

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Waitākere Ranges
Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2022/2023

Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Annual Report 2022/2023



Volume
2.19

Mihi

E nga pītau whakarei o te waka,
 e nga rau tītapu o te iwi, e aku hei māpuna,
 e taku iti e taku rahi, koutou kua mahue mai nei
 hei toka piringa mōku i te ora,
 hei ruruhau i nga hau āwhio o te wā.
 E aku whakakai pounamu, e aku māpihi maurea,
 kia oho te mauri, kia māriri o koutou wairua,
 kia hora te marino, tēnā koutou katoa.
 Tēnei au te noho atu nei i te tihi o Te Pae o te Rangī,
 i tīhorea ai te whenua kia kī ake au,
 e koe e te hau o te uru te wawā rā, me te kī mai,
 e kore au e ora i ngā hau kōtiū, i āia ai te pūpūtara ki uta.
 Nāu nei te tono kia piki ake au i ngā tai whakatū a Kupe
 ki te Waonui a Tiriwhā me te Pae o te Rangī,
 Kīa titiro whakaroto ahau ki te maunga o Puketōtara,
 kei raro e rere ana ko te awa o Waitākere
 kei tētahi taha ko Puke Whakataratara, kei tua ko Te Whau.
 Koinei rā te rohe kāinga o Te Au o Te Whenua me te
 Kawerau ā Maki,
 ko rātou nei te whāriki i āheī ai te nohoa o
 tēnei moka o te rohe
 e tini whāioio kua whakakāinga ma.
 Kua kōhatu nei nga paparahi ki te whenua,
 i tangata whenuatia ai tātou katoa.
 I whaikiko ai te kōrero,
 “Ko te hapori te tauawhi i te taiao, he mea motuhake,
 rerenga kē.” Kia hiwa rā, kia hiwa rā.

To all those who adorn the prow of this canoe,
 to the revered leaders of the people,
 to my treasured heirlooms,
 the lesser and the greater parts of me,
 you who are my refuge in life,
 my shelter from the storms of time.
 My objects of affection,
 let your very being flourish, let your spirit be at peace,
 let the calm be widespread, I send greetings to you all.
 Here I sit on the ridgeline of Te Pae o te Rangī,
 where the land had been laid bare,
 and the roaring wind of the west whispers
 that I would not survive the blast of the northerly wind
 that would drive the paper nautilus to shore.
 It was you who commanded me to ascend from the
 raised seas of Kupe,
 to the forest of Tiriwhā, and Te Pae o te Rangī.
 So I look inland to Puketotara,
 at the foot of which runs the Waitākere river
 on one side stands Massey and on
 the other – Te Whau.
 Home of Te Au o te Whenua and Te Kawerau ā Maki,
 the original settlers, they laid the way for later
 travellers to make a home here.
 They cast their footprints in stone upon these
 precincts of the region,
 and so made settlers of us all.
 Which gives substance to the adage,
 “Communities connected to their
 natural environment are unique and diverse.”
 Let us grow with vigour.

On the cover: Rangatū playground

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 Waitākere Ranges Local Board area from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2022/2023. 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 2021-2031 (10-year Budget 2021-2031) and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Agreement 2022/2023.

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.**

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▲ Glen Eden Intermediate students

He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

As we celebrated Matariki 2023, we reflected on what has been a really challenging year for Tāmaki Makaurau.

Last October things seemed to be on the improve. The local elections were completed, and returning and newly elected members took office. In November, the Waitākere Ranges Local Board was inaugurated. With social gatherings back, there was a sense of things returning to business-as-usual following the period shaped by COVID-19 lockdowns. But as we now know, this has continued to be a time unlike most.



- Following community feedback in the Annual Budget 2023/2024 consultation, Auckland Council increased local board funding from the draft proposal. This has meant that we should be able to continue to support community and arts groups that contribute so much out west.
- The local board has adopted sole Māori names replacing the existing English names for 10 parks in tranche 2 of Te Kete Rukuruku. For nine parks and two libraries, dual Māori-English names have been adopted.

The local board has been working on the annual budget process for the 2023/2024 financial year. The draft council budget proposed significant cuts which would have impacted communities out west if they were implemented. This presented the board with a real headache. We could not have imagined at the time that our attention would be diverted by the fallout from the Auckland Anniversary floods and storm damage caused by ex-Cyclone Gabrielle earlier this year. The need to support our communities became increasingly urgent.

