

Ka tuku haumi mātou ki Tāmaki Makaurau me ngā tāngata o Tāmaki Makaurau i runga i ngā mātāpono matua e whā

We will invest in Auckland and Aucklanders based on four key principles

We must target our efforts and investment in the face of the increasing cost of delivering services and assets, limited resources, and the council's commitment to deliver value for money by maximising the benefits we deliver to our communities.

We will deliver our five strategic directions (see pages 11-15) by prioritising our investment based on four key principles.

They form a robust and consistent investment approach that enables us to:

- design initiatives to deliver multiple benefits to people, places and the environment, increasing their value for money
- consider a wide range of funding sources and delivery options
- choose the most appropriate focus of investment, including in infrastructure, programmes, services, development, maintenance or capability building
- compare different projects consistently
- target our resources where they are the most needed and make the biggest impacts across our four oranga
- support decision-makers to make evidence-based decisions
- better deliver for Auckland and Aucklanders using all our resources.

The four key principles are based on those adopted in the Ngā Hapori Momoho, Thriving Communities Strategy 2022-32. The first three are unchanged, while the fourth has been adapted to specifically respond to the open space, sport and recreation delivery and funding environment.

Our investment principles

1.

Take a benefits-led approach to improve the holistic wellbeing of people, places and the environment

2.

Invest based on evidence of need and the voices of Aucklanders

3.

Honour our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations

4.

Work together towards a healthy future, using all our resources

Mātāpono 1: Whāia tētahi ara arotahi ki ngā hua kia whakapaingia ake ai te oranga torowhārahi o ngā tāngata, o ngā wāhi me te taiao

Principle 1: Take a benefits-led approach to improve the holistic wellbeing of people, places and the environment

Why this matters

Our investments in open space, sport and recreation often require significant funding. They also deliver significant benefits to people, places and the environment. Making good decisions about investment requires us to take an evidence-based approach to better understand both long-term costs and benefits to ensure our investments will support oranga tāngata, oranga whenua, oranga whānau and oranga wai for current and future generations

How we manaaki

- We optimise the design of our investment and delivery to provide multiple benefits across our four oranga (e.g. by taking an ecosystem approach, our recreation parks may also be able to support stormwater management and better support ecological restoration).
- We take a holistic view of benefits that recognises the interconnectedness of people, places and the environment.
- We take a long-term view of costs and benefits to recognise that investment decisions may have an intergenerational impact.
- We use evidence to understand the true value of our investments by identifying, describing and quantifying (in monetary terms where possible) the benefits of different open space, sport and recreation investments (see benefits matrix on the next page).
- We consistently compare investments and prioritise those with the highest value for money, when and where they are needed most.
- We continue to improve data collection and outcomes reporting so that we can invest more strategically and with greater confidence.



Using streets for people
Image credit: Auckland Council

Open space, sport and recreation benefits matrix

This matrix is a summary list of benefits and will continue to be adapted as we refine our understanding of the benefits our investments deliver.

Oranga tāngata		Oranga whenua		Oranga whānau		Oranga wai					
Auckland Plan outcomes											
Belonging and participation		Māori identity and wellbeing		Homes and places		Transport and access		Environmental and cultural heritage		Opportunity and prosperity	
Main types of benefits											
Recreational, health and social benefits		Improvements in whānau and Māori wellbeing		Place based benefits		Transport and connectivity benefits		Environmental and cultural benefits		Business and innovation benefits	
• Recreation use and existence benefits for parks and sports facilities • Recreation use and existence benefits for waterways • Use and existence benefits for specific facilities • Health benefits from physical activity • Health benefits from access to nature • Health benefits from improved water and air quality • Volunteering benefits • Improved social cohesion and equity		• Value of Māori cultural expression • Preserving mana whenua culturally significant sites and artifacts • Sustaining and enhancing mauri • Sustaining and enhancing taonga takaro		• Stormwater management benefits • Avoided flood damage • Cooling benefits • Gains in property values • Crime reduction benefits • Noise reduction benefits • Urban resilience benefits • Increased community pride		• Congestion cost savings • Pedestrian travel savings • Avoided costs from accidents • Avoided road damage and maintenance • More equitable access to transport		• Carbon emissions reductions benefits • Values associated with use and existence of cultural assets and sites • Values associated with improved water quality, biodiversity • Food provision and habitat services • Enhanced quality of cultural and heritage assets		• Value of additional visitor expenditure • Avoided capital and operating costs • Business and investment attraction • Buisness productivity benefits • Talent benefits • Education and research benefits	

Mātāpono 2: Me tuku haumi i runga i te taunaki e pā ana ki ngā hiahia matua, ki ngā reo hoki o ngā tāngata o Tāmaki Makaurau

Principle 2: Invest based on evidence of need and the voices of Aucklanders

Why this matters

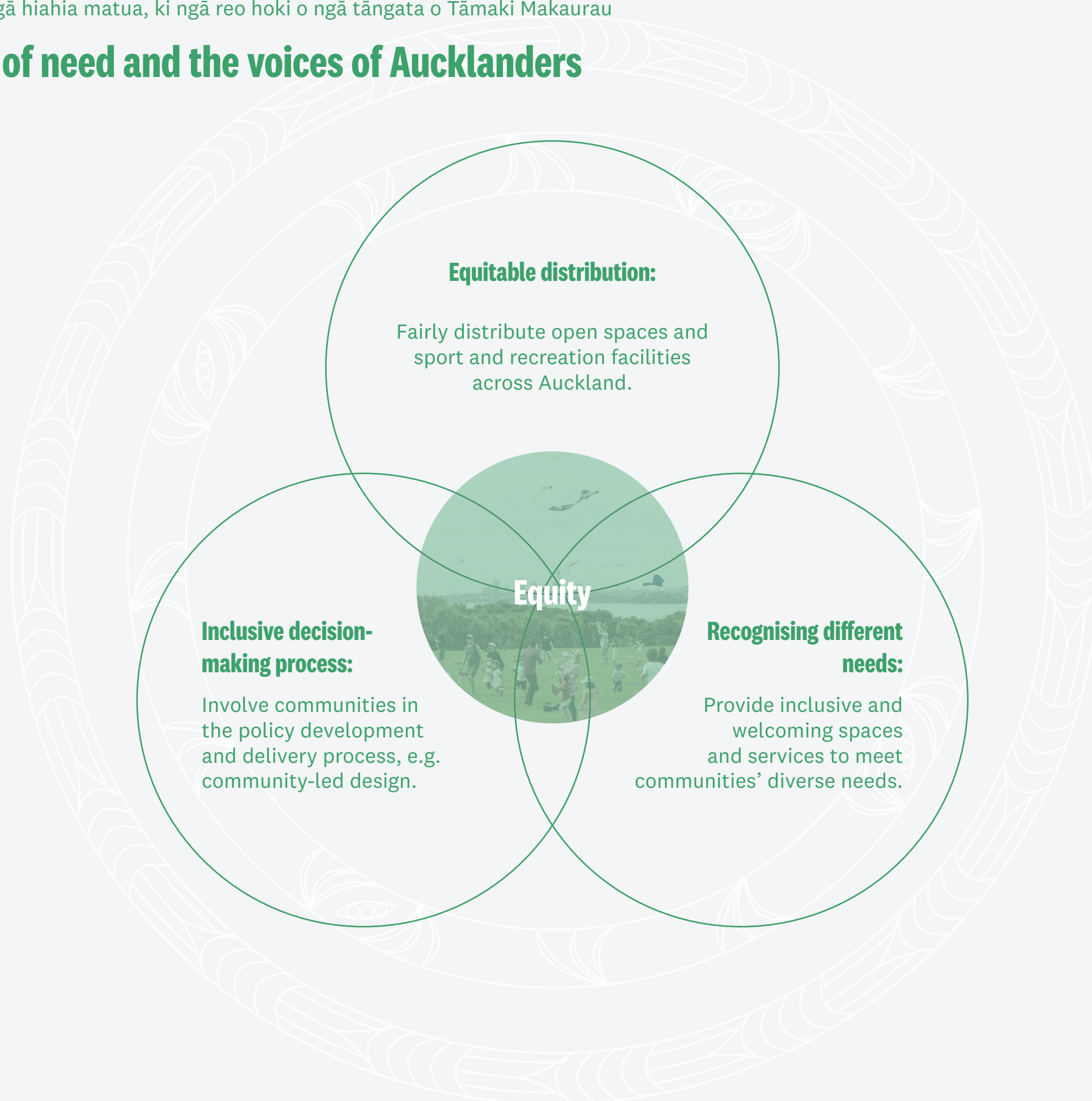
Not all Aucklanders benefit equitably from open spaces and sport and recreation opportunities. Some communities face disparities and barriers and have less access to high-quality opportunities.

Ensuring all Aucklanders benefit equitably means targeting investment to communities most in need. We respond to diverse needs and focus on supporting communities who face barriers to participation.

We are committed to equitable outcomes for Māori by working with mana whenua and honouring our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations (see Principle 3).

How we manaaki

- **Assets and services planning:** We focus our investment on areas with the lowest level of provision per capita and develop the network of open spaces to ensure all Aucklanders have access to a wide range of sport and recreation opportunities.
- **Planning from an intergenerational perspective:** We consider the costs and benefits of our investments across multiple generations and how they will impact Aucklanders, the environment and indigenous biodiversity, reflecting on what legacy we want to leave for future generations.
- **Investment:** We prioritise our investment to communities most in need and ensure that Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau enjoy the same opportunities as other Aucklanders.
- **Assets and services design:** We provide inclusive and welcoming spaces and services to meet diverse needs. We enable community-led design.
- **Community-centred delivery:** We work with communities to deliver local services and spaces. We empower them to deliver their own services and spaces.
- **Monitoring for equitable outcomes:** We regularly monitor key indicators in communities across Tāmaki Makaurau to understand whether they have equitable access to our assets and services.



Mātāpono 3: Me whakatutuki ā mātou here e pā ana ki te Tiriti o Waitangi

Principle 3: Honour our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations

Why this matters

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is our nation’s founding document and recognises the special place of Māori in Aotearoa. We are committed to engaging and working with Māori in ways that are consistent with Te Tiriti.

We are committed to honouring our Te Tiriti obligations through respecting rangatiratanga, tikanga and mātauranga Māori and celebrating Tāmaki Makaurau’s unique Māori identity.

Our investment approach will honour Te Tiriti by focusing on:

- **Rangatiratanga** – the duty to recognise Māori rights of independence, autonomy and self-determination.
- **Partnership** – the duty to interact in good faith with a sense of shared enterprise and mutual benefit.
- **Active protection** – the duty to proactively protect the rights and interests of Māori.
- **Mutual benefit** – recognising that both Māori and non-Māori should enjoy benefits and share in the prosperity of Aotearoa. This includes the notion of equity in different areas of life.
- **Options** – recognising the right of Māori to choose their direction.
- **The right of development** – the active duty to assist Māori in developing resources and taonga for economic benefit.

How we manaaki

- We invest to ensure that Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau enjoy the same level of open space and sport and recreation opportunities as other Aucklanders.
- We invest to deliver on our existing commitments to mana whenua and mataawaka in Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau – Tā mātou anga hei ine I te tutukitanaga o ngā putanga Māori, our Māori outcomes framework.
- We respect rangatiratanga, including by investing in by-Māori-for-Māori solutions, actively building the capacity and capability of mana whenua and mataawaka, and continuing our commitment to co-governance and co-management under Te Tiriti.
- We partner with mana whenua to co-design our spaces and places to ensure they are welcoming and promote and protect tikanga, taonga, and mātauranga Māori.
- We support the revitalisation of traditional Māori sports and play.
- We support te reo Māori to be seen, heard, spoken and learned throughout the places and spaces of Tāmaki Makaurau.
- Mana whenua and Māori are active partners and participants in decision-making to provide open spaces and sport and recreation opportunities across Tāmaki Makaurau.



Whānau Ātea Māra Hupara, Māngere
Image credit: Jay Farnworth and Tūpuna Maunga Authority.

Mātāpono 4: Te mahi tahi kia hua tētahi anamata hauora, mā te whakamahi i ā tātou rauemi katoa

Principle 4: Work together towards a healthy future, using all our resources

Why this matters

We have a responsibility to pool our resources and work together towards a shared vision for a healthy future. By ensuring that our finite resources are well-used, we can maximise our ability to deliver our five strategic directions.

How we manaaki

- We recognise the many roles the council plays, from provider, to partner, enabler, funder, advocate and regulator.
- We make use of the full range of delivery methods and funding tools available to us (see opportunities outlined below).
- We enhance collaboration, including across the council group, and strengthen partnerships for delivery to maximise opportunities for Aucklanders.
- We work to align investment with other providers and priorities to maximise impact.
- We are flexible in our use of different delivery and funding models, as well as both multi-year and short-term funding, in response to changes in demand over time.
- We enable and resource community-led and Māori-led delivery to respond to local needs.
- We look at the potential for operational improvements as well as opportunities for our network to generate additional revenue to help sustain itself, while acknowledging that general rates and development contributions or levies will continue to provide most of the funding.

The six major delivery roles the council can play



Provider

Providing and maintaining a variety of open spaces and play, sport and recreation facilities, as well as programmes, services and events. Investment and delivery is solely provided by the council.



Funder

Supporting others to deliver including through funding for sector organisations, sports clubs and conservation groups. Investment is provided by the council but delivery is by a third party.



Partner

Working with others, including mana whenua, community and developers, to collectively deliver for Auckland and Aucklanders. Investment and delivery are shared.



Advocate

Advocating for the needs of Auckland and Aucklanders, including to central government and the private sector.



Facilitator

Facilitating delivery by others through access to council facilities, including leases at below market rates. Auckland Council owns or manages the asset and services are delivered by community groups or organisations.



Regulator

Regulating the activities of itself and others, including what can be built and where and the uses of open spaces, including potential requirements for the provision of private open space in intensification areas.

Opportunities to deliver differently

- **Work more closely with schools** to open up public access to sport and recreation assets.
- **Widen the scope of potential partners** by building their capacity and delivery capability and enabling more equitable access to procurement, grant and community lease processes.
- **Expand our partnerships with mana whenua and mataawaka**, consistent with Te Tiriti.
- **Work more closely with developers** on provision of community infrastructure.
- **Use trusts, community or iwi-based delivery models** to leverage local initiatives, consolidate services, programmes and / or assets under a capable community partner(s), and allow access to additional revenue streams that the council may not be eligible for.
- **Look more closely at the potential for public private partnerships** by further assessing in what situations it may be viable and effective.
- **Reframe how success is measured** by developing clear performance measures for the outcomes we want to see for Auckland and Aucklanders as well as financial performance.

Opportunities to use a wide range of funding sources

- **Amend our development contributions policy** to better reflect the growth-related infrastructure we deliver (e.g. sports assets) that support a well-functioning urban environment.
- **Create alternative revenue streams** to support provision of community services, programmes and assets. This could include offering leases of small areas of parks or other open space for commercial activities like coffee carts or bike rentals.
- **Proactively seek out philanthropic funding** by developing consistent processes for responding to, seeking out and managing funding opportunities. This includes developing a ‘menu’ of the types of opportunities available to potential funders (e.g. tree planting, greening the city projects, sponsorships, naming rights).
- **Leverage third party funding and finance** (private organisations, trusts, etc). This is more likely to reflect bespoke approaches in certain circumstances, and after careful consideration of effectiveness, as opposed to a blanket approach across open spaces and sport and recreation.
- **Pursue potential broader funding, partnering and joint planning opportunities within the council and with central government** e.g. Auckland Transport, Eke Panuku, Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience, Watercare, Kāinga Ora, Waka Kotahi, Ministry for Business, Innovation and Economic Development (major events) and Department of Conservation.
- **Make greater use of user-charging** where users are able to pay and where the desired community benefits can still be achieved.

- **Make greater use of the ‘service property optimisation’ process** by using proceeds from the disposal of low-quality open space (e.g. open space that is the wrong size, shape or location) to fund better land acquisition or open space development within the same local board area.



Auckland Botanic Gardens volunteers
Image credit: Auckland Council

Ngā kaupapa here
Te whakatinanatanga o te manaaki

3. Policies

Manaaki in action



Image credit: Jesse Marsters, Masters
Media and Tāmaki Regeneration Company

E toru ngā kaupapa here e whakarite ana i ngā kawatau o te kaunihera mō te whakatutuki mahi

Three policies and ten objectives set the council’s expectations for delivery

Open spaces and places categories are defined on pages 27-28

Policy 1: Making the most of our open spaces

Sets policy for making the most of our green, blue and grey open space network to contribute to oranga tāngata, oranga whenua, oranga whānau and oranga wai.

To make the most of our open spaces, we will:

- 1. increase the range of benefits our open space network delivers consistent with each space’s primary purpose
- 2. improve the quality of our open spaces
- 3. improve our network to provide diverse recreation opportunities accessible to all Aucklanders
- 4. improve open spaces’ accessibility and functionality by prioritising connections and linkages across all types of open space
- 5. protect and enhance the natural environment.

Pages 29-43

Policy 2: Open space provision and acquisition

Sets policy for planning and continuing to provide a high-quality open space network as Auckland grows and intensifies.

To plan and continue to provide a high-quality open space network as Auckland grows and intensifies, we will:

- 6. plan for the provision of a high-quality open space network that meets the needs of Aucklanders and celebrates our natural and cultural landscapes
- 7. ensure the acquisition of fit for purpose open space land that provides value for money and is sustainable in the long-term.

A high-quality open space network is defined on page 45.

Pages 44-73

Policy 3: Auckland Council’s investment in play, sport and recreation

Sets policy for the council’s investment to support Aucklanders to live healthy, active lives.

To support Aucklanders to live healthy, active lives, we will:

- 8. increase physical activity levels by targeting our investment to low-participating communities and addressing disparities
- 9. deliver a fit for purpose, future proofed facility network that makes the most of what we have
- 10. strengthen partnerships with mana whenua and mataawaka, local communities and other sport and recreation providers.

Pages 74-89

Supporting good decision-making

To enable decision-makers to make informed decisions on open space and recreational matters covered by this strategy:

Engage with decision-makers as early as practicable

Local boards have no decision-making role in regulatory processes and have limited ability to input into them. Early involvement will enable them to maximise their influence over regulatory matters, understand the context for regulatory decisions and ensure their expectations are clear.

Provide information and advice that is integrated, comprehensive and up to date

Information will include an overview of relevant council 10-year and 30-year strategic direction to help guide three-year planning cycles. This will ensure alignment between local open space acquisition, development and recreational planning with overarching council goals and objectives, funding cycles and budget availability. A clear understanding of the connection between planning and delivery will help avoid delays in delivering open space and recreation programmes and projects.

Advice will include how investment principles are met, as well as on trade-offs and potential alternative delivery options as many decisions are budget driven. Understanding trade-offs is essential for decision-makers to prioritise investment and to maximise value for money and benefits.



Planting day
Image credit: Auckland Council

Open space and places categories

Mihi to te ao Māori worldview

In a Māori worldview, Auckland’s open spaces and places are interconnected parts of the natural world, imbued with spiritual and ancestral significance.

Auckland Council recognises 19 iwi authorities with historic and territorial rights and interests over the region.

This special relationship with the environment, spaces and places is a matter of national importance under the Resource Management Act and requires us to honour the intrinsic value of wāhi tapu, taonga, wai and ancestral lands.

Auckland Council does this through the Auckland Unitary Plan zoning and protection, resource consent consultation requirements and co-governance arrangements and other partnerships to achieve Māori outcomes.

How open spaces and places are defined

For the purpose of this strategy, Auckland’s open spaces and places include land, water and recreation assets, either publicly or privately owned and offering varying degrees of public access. Together, they form a network that provides a mix of sport and recreation opportunities and contains natural, historic and cultural heritage features and values.

