

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Papakura Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2024/2025

PAPAKURA LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Volume
2.14

Mihi

Tēnā kia hoea e au taku waka mā ngā tai mihi o ata
e uru ake ai au mā te awa o Tāmaki
ki te ūnga o Tainui waka i Ōtāhuhu.
I reira, ka toia aku mihi ki te uru ki te
Pūkaki Tapu a Poutūkeka,
i reira, ko te Pā i Māngere.
E hoe aku mihi mā te Mānukanuka o Hoturoa
ki te kūrae o Te Kūiti o Āwhitu.
I konā, ka rere taku haere mā te ākau
ki te pūaha o Waikato, te awa tukukiri o ngā tūpuna,
Waikato Taniwha Rau, he piko he taniwha.
Ka hīkoi anō aku mihi mā te taha whakararo
mā Maioro ki Waiuku ki Matukutūreia
kei konā, ko ngā Pā o Tahuna me Reretewhioi.
Ka aro whakarunga au kia tau atu ki Pukekohe.
Ka tauri te haere a taku reo ki te ao
o te tonga e whāriki atu rā mā runga i ngā hiwi,
kia taka atu au ki Te Paina,
ki te Pou o Mangatāwhiri.
Mātika tonu aku mihi ki a koe Kaiaua
te whākana atu rā o whatu mā Tikapa Moana
ki te maunga tapu o Moehau.
Ka kauhoetia e aku kōrero te moana
ki Maraetai kia hoki ake au ki uta ki Ōhūiarangi,
heteri mō Pakuranga.
I reira ka hoki whakaroto ake anō au
i te awa o Tāmaki mā te taha whakarunga
ki te Puke o Taramainuku, kei kona ko Ōtara.
Kātahi au ka toro atu ki te Manurewa a Tamapohore,
kia whakatau aku mihi mutunga
ki runga o Pukekiwiriki
kei raro ko Papakura
ki konā au, ka whakatau.

Let this vessel that carries my greetings
travel by way of the Tāmaki River
to the landing place of Tainui canoe at Ōtāhuhu.
There, let my salutations be borne
across the isthmus to the Pūkaki lagoon
and the community of Māngere.
Paddling the Manukau Harbour
we follow the Āwhitu Peninsula to the headland.
From there we fly down coast
to the Waikato river mouth,
sacred waters of our forebears.
Coming ashore on the northern side at
Maioro we head inland to Waiuku and Matukutūreia,
there are the Pā – Tāhuna and Reretewhioi.
Heading southward I come to Pukekohe.
My words turn to follow the ancient ridgelines
along the Southern boundary,
dropping down into Mercer
and Te Pou o Mangatāwhiri.
My greetings reach you at Kaiaua
who gazes across Tikapa Moana
to the sacred mountain, Moehau.
Taking to the sea, my remarks travel
to Maraetai and then to Ōhūiarangi,
sentinel to Pakuranga.
There we follow again
the Tāmaki River
to Te Puke o Taramainuku, Ōtara resides there.
From here I reach for Manurewa
until my greetings come to rest
on Pukekiwiriki
below which lies Papakura
and there I shall rest.

He kōrero mō tēnei rīpoata

About this report

This annual report tells the story of how Auckland Council has performed in delivering services in the Papakura Local Board area from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2024/2025. It’s part of the wider annual reporting package for the Auckland Council Group and meets our Local Government Act 2002 obligations to report on our performance against agreed measures. It reports against the council’s Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and the Papakura Local Board Agreement 2024/2025.

This report also reflects the local flavour of your area by profiling its population, people and council facilities. It features a story about a council or community activity that adds special value to the area and demonstrates how **together we’re delivering for Auckland.**

Contents

About this report	3
From the chairperson	4
Your board	5
Projects and improvements	6
Our performance report	8
Local flavour	13
Funding impact statement	14



▼ Tamariki at Kai-pāwhara

He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

I am pleased to highlight some of the Papakura Local Board’s achievements for 2024/2025.

Given the significant population growth in the wider board area, we continued to provide free community events to bring the community together, including Movies in the Park, ParkFest, Santa Parade, Carols in the Park, and a summer concert.

The completion of the extensive maintenance at the Hawkins Theatre has been pleasing. This included the installation of new air conditioning units, auditorium lighting and carpet upgrades.

We were delighted to see the progress of the climate resilience work going on in Papakura which fosters a connected, prepared, and resilient community through education, engagement, and resources.