Since then things have improved for most, although some of us are in a precarious position as they wait for decisions about the future of their homes. We acknowledge the resilience communities out west have shown during particularly challenging times, and the help that individuals have provided for their neighbours and whānau. I also acknowledge the mahi of those who have kept Tāmaki Makaurau moving this past year.

Without a doubt, 2023 continues to be eventful but for us there have been some key highlights:

- There is still work to be done addressing storm damage and we are working with communities and locals to continue to improve things, and to prepare for future events.

This term, the local board intends to continue to fund and support projects that prioritise the environment and climate change mitigation, arts and culture, and the community services. We will continue to advocate for greater improvements to our town centres and villages. We will do our best to make our part of paradise better, one decision at a time.

Ngā mihi nui,

Greg Presland
Chairperson, Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Waitākere

Waitākere Ranges Local Board



Your local board

(L to R) Mark Allen, Sandra Coney, Michelle Clayton (Deputy Chairperson), Greg Presland (Chairperson), Linda Potauaine, Liz Manley.



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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

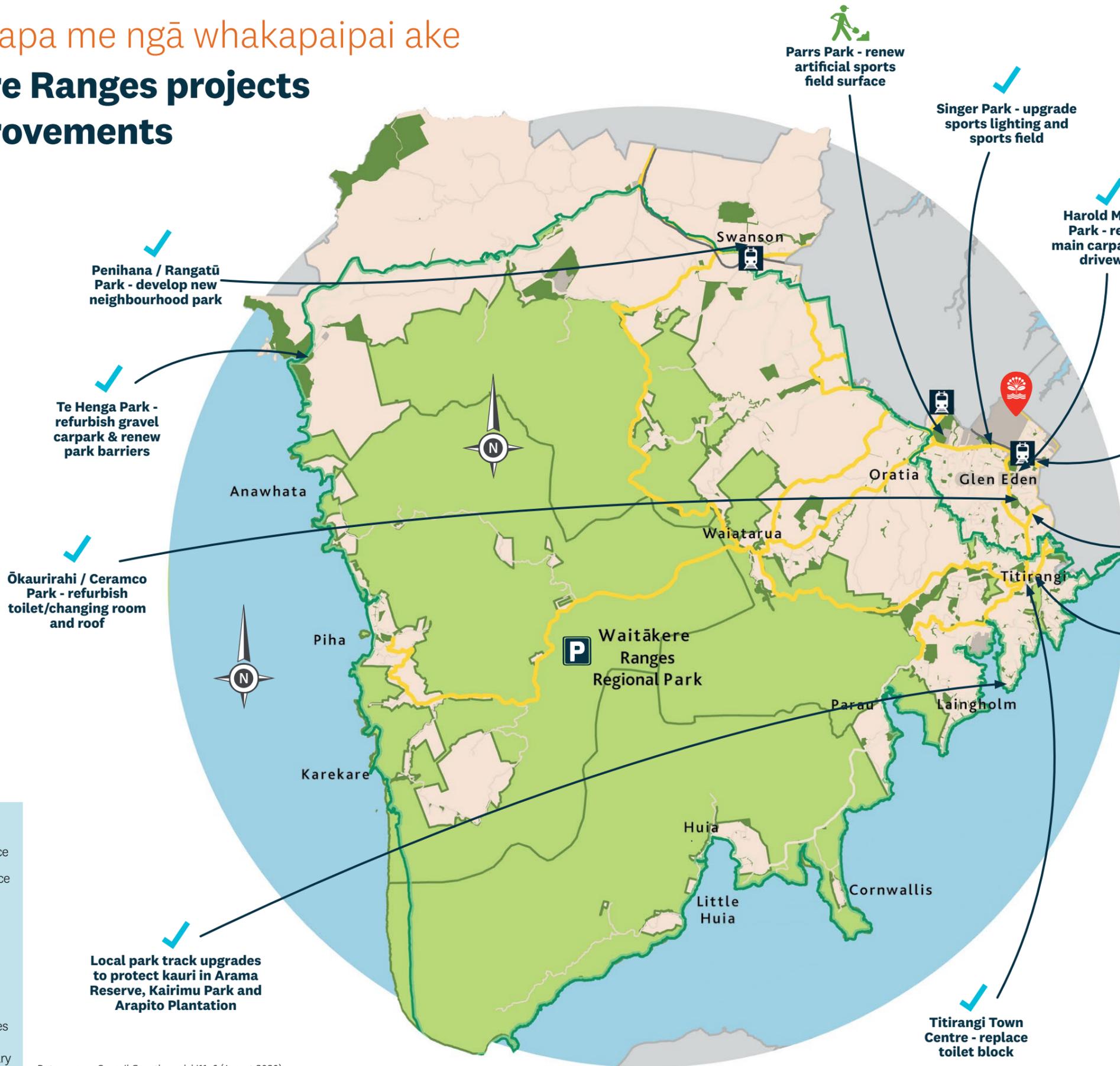
Waitākere Ranges projects and improvements