This network falls into four main groupings:

Council-owned or administered dedicated open spaces	Range from large natural regional parks to small highly developed urban civic spaces. Collectively create Auckland Council’s dedicated public open spaces network.
Council-owned stormwater management areas	Range from areas of floodplain to stormwater management ponds and hard infrastructure. Deliver recreation opportunities to Aucklanders in conjunction with the council’s dedicated open spaces network.
Other open spaces and places	Range from privately-owned green space to those managed by the council (freshwater and marine areas). Some of these open spaces and places provide public access and deliver recreation opportunities to Aucklanders in conjunction with the council’s dedicated open spaces network.
Indoor sport and leisure spaces and places	Range from council-owned indoor sport and leisure facilities to those owned by external entities with existing or potential public access, regardless of their management arrangements.

Auckland’s open spaces and places are further categorised based on the primary purpose (or function) they provide to the community as well as ownership.

This categorisation aims to ensure that their intrinsic and amenity values are not unduly compromised, that development is limited to what is necessary to enable them to serve their intended purpose and that each open space and place is managed accordingly.

Open space held under the Reserves Act 1977 is classified according to its primary purpose and the broad primary purposes in Table 1 are consistent with the statutorily defined ones in the act.

The open spaces and places categories are shown in Table 1.

This is reflected in the Auckland Unitary Plan land-use zoning which helps ensure the open spaces are managed and protected appropriately.

Table 1: Open spaces and places categories

Open spaces and places types		Associated open spaces and places				
Council-owned or administered dedicated open spaces	Recreation park	Pocket parks	Neighbourhood parks	Suburb parks	Destination parks	Beaches above highwater mark and associated public open space
	Organised sport and recreation park	Sports fields	Outdoor hard courts			
	Regional park	Regional parks				
	Conservation open space	Natural heritage conservation space	Historic heritage conservation space	Cultural heritage conservation space		
	Connection, linkage, and access open space	Recreational connections	Ecological linkages	Esplanade reserves and strips, riparian strips	Public road (formed and unformed)	Blue-green corridors
	Civic space	Civic spaces in local, town and metropolitan centres	Civic spaces in the Auckland City Centre			
Council-owned stormwater management areas		Areas with the primary purpose / function of public stormwater management	Areas within open spaces that have other primary purposes / functions	Areas constructed to provided public stormwater management		
Other open spaces and places		Tūpuna Maunga and other co-governed or managed open spaces	Department of Conservation land	School and university sports fields and play spaces	Closed landfills	Cemeteries
		Private green space (including communal open space)	Private stormwater management areas	Freshwater areas: rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands	Marine areas: sea, harbours, beaches below highwater mark	
Indoor sport and leisure spaces and places		Leisure centres	Aquatic centres	Indoor courts	Other indoor sports and leisure facilities	

Kaupapa Here 1

Te rapu hua nui katoa i ō tātou takiraha

Policy 1

Making the most of our open spaces

Objectives

To make the most of our green, blue and grey open space network and contribute to oranga tāngata, oranga whenua, oranga whānau and oranga wai, we will:

1. increase the **range of benefits** our open space network delivers consistent with each space's **primary purpose**
2. improve the **quality** of our open spaces
3. improve our network to provide **diverse recreation** opportunities accessible to all Aucklanders
4. improve open spaces' accessibility and functionality by prioritising **connections and linkages** across all types of open space
5. protect and enhance the **natural environment**.

How to use this policy

This policy informs the planning, development and management approach for open spaces by Auckland Council, its council-controlled organisations, private developers and external development agencies such as Kāinga Ora.

Objective 1: Increase the range of benefits our open space network delivers consistent with each space’s primary purpose

We will identify opportunities to deliver benefits across all four oranga when planning and developing the open space network

Population growth, financial and land availability challenges mean that we need to realise the full potential of our integrated open space network by delivering more from our existing assets.

When planning and developing the open space network, we will take an ecosystem approach. This means we will identify opportunities to deliver multiple benefits across oranga tāngata, oranga whenua, oranga whānau and oranga wai as shown in Table 2 to the right.

While we have capacity to deliver on all those opportunities across the entire network of open spaces and places, not all opportunities apply or are appropriate for individual open spaces. Consider those that are most appropriate to the context.

Table 2: Opportunities to holistically manaaki te ora o Tāmaki Makaurau in our open spaces and places

Cultural benefits	Opportunities
	Reflect mana whenua culture and identity. Raise the visibility of te ao Māori narratives, identities, histories and landmarks. Reflect the diversity of local communities and the history of the surrounding area.
Environmental benefits	Opportunities
	Restore the environment by protecting and enhancing indigenous ecosystems, including by increasing the indigenous tree canopy, through implementation of the Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy. Increase open spaces and places’ contribution to heat reduction, water retention and carbon capture. Use nature-based solutions and water-sensitive design principles to increase resilience (e.g. naturalised waterways, wetlands, daylighting streams), consistent with the Auckland Water Strategy. Draw on mātauranga Māori, including guidance such as Te Haumanu Taiao, to protect and enhance our environment, biodiversity and heritage. Connect and interlink open spaces and habitats.
Social benefits	Opportunities
	Deliver additional features identified as a priority by the local community. Enhance the range of recreation opportunities accessible to the community across the open space network. Deliver paths to increase usability of open space and provide opportunities for active transport to and within the open space network. Improve wayfinding signage and other features to make existing spaces more usable and attractive to Aucklanders. Design for flexible and varied use. Offer different opportunities at different times and for people of different ages, interests, backgrounds and abilities. Improve vibrancy through permanent or temporary initiatives (e.g. markets, events). Provide space for local communities to grow and access food.
Economic benefits	Opportunities
	Enable commercial activities that support community experiences. Enhance open spaces’ contribution to Auckland’s resilience to weather events to help limit the potential for damage to public and private assets in the future.

We will protect the primary purpose of individual open spaces and places

Delivering multiple benefits should not be done at the expense of a space’s primary function and values (e.g. increasing the water retention ability of a recreation park should not get in the way of its recreational and ecological value). Solutions should be found so the functions are compatible. If no acceptable or affordable solution can be found, the protection of a space’s primary purpose must prevail.

Identifying the primary purpose of a space as shown in Table 3 below helps us identify risks and trade-offs associated with delivering additional functions. This approach is borrowed from the Reserves Act 1977 which mandates that land subject to the act is managed in accordance with its primary purpose, signified by its classification. Any other features or values shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve.

Table 3: Primary and secondary purposes of open spaces

Open spaces types		Primary purpose / secondary purpose
Recreation park	Pocket park	Informal recreation and play / socialising; stormwater management
	Neighbourhood park	Informal recreation and play / socialising; stormwater management
	Suburb park	Informal recreation and play / formal recreation; conservation; stormwater management
	Destination park	Informal recreation and play / formal recreation; conservation; stormwater management
Organised sport and recreation park		Formal recreation and sport / informal recreation and play; stormwater management
Regional park		Informal recreation and play or conservation / conservation or informal recreation; formal recreation; farming; stormwater management
Conservation open space		Conservation / informal recreation and play; stormwater management
Connection, linkage, and access open space		Depending on type of connection or linkage: • Recreation / conservation; stormwater management, or • Conservation / recreation; stormwater management
Civic space		Socialising / informal recreation and play; events
Council-owned stormwater management areas		Stormwater management / informal recreation and play; formal recreation; conservation, mana whenua partnerships

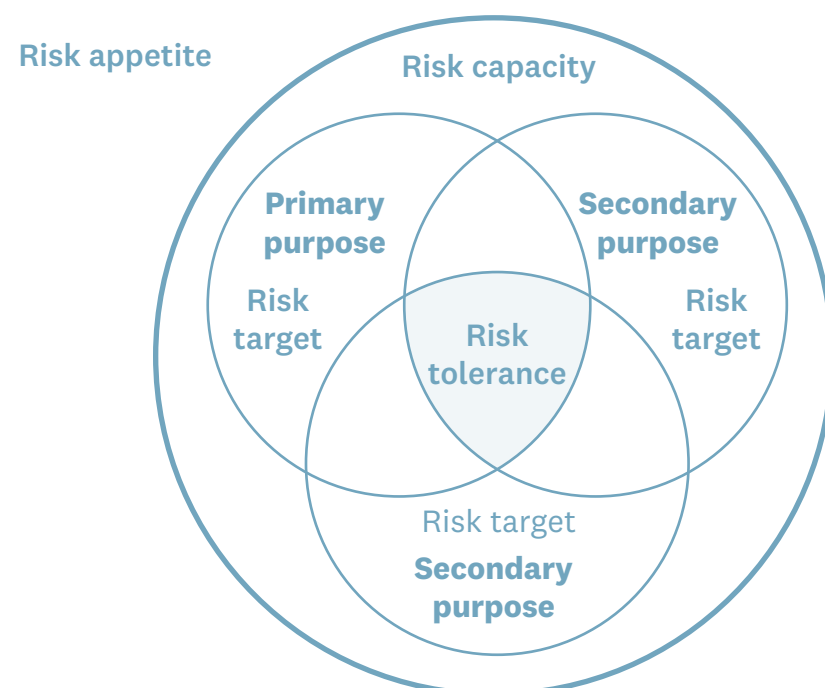
Kia manaaki tātou: We will assess the trade-offs and risks of delivering multiple benefits from open spaces together

Delivering multiple benefits from our open spaces and places requires a shift in risk appetite. This means individual strategic asset owners (Auckland Transport, Watercare, Auckland Council, developers) need to take on more risk to realise greater benefits from the network.

Figure 1 outlines Auckland Council’s risk appetite framework. We will work with relevant asset owners to develop a shared understanding of:

- the level of risk we each consider acceptable for the currently intended primary purpose (risk target)
- the level of risk we are willing to accept to pursue the opportunity to enable secondary purposes (risk tolerance)
- the maximum risk we can bear to accommodate multiple purposes for a resilient and integrated network (risk capacity).

Figure 1: Risk appetite framework



Calculating and balancing acceptable, tolerable and intolerable risk margins for various stakeholders and investment purposes is challenging.

For most parks, achieving greater benefits without significant risks or trade-offs may be easy, particularly where there is community support for the changes.

For more complex situations (such as grey spaces, closed landfills, conservation land or where a change of primary purpose is proposed), we will work with asset owners and other key stakeholders to understand:

- the investment timeframe from acquisition to end of life
- intended use and implications
- the social, cultural, economic, environmental benefits and asset capacity to cope with any potential impacts.

With sufficient shared understanding of trade-offs and benefits we can:

- accommodate secondary purposes or change the primary purpose if the risk can be mitigated so it remains at an **acceptable** level
- **tolerate** the risks inherent in the secondary purpose if it can be mitigated at a cost proportional to the benefits gained
- **not tolerate** the secondary purpose if the risk cannot be justified except in extraordinary circumstances.

Open space for land associated with stormwater management can provide significant opportunities to increase the usability and functionality of our open space network. We will assess the stormwater effects and flood hazard risk to the environment, public and infrastructure to ensure effects are managed and achieve the multiple purposes and functions of the open spaces. The following will be considered as part of the benefits, effects and risk assessment:

- catchment based flood risk management through detention devices as well as protection of floodplains, overland flow paths, and flood prone areas. This needs to incorporate:
 - assessment of flood hazard risk to the public, including depth, velocity, rate of water rise and duration of flood hazard.
 - incorporating and ensuring the resilience of park infrastructure, including walkways / cycleways and / or informal recreation spaces / play spaces / equipment as well as open green space, during and after a storm event.
- improved management of water quality and stream health through treatment devices and protection of stream corridors and floodplains.

These factors are relevant for assessing potential effects on other primary purpose open space, and conversely the potential effects on the recreational function and infrastructure placed on primary stormwater management open space.

Objective 2: Improve the quality of our open spaces

We will continue to provide high-quality open spaces in new and existing urban areas

Setting expectations for new and existing open spaces to deliver high-quality outcomes is important to enhance the health and wellbeing of the people (oranga tāngata), health of land (oranga whenua), generations (oranga whānau) and water (oranga wai).

We will take a holistic approach to improving the quality of our open spaces to ensure they are accessible for all Aucklanders.

There is no one size fits all approach to determining what quality might mean to different communities. Auckland Council acknowledges that te ao Māori intertwines metaphysical concepts such as whakapapa, mauri, wairua with the physical qualities of open spaces. Quality improvements benefit from integrating indigenous and local knowledge from mana whenua and local communities. They must reflect priorities expressed in local board plans, other relevant local plans and local park management plans, or regional parks management plan. This can ensure open spaces reflect the preferences of and are valued and cared for the local community. Guidance on the co-design process with communities is included in Objective 10.

We have high-quality examples within our existing open space network that showcase the types of outcomes that we want across our entire open space network. We have captured this information in the best practice guidance in Table 4.



Maungawhau Mt Eden boardwalk, Maungawhau
Image credit: Auckland Council

Table 4: Best practice guidance for improving the quality of existing open spaces

What we want to achieve	Accessibility	Flexibility and adaptability
	Open space that is visible and easily accessible by walking, cycling or public transport.	Open space that is flexible and adaptable to changing community needs and uses.
Actions we can take in existing open spaces	• Ensure entrances are easily visible and clearly signposted. • Remove fences or planting which restricts visual and physical access into the open space. • Re-locate entrances so they are on public transport routes and near bus stops where practicable. • Ensure levels and gradients of entrances and internal paths are as user-friendly as practicable and all-access where feasible. • Identify improvements to the surrounding street network that could enhance accessibility to the open space, e.g. streetscape planting to connect habitats, enhance ecological connections and visually connect open spaces. • Identify any new open space connections that could be achieved (e.g. linking new open spaces in greenfield areas to the existing network, leveraging opportunities presented through large network infrastructure projects to improve connectivity). • Improve the promotion of open spaces, including the provision of information about their cultural values and recreational opportunities, as well as educational resources.	• Consider additional land purchase if it has the potential to greatly enhance the benefits the open space can provide to the local community (e.g. increased and / or greater range of use). • Explore options to create a more multi-functional space (see Objective 1 for benefits that could be considered). • Encourage passive surveillance from neighbours by using boundary fencing that is visually permeable and unobstructed. • Encourage commercial buildings that front open space to have active uses at street level. • Place permanent or substantial infrastructure, including trees, where it will not preclude or adversely constrain additional or changed use in the future. • Understand all existing users of the space and options for potential new users to utilise the space. Minimise potential user conflict through spatial design, ensuring activities are clustered to encourage more use and sharing of the space. Ensure new activities do not compromise environmental, cultural or heritage values of the open space. • Allow for transition space between actively used areas such as main paths, playgrounds or kick-about spaces, and neighbouring private properties.

What we want to achieve

Safety and amenity

Open space that is safe, enjoyable and well maintained.

- Consider options for increasing the road frontage to improve passive surveillance (e.g. vegetation removal, relocating facilities that block visual access into the open space, purchase of adjacent land).
- Establish clear sightlines into and through open space to maximise safety and wayfinding.
- Improve lighting where beneficial and consistent with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.
- Increase shade, ideally using trees to achieve this.
- Ensure any permitted commercial activities will enhance, not detract from, the open space values and community benefits provided by our open spaces.
- Ensure network utilities infrastructure under, in or over open spaces does not adversely affect its ability to fulfil its primary purpose / function or disproportionately limit future development options.
- Understand perceptions of safety, e.g. whether people feel welcome and comfortable going to and using the open space, and what barriers might prevent them from doing this.
- Improve biodiversity and ecological outcomes – identify opportunities for regeneration and restoration.
- Ensure contaminated land used for open space purposes is managed appropriately to prevent adverse effects on the environment and / or human health.

Actions we can take in existing open spaces

Culture, identity and inclusion

Open space that is an integral part of Auckland's identity, where mana whenua presence is evident and where communities feel connected and valued.

- Understand opportunities for mātauranga Māori to be incorporated into the open space. Where relevant this can be achieved through co-design processes with mana whenua to preserve and restore the mauri of places and spaces
- Ensure that open spaces are culturally appropriate and protect taonga.
- Include wayfinding and interpretive signage to reflect the cultural context and demographics of the user community.
- Ensure amenities provided align with the cultural context and are tailored to user demographics to maximise inclusion.
- Maximise views of the surrounding area and nearby landmarks from open spaces.
- Provide buffers around sensitive natural or cultural areas to improve conservation and interpretation outcomes.
- Provide all-access open spaces / activities where practicable (e.g. use of universal design principles - see Objective 10).
- Understand barriers preventing people from using the open space for specific types of activity, e.g. bylaws that seek to balance legitimate use and what we want to encourage, with the potential adverse social and environmental effects of these activities.
- Ensure that any unavoidable adverse effects on the land and water within or adjacent to the open space are minimised by managing their scale, frequency and duration.
- Support a range of volunteer programmes that empower community participation, including partnerships with mana whenua, to care for, maintain and enhance the mauri (life force) of our parks and open spaces, as well as facilitate activities that promote environmental health and community wellbeing.

We will acquire suitable land to keep pace with growth

Greenfield development areas and large brownfield regeneration areas aligned to the Auckland Future Development Strategy 2023-2053 enable us to plan, acquire and develop local open space networks in a coherent and integrated manner, keeping pace with growth.

For new open space, the acquisition standards (see Policy 2: Open space provision and acquisition) provide comprehensive quality standards for new open space.

Applying these standards has a positive flow-on effect on the functionality, use, cost of development and management of open space. This enables to get it right from the start.

We will use a range of methods to improve the quality and functionality of our existing open space network

In existing urban areas, local open space networks have evolved over decades. Their quality varies because the land itself may be suboptimal, lacks development or is poorly developed.

Often, practical and financial limitations impact the ability to make quality improvements in these areas.

Quality improvements in existing areas can be achieved by:

- redeveloping the open space by adding new features or removing existing features
- changing the maintenance approach to reflect specific issues for an open space, such as increased vandalism
- enabling community groups and volunteers, recognising their significant contributions to caring for the open space network, ranging from parks development, co-management, planting, weeding and pest control and fundraising to implement community initiatives
- integrating mātauranga Māori to restore or enhance the Mauri of spaces based on the knowledge of local mana whenua
- rationalising open space through land exchange, asset transfers or service property optimisation (see Objective 6)
- acquiring land adjacent to the open space to increase functionality or improve safety and configuration. While this is a high-cost method, it can significantly improve the quality of existing open spaces.

Not all quality improvements need to be high cost and / or high complexity. We will continue to look for the ‘quick wins’ that can be achieved within existing budgets, via external funding and working collaboratively with the community.



Alnwick Pond, Warkworth
Image credit: Auckland Council

Objective 3: Improve our network to provide diverse recreation opportunities accessible to all Aucklanders

We will prioritise community needs when providing recreation opportunities

Aucklanders want access to a variety of recreation opportunities that reflect the many ways we are physically active, recreate and connect with nature (te taiao). This ranges from play and passive recreation to organised sport and active recreation.

Kia manaaki ki te oranga whānau: To support our current and future communities having equitable access to recreation opportunities across Auckland, we have developed the **open space recreation opportunities tool**.

The tool provides a method to assess existing recreation opportunities and potential future provision gaps or duplication across our integrated open space network. This assessment will support investment advice to decision-makers by:

- objectively assessing existing recreation opportunities to identify potential gaps in provision and inequity issues
- informing the size and configuration of potential new open spaces to support recreation opportunities in accordance with the open space provision standards
- planning for a network of recreation opportunities that responds to demand as Auckland grows and intensifies.

The tool will be used in conjunction with the council's open space (quantitative and qualitative) provision standards.

It is designed to make the most of the existing open space network using an 'opportunity first' rather than 'space first' approach to provide the recreation opportunities. This means when a gap is identified all possibilities for provision within the existing network are explored before considering acquiring new open spaces. This can include upgrading capacity to accommodate more users, finding another park or open space where the opportunity can be provided or enabling public access to non-council owned spaces and places.