We were thrilled about the recently opened new concrete pathway at Ōpaheke Passive Park and the immediate high usage by families. We also look forward to the continued work on the water and wastewater connection to the town main supply at Ōpaheke Sports Park.

We invested in two key pieces of work in 2024/2025. One identifies economic development opportunities and the other identifies sport and recreation facility needs. We are excited about the upcoming work relating to these projects and opportunities identified from these pieces of work.

The environment continues to be an area of importance to the community, and we will continue improvements to the Te Koiwi Reserve and Bruce Pulman Park stormwater ponds which will improve the quality of the water in the receiving environment. Environmental education in schools and the Papakura Stream restoration are well supported by the community, and we will continue to support them both.

We would like to thank the community for your contributions to our plans and projects.

The board looks forward to continuing to work together, building a strong future for the Papakura Local Board area.

Ngā mihi,



Brent Catchpole
Chairperson,
Papakura Local Board



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Papakura

Papakura Local Board



▲
(L to R) George Hawkins, Felicity Auva’a, Brent Catchpole (Chairperson), Andrew Webster, Jan Robinson (Deputy Chairperson) and Kelvin Hieatt.

Contact us



35 Coles Crescent, Papakura



Open Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5pm
Closed Saturday, Sunday and public holidays



Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300, Auckland 1142



09 301 0101



papakuralocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/papakura

Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Papakura projects and improvements

Key to current and planned projects

Delivered projects

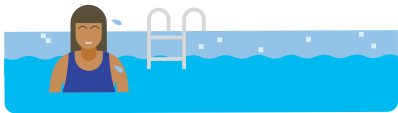
- 1 Kai-pāwhara - develop new neighbourhood park
- 2 Massey Park Aquatic Centre - comprehensive renewal (Stage 1)
- 3 Hawkins Theatre - replace utilities systems and lighting
- 4 Pahurehure Esplanade - renew car park
- 5 Prince Edward Park - renewal of softball diamond field one

Current projects

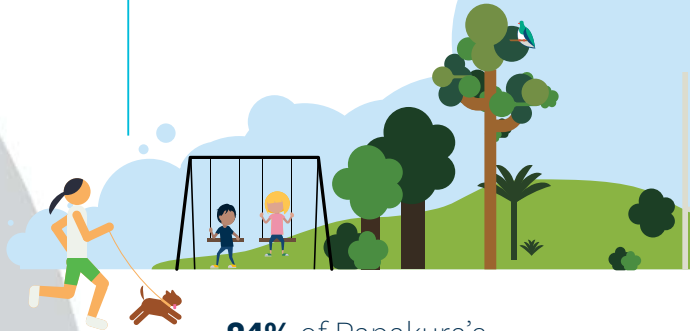
- 1 Brylee Drive Reserve and Walter Strevens Reserve - upgrade park amenities
- 2 71 Twin Parks Rise - develop new neighbourhood park
- 3 Elizabeth Campbell Hall - undertake general building refurbishment work
- 4 Massey Park Aquatic Centre - comprehensive renewal (Stage 2)
- 5 Massey Park Aquatic Centre - comprehensive renewal (Stage 3)
- 6 Bruce Pulman Park - renew carpark and widening of the park exit
- 7 Prince Edward Park - upgrade to an inclusive toilet and changing room facility
- 8 Opāheke Park - construct freshwater and wastewater system
- 9 Massey Park Aquatic Centre - gas boiler phase out
- 10 Southern Park - develop - carpark
- 11 Te Koiwi Park - development

Map legend

- Local board office
- Public open space (Unitary Plan)
- Motorway
- Major road
- Arterial road
- Medium road
- Minor road



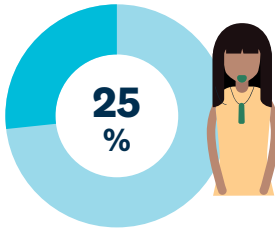
We are home to more than **140** local parks and sports fields, **1** aquatic centre, **2** libraries, **1** community hub and library, **1** recreation centre and **9** community halls.



24% of Papakura's residents are 14 years or younger



A population of **75,800** expected to increase to **83,010** by 2050



25% of residents identify as Māori



11 mana whenua iwi/hapū have an interest in Papakura

Data sources: Council Growth Scenario AGS23v1 (Feb 2024), StatsNZ Census 2023 (initial release May 2024)

Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

Our performance report

KEY
●●●● Achieved ●●●● Substantially achieved (+/-2% slim margin) ●●●● Not achieved ●●●● Not measured

For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to pages 122-123 of Volume 1 of this Annual Report.