The provision of recreation opportunities is not mutually exclusive, with a park or other open space able to accommodate multiple opportunities where their requirements are compatible.



Zig Zag Track, Waitākere Ranges
Image credit: Auckland Council

Open space recreation opportunities tool

Recreation opportunities are categorised in five groups and described in Table 5.

Recreation opportunities are provided according to **service catchments**, reflecting different levels of provision and the population serviced by a given opportunity. These are defined by the proximity to a residence, ranging from very local (neighbourhood) to city wide (regional), and are outlined in Table 6.

For each recreation opportunity, the tool provides guidance as to:

- **host sites and location** – all opportunities will have certain requirements for a host site, including size, topography, access, connectivity to transport options and activation area (how much of the host site is needed to provide the opportunity). Host sites may include recreation parks or other open spaces and may accommodate a range of opportunities.
- **capacity** – considers the number of users within the relevant service catchment, likely peak demand, duration of stay and how the space accommodates the demand. Capacity will inform our understanding of whether a host site can cope with increasing demand or whether additional provision may be required (either by upgrading the existing opportunity or providing a new one elsewhere).
- **features and elements** – the main activation(s) necessary to enable the opportunity (e.g. built play, half court, large flat open area) and the essential and desirable things to support it (e.g. seats, shade, toilets). These are dependent on the opportunity and service catchment.

Work will be undertaken to understand existing provision levels to inform the development of detailed guidance on host sites and location, capacity, and features and elements. Over time these can be refined to respond to local circumstances and changing needs.



Royal Reserve Playground, Massey
Image credit: Auckland Council

Table 5: Recreation opportunities categories and description

Recreation opportunities	Description	Recreation opportunities	Description
Play and children's activity	Play opportunities that provide a hierarchy of access and deliver a diversity of play types and settings.	General recreation and community	Opportunities for general recreation (including picnicking, play, active games, relaxing) and community interaction and gatherings.
Young children's play / neighbourhood play	Locally accessible walk-to play opportunities for younger children (0-4 years) provided at neighbourhood level.	Local recreation and socialising	Locally accessible walk-to or ride-to informal recreation and socialising opportunities provided at neighbourhood and suburb levels, and often co-located with young children's play / neighbourhood play and social sport and active recreation.
Older children's play and activity	Larger, locally accessible walk-to or ride-to play and physical activity opportunities for older children (5-12 years) provided at suburb level.	Longer stay recreation, socialising, and picnicking	Larger, drive-to opportunities for gatherings and community events supporting extended stays and co-located with other recreation opportunities, provided at multi-suburb level and above.
Destination play	Larger, multi-age and multi-featured drive-to play destinations delivered at multi-suburb level and above.	Dog exercise (off leash)	Opportunities for off leash dog exercise provided at neighbourhood to regional levels.
Youth recreation	A range of informal active and passive recreation opportunities designed for youth (13+ years).	Active recreation and sport	A range of active recreation and sport opportunities allowing for a mix of self-directed informal activity, social sport, and organised sport and active recreation.
Local youth recreation	Informal and less structured active recreation opportunities for young people provided at suburb level, such as smaller skate facilities.	Exercise and fitness	Exercise and fitness opportunities for individuals and groups facilitated by specific equipment and infrastructure such as outdoor gyms or fitness trails provided at suburb to sub-regional level.
Destination youth recreation	Larger, drive-to recreation opportunities for young people featuring a central activation such as public courts, pump track, skate park or parkour provided at multi-suburb level and above.	Walking and cycling path-based recreation	Safe walking, running and cycling opportunities provided on paths at suburb to regional levels.
Nature-based recreation	Opportunities for informal active and passive recreation in predominantly natural areas.	Social sport and active recreation	Social sport and community-based fitness and activity opportunities through programmes provided at neighbourhood to multi-suburb levels.
Land-based nature recreation	Opportunities to spend time in native bush and other natural areas accessible at suburb level and above.	Organised sport and active recreation	Drive-to organised sport and active recreation opportunities provided at multi-suburb level and above.
Water-based recreation	Opportunities to spend time on, in or adjacent to streams, rivers, lakes and sea, accessible at multi-suburb level and above.		

Table 6: Recreation opportunities service catchments*

Service catchment		Neighbourhood	Suburb	Multi-suburb	Sub-regional	Regional
Distance and travel time		600m 8 min walk	1500m 20 min walk	5km 10 min drive	10km 20 min drive	20km 40 min drive
Radial proxy		450m	1125m	3.75km	7.5km	15km
Play and children's activity	Young children's play / neighbourhood play	X				
	Older children's play and activity		X			
	Destination play			X	X	X
Youth recreation	Local youth recreation		X			
	Destination youth recreation			X	X	X
Nature-based recreation	Land-based nature recreation		X	X	X	X
	Water-based recreation			X	X	X
General recreation and community	Local recreation and socialising	X	X			
	Longer stay recreation, socialising and picnicking			X	X	X
	Dog exercise (off leash)	X	X	X	X	X
Active recreation and sport	Exercise and fitness		X	X	X	
	Walking and cycling path-based recreation		X	X	X	X
	Social sport and active recreation	X	X	X		
	Organised sport and active recreation			X	X	X

* Opportunities provided at a larger catchment level also provide recreational opportunities for surrounding residents within smaller catchments, e.g. a suburb-level play opportunity will also meet the neighbourhood-level play needs of residents within a 600m / 8 min walk from it.

Objective 4: Improve open spaces' accessibility and functionality by prioritising connections and linkages across all types of open space

Connections and linkages within and between open spaces help strengthen and extend Auckland's open space network. They fall into two broad categories:

- recreational connections and linkages focus on delivering recreational outcomes for the community
- ecological connections and linkages focus on protecting and enhancing habitat for wildlife, increasing biodiversity and improving resilience to disturbance, including climate disruption.

Local paths (sometimes also referred to as greenways, trails or connections) are an interconnected network that can be hosted on roads, in recreational open spaces and ecological areas, and alongside streams and around the coast. They:

- deliver additional open space functionality, complementing our dedicated open space network
- help the greening of the city and deliver ecological benefits by providing wildlife corridors
- contribute to mitigating climate disruption, including reducing flood risks
- help protect and enhance historic heritage and cultural values.

Some local boards have local greenways plans – aspirational documents to guide development of comprehensive integrated movement networks, incorporating local paths. They provide opportunities for walking, running, scootering and cycling for travel or recreation as part of daily life.

We will identify opportunities to expand our network of local paths and achieve multiple benefits

Connections using our streets and footpaths

Local paths are both on- and off-road. We will encourage opportunities for better use of roads to enable active transport and recreation.

Connections along waterways and the coast

Open spaces along waterways and the coast help to both protect our coastline and waterways, and give Aucklanders better access to, and along, the coast. They also link areas of native bush to help protect and enhance Auckland's native biodiversity and enable customary activities for mana whenua. Local paths can be developed on esplanade reserves and riparian margins where appropriate.

Connections in our blue-green network

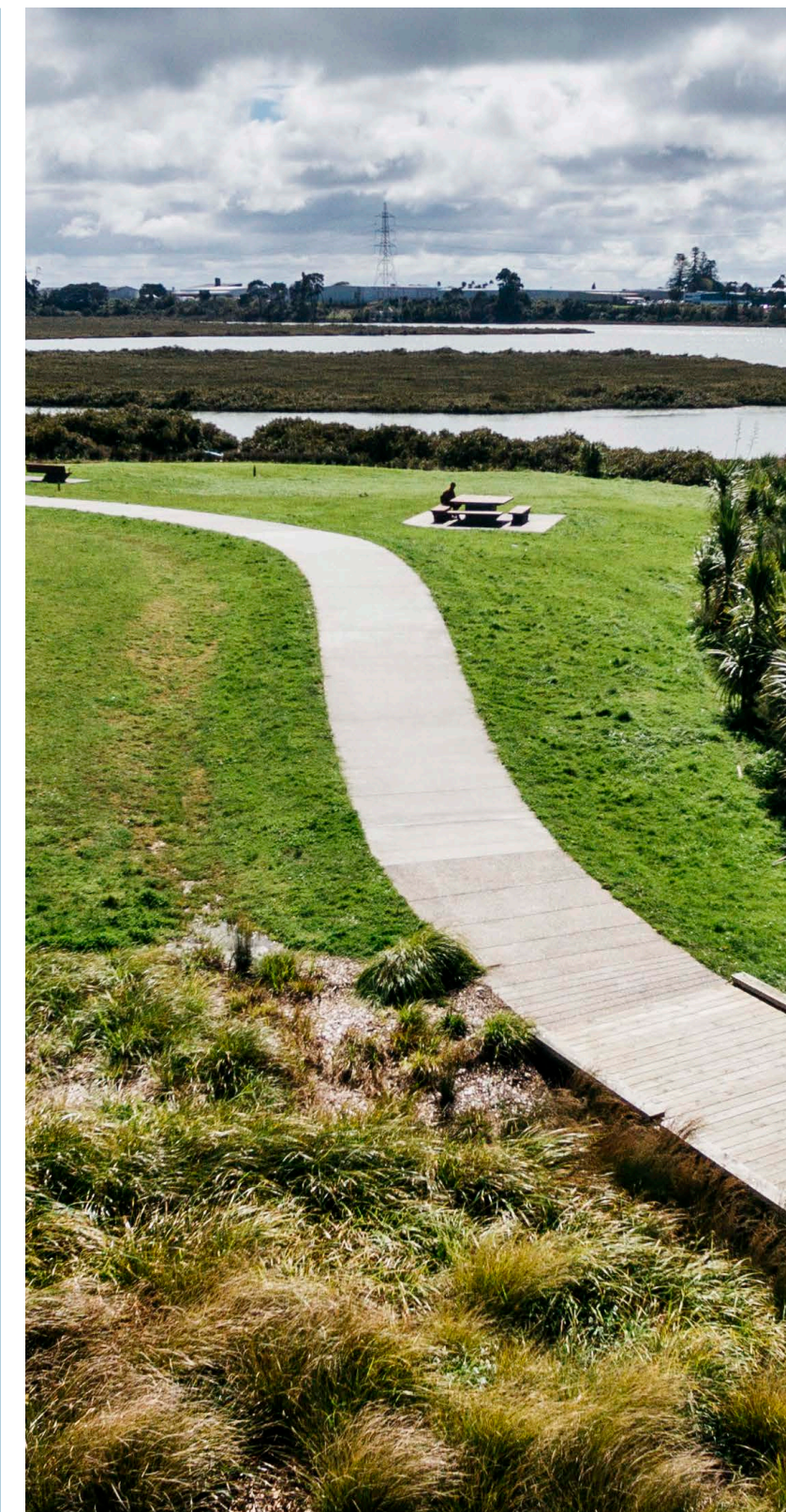
Auckland Council is expanding its blue-green network. The blue-green corridors will contribute to expanding our network of local paths in locations where temporary safety risks can be suitably managed in a storm event.

Connecting our ecological and floodplain corridors

Connecting natural areas allows wildlife to move through the region, protects our landscape, improves flood resilience and stream health, and enhances biodiversity as we increase habitats for plants and wildlife. Local paths can be accommodated within ecological areas where they will not compromise stream health and ecological values.

Connections over private open space

We will consider acquiring easements over private open space where necessary to connect public open space areas and form priority recreational paths. Potential easements will be subject to the same investment considerations and assessed using the same quantitative and qualitative standards as open space acquisitions.



Archibald Park, Kelston
Image credit: Auckland Council

We will set clear priorities for delivery

When prioritising the delivery of connections, we will consider the following:

- local board greenways plans, open space network plans or other relevant plans
- whether the connection will increase accessibility and recreational opportunities in areas with low open space capacity
- costs and benefits, with priority given to developing connections on existing council open space, e.g. esplanade reserves
- consistency with our open space quantitative and qualitative standards to ensure they are fit for purpose and sustainable in the long-term.

Table 7 provides guidance on ways to consolidate and expand our local paths network.

Table 7: Delivering quality connections

Type of connections	Planning and development responses
All	• Consider the creation of connections as early as possible in statutory and non-statutory land use planning processes. • Partner with internal and external strategic asset owners (including Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience, Auckland Transport, Watercare, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency) to create connections. • Work with private developers and external development agencies, including central government, to create connections within and through their developments, acknowledging that to consistently achieve this outcome regulatory shifts within our unitary plan would be required. • Locate larger parks on main roads, public transport routes and cycleways to enable easy access to events, sports facilities or other attractions that may attract large numbers of visitors. • Provide direct, high-quality walking and cycling connections through open space to destinations such as shops, schools, public transport routes and other parks where appropriate, and where they do not unduly compromise the functionality of the open space. • Partner with mana whenua to apply a mātauranga Māori lens to the holistic benefits of the connection.
Ecological connections	• Partner with the council’s natural environment specialists to help identify and prioritise potential additions to existing ecological connections and the creation of new ecological connections.
Connections to, and along, waterways and the coast	• Provide a minimum 20m-wide esplanade reserve, or strip where appropriate, along all qualifying water bodies for access and / or contribution to environmental and resilience outcomes when triggered by subdivision or development, including top-up of existing esplanade reserves. Input from a geotechnical or coastal specialist will be required where significant networks of new esplanade reserves are proposed in areas where erosion and / or land instability and / or coastal inundation may be an issue. • Use terrain, landscaping and additional space around water bodies to avoid fencing which can physically or visually fragment an open space.

Objective 5: Protect and enhance the natural environment

Open spaces often include natural features and ecosystems that provide important habitats for native species. The natural environment can be the primary purpose for an open space, e.g. conservation open space, or a secondary purpose, e.g. a suburb park that contains a patch of native bush.

Our open spaces can help protect and enhance Auckland's natural environment in three ways:

- by providing enduring legal protection for natural features and ecosystems
- by providing areas that can be actively managed for the ongoing protection of natural features and ecosystems
- by providing places to restore habitats for indigenous flora and fauna through activities like revegetation and pest control.

To help protect and enhance the natural environment we will consider purchasing land with the following attributes for open space purposes:

- indigenous ecosystems and / or species identified as regional priorities for management that will benefit from public ownership
- natural features or landscapes of regional or greater significance that has public open space values and / or benefits.

We will also consider acquiring land with the following attributes for open space purposes at no capital cost:

- natural features or landscapes of sub-regional or local significance that has public open space values and / or benefits.

For further information on how we prioritise the acquisition of open space see Table 18 on pages 71-72.

We will manage all open space in a way that protects and enhances its natural features and values consistent with its primary purpose and any other relevant considerations.

While this strategy has no statutory or regulatory weight, it is supported by legislation that recognises and promotes the value of the natural environment.

The Reserves Act 1977 gives statutory protection to plants and animals on reserves and the Auckland Unitary Plan provides limited regulatory protection to indigenous vegetation across Auckland.



The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 mandate the way Auckland Council manages these predominantly natural areas.

Through its commitment to acquiring open space with significant natural features and values, and conserving natural environment features and values on all open space, the strategy complements other council strategies and plans, including:

- Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy - sets out how to achieve the biodiversity goals in the Auckland Plan.
- Auckland's Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy – sets out our strategic approach to growing and protecting our urban forests.
- Regional Pest Management Plan - sets priorities and goals for managing invasive plant and animal pests across Auckland.
- Weed Management Policy - helps us manage invasive plants in our parks and open spaces.
- Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan - our long-term approach to climate action.
- Shoreline adaptation plans - our plans to manage council-owned assets and land across Auckland's 3200km of shorelines (beaches, cliffs, harbours and estuaries) to respond to coastal hazards and climate change over the next 100 years.

Orauwharo Medlands ecovision local group, Great Barrier Island

Image credit: Auckland Council

Kaupapa Here 2

Te whakataunga me te kaitaonga o te takiraha

Policy 2

Open space provision and acquisition

Objectives

To plan and continue to provide a high-quality open space network as Auckland grows and intensifies, we will:

6. plan for the **provision** of a high-quality open space network that meets the needs of Aucklanders and celebrates our natural and cultural landscapes.
7. ensure the **acquisition** of fit for purpose open space land that provides value for money and is sustainable in the long-term.

How to use this policy

This policy directs planning and investment decisions to expand Auckland's existing open space network and deliver well-functioning urban environments in line with the Future Development Strategy.

This policy must be considered by developers and planners, including in the preparation of structure plans. It must be given regard to as required under the Resource Management Act 1991 and any subsequent replacement legislation.

Our collective decisions and investments will ensure that Auckland's existing open space network expands where and when needed, delivers value for money and supports healthy communities and environments now and in the future.

Objective 6: Plan for the provision of a high-quality open space network that meets the needs of Aucklanders and celebrates our natural and cultural landscapes

We will apply a network approach to determine open space requirements

Open space provision is considered at a network level, across multiple open spaces, rather than an individual site. Understanding how the network functions as a whole will help ensure that the right mix of the right open spaces is distributed equitably across the network.

We will vary the quantity of open space we plan to provide according to the capacity of the relevant area (or local network). Capacity is defined as square metres of open space per person at projected full build-out or 30-year as a proxy. Taking a capacity-focused approach will support provision where it is needed the most and deliver more equitable outcomes within and between existing and new areas.

The distribution of open space types is aligned to the Auckland Unitary Plan's land-use zones, with predominantly smaller recreationally focused parks provided in urbanised areas, including the Rural and Coastal Settlement Zone. Larger open spaces such as regional parks are predominantly sited in rural locations and encompass significant coastal areas within their boundaries. The provision of access to and along the coast, rivers and streams, and around lakes and other water bodies is encouraged to help create ecological and recreational networks across Auckland in both rural and urban areas.

We will use provision standards to deliver a high-quality open space network

A high-quality open space network is defined based on the following three key factors:

- quality of open space: fit-for-purpose and functional land facilitates activities appropriate to the open space type, and supports safe and healthy environments
- quantity of open space (or scale): open spaces are of the right size and have the capacity to meet current and future population needs
- distribution of open space: Aucklanders in urban areas are within walking distance to an open space.

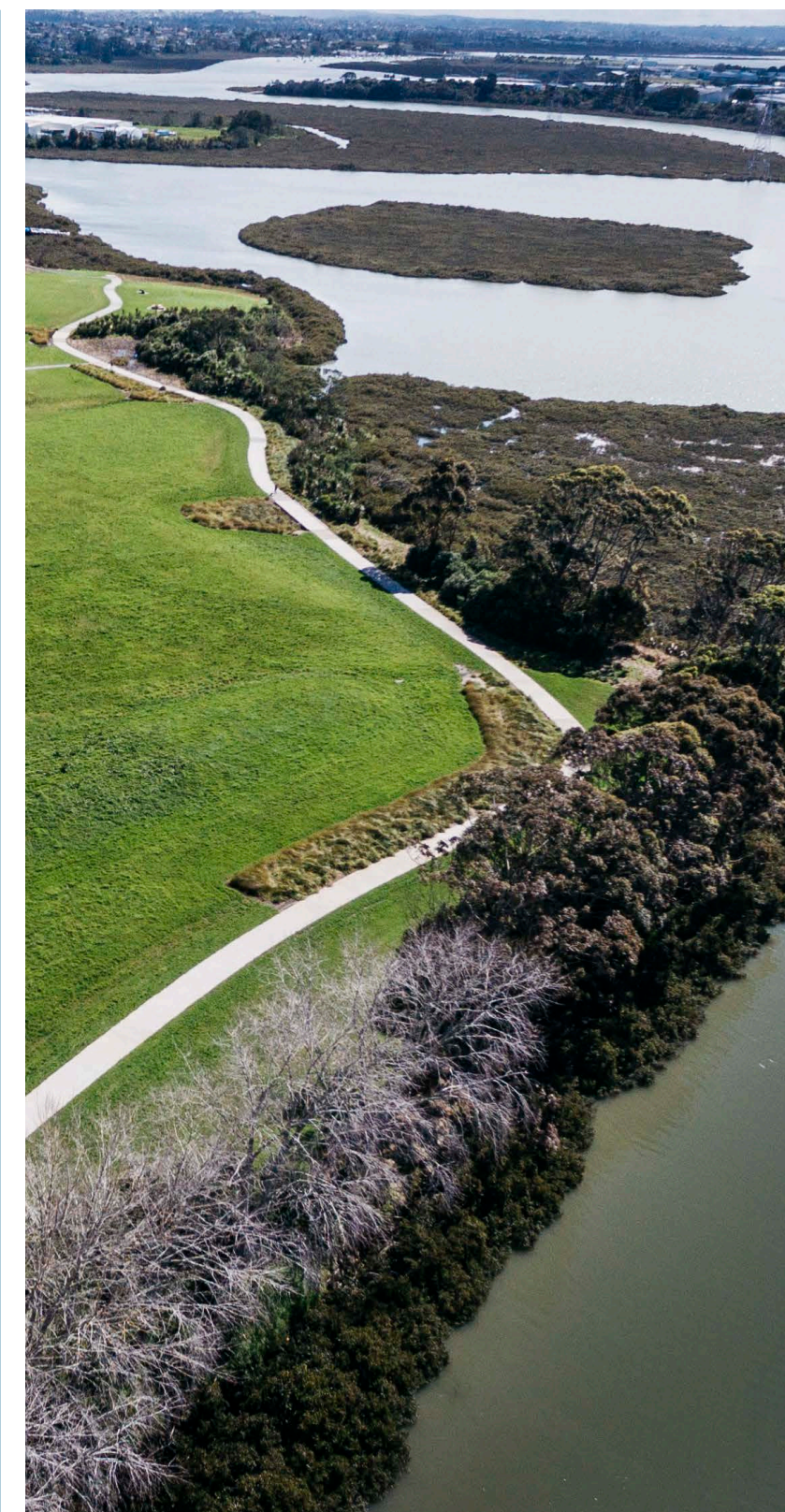
These factors are expressed in terms of open space provision standards.

Open space provision standards in tables 9-11 must be used to assess requirements across the network.

TO NOTE:

Key quantitative changes in this policy compared to Auckland Council's Open Space Provision Policy 2016:

- In high-density areas with moderate or low capacity, we will plan for pocket parks between 0.1ha and 0.15ha (to be acquired at cost to Auckland Council). Pocket parks are in addition to neighbourhood parks.
- In high and medium-density areas, we will vary the size of neighbourhood parks between 0.2ha and 0.5ha depending on the capacity of the area.



Te Whau Pathway, Te Atatū South
Image credit: Auckland Council

Table 8: How to use the provision standards when planning open space networks or assessing acquisitions

Table reference	Description	What to apply it to	Use guidance
Table 9 Provision standards	Sets the provision targets, key considerations and requirements for a comprehensive range of open space types.	Assessing all open space types in new and existing areas.	To be read in conjunction with: - Table 14: Acquisition standards - Table 15: Quality standards (for land acquisition) - Table 16: Detailed quality standards for land acquisition (based on open space categories).
Table 10 Provision standards for pocket, neighbourhood and suburb parks	Sets the size and catchment standards for pocket, neighbourhood and suburb parks in high, medium and low-density residential areas, based on current or proposed Auckland Unitary Plan land zoning.	Assessing pocket, neighbourhood and suburb park provision in new and existing areas.	Provision standards for pocket, neighbourhood and suburb parks do not apply to the following Auckland Unitary Plan zones: - Business - City Centre Zone. Open space provision in the city centre is guided by the City Centre Masterplan. - Business - general business, business park, light industry, and heavy industry zones. Stormwater management areas and conservation or connection open space may offer some recreational opportunities in these zones; however, we do not anticipate providing pocket, neighbourhood and suburb parks primarily for recreation. - Residential - large lot and all rural zones. We do not expect residents in these zones will be able to walk to neighbourhood or suburb parks; rather, they will need to travel to nearby urban areas, such as rural towns, to access these types of parks.
Table 11 Provision standards for civic spaces	Sets the size and number of civic spaces required for metropolitan, town and local centres.	Assessing potential civic spaces.	To be read in conjunction with: - Table 14: Acquisition standards - Table 15: Quality standards (for land acquisition) - Table 16: Detailed quality standards for land acquisition (based on open space categories).
Table 12 Open space network capacity thresholds	Sets the thresholds to determine whether network capacity is low, moderate or high.	Benchmarking capacity and determining appropriate park provision levels to be applied as part of network planning.	Network capacity should be determined for an area no smaller than 4km ² to ensure suburb parks are captured. This means using a minimum radial catchment of 2km. To be read in conjunction with: Table 13: Open space network capacity calculations
Table 13 Open space network capacity calculations	Sets the methodology for calculating open space network capacity.	Calculating existing and / or proposed m ² per capita of open space to inform network planning.	Capacity is expressed as m ² per capita at full build-out or using 30-year population projection as a proxy. Adhering to the methodology is crucial to ensure results are not skewed.

Table 9: Provision standards

Open spaces types		Description	Targets and key requirements for new open spaces
Recreation park	Pocket park	- Compact, informal recreation, play and socialising spaces in intensively developed residential areas. - Helps mitigate the loss of private backyards by providing space for outdoor family gatherings, barbecues and basic play equipment. - Provide space for trees and provide visual relief in intensively developed areas.	0.10ha to 0.15ha in high-density areas, or other areas developed to an equivalent density, <u>with moderate or low capacity</u>. 0.10ha to 0.15ha in medium-density areas provided at no capital cost to the council. - Located equidistantly between other park types and not within 200m of publicly accessible open space. - Must have at least two public road frontages (cannot be an internal space within a development block). - Cannot substitute for other park types. - Could be co-located with a civic space to form a larger space offering both soft and hard surfaces.
	Neighbourhood park	0.2ha to 0.5ha informal recreation, play and socialising spaces. - Park size is determined by residential density and open space capacity. - Provide a range of recreation opportunities that complement nearby parks and open spaces to deliver a diverse, integrated network.	0.5ha within 400m walk in high and medium-density areas <u>with low capacity</u>. 0.3ha within 400m walk in high and medium-density areas <u>with moderate capacity</u>. 0.2ha within 400m walk in high and medium-density areas <u>with high capacity</u>. - Must include a level, unobstructed grassed space for informal games of at least: 20m x 20m in parks less than 0.3ha 30m x 30m in parks of 0.3ha or more. 0.3ha within 600m walk in low-density areas.
	Suburb park	- Provide a variety of informal recreation, play and social experiences for residents from across a suburb. - Located in prominent locations and help form the identity of a suburb. - Often accommodate organised sport facilities, such as sports fields, but these are secondary to its primary informal recreation function. - Existing suburb parks are a range of sizes but are typically over 1ha in area. - Suburb parks also serve a neighbourhood park function for residents within the applicable neighbourhood park catchment distance from the edge of them.	3ha minimum. 1000m walk in high and medium-density areas. 1500m walk in low-density areas.

Open spaces types		Description	Targets and key requirements for new open spaces
Recreation park	Destination park	• Provide for large numbers of visitors, who often visit for an extended period of time, and may travel from across Auckland. • Typically, they will be larger than suburb parks and have unique attributes (e.g. Western Springs). • Predominantly located within urbanised areas of Auckland.	• Parks should be located to serve each of the northern, western, central and southern areas of urban Auckland. • Future provision will be determined through network planning, which will identify if and where new destination parks are required.
Organised sport and recreation park		• The primary purpose of these parks is to accommodate organised sport and recreation, in contrast to suburb parks where organised sport and recreation is a secondary function.	• 10ha+. • Catchments of 18 minutes vehicle travel at peak traffic flow. • Location for new parks based on analysis of current and projected playing hour demand in conjunction with sporting code administering bodies.
Regional park		• Share many of the characteristics of destination parks but are typically larger and more natural spaces. • Represent the special natural and cultural qualities of the region. • Attract visitors from across Auckland, with many also being tourist destinations. • Offer a diverse range of recreational opportunities and help conserve Auckland’s unique natural features and values. • Predominantly located outside urbanised areas of Auckland.	• Acquisition of land for new regional parks or regional park extensions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. • The purpose of acquisition is to protect intrinsic, natural, cultural and landscape values and to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for the enjoyment and benefit of Aucklanders. Regional park land is held in perpetuity for that purpose. • Acquisitions will ensure more Aucklanders can access regional parks without having to travel far from urban areas.
Conservation open space		• Protect the special features and values of natural, ecological, historic and cultural heritage areas, while enabling the public to access and enjoy them. • Must have open space values and be accessible to the public.	• There are no specific provision targets for conservation open space. We will assess potential acquisitions on a case-by-case basis using the representativeness and relative significance of their natural, historic heritage or cultural features and the level of public benefit of council ownership to prioritise them. • Where possible and appropriate, land containing heritage features or values will be incorporated into other park types to maximise public benefit.

Open spaces types	Description	Targets and key requirements for new open spaces
Connection, linkage, and access open space	- Connections and linkages help form recreational, walking and cycling routes interconnected with on-road paths to make up local paths. - Can also support creating or enhancing ecological corridors. - Accessways enable movement between roads, parks, esplanade reserves, riparian margins, and beaches.	- Connections and linkages (excluding esplanade reserves) and accessways (road to open space; road to esplanade or beach) should be 20m wide. - Where a compelling case can be made for a narrower width and expected functionality can be accommodated, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design requirements are met, then it may be acceptable to reduce width to a minimum of 10m.
Civic space	- Usually highly structured and developed urban spaces and typically contain more hard surfaces than other open space types. - Include squares, plazas, greens, streets and shared spaces and can incorporate event spaces, landscaping, gardens and public artwork.	- Civic space provision should reflect the scale of an urban centre and respond to the local character and needs of the centre type. - Local Centre – one civic space of ≤ 0.1ha providing informal meeting and socialising opportunities. - Town Centre – at least one civic space of 0.15ha to 0.2ha capable of hosting small events. - Metropolitan Centre – at least one civic space of 0.3ha to 0.4ha capable of hosting medium-scale events. - Could be co-located with a pocket park to form a larger space offering both hard and soft surfaces.
Council-owned stormwater management areas	These include: - footprint of and access to constructed treatment devices, e.g. dry detention ponds, constructed ponds and wetlands - natural streams, floodplains and overland flow paths critical for the conveyance of flood flows during storm events and for stream health and ecological values - associated walkways / cycleways and / or informal recreation spaces / play spaces / equipment (including sports fields).	- Stormwater management areas should be consistent with a council catchment management plan, council structure plan, council approved stormwater management plan and provide stormwater catchment benefits. - Associated walkways / cycleways and / or informal recreation spaces / play spaces / equipment will need to be designed to ensure safety and resilience during storm events.

Table 10: Provision standards for pocket, neighbourhood and suburb parks¹

Density	Auckland Unitary Plan zones	Park / Open space type	Catchment	Size / Scale
High density	- Metropolitan centre - Town centre - Local centre - Mixed use - Terraced housing and apartment buildings	Pocket park	Not within 200m of other publicly accessible open space and ideally located equidistantly between other park types	0.10ha to 0.15ha
		Neighbourhood park in areas with high capacity	400m / 5mins walk (300m radial proxy)	0.2ha
		Neighbourhood park in areas with medium capacity	400m / 5mins walk (300m radial proxy)	0.3ha
		Neighbourhood park in areas with low capacity	400m / 5mins walk (300m radial proxy)	0.5ha
		Suburb park	1000m / 12mins walk (750m radial proxy)	3.0ha
Medium density	- Mixed housing urban - Mixed housing suburban	Pocket park where density is equivalent to high-density	Not within 200m of other publicly accessible open space and ideally located equidistantly between other park types	0.10ha to 0.15ha
		Pocket park at no capital cost	Not within 200m of other publicly accessible open space and ideally located equidistantly between other park types	0.10ha to 0.15ha
		Neighbourhood park in areas with high capacity	400m / 5mins walk (300m radial proxy)	0.2ha
		Neighbourhood park in areas with medium capacity	400m / 5mins walk (300m radial proxy)	0.3ha
		Neighbourhood park in areas with low capacity	400m / 5mins walk (300m radial proxy)	0.5ha
		Suburb park	1000m / 12mins walk (750m radial proxy)	3.0ha
Low density	- Single house - Rural and coastal settlement	Neighbourhood park	600m / 8mins walk (450m radial proxy)	0.3ha
		Suburb park	1500m / 20mins walk (1125m radial proxy)	3.0ha

¹Density is determined by the Auckland Unitary Plan zoning as per Table 10 and capacity is determined by square metres of qualifying open space per person at full build-out population or the Auckland Growth Strategy's 30-year population projections if full build-out population is not known.

Table 11: Provision standards for civic spaces

Civic space size	Number of potential civic spaces in metropolitan centres	Number of potential civic spaces in town centres	Number of potential civic spaces in local centres
Large (0.3ha to 0.4ha)	1		
Medium (0.15ha to 0.2ha)	Depends on the size and specific characteristics of the centre	1	
Small (<0.1ha)	Depends on the size and specific characteristics of the centre	Depends on the size and specific characteristics of the centre	1

We will use capacity thresholds to benchmark open space provision and better provide for areas identified as having low or moderate levels of open space at projected full build-out.

Open space network capacity will be determined by Auckland Council staff for inclusion in relevant planning and regulatory processes.

Table 12: Open space network capacity thresholds

Capacity	Description	Expectations
Low	Less than 10m ² per capita	The council’s expectation is that open space capacity should be at least 10m ² per capita within a catchment of 2km from any point in urban Auckland at full build-out in areas where open space provision standards apply (see Table 8). Recreation parks, organised sport and recreation parks and regional parks (where appropriate) should contribute no less than 7m ² of open space per capita. This is because they provide higher level functionality for recreation than other types of open spaces.
Medium	10 to 20m ² per capita	
High	More than 20m ² per capita	

Table 13: Open space network capacity calculations

Methodology	Description
General considerations	- Open space network capacity is expressed as m² per capita. - Open space capacity calculations include relevant open spaces identified or anticipated through statutory planning processes and / or through the application of the open space provision standards. - We calculate capacity at full build-out date for the area or by using 30-year population projections if full build-out is yet to be determined. - No study area should be smaller than 4km² so that sufficient open space network context is captured, given that suburb parks can have a 1500m catchment. - Open space surrounding a study area should be included where the relevant provision metrics indicate that it services the study area.
	Open space types included in calculations
	Recreation parks - Pocket parks. - Suburb parks. - Neighbourhood parks. - Destination parks.
	Organised sport and recreation parks All.
	Regional parks Within the rural urban boundary.
	Conservation open space Areas easily accessible to the public that currently contain recreational assets such as walkways / cycleways and / or informal recreation spaces / play spaces / equipment or could feasibly accommodate such assets without unduly adversely affecting the values or features of the open space.
	Connection, linkage and access open space Identified in an adopted council greenways plan or that currently contain, or could feasibly accommodate, recreational assets such as walkways / cycleways and / or informal recreation spaces / play spaces / equipment, including esplanade reserves and other riparian areas.
	Civic spaces All.
	Council-owned stormwater management areas Shown in a council catchment management plan, council structure plan, council approved stormwater management plan that currently contain, or could feasibly accommodate, recreational assets such as walkways / cycleways and / or informal recreation spaces / play spaces / equipment, including floodplains and stormwater management ponds and wetlands above the permanent waterline.
	Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau All.
Methodology	Department of Conservation owned and / or managed land Within the rural urban boundary, accessible to the general public, and contains recreational spaces and / or infrastructure (e.g. Fort Takapuna Historic Reserve).
	Private open space Where the general public have a formal right of access and there is an identifiable recreation function (e.g. areas with barbecues, playgrounds and paths within Cornwall Park).

Methodology	Description
Open space types excluded from calculations	
Conservation open space	Areas with no formed access or with natural heritage features or values where formal recreation infrastructure would unduly compromise those features or values, e.g. creation of walkways that would require removal of trees.
Connection, linkage and access open space	Not included in an adopted council plan and could not feasibly accommodate expected recreation assets such as walkways / cycleways due to configuration, topography or natural heritage features or values that would be unduly compromised by them.
Road-to-road walkways	Unsuitable configuration or location, so they could not feasibly contribute to a planned or future recreation connection and / or greenway network.
School and university sports fields and play spaces	Public right of access to these spaces is often not possible or is not guaranteed in perpetuity so they not considered when calculating capacity.
Private green space	Where the public do not have a formal right of free access.
Council or Department of Conservation-owned and / or managed land	Within the rural urban boundary and leased to organisations for exclusive use. Not accessible to the general public (e.g. a scientific reserve).



Bike track
Image credit: Jay Farnworth

We will reconfigure, redistribute or redevelop open spaces rather than dispose of them

Auckland's current level of growth, and its expected future growth according to the Auckland Future Development Strategy 2023-2053, means there will be less private open space and an ever-increasing demand for public open space in the future.

While the budgetary requirements to meet current and future demand are substantial, it will not always be possible to acquire new open spaces where they are needed. Rationalising our existing open space network is one way to acquire open space where needed while reducing the burdens of rates and development contributions on existing residents and new homeowners.

Rather than outright disposal of open space, wherever possible we will use land exchanges, asset transfers and the service property optimisation process to reconfigure, redistribute, and develop or redevelop open space.

For clarity, this policy does not supersede the council's financial policy.

Land exchanges and asset transfers

Historic development patterns have resulted in an uneven distribution of open space and poorly located and / or configured open space across Auckland.

Large-scale brownfield development provides an opportunity to relocate or reconfigure open spaces to improve access and maximise recreational potential with minimal expenditure through:

- land exchanges between the council and private landowners, external organisations or its council-controlled organisations
- asset transfers between council departments or between the council and its council-controlled organisations.

Service property optimisation

This is a three-way process involving local boards, council staff and Eke Panuku that uses proceeds from open space disposal to fund already-planned land acquisition or open space development.

Service property optimisation provides greater flexibility than land exchanges because the money generated can be used by local boards for planned open space acquisition or development anywhere within their area.

Assessment and implementation process

Potential land exchanges or service property optimisations will be assessed against provision and acquisition policies in this strategy to ensure an equitable approach and consistent advice to decision-makers.

Once agreement in principle to proceed is approved by the relevant decision-maker, one or more statutory processes is initiated depending on the nature of the open space land and what is proposed.

The key statutory processes are:

- road stopping under the Local Government Act 1974, e.g. to facilitate land exchanges or asset transfers with Auckland Transport
- land exchange under the Public Works Act 1981, e.g. land exchanges with Crown organisations such as Kainga Ora
- reserve revocation and / or land exchange under the Reserves Act 1977, where open space is held under the act
- plan change under the Resource Management Act 1991, to rezone the land to reflect its new use.

All the listed acts have statutorily mandated consultation with the public and / or relevant interested parties.

Final approval for land exchanges or service property optimisations sits with elected decision-makers.

Objective 7: Ensure the acquisition of fit for purpose open space land that provides value for money and is sustainable in the long-term

We will assess proposals for open space land acquisition to ensure alignment with our objectives

Acquisition standards are used to assess proposals for open space land acquisition through a two-step process:

- **Step 1: Mandatory standards set out the ‘bottom line’ obligations and expectations for acquiring land.**
- **Step 2: Site assessment considerations are used to assess how the proposal aligns with the strategic directions outlined in this strategy.**

Acquisition standards are outlined in Table 14.