Local Community Services

We funded local arts, culture, events, sport and recreation activities, and grants to deliver community outcomes and services. We continued to build and strengthen relationships between the local board and Māori communities. We delivered key initiatives including ANZAC services, mara kai community gardens, contributions to our local bands, and increased service levels at Papakura Museum.

Enable a range of choices to access community services and recreation opportunities

The number of visits to library facilities	●●●●	Target	Result
Visits met targets for the first two quarters but exceeded targets for the last two quarters by 39 per cent. This performance was in line with the regional trend. This substantial result showcases the ongoing demand for libraries and reflects the consistently high customer satisfaction with our services.	2025	256,000	291,752
	2024	241,600	291,311

Percentage of time physical library services are accessible to the community¹	●●●●	Target	Result
Papakura libraries did not close this year, even when challenges affected their ability to provide full service. They were still able to remain open and serve their communities.	2025	100%	100%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of visits to Pool and Leisure Centres	●●●●	Target	Result
Visitor numbers were slightly under target. OSCAR enrolment (Before and After School Care and Holiday Programmes) at Papakura Leisure Centre decreased significantly this year, and fitness membership numbers fell. The most common membership cancellation reasons cited were financial difficulties and/or leaving the area. Attendance at Massey Park Pool slowed, poor weather as a key contributor to lower numbers.	2025	353,000	348,422
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of time main Pool and Leisure Centre services are accessible to the community¹	●●●●	Target	Result
The time centre(s) were available to customers is above the target range for the year.	2025	95%	99.9%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local community facility asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition²	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	79%	86%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of local community events delivered	●●●●	Target	Result
Three events were scheduled for funding this year, two less than the target.	2025	5	3
	2024	New measure	New measure

Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives

Number of partner organisations supported to sustain their governance capacity and capability	●●●●	Target	Result
Targets were set conservatively as this is a new measure; however, outcomes surpassed expectations, supported by local board funding and reflecting strong community interest.	2025	10	23
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of partner organisations and groups funded to deliver placemaking activities	●●●●	Target	Result
Targets were set conservatively as this is a new measure; however, outcomes surpassed expectations, supported by local board funding and reflecting strong community interest.	2025	7	21
	2024	New measure	New measure

Provide urban green spaces (local parks, paths and ngahere) and access to the coast

Percentage of local parks, facilities and spaces meeting maintenance quality standards³	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	90%	97%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local open space asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition²	●●●●	Target	Result
5.6 per cent of assets are currently rated as poor, and 3.7 per cent as very poor. While most poor-condition assets have been renewed, a notable portion previously rated as average have now deteriorated into the poor category. These will form part of our renewals planning.	2025	94%	91%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of trees planted in the Urban Ngahere programme⁴	●●●●	Target	Result
When setting targets, we use average market rates for tree stock and labour costs. During actual delivery, however, we focus on achieving the best value for money, both in tree costs and labour. This approach allows us to plant more trees within the same budget. The overall budget doesn't change; rather, we find ways to optimise costs and achieve higher planting numbers.	2025	29	33
	2024	New measure	New measure

1. This measure compares actual opening hours to advertised opening hours to achieve a result.
2. For definitions of “Community Facilities” and “Local open space assets” please refer to the Glossary in Volume 1 of this Annual Report, pages 124-126
3. Maintenance quality standards are defined through SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) and asset maintenance contracts. These standards are monitored by staff who have received specialised training and are audited through a quality process to ensure consistent scoring.
4. Urban Ngahere delivers specimen trees intended to be over 3m tall. Additional plantings occur outside this programme.

Local planning and development

We supported local town centres and communities to thrive through town centre plans and development, and our two business associations in Papakura and Takanini. We supported an ongoing heritage map project for Papakura Local Board area highlighting its history and stories and are working with mana whenua to develop storytelling and places of interest, and to make those stories more visible to the community.

Support a strong local economy

Percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) targeted rate grant agreement obligations		Target	Result
	2025	100%	100%
	2024	100%	100%

Local environmental management

Our activities contributed towards a treasured environment and heritage. We funded a range of environmental initiatives which included school partnerships through the Wai Care education programme. Enhancing Te Koiwi Pond is an important ecological task which supports a partnership approach to regenerating the park and the pond. We supported healthy ecosystems and sustainability through local board-funded initiatives such as pest control, stream and water quality enhancements and waste minimisation projects.

Protect, improve and minimise risks to the natural environments and cultural heritage

Rounds of pest control carried out in key areas		Target	Result
	2025	16	79
	2024	New measure	New measure

The local board approved additional funding for this work programme, which supported the delivery of additional rounds.