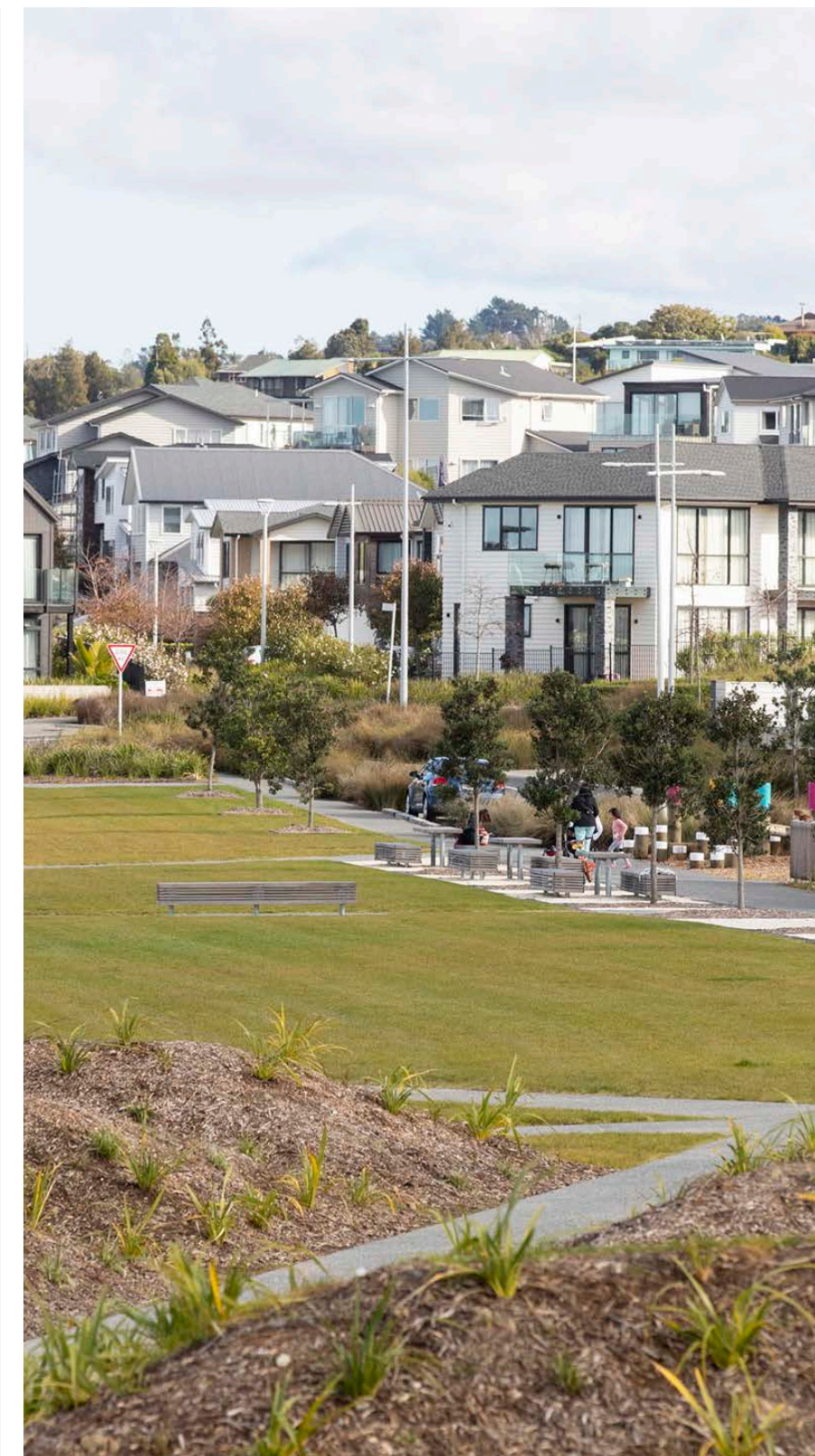
The standards apply to Auckland Council acquisition of land for the following:

- recreation parks
 - pocket parks
 - neighbourhood parks
 - suburb parks
 - destination parks
- organised sport and recreation parks
- regional parks
- connection, linkage and access open space
- civic spaces
- stormwater management areas.

We strongly recommend that applicants proposing brownfield or greenfield developments assess their proposal against the standards in this document to ensure consistency with our requirements. This assessment should be submitted to the council as part of the application. This will ensure that we consider the proposed open space and its place in the wider open space network as early as possible in the process. It will also help to determine any open space requirements transparently and in a timely manner.

We attempt to acquire open space early in the development process to minimise purchase cost and ensure the land is secured for Aucklanders. Acquisition is undertaken in response to available budgets and budget constraints can limit our ability to acquire as early as we would like.

We will proactively explore opportunities to co-locate open space acquisitions adjacent to Treaty of Waitangi settlement land in consultation with relevant mana whenua where potential acquisitions are identified nearby.



Long Bay Regional Park
Image credit: Auckland Council

Table 14: Acquisition standards²

Step 1: Mandatory standards			
Public benefit	Proposed open space must have a demonstrable public benefit to be supported for acquisition by the council.	Decision-making and budget	All open space acquisitions – even those at no capital cost - are subject to appropriate political or delegated decision-maker approval under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Government (Auckland Council) Amendment Act 2009 and to budget availability. Therefore, consistency with policy does not guarantee an acquisition will be approved or pursued.
Other forms of protection	The council will not consider acquiring land where the land and its associated values are protected effectively through other enduring mechanisms such as QEII National Trust covenants while remaining in private ownership, unless a business case can be made that additional benefits would accrue from public ownership.	Regulatory processes and obligations	Plan changes and resource consents cannot obligate the council to acquire land, even at no capital cost (with the exception of esplanade reserves), due to the associated financial implications of acquisition cost and / or ongoing maintenance cost in perpetuity. Political approval through a formal resolution and / or delegated approval from the future asset owner must be obtained in writing before land can be identified as being acquired by or vesting in the council, through plan changes or resource consents. This includes land with: a. a primary open space purpose with a secondary stormwater management purpose, e.g., riparian margins on streams that do not qualify for the provision of esplanade reserve b. primary stormwater management purpose and a secondary open space purpose, e.g. a flood plain required for stormwater management.
Natural hazards	The council will not consider acquiring land for a primary recreation purpose / function containing, or subject to, existing or potential hazards that would: a. pose an unacceptable health and safety risk to visitors, or b. adversely affect the land, assets intended to be placed on it, or delivery of its intended primary purpose / function and long-term sustainability, or c. present an unacceptable short-term and long-term financial risk to the council when assessed against its intended purpose. Stormwater management areas Note that for open spaces that have a primary or secondary purpose / function as stormwater management areas, we will assess the stormwater effects and flood hazard risk to the environment and public to ensure effects are managed appropriately and achieve the multiple purposes and functions of the open spaces.		
Provision standards	All proposed open space acquisitions must be consistent with the council’s relevant quantitative and qualitative requirements.		

² Excluding esplanades reserves which are created on subdivision under s 230 of the RMA 1991 and are vested in the council at no capital cost.

Step 1: Mandatory standards

Financial compensation

We will not provide financial compensation for the purchase of land for open space that has attributes that do not contribute to, or that adversely affect, the ability of the open space to serve its primary open space purpose / function, including:

- a. is too steep to fulfil its intended purpose
- b. contains floodplains or overland flow paths in functional areas of the open space
- c. is subject to and / or potentially subject to coastal inundation in functional areas of the open space
- d. is geotechnically unstable or subject to and / or potentially subject to erosion in functional areas of the open space
- e. contains network utilities infrastructure such as underground gas pipelines, water mains, sewer lines. electricity transformers, underground or overhead electrical transmission lines, or sits within the National Grid Corridor Overlay in the Auckland Unitary Plan.

Soil contamination

All land acquired for recreational open space purposes must be consistent with the requirements of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011.

In addition, land purchased at residential land value must not contain contamination exceeding the National Environmental Standard for Residential land for the applicable housing density (residential 10% produce or high-density residential).

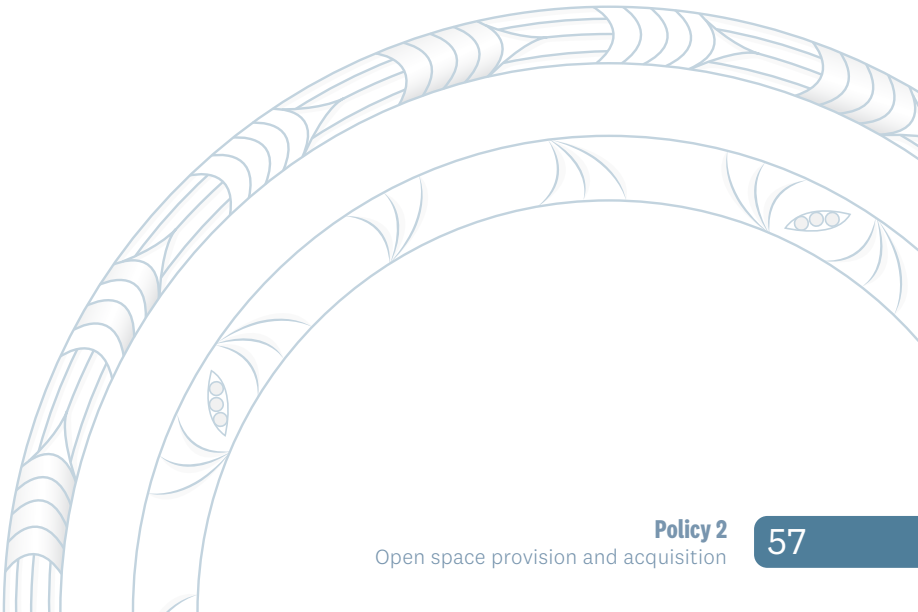
Land acquired should not increase our contaminated land management requirements, e.g. encapsulated contaminated land, closed landfills.

Management considerations

We will not consider acquiring land with management requirements that would present an unacceptable financial commitment to manage when assessed against its intended purpose.

Access considerations

We will not consider acquiring land for open space that does not have appropriately located or configured access which enables it to fulfil its intended purpose and facilitates maintenance activities.



Step 2: Site assessment considerations

Equitable

Will it help deliver equitable park provision across Auckland?

The acquisition must contribute to achieving the goal of all areas of Auckland having equitable access to open space and associated play, sport, and organised and informal recreation opportunities.

Strategic alignment

Will it help Auckland’s open space network address future challenges?

We will prioritise acquisitions that align with new urban development identified in the Auckland Future Development Strategy 2023-2053, and / or support the long-term viability and resilience of open space in the face of environmental challenges. When assessing open space requirements in both greenfield and brownfield developments, we will consider the wider network context by looking at existing, proposed or potential open space provision in the area.

Environmental significance

Will it help protect significant ecological or natural features?

We will prioritise acquisitions that support regional priorities for the protection of indigenous ecosystems and species and / or natural features and landscapes.

Stormwater management

Will it help manage stormwater and reduce flood risk?

Will open space be resilient to large storm events?

We will assess acquiring land for stormwater management on a case-by-case basis using a business case process.

Connections

Will it expand or enhance Auckland’s open space network?

We take a holistic, network-based approach to identifying and assessing open space acquisitions to ensure they contribute to enhancing Auckland’s overall open space network. We will consider acquiring land that provides connectivity within and between existing and proposed networks and contributes to network functionality by filling identified gaps and / or enhancing existing networks.

Multiple benefits

Will it maximise the value of investment?

We will prioritise open space acquisition opportunities that offer the best value in terms of location, quality and outcomes delivered to ensure efficient use of resources at the time of acquisition and in the long-term. Where feasible, opportunities for open space to contribute to fulfilling multiple purposes / functions must be considered where they will not adversely affect the land, assets intended to be placed on it, or delivery of its intended primary purpose / function and long-term sustainability.

This includes whether the land can enhance our response to climate disruption or opportunities for recreation parks to contribute to stormwater management and for stormwater management areas to contribute to delivering recreation opportunities.

Step 2: Site assessment considerations

Will it achieve the quality standards?

Will it achieve the quality standards?

Table 15 outlines quality standards we want to achieve when acquiring land for open space. Table 16 provides further detail and how the standards apply to different types of open space.

Fit for purpose

Will it provide a fit for purpose experience within the wider open space network?

When assessing potential open space acquisitions, the wider network must be considered to ensure the correct balance between four interrelated key elements:

- purpose – what opportunities and experiences should the proposed open space and the wider network provide?
- distribution – where is open space most needed and how far will people have to travel to access various types of open space?
- location – where should open space be located in relation to other land uses to maximise its benefits?
- configuration – what sizes and layouts maximise functionality and quality for the intended purpose of the open space?

Getting the correct balance will help deliver equitable access to high-quality open spaces and associated recreation opportunities and experiences across urban Auckland.

Table 15: Quality standards (for land acquisition)

These standards are to ensure sustainability of the land asset and development on it, minimise operational and replacement costs and maximise usable land area.

Quality standards (see Table 16 for further detail and how to apply these apply to different types of open space)	
Location	To maximise how often it is visited and used and, therefore, how much benefit it provides to the community.
Configuration	Must be appropriate for the intended purpose with a preference for compact, regularly shaped parks, particularly smaller urban parks.
Topography	Must be appropriately contoured to serve its intended purpose.
Retaining walls and batters	Must not contain retaining walls, batters or other structures supporting surrounding private land or public roads within its boundaries.
Road frontages and visibility	Must be easily visible and accessible from formed public roads and surrounding properties to facilitate passive surveillance and encourage use.
Sunlight admission and shading	Must be located to maximise sunlight admission and minimise undue shading that compromises their functionality and / or coincides with their expected times of greatest use.
Accessibility	Where practicable, must be accessible at the same level as adjoining public roads. Access points should be wide enough and level enough to facilitate easy and safe access by users and maintenance contractors, including all-access wherever practicable.
Floodplains	We will consider incorporating flood plains into the open space network where adverse effects will not impact functional areas, will not prevent the open space from fulfilling its primary purpose and where the health and safety risks to users can be managed.

Overland flow paths	We will consider accommodating overland flow paths within the open space network where their adverse effects will not impact functional areas and / or prevent the open space from fulfilling its primary purpose / function.
Coastal inundation	We will consider accommodating actual or potential coastal inundation within the open space network where adverse effects will not impact functional areas, prevent the open space from fulfilling its primary purpose, or compromise its long-term sustainability.
Land stability and erosion	Land stability and erosion will be assessed according to the intended purpose / function of the land to ensure that adverse effects will not impact functional areas, prevent the open space from fulfilling its primary purpose, compromise its long-term sustainability or pose unmanageable health and safety risks to users.
Network utilities infrastructure	Network utilities infrastructure will generally not be accepted on land acquired for open space purposes due to the associated constraints on development, functionality and amenity values. However, it will be considered where it will not adversely affect the ability of the open space to fulfil its primary purpose / function.
Soil contamination	We will consider the contamination status, along with any ongoing management requirements and associated costs, before acquiring land for open space purposes.

Table 16: Detailed quality standards for land acquisition (based on open space categories)

Quality factor	Civic space	Pocket park	Neighbourhood park	Suburb park	Organised sport and recreation park	Destination and regional parks	Connection, linkage, and access / Conservation open space	Council-owned stormwater management areas
Location	- Primary civic space: in the heart of the centre. - Secondary civic space(s): appropriate prominent locations.	Must be located on the ends or corners of development blocks so they are not enclosed by surrounding buildings to avoid the perception they are private land, encourage public use and minimise potential user discomfort.	Ideally, on the ends or corners of development blocks so they are not enclosed by surrounding buildings to avoid the perception they are private land, encourage public use and minimise potential user discomfort.	- In prominent locations that maximise their role in place-making. - On public transport routes to encourage use.	As close as practicable to major roads, motorway exits, Rapid Transit Network stops or other frequent public transport routes to encourage use.	Due to their nature, these open space types may not be easily visible from public roads, so consideration must be given to maximising the visibility and accessibility of the space to encourage use.	Primarily along stream corridors and associated with floodplains identified in council catchment management plans, structure plans or council approved stormwater management plans.	
Configuration	- As compact as practicable. - Form factor of 1:1 to 1:2 is ideal. - Assessed case-by-case.	Form factor must be 1:1 to 1:2.	Form factor must be 1:1 to 2:3.	- As compact as practicable. - Assessed case-by-case.	- As compact as practicable while accommodating required infrastructure. - Assessed case-by-case.	Assessed case-by-case.		

Quality factor	Civic space	Pocket park	Neighbourhood park	Suburb park	Organised sport and recreation park	Destination and regional parks	Connection, linkage, and access / Conservation open space	Council-owned stormwater management areas
Topography	- For sites <0.1ha the entire site must be level. - For sites ≥0.1ha terracing may be permitted. - Assessed case-by-case.	The entire site must be level.	- Must include at least one 30m x 30m level, unobstructed, informal recreation area. - No slopes >1:10 except internal battering to create level areas. - In steep locations, terracing may be acceptable. - Assessed case-by-case.	Assessed case-by-case.	- Must be level or capable of being terraced to provide suitable-sized level playing surfaces. - Assessed case-by-case.	Assessed case-by-case.		
Retaining walls and batters	No retaining walls, batters or other structures supporting surrounding private land or public roads acceptable within the boundaries of the open space.							Assessed case-by-case.

Quality factor	Civic space	Pocket park	Neighbourhood park	Suburb park	Organised sport and recreation park	Destination and regional parks	Connection, linkage, and access / Conservation open space	Council-owned stormwater management areas
Road frontages and visibility	- At least 1 road frontage $\geq 25\%$ of the site’s perimeter. - Ideally 2 road frontages $\geq 50\%$ of the site’s perimeter.	2 or 3 road frontages $\geq 50\%$ of the site’s perimeter. - Local roads only.	1 road frontage $\geq 50\text{m}$ where it adjoins an esplanade reserve or riparian area. - Elsewhere, 2 or 3 road frontages $\geq 50\text{m}$ each, totalling $\geq 50\%$ of the site’s perimeter. - Local roads only.	- At least 1 frontage $\geq 100\text{m}$ or $\geq 25\%$ of the site’s perimeter – whichever is the larger. - Ideally 2 or 3 road frontages $\geq 50\text{m}$.	- At least 1 road frontage of $\geq 200\text{m}$ for parks $\geq 5\text{ha}$. - At least 1 frontage $\geq 100\text{m}$ for parks between 3ha and 5ha - At least one road frontage of $\geq 25\%$ of the site’s perimeter for parks $< 3\text{ha}$.	Assessed case-by-case.	At least 1 road frontage for safe operational and maintenance access to stormwater management devices and critical stormwater infrastructure.	
Sunlight admission and shading	In locations that maximise sunlight access and prevent shading on important functional elements of the open space at expected times of greatest use.	On the northern ends or north-facing corners of development blocks in locations that maximise sunlight access and prevent shading on important functional elements of the open space at expected times of greatest use.	On the northern ends or north-facing sides of development blocks in locations that maximise sunlight access and prevent shading on important functional elements of the open space at expected times of greatest use.	In locations that maximise sunlight access and prevent shading on important functional elements of the open space at expected times of greatest use.	- Must be level or capable of being terraced to provide suitable-sized level playing surfaces. - Assessed case-by-case.	Assessed case-by-case.		

Quality factor	Civic space	Pocket park	Neighbourhood park	Suburb park	Organised sport and recreation park	Destination and regional parks	Connection, linkage, and access / Conservation open space	Council-owned stormwater management areas
Accessibility	• At grade with adjoining roads. • Easy and safe pedestrian access possible. • All-access friendly.			• Main entrances at grade with adjoining roads. • Easy and safe pedestrian access possible. • All-access friendly. • Must be served by public transport.		• Must have access via a formed public road. • Assessed case-by-case.	• Connections and linkages (excluding esplanade reserves) and accessways (road to open space, road to esplanade or beach). • A 20m width is optimal but can be reduced to a minimum width of 10m if they still meet expected functional requirements and are consistent with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.	• Assessed to ensure there is safe access and appropriate working area for operation and maintenance of stormwater management devices and critical stormwater infrastructure.

Quality factor	Civic space	Pocket park	Neighbourhood park	Suburb park	Organised sport and recreation park	Destination and regional parks	Connection, linkage, and access / Conservation open space	Council-owned stormwater management areas
Flood plains	- We will assess the stormwater effects and flood hazard risk to the environment, public and infrastructure to ensure these effects are managed and deliver the multiple purposes and functions of the open spaces. - Assessed case-by-case.							- Consideration of whether there is broader stormwater catchment and overall public benefit. - Assessed case-by-case.
Overland flow paths	- We will assess the stormwater effects and flood hazard risk to the environment, public and infrastructure to ensure these effects are managed and deliver the multiple purposes and functions of the open spaces. - Assessed case-by-case.							- Consideration of whether there is broader stormwater catchment and overall public benefit. - Assessed case-by-case.
Coastal inundation	- Non-acceptable on functional areas of the open space due to the size and / or primary purpose / function of these open spaces. - The council will not pay for the affected portion of the land. - Assessed case-by-case.				- Due to the scale and / or nature of these open space types, some coastal inundation may be acceptable, however, the council will not pay for the affected portion of the land. - Assessed case-by-case.		Assessed case-by-case.	

Quality factor	Civic space	Pocket park	Neighbourhood park	Suburb park	Organised sport and recreation park	Destination and regional parks	Connection, linkage, and access / Conservation open space	Council-owned stormwater management areas
Network utilities infrastructure	- Non-acceptable where it would adversely affect the functional areas of these open spaces and / or their visual amenity and / or adversely constrain future development required to enable them to fulfil their primary purpose / function. - Assessed case-by-case.					- Due to the scale and / or nature of these open space types, some network utilities infrastructure may be acceptable, however, the council will not pay for the affected portion of the land. - Assessed case-by-case.		Assessed case-by-case.
Soil contamination	- Land purchased at residential land value must not contain contamination exceeding the National Environmental Standard for Residential land for the applicable housing density (residential 10% produce and / or high-density residential). - All other land must at least meet the National Environment Standards for Recreational land. - Ongoing contamination management requirements must not adversely affect the ability of the land to fulfil its primary purpose / function and / or place a disproportionate financial burden on the council in relation to the public benefits provided by the land.					- Due to the scale and / or nature of these open space types, some contamination exceeding the National Environment Standard for Residential or Recreation land may be acceptable. - Assessed case-by-case.		Assessed case-by-case.
Land stability and erosion	Must be stable and free from erosion.					- Due to the scale and / or nature of these open space types, some land instability and erosion may be acceptable. - Assessed case-by-case.		Must be stable and free from erosion or have a funded management plan for stabilisation in place.

We will use a variety of methods to fund land for open space

This policy assists with quantifying future open space requirements and the investment needed to meet the needs of Auckland's growth.

We seek to recover an equitable financial contribution towards investment in open space from developers, primarily through development contribution charges as enabled by the Local Government Act 2002.

Development contributions fund the acquisition and development of a broad range of open spaces. Any land acquired for parks and open space funded from these contributions must directly relate to meeting increased needs and pressure from growth. The proportion of the cost of acquiring a new park or open space that may be funded by development contributions is determined by the cost allocation methodology within Auckland Council's Development Contributions Policy.

Non-growth-related land acquisitions, such as conservation open space, are fully rates funded.

Auckland Council's ability to acquire any specific area of land for open space, at any given time, depends on:

- the budget available
- the level of committed spend against the available budget
- the level of provision sought and the price of land.

While we make every effort to provide sufficient budget to progressively deliver this overall policy, this is always subject to budget availability.

Increasing the level or type of quality in the open space network, as detailed in this policy, will require alternative funding and / or delivery methods to help cover any additional costs incurred. These methods include:

- an area-specific targeted rate
- an infrastructure funding agreement
- land exchanges between the council and private landowners where there is a net gain to the open space network
- gifting or vesting of land at no capital cost for open space purposes
- developers voluntarily make capital or operational funding allocations for open space development or maintenance
- collaboration between developers/private landowners, including through partnerships
- service property optimisation.

The appropriateness of different funding mechanisms is context-specific and will need to be agreed between the council and developers early in the development process.

The following open spaces are expected to be acquired at no capital cost to the council and are not subject to development contributions for acquisition of open space:

- road berms on roads vested by developers
- pocket parks in medium-density areas
- conservation open space
- stormwater management areas
- esplanade reserves/strips and riparian open space
- margins between roads and stormwater management areas or riparian open space.

However, the development of open spaces, e.g. local paths and associated assets, on land acquired at no capital cost may be subject to development contributions. This will increase open space capacity in an area and support the council in delivering improved public access to, and enhanced functionality of, the open spaces.

We will develop an open space land acquisition prioritisation programme to support budgeting and work planning processes

Every three years, we will prepare an open space land acquisition prioritisation programme, providing a 10-year and 30-year view of the open space acquisition pipeline, as assessed against policy. This programme will include acquisitions that are under negotiations, approved acquisitions and those planned to meet the needs of existing and future communities. It will provide information such as general locations, overall costs and phasing, noting that acquisitions timing cannot be fully determined.

This will support decision-makers in understanding the trade-offs between meeting the expectations set in this document, the associated budget implications and agreeing on a prioritised acquisition programme. Auckland Council’s budget for acquiring open space land is determined through the long-term plan and annual plan processes.

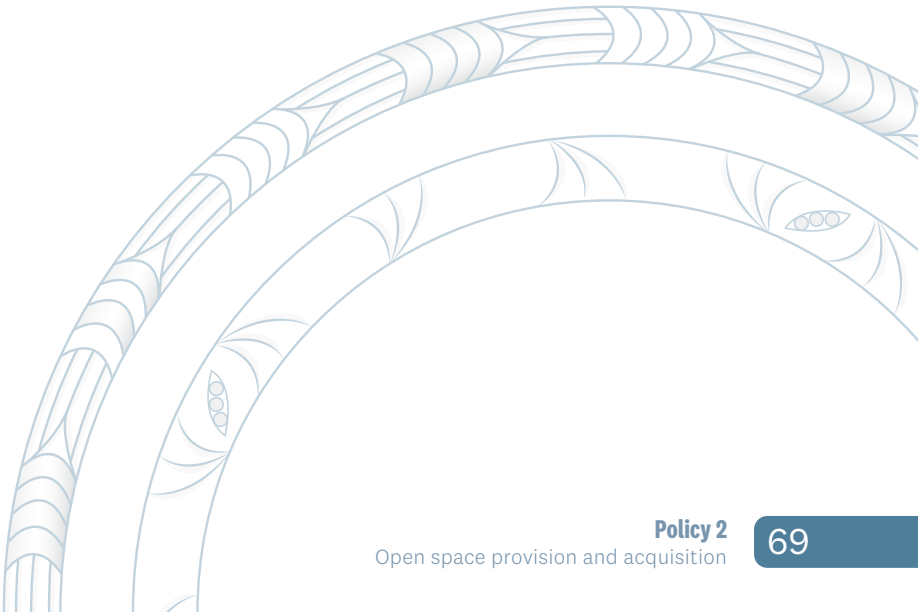
Methods to acquire land for open space

We use a variety of methods to acquire land for open space, with the method used dependent on the specific situation. See Table 17.

Table 17: Methods of acquiring open space

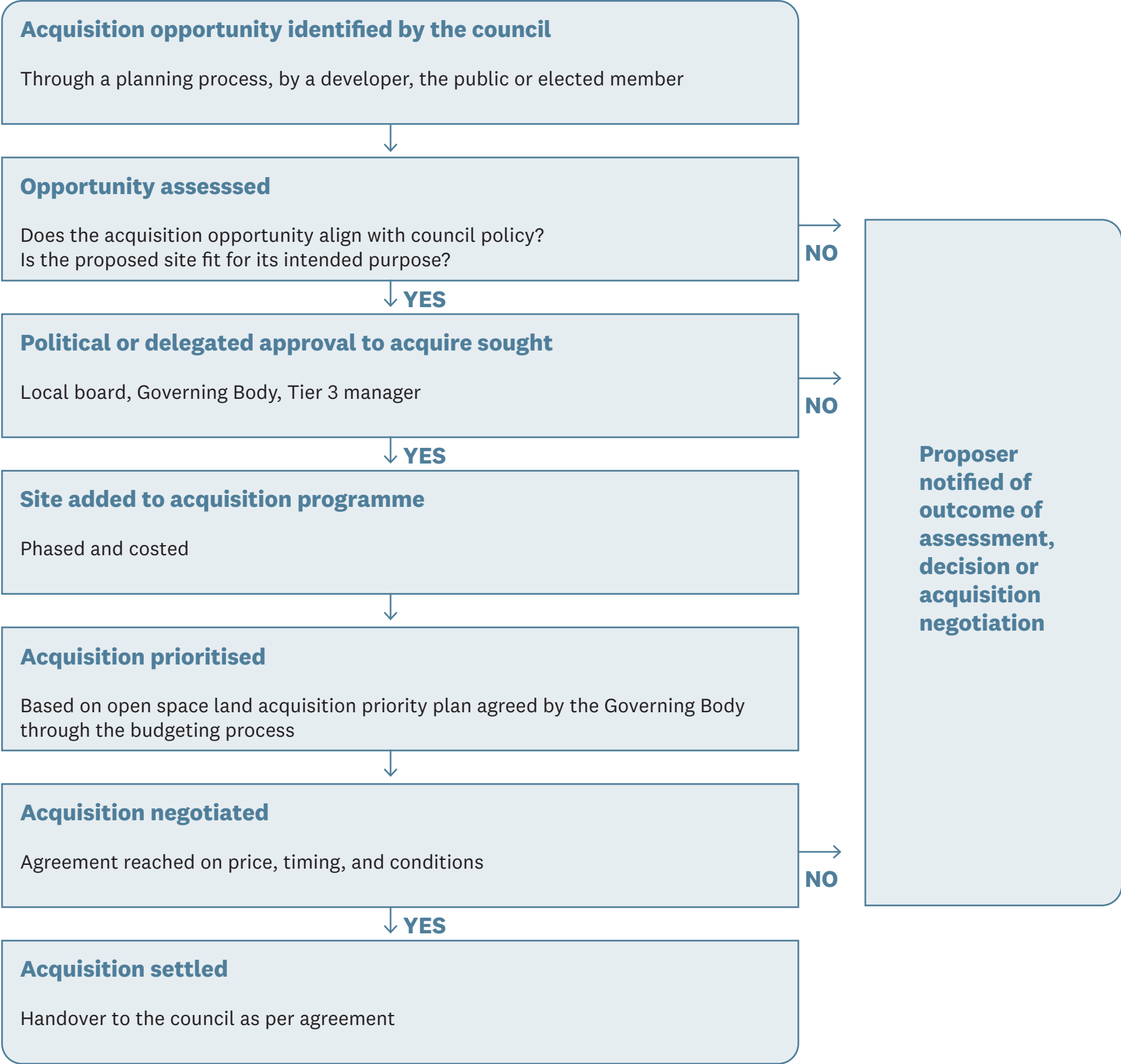
Method	Description
Willing buyer / willing seller (the most common method used)	This entails direct negotiation between the council and the vendor, usually a developer or private landowner. Terms of the sale and purchase agreement, including the price paid for the land, is determined through the negotiation process but must be consistent with principles set out in the Public Works Act 1981. Willing buyer / willing seller includes potential open space acquisitions identified through a subdivision or resource consenting process and approved by relevant elected members or appropriately delegated staff. It excludes land vested through a statutory / regulatory process such as esplanade reserve.
Gifting and bequeathing	Landowners approach the council to gift or bequeath land for parks and open space. When deciding whether to accept such offers, we must consider the need for the land, the cost of development to enable safe public access and use, and the ongoing maintenance costs in perpetuity. The decision on whether to accept the land ultimately rests with the relevant elected members.
Vesting on subdivision	Esplanade reserves are vested in the council at no capital cost through statutory / regulatory requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Auckland Unitary Plan respectively. Land for open space purposes can also be vested at no capital cost through subdivision, subject to approval by relevant elected members, or appropriately delegated staff with the approval of the future asset owner and / or maintainer.
Land exchange and transfer between public uses	Land exchanges and transfers are mutually beneficial exchanges of land between landowners, ranging from boundary adjustments to ‘swapping’ of entire parcels of land. The council and its council-controlled organisations hold land for a wide variety of purposes. As needs change or surrounding development evolves, opportunities may arise to repurpose land for open space once an asset reaches the end of its useful life. Land exchange and transfers can provide a cost-effective way to relocate or reconfigure sub-optimal open spaces.

Method	Description
Land acquisition for stormwater management purposes	Land may be identified for stormwater management purposes that provides public stormwater network and stormwater catchment benefits, including during urban development and through plan changes. A business case is prepared in consultation with the wider council and the potential acquisition is then subject to approval from the Governing Body (including through Delegated Financial Authority processes).
Land acquired for flood risk reduction purposes	The purchase of properties exposed to intolerable safety risk during large storm events is an established method of protecting life and property from the impacts of flooding. Examples of this approach include establishing blue-green corridors under the Waitakere Twin Streams, Te Auauanga, and Making Space for Water programmes. Identifying opportunities for recreational and ecological connections form important components of this acquisition purpose.
Compulsory acquisition	The Public Works Act 1981 provides Auckland Council with the ability to compulsorily acquire land for open space, which is deemed a public work, without the agreement of the landowner. The landowner is compensated in accordance with the requirements of the act. This method would only be used in extraordinary circumstances where the provision of open space is deemed essential, such as demonstrably required to help create a well-functioning urban environment.
Right of First Refusal agreement	The council and a landowner enter into an agreement granting the council the option to purchase the property prior to it being offered for sale on the open market. The agreement outlines the terms and conditions under which the property will be offered to the council. An encumbrance is recorded on the property title to acknowledge the council’s right of first refusal. This is useful for long-term strategic acquisitions, such as those for regional parks.



The willing buyer / willing seller is the most common acquisition method used by the council to acquire open space. The process is summarised in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Willing buyer / willing seller acquisition process



We will identify the council’s priorities for open space land acquisition

Each potential open space acquisition is prioritised based on a range of factors include planned growth and existing provision to determine if there is sufficient community or environmental benefits to warrant the cost of public ownership.

Subject to meeting all relevant quantitative and qualitative requirements, potential acquisitions are prioritised as:

- **high priority** – the council will consider purchasing the land at current market value
- **medium priority** – the council will consider acquiring the land at no capital cost
- **not a priority** – the council will not consider acquiring the land.

The acquisition criteria are not a quantitative scoring mechanism. Acquisition opportunities will be prioritised according to the highest priority achieved across any of the acquisition criteria.

Potential acquisitions are prioritised using the criteria in Table 18 below for land with a primary purpose other than stormwater management. Prioritisation criteria for land with the primary purpose of stormwater management is included in Table 19 on page 73.

Once the proposal has been assessed against the acquisition standards, the criteria below identify our priority areas for land acquisition. This then determines the potential funding approach.

Table 18: Criteria used to prioritise potential open space acquisitions, excluding land with the primary purpose of stormwater management

Prioritisation criteria	High priority	Medium priority	Not a priority
Provision of new high quality open spaces to keep pace with growth			
Land to help meet community open space needs in Future Urban Zone and other greenfield development areas.	X		
Land to increase the accessibility to and / or capacity of the open space network in urban intensification brownfield areas.	X		
Land to increase the accessibility to and / or capacity of the open space network in moderate growth brownfield areas.		X	
Land in urban areas with adequate access to, and capacity of, parks and open spaces where minimal or no growth is planned.			X
Creation and enhancement of open space network connections			
Land that will help establish a contiguous open space corridor or contributes to the blue-green network and will enhance recreation opportunities and / or ecological values.	X		
Land required to establish recreational or ecological connections identified in an endorsed council plan.	X		
Land that connects areas of habitat of representative ecological value.		X	
Land that does not currently, or could not in the foreseeable future, connect existing open spaces.			X
Protection and enhancement of our environment, biodiversity and heritage			
Land containing indigenous ecosystems and / or species identified as regional priorities for management that will benefit from public ownership.	X		
Land containing historic heritage, cultural values, natural features, or landscapes of regional or greater significance that has public open space values and / or benefits.	X		
Land containing representative indigenous ecosystems, historic heritage, cultural values, natural features, or landscapes of sub-regional or local significance that has public open space values and / or benefits.		X	
Land with low, common, or no historic heritage, cultural, landscape or physical values, or land with heritage value that does not have public open space values and / or benefits, e.g. covered in buildings.			X

Prioritisation criteria	High priority	Medium priority	Not a priority
Improving the quality and functionality of our open spaces and helping ensure equity of provision			
Land that will improve the accessibility and / or functionality of existing parks or open spaces in an intensification area or an area with poor access to parks and open space.	X		
Land that improves the functionality and / or capacity of parks and open spaces serving a regional or sub-regional function.	X		
Land that will improve the accessibility and / or functionality of existing parks and open spaces in urban areas where moderate growth is planned.		X	
Land in urban areas with adequate access to, and capacity of, parks and open spaces where minimal or no growth is planned.			X

Table 19: Criteria used to prioritise potential open space acquisitions with a primary purpose of stormwater management

Prioritisation criteria	High priority	Medium priority	Not a priority
Provides stormwater management for public resilience, water quality and ecological benefits ³			
Land to reduce or avoid risk to life and property from flooding and bank erosion.	X		
Land required for the operation and ongoing maintenance of public stormwater network and assets, including treatment devices such as dry detention, constructed ponds and constructed wetlands.	X		
Land that has been identified through a council catchment management plan and / or council structure plan and / or council approved stormwater management plan.	X		
Land identified as critical for waterway rehabilitation and improved ecosystem health.	X		
Land upstream / downstream of culverts to regulate downstream flows and enable maintenance.	X		
Land identified in consultation with mana whenua that has cultural significance.		X	
Land to enable network connections and prevent orphan sites along stream corridors and floodplains.			X
Land subject to flooding that is disconnected from any other open space and not likely to be able to be logically connected to other open space.			X

³ A business case is required for any land acquisition for stormwater management purposes, which includes consultation with the wider council and required approval from the Governing Body (including through Delegated Financial Authority processes). Any vesting requires careful consideration as to whether other legislative tools can be used to protect land for stormwater management purposed without the need for public ownership. Public ownership cannot be used to offset development or other financial contributions.

Kaupapa Here 3

Tā Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau haumitanga ki te tākaro, ki te hākinakina, me ngā mahi a rēhia

Policy 3

Auckland Council's investment in play, sport and recreation

Objectives

Being physically active contributes to improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities.

To support Aucklanders living healthy active lives, we will:

8. **increase physical activity levels** by targeting our investment to low-participating communities and addressing disparities
9. **deliver a fit for purpose, future proofed facility network** that makes the most of what we have
10. **strengthen partnerships** with mana whenua and mataawaka, local communities and other sport and recreation providers.

How to use this policy

This policy outlines how Auckland Council will invest in play, sport and recreation, and manaaki together with other organisations delivering these opportunities to Aucklanders.

Open space expectations for the delivery of play, sport and recreation opportunities, including sports parks, are outlined in the making the policies for most of our open spaces (Objective 1) and open space provision and acquisition (Objective 6 and Objective 7).

Objective 8: Increase physical activity levels by targeting our investment to low-participating communities and addressing disparities

Manaakitanga is at the forefront of how we provide play, sport and recreation opportunities to Aucklanders. Caring for volunteers, members and community across all roles is key to enabling Aucklanders to have access to the right opportunities and experiences in the right place.

We will enable Aucklanders to be more active, more often their way by investing in play, sport and recreation

Aucklanders' preferences for physical activities are changing. They may be physically active through play, sport, recreation or other types of activities.

Play is generally free and non-structured. It is fundamental to tamariki and rangatahi for learning and development. Play can happen in a variety of ways. It goes beyond traditional playgrounds to include nature play and cultural play experiences.