Local governance

Activities in this group supported the board in engaging with and representing its communities, and making decisions on local activities. This included strategic advice; local board plans, agreements and work programmes; community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities; and democracy and administrative support.

Respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori communities

Number of local activities that deliver moderate to high outcomes for Māori as outlined in ‘Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau’ (Council’s Māori outcomes framework).		Target	Result
	2025	Set baseline	17
	2024	New measure	New measure



▲ Sculpture of Hingaia, Hingaia Park



▲ Kai-pāwhara / Kirikiri Reserve



▲ Papakura climate ready



▲ Papakura volunteers

▼ Ōpaheke Park opens in Papakura



Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

Recording the Roots

For more than 30 years, a quiet transformation has taken place at Kirks Bush in Papakura. Once known as a place to avoid, this pocket of native forest has slowly become a sanctuary thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteer group Friends of Kirks Bush.

Now through the Kirks Bush Oral History project, those decades of dedication are being formally recognised, recorded, and preserved.

Led by historian Janine Irvine, and funded by Papakura Local Board, the project aims to capture and protect the stories for those who have played a role in reclaiming and restoring Kirks Bush.

The oral histories are more than a record of volunteer labour; they're a testament to community resilience and long-term commitment. From those who have spent countless hours pulling weeds, removing graffiti, advocating for improvements and kauri protection, this project is a chance to have their experiences formally acknowledged and archived for future generations.

In *The Oral History of Kirks Bush*, Muriel Nacey describes how rewarding it was to see people become more confident about walking in the Bush as conditions improved.

For Margaret Gane, Kirks Bush offered her a kind of pause or reset from daily life.

“They speak to me about something far bigger than me,” she describes, recalling the feeling of walking beneath the tall tree canopy.

“I come out and my life is so much more in perspective. Those trees have lived through things I have not seen.”

The survival of Kirks Bush amid Auckland’s urban sprawl is rare, and its transformation into a place of safety, learning, and connection is thanks to those who cared enough to act.

The Oral History of Kirks Bush ensures that this care is not forgotten. It recognises the decades of quiet mahi and honours those who made a long-term commitment to the land.

The recordings can be found online in Auckland Libraries Kura Collections under ‘Oral History’.



▲ Kirks Bush

Te tahua pūtea

Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2025

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2024/2025	Annual Plan 2024/2025*	Annual Plan 2023/2024
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		17,883	17,883	17,030
Targeted rates		283	297	275
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		77	16	16
Fees and charges		606	461	373
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		124	143	107
Total operating funding		18,973	18,800	17,801
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	14,094	15,238	14,649
Finance costs		1,355	1,355	481
Internal charges and overheads applied		2,178	2,178	2,553
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		17,628	18,771	17,683
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		1,345	29	118
Sources of capital funding:				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	2	1,667	3,874	4,791
Gross proceeds from sale of assets		0	0	0
Lump sum contributions		0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding		0	0	0
Total sources of capital funding		1,667	3,874	4,791
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		96	810	144
- to improve the level of service		2,061	432	103
- to replace existing assets		855	2,661	4,662
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		3,012	3,903	4,909
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		(1,345)	(29)	(118)
Funding balance		0	0	0

* Same target as the Year 1 of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034

Variance explanation Actual 2024/2025 to Annual Plan 2024/2025

1. We spent less than planned on repairs and maintenance because fewer costs from the City Care full facilities maintenance contract were allocated to local assets this year. The underspend also reflects delays in the improved maintenance programme for Pukekiwiriki Paa.

However, this underspend was partially offset by higher spending on us extending short-term contracts for some pools and leisure centres to keep services running smoothly. This was necessary while waiting for a decision on how these facilities will be managed in the future and to allow time for new contracts to be finalised. Facilities affected are Massey Park Aquatic Centre and the Papakura Leisure Centre.

2. We spent less than expected on capital projects and payments to staff and suppliers, which left us with extra funds. Because of this, we didn't need to borrow as much as originally planned.

3. Capital spending was lower than planned mainly because the development of the Kai-Pāwhara (formerly known as Kirikiri Reserve) was slightly delayed. Wet weather affected the remedial work on the concrete paths.

► Papakura Carols in the Park 2024



Auckland Council disclaims any liability whatsoever in connection with any action taken in reliance of this document for any error, deficiency, flaw or omission contained in it.

ISSN 2624-2079 (Print)
ISSN 2624-2087 (PDF)