We enable tamariki and rangatahi to access opportunities for different play experiences on our open space network through our recreation opportunities tool outlined in Policy 1 and open space provision standards outlined in Policy 2. We also work with regional sports trusts to support play initiatives and recognise the work of our partners in developing Te Whai Kori – A Regional Play Framework for Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland.

Active recreation is informal physical activity that can take place indoors or outdoors. This type of recreation is increasingly popular with Aucklanders as they lead busier lives.

Our open space network, including paths and tracks, delivers a wide range of recreation choices such as walking, running, swimming, cycling, equipment-based exercise, fishing, scootering, skating and more. It is a popular way for our community to connect with each other and with nature.

Indoor facilities such as community centres and halls, indoor and outdoor swimming pools and leisure centres are also used for recreation purposes.

Sport is organised physical activity. This includes community sport where young people and adults participate in organised sport and training at a local and regional level. Participation in sport is motivated by a range of things including health and wellbeing, learning and achievement, and a sense of connection and belonging.

A wide range of options will be used to increase participation in play, sport and recreation

To enable Aucklanders to be more active, more often their way, Auckland Council will consider the wide range of options available to increase participation in play, sport and recreation. This could include investing in more free and low-cost options for participation, in programmes that support intergenerational participation, or increasing awareness of opportunities already available.

The council will continue to primarily focus its sport investment on community sport rather than high performance sport. Participation levels are highest in community sport, which means our investment will benefit a greater number of people and add the most value. This is where we can achieve the most impact.

The council's investment in community sport will ensure a basic level of access to facilities and a mixture of programmes, services and resources. This will encourage participation and cater for the diverse needs of Aucklanders, and support the health and wellbeing of our people, places and spaces.

Developing and maintaining quality open spaces, including sports fields, remain a significant investment to support Aucklanders being physical active.



Onehunga Bay Reserve playground and outdoor sports centre
Image credit: Auckland Council

We will balance our investment to enable the greatest number of Aucklanders to be physically active as well as support low participation groups

We know some communities are more active than others. We will consider disparities to ensure all Aucklanders benefit equitably.

We will balance our investment to increase physical activity levels for all Aucklanders, with a priority focus on:

- Māori
- young people (5-17 years)
- low participation groups.

This means supporting a range of opportunities for physical activity, as well as taking a people-centric approach to our sport investment to:

- sustain or increase popular sports with high participation rates
- enable communities with low sports participation rates
- increase participation in emerging sports and traditional sports important to Māori and our diverse communities to create/maintain cultural connections and learning.

We will know we are increasing participation and addressing disparities when we see:

- increasing numbers of adult Aucklanders meeting physical activity guidelines (150-plus minutes per week)
- increasing numbers of Aucklanders aged 5-17 years meeting physical activity guidelines (420-plus minutes per week)
- increasing numbers of Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau meeting physical activity guidelines
- increases in specific community groups with low levels of physical activity meeting physically activity guidelines
- increase in the proportion of the regional sport and recreation grants directed to low participation groups and emerging physical activity opportunities that target these groups. This should also see a corresponding decrease in the amount of contestable funding available as it is more directed at communities in need.

We will use Active New Zealand surveys, Auckland Council and Aktive information to identify community groups with low levels of physical activity. We will monitor changes over time. Based on the 2023 Active New Zealand survey, low participation groups in Auckland are:

- Pacific communities
- Asian communities, including Indian
- Aucklanders with a disability
- those living in high deprivation areas
- women generally
- older Aucklanders
- rangatahi (12-17-year-olds)
- Māori Aucklanders.

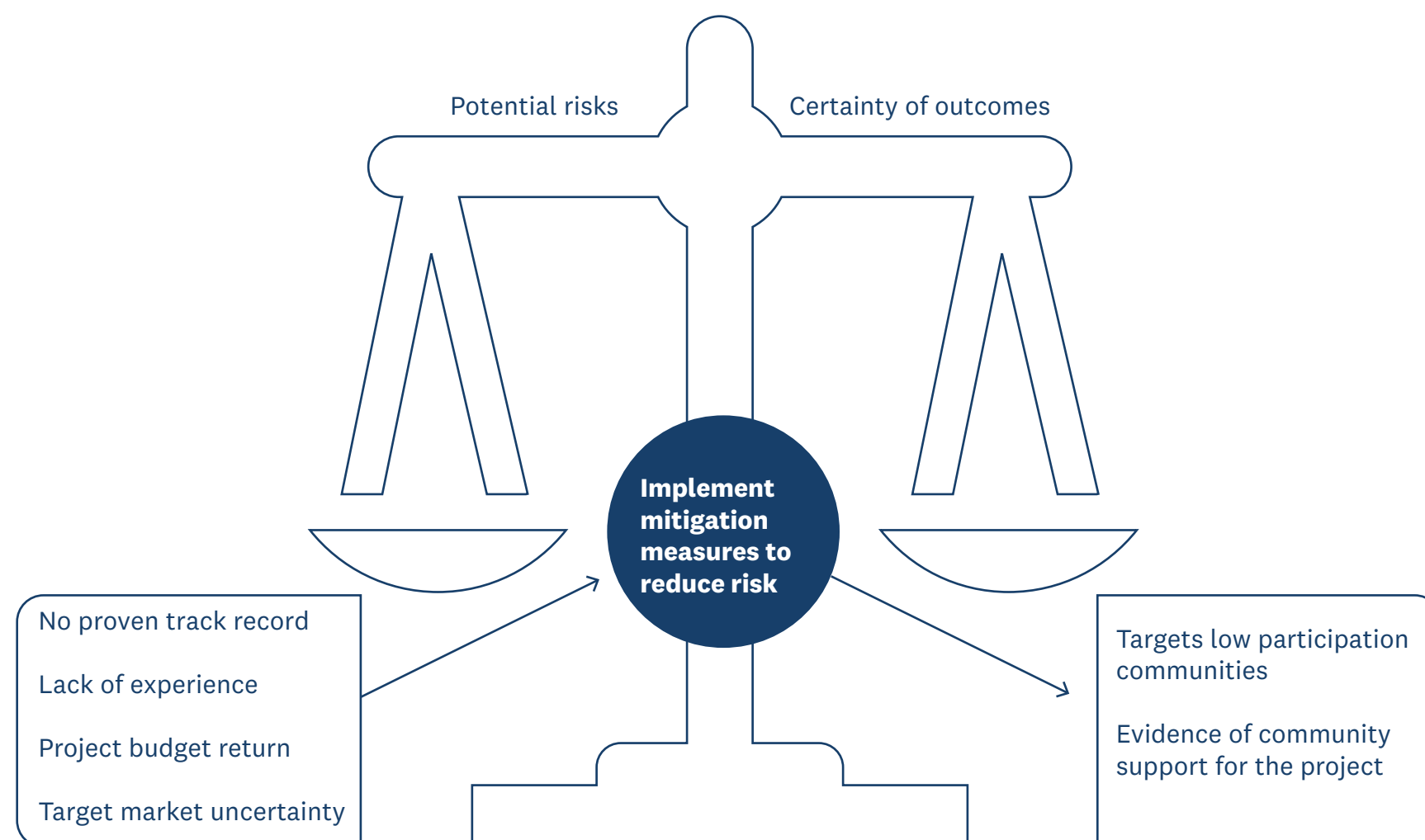
We will have a portfolio of investment that balances risks and certainty of outcomes

To increase participation in play, sport and recreation and support low participation groups, we will need to trial different approaches to delivering activities and programmes. This may be investing in organisations or community groups with no track records or supporting innovative initiatives.

Trialling new approaches is likely to carry a higher risk profile than more commonly used approaches. They also have the potential to make a real impact. They must be considered as part of a balanced portfolio of investment that enables increased levels of physical activity across play, sport and recreation.

Potential risks could include low social return or misalignment with investment objectives. These risks need to be identified along with mitigation measures that might reduce or eliminate the risk, as shown in Figure 4. Mitigation measures could be building the capability of an organisation or group, funding a project manager or providing staff support.

Figure 4: Weighing up risks against outcomes



We will utilise regional sport and recreation grants to partner with others and target areas of greatest need

Auckland Council’s regional sport and recreation grants support the community to deliver and operate facilities and programmes that respond to infrastructure shortfalls, community need and changing preferences.

Grants deliver value for money by leveraging third-party investment and recognising the important role that non-council facilities play in serving the sport and recreation sector. It is a fundamental approach that supports delivery of ‘Investment Principle 4: Working together towards a healthy future, using all our resources’.

Previously all regional sport and recreation funds were allocated through grants on a contestable basis. We will include a non-contestable funding portion that directly targets communities of greatest need.

This change better delivers on ‘Investment Principle 2: Invest based on evidence of needs the voices of Aucklanders’. The benefits of this approach include:

- strategic focus: funding can be aligned with priorities identified in the regional sport and recreation facilities network plan
- support for smaller organisations: it ensures equitable support for smaller or less-established sports bodies, promoting growth across diverse sports
- addressing inequity: ensuring emerging sports and or communities who might not have traditionally benefited receive or have access to funding. This means we might take more risk than previously thought acceptable.

Investment principles outlined in this strategy will inform decision-making for the three regional sport and recreation funds. Weightings are used to assess applications in a transparent and robust manner.



Tamaki River Festival 2017
Image credit: Auckland Council

Table 20: Weightings for regional sport and recreation fund assessments⁴

Investment principles (weighting for assessment purposes)	Application to the three regional sport and recreation funds	
Take a benefits-led approach to improve the holistic wellbeing of people, places and the environment (30%) <i>(replace outcome focused funding principle)</i>	Ensure each investment achieves maximum benefit for the community across our four oranga. Investments should: - clearly demonstrate the contribution to supporting Aucklanders to live healthy, active lives - have a clear monitoring and reporting framework in place to demonstrate realisation of benefits.	
Invest based on evidence of need and the voices of Aucklanders (30%) <i>(replace equity funding principle)</i>	Ensure every Aucklander has equitable access to sport and recreation opportunities by targeting investment to meet people’s needs. Investments should: - consider disparities and target low participation groups and emerging physical activity opportunities that target these groups - prioritise delivery of the regional sport and recreation facilities network plan.	
Honour our Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations (10%) <i>(replace equity funding principle)</i>	Ensure that Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau have equitable access to sport and recreation opportunities. Investments should: - support delivery by Māori for Māori and build the capacity and capability of mana whenua and mataawaka - support the revitalisation of traditional Māori sports and play.	
Work together towards a healthy future, using all our resources (30%) <i>(replace financial sustainability and accountability funding principles)</i>	Ensure investment is financially viable. Investments should: - focus on shared and multi-use facilities - have the ability to fund capital and operating costs - ensure clarity on funding roles and responsibilities - ensure affordable access for the community to participate.	Act in the best interest of all Aucklanders. Investments should: - achieve value for money and deliver the greatest return on investment - provide transparency of information on the investment opportunity.

⁴ The three funds are the Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant, Sport and Recreation Regional Programme Grant and Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund.

Objective 9: Deliver a fit for purpose, future proofed facility network that makes the most of what we have

We will plan for a regional sport and recreation facilities network, with clear investment priorities that support more equitable participation

Together with our partners Sport New Zealand and Aktive, and in consultation with the wider play, sport and recreation sector, we will plan for a fit for purpose facility network based on evidence of community needs. This will provide opportunities for Aucklanders to be physically active through their choice of activity, whether it be play, sport, or recreation.

Our planning and investment approach will:

- primarily focus on facilities for community sport in addition to facilities for recreation such as swimming pools and leisure centres
- target investment in areas with high population growth and low per capita facility provision
- make the most of what we have by assessing current needs and being responsive to changing needs over time
- build on the existing investment by the sport sector, the council, volunteers, local communities and private investors
- prioritise partnership investment in sport and recreation facilities over sole Auckland Council owned assets
- use an evidence-based approach to identify communities most in need, instead of responding to particular interest groups, and apply an equity lens
- set priorities for future investment considering affordability and equity of outcomes
- ensure facilities are safe, welcoming and acknowledge mana whenua of the area

- ensure facilities are located near public transport and connected to active transport routes
- use relevant resources such as the New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework for Play, Active Recreation and Sport (2024).

We will know we have been successful when we see increasing community satisfaction with the level of access to sport and recreation facilities and the range of opportunities provided. We will also see an increasing presence of mana whenua in the facilities network.



Otahuhu Playground, Pukekura Park
Image credit: Auckland Council

Auckland Council investment will provide a basic level of provision of fit for purpose sport and recreation facilities

Our planning and investment approach will:

- make the most of what we have by matching facilities with the most suitable groups or delivery partners
- prioritise investment in multi-sports facilities over bespoke facilities to cater for the largest number of people possible and to meet the changing needs of our diverse communities
- prioritise investment in core sport infrastructure and ancillary infrastructure required for safe and sanitary public access.

Infrastructure type	Purpose	Example
Core	Infrastructure that is central to sport participation.	Courts, fields, playing surfaces and lighting.
Ancillary	Infrastructure that enables safe and sanitary access for participants and spectators.	Toilets, changing rooms, equipment storage and car-parking.
Incidental	Infrastructure that is not required for sport participation but exists for social and management purposes.	Clubrooms and administration facilities.

We will not prioritise investment in:

- already funded community sport and recreation facilities and incidental infrastructure that delivers private benefits to small groups of users (exceptions will be made if applicants can demonstrate increased sport participation or increased use of a core facility)
- high performance sport facilities.



Ngāti Ōtara multi-sport facility open day
Image credit: Auckland Council

We will accelerate the transition to multi-use and adaptable facilities

Multi-use facilities are one way to provide more opportunities for community participation, providing multiple benefits to Aucklanders and making the most of what we have. Sharing facilities and expertise helps build an inclusive, integrated community. Multi-use facilities are a more cost-effective solution through the efficient use of land, assets, people and funding.

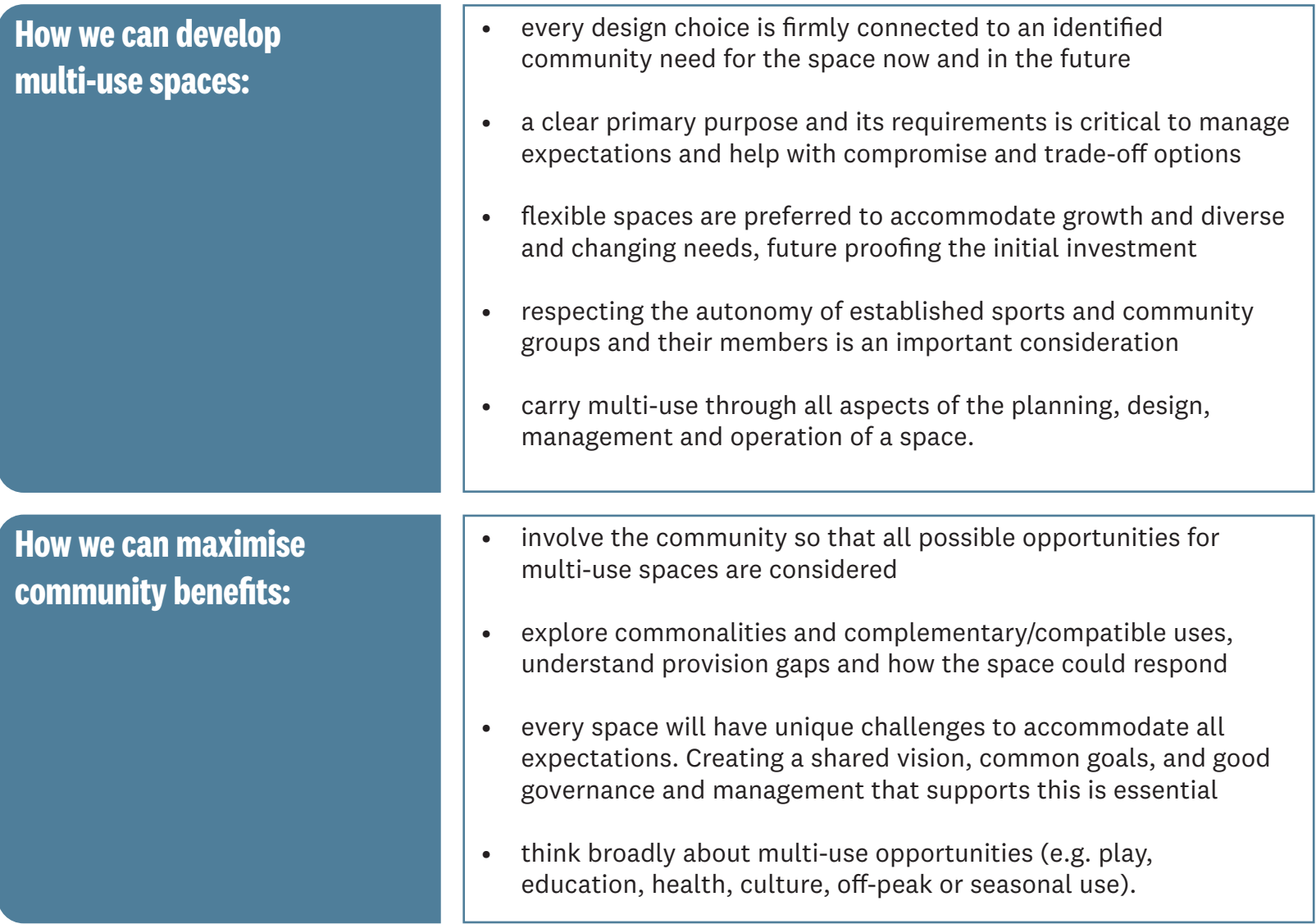
We will focus on achieving an affordable, fit for purpose network of facilities, programmes and services for all Aucklanders. Single-code use may only occur where facility utilisation is maximised, there is an evident community need and operations are sustainable.

Our planning and investment approach will:

- connect and support groups to partner, co-locate and create more multi-use and flexible facilities. This may require review of any current barriers that restrict multi-use opportunities.
- develop new spaces and places as multi-use facilities that accommodate varied activities and groups, enabling more intensive use and are available for longer hours
- co-locate facilities (locate next to) or integrate (part of one combined facility) with other services provided by Auckland Council or other potential partners.

Figure 5 provides high-level guidance on how to develop multi-use facilities and maximise community benefits.

Figure 5: Multi-use guidance



A toolkit of resources will be developed to demonstrate best practice and key lessons and to support the sector to progress multi-use facility development with existing, repurposed and new facilities.

We will improve the performance of our facilities to reduce negative environmental impacts, including carbon emissions

Some of our facilities need to perform better. Older facilities face high operational costs as a result of poor energy efficiency and / or design.

Extreme weather events threaten the viability of poorly located facilities and spaces. Yet open spaces and facilities often become the focal point for communities during an emergency.

Aucklanders increasingly expect initiatives that reduce carbon emissions and minimise environmental impacts in our spaces and places.

We need to manaaki our facilities so we can provide opportunities for all Aucklanders now and in the future and care for the environment.

Our planning and investment approach will:

- place greater emphasis on sustainable design, construction and operation when constructing and decommissioning facilities
- always consider how we can improve, rationalise or redevelop existing facilities to meet community needs before building new
- adapt facilities on the coast and in flood areas using the most considerate response, ranging from no active intervention to managed realignment
- assess the location of new facilities for climate resilience, integration into active and public transport routes, and co-location with other facilities wherever possible

- use new technologies and enhanced design, e.g. installing lighting to extend times that facilities can be used, using artificial surfaces to reduce maintenance costs and time
- understand and respond to the impact of climate disruption on sport and recreation activities and community needs, e.g. changing temperatures may affect the timing of sport seasons and competition play
- provide more indoor facilities for year-round use, removing problems with weather or seasonal variances
- use resources such as the Sport New Zealand Environmental Sustainability Guidelines for Spaces and Places.



Indoor Te Pai Courts, Henderson
Image credit: Jay Farnworth

We will support the development of universally accessible facilities so that more people in our community can use them

There is growing demand for accessible facilities and spaces for people with disabilities, suitable amenities for women and girls, and safe and welcoming spaces for groups such as rainbow communities.

Making facilities universally accessible means considering the needs of all users, recognising human diversity and different life scenarios including pregnancy, injury, disability, neurodiversity and old age.

Everyone benefits when we create fully accessible facilities.

Our planning and investment approach will:

- manaaki all Aucklanders by designing and developing accessible and welcoming facilities that support and enable use and enjoyment by everyone
- provide accessibility information online and on-site to help people know which places are accessible to them and how they can be used. This information must accommodate a wide range of literacy and language skills.
- use resources such as Auckland Council's Universal Design Tool and the Sport New Zealand Environmental Sustainability Guidelines for Spaces and Places.



Rippa rugby
Image credit: Auckland Council

Objective 10: Strengthen partnerships with mana whenua and mataawaka, local communities and other sport and recreation providers

We will partner with others and identify joint solutions for the equitable and affordable delivery of community sport and physical activity opportunities

Auckland Council is not the sole investor in sport and recreation spaces and places. We will partner with others to improve public access to non-council facilities and deliver more physical activity opportunities for Aucklanders.

Our planning and investment approach will:

- adopt a proactive approach to identifying partners and working together to improve public access to non-council spaces and places
- assess trade-offs and risks related to legislative, funding and operating challenges of partnership arrangements
- prioritise partnership investment in sport and recreation assets over sole Auckland Council-owned assets
- strengthen innovative partnerships with the Ministry of Education, schools, universities and sports clubs to remove barriers and increase public access to private sport and recreation facilities
- ensure partnerships are enduring and have a provision plan in place if public access arrangements change or facilities are no longer available for public access.



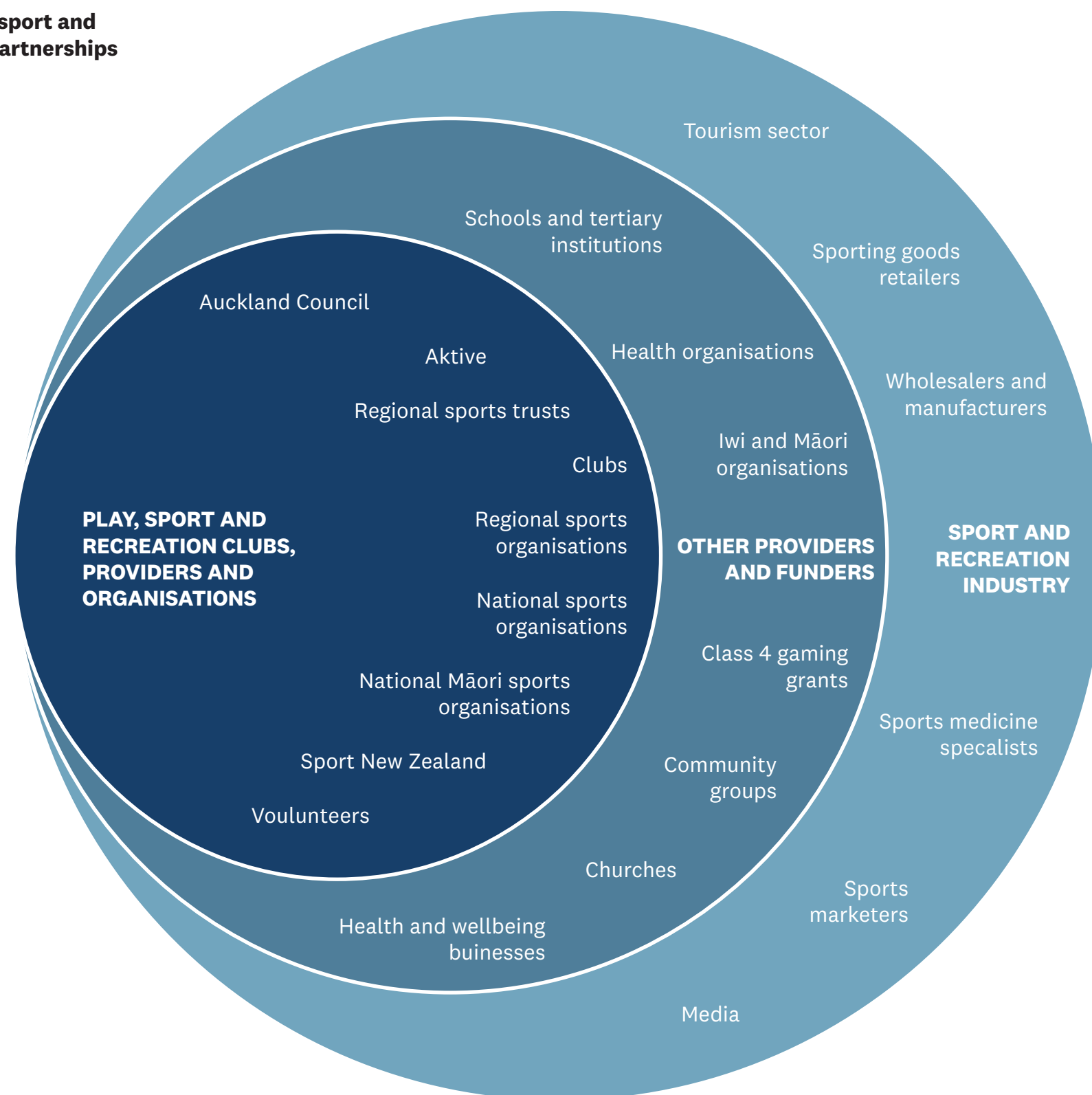
Older Aucklander playing tennis
Image credit: Auckland Council

Potential partners in the sector, as shown in Figure 6, include:

- **Play, sport and recreation clubs, providers and organisations.** These organisations provide, fund or support physical activity opportunities as one of their primary functions.
- **Other providers and funders.** These organisations provide, fund or support physical activity opportunities as methods to achieve other outcomes like health, education, tourism and community development.
- **The sport and recreation industry.** Auckland’s play, sport and recreation sector sits within a wider industry focused on health and physical activity.

There is currently a significant opportunity for Auckland Council partnering with the education sector. This requires a priority focus. We will know we have been successful when we see an increasing number of Auckland schools and tertiary institutions making their sport and recreation facilities available for public use over time.

Figure 6: Potential sport and recreation sector partnerships



We will work with communities to understand barriers to participation and how they could be removed or mitigated

Involving communities in decision making and providing services and facilities that meet their needs will help to create equitable outcomes for all Aucklanders.

This means not taking a one size fits all approach to supporting Aucklanders being more active. Different communities have different needs, abilities and access to services.

We will support communities in identifying solutions to increase participation. This includes building capability amongst those communities, so they are better equipped to successfully deliver programmes and services.

We will use the range of methods, as shown in Figure 7, to ensure Auckland Council investment best responds to different community needs.

Figure 7: Auckland Council investment methods

Programmes, services facilities

Auckland Council provides and operates play, sport and recreation programmes, services and facilities in Tāmaki Makaurau



Partnerships for delivery

Auckland Council partners with other providers to deliver play, sport and recreation opportunities for Aucklanders



Direct financial contributions

Auckland Council provides regional and local grants to sports clubs and organisations



Use of Auckland Council land and buildings

Auckland Council provides ground and building leases to community play, sport and recreation groups



Supporting volunteers

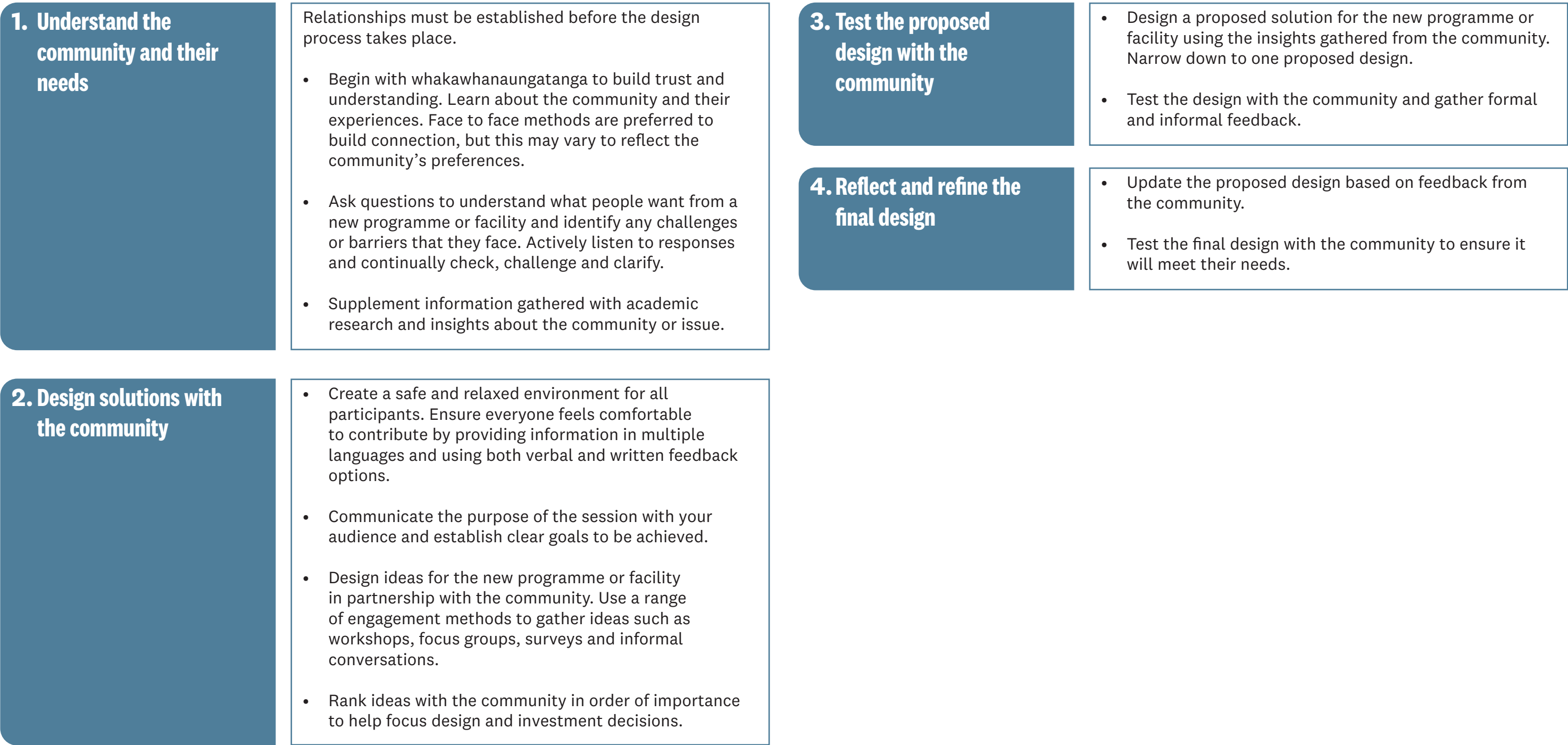
Auckland Council and the play, sport and recreation sector supports volunteers to deliver programmes for Aucklanders



Play Street pilot in Tāmaki Makaurau
Image credit: Gino Demeer / Auckland Council

Figure 8 outlines steps for a co-design process with the community. Co-designing can be a rewarding but time-intensive approach. Several sessions may be required before a final design is created.

Figure 8: Co-design guidance



We will support delivery of play, sport and recreation opportunities by Māori for Māori

Play, sport and recreation can play a large role in the health and wellbeing of Māori adults and young people. Beyond their physical benefits, these activities serve as vital platforms for Māori to engage with their culture and heritage, enabling them to participate and succeed as Māori. This benefits all Aucklanders through building an understanding of our culture and our sense of identity.

Mana whenua and mataawaka aspirations for inclusion, equity, identity and success as Māori can be achieved through access to appropriate play, sport and recreation opportunities:

Mana whakahaere:

We seek partnership opportunities with mana whenua that recognise and respect their rights of independence, autonomy and self-determination.

Mana motuhake:

We actively manaaki whānau and mataawaka communities by providing access to appropriate activities and spaces that address the specific needs of Mataawaka Māori in Auckland and foster community connection.

Taonga tuku iho:

We acknowledge the value of mātauranga Māori in place, sport and recreation activities that grow and retain unique cultural identities, values and tikanga that contribute to holistic oranga (wellbeing) and a balanced understanding of te ao Māori.

Whanaungatanga:

We strengthen partnerships by sharing resources and knowledge and aim to benefit both partners. This means taking account of the needs and interests of Māori partners, and ensuring our needs and interests are clear to Māori looking to partner with us.

Turangawaewae:

We support mana whenua in expressing their identity and cultural heritage in play, sport and recreation facilities, ensuring these spaces honour their connection to place and belonging.

Manaakitanga:

Our planning and investment approach:

- build capacity and capability of mana whenua and mataawaka to deliver play, sport and recreation opportunities by Māori for Māori
- invest to ensure that Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau enjoy the same level of play, sport and recreation opportunities as other Aucklanders
- support the revitalisation of traditional Māori play, sport and recreation opportunities
- ensure that play, sport and recreation spaces, places and activities are culturally appropriate, mana enhancing and protect taonga
- support te reo Māori to be seen, heard, spoken and learned throughout the play, sport and recreation spaces and places of Tāmaki Makaurau
- acknowledge and support the dedicated volunteer efforts of kaumātua, rangatahi, and tamariki, who unify and uplift communities
- foster opportunities to celebrate Māori identity to play, sport and recreation.

We will know we are making good progress when we start to see an increasing number of play, sport and recreation initiatives delivered by Māori for Māori, increased participation rates for Māori in physical activity and increased satisfaction of mana whenua and mataawaka with their environments.



Te Māra Hūpara, Māngere
Image credit: Boffa Miskell

Tā mātou whai urupū
Te whakatutuki mahi i te manaaki

4. Our commitment

Delivering on manaaki

An implementation and monitoring approach is being developed
For additional information, go to aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Image credit: Auckland Council

Glossary

Accessibility

Being able to access all spaces, places, services and information with ease and dignity.⁵ This means considering geographic, physical, social, cultural and economic barriers to ensure our open spaces and play, sport and recreation opportunities are well-distributed, connected, affordable, safe, culturally relevant, welcoming and meet the needs of Aucklanders from all backgrounds, ages and abilities so they feel that they belong.

Blue-green corridor

Connected blue-green spaces that provide access and / or transport for water, species and / or people.⁶

Blue-green network

An interconnected system of natural and semi-natural elements that are designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecological, community and infrastructure services. The network includes green elements (e.g. parks, reserves, private gardens, street trees) and blue elements (e.g. watercourses, wetlands, stormwater channels).⁷

⁵ Based on New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026 (Outcome 5: Accessibility).
⁶ Definition developed by Auckland Council’s Policy Department.
⁷ Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland’s Climate Plan.
⁸ Auckland Unitary Plan.
⁹ Adapted from the Defining Equity in a Local Government Context work.

Blue-green space

An area with natural and semi-natural elements (aquatic and / or vegetated) that has wide-ranging benefits for biodiversity and human wellbeing.⁶

Blue spaces

Surface water bodies or waterways such as lakes, the sea, harbours, rivers and streams.

Brownfield

Any already urbanised land to be redeveloped, often for more intensive or different land use.⁸ There is high potential for contaminated land to be present in brownfield areas.

Capacity

Square metres of open space per person. Capacity is considered low when below 10m² of open space per person, moderate when between 10m² and 20m² and high when more than 20m².

Closed Landfill

Former waste disposal facility now no longer accepting waste. Many parks now overlie these sites.

Contaminated Land

Contaminated land has a hazardous substance in or on it that has significant adverse effects on the environment or is reasonably likely to have significant adverse effects on the environment.

Contaminated land also has potential adverse human health effects and incurs additional development costs and / or ongoing management costs. Potential open space must meet applicable national standards for contaminated land.

Equity

Everyone in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, including future generations, has an equal chance of succeeding in life, with access to the opportunities and resources they need, recognising that additional resources or different approaches are often required to achieve this.⁹

Greenfield

Land identified for future urban development that has not been previously developed.⁸ Greenfield areas may contain land contaminated by former agricultural or horticultural activity.

Green infrastructure

Natural and engineered ecological systems, integrated with the built environment, to provide a range of ecological, community and infrastructure services.¹⁰

Green spaces

Land areas that are largely covered in vegetation, including parks, cemeteries and conservation land.

Grey spaces

Open spaces with hard and impermeable surfaces, such as civic squares, paths, roads and open car parks.

¹⁰ Auckland Plan 2050.
¹¹ Houkura.

Hapū

A number of whānau sharing descent from a common ancestor; kinship group, sub-tribe.

High-density areas

The Auckland Unitary Plan defines the following zones as high density: metropolitan centre, town centre, local centre, mixed use and terraced housing and apartment buildings. Areas in other zones developed to equivalent densities are also considered high density when assessing open space provision requirements.

Iwi

A number of hapū (section of a tribe) related through a common ancestor.

Low-density areas

For the purposes of the assessing open space provision, the following Auckland Unitary Plan zones are considered low density: single house, rural and coastal settlement.

Mana whenua

Māori with ancestral relationships in certain areas in Tāmaki Makaurau where they exercise customary authority.¹¹

Manaakitanga

A process of showing respect, hospitality, generosity and care for others.¹⁰

Mataawaka

Māori living in the Auckland region who are not in a mana whenua group.¹⁰

Mātauranga Māori

Māori knowledge and expertise.¹⁰

Medium-density areas

For the purposes of the assessing open space provision, the following Auckland Unitary Plan zones are considered medium density: mixed housing urban and mixed housing suburban.

Multi-use

An open space or sport and recreation facility that meets the needs of the expected primary users yet is flexible enough to cater to a variety of uses now and in the future.¹²

Nature-based solutions

Actions that work with and enhance the natural environment to help people adapt to climate change, simultaneously providing human wellbeing and biodiversity benefits.⁷

Open space

An area of land or a body of water or combination of these elements which are relatively free of buildings or other built structures, and may include green, blue and grey spaces.

Oranga

Wellbeing, health, welfare.

¹² Adapted from the New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework.

¹³ Te Whai Kori: A Regional Play Framework for Auckland.

¹⁴ Increasing Aucklanders’ Participation in Sport: Investment Plan 2019-2039.

¹⁵ From the Clearinghouse for Sport.

Play

Physical activity that is naturally motivated, freely chosen and with no pre-defined outcome.¹³

Recreation

Recreation can be active or passive. **Active recreation** is physical activity that is informal and done for lifestyle, wellbeing, health or enjoyment.¹⁴ **Passive recreation** includes less physically demanding pursuits such as gardening, picnicking, reading and relaxing in nature. Most recreation is informal (occurs on an ad hoc basis or irregularly) but it can also be formal or organised (that is, more structured).

Sport

Physical activity that is competitive, organised and involves the observation of rules.¹⁴ It includes community sport and social sport.

Community sport is training and competitive sport by school-aged, young people and adults in clubs, local and regional games. It excludes active recreation activities or elite (international) sport competitions.¹⁴

Social sport can also be called ‘informal sport’. It is engagement in sport in a less formal context (e.g. beach cricket, a group of friends who get together to play touch rugby at the park or cycling and running groups).¹⁵

Tāngata

People.

Te ao Māori

Māori worldview.

Value for money

Value for money considers both the cost and the effectiveness of services provided. It is about using resources effectively, economically and without waste, with due regard for the total costs and benefits and its contributions to the outcomes we are wanting to achieve.

Water-sensitive design

An interdisciplinary approach which considers stormwater management in parallel with the ecology of a site, best practice urban design and community values.⁷

Wai

Water.

Whānau

Extended family, family group, a familiar term of address to a number of people. Also, the primary economic unit of traditional Māori society.

Whenua

Land, country, earth, ground.

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