KEY TO CURRENT AND PLANNED PROJECTS

-  Delivered projects
-  Current projects

LEGEND

-  Local board office
-  Public open space (Unitary Plan)
-  Railway
-  Arterial road
-  Medium road
-  Minor road
-  Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) boundary



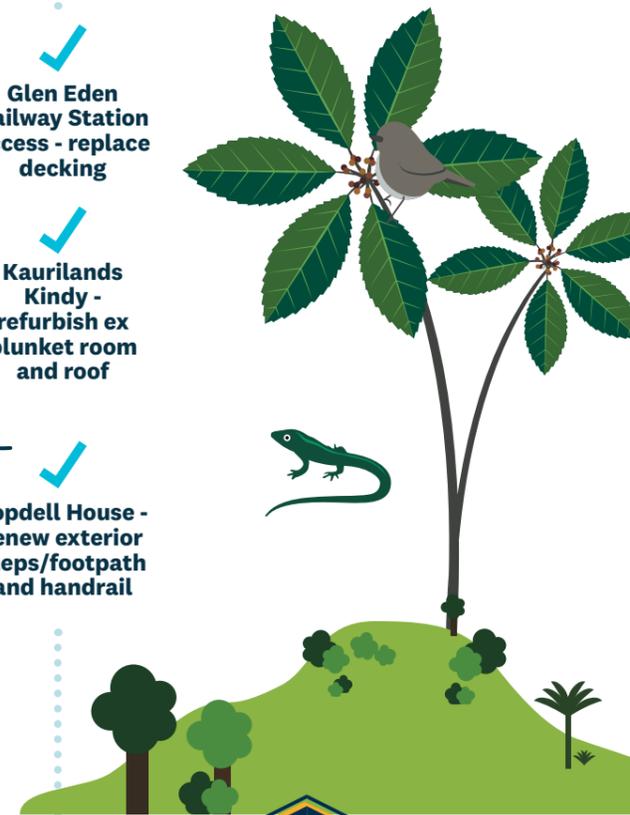
Data sources: Council Growth model i11v6 (August 2020). Statistics New Zealand 2018 Census.

We are home to:
The **Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area** – the only part of mainland Auckland to have its own legislation

More than **200 local** parks and sports fields, from tiny pocket parks to Parrs Park in Oratia, winner of two international Green Flag quality marks for parks and green spaces

Waitākere Ranges has nearly **20% of all native vegetation** in the Auckland Region and is home to **8** types of threatened native plants

2 council libraries (Titirangi and Glen Eden), and a **volunteer library** in Piha and Waitatarua



Waitākere Ranges is home to Waikumete Cemetery – the largest cemetery in New Zealand with more than **90,000** graves

Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

Our performance report

Local Community Services

We fund local arts, culture, events, and sport and recreation. The Going West Literary Festival delivered several successful programmes and events including a series of five short films. A Business Development Strategy and Plan for the Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre was completed. An upgrade of the Lopdell roadside reserve was completed, with landscaping and improvements to the steps. We continue to support and fund Glen Eden and Titirangi libraries. Glen Eden Library extended its partnership with Skinny Jump to offer Ciena Jump to assist students who don't have access to a broadband connection at home. A community resilience programme and a Housing Call to Action agreement was completed, which was used during the storm events. There is ongoing work being funded and supported to repair damage to parks due to storm and flood events.

 Achieved Target has been met or exceeded	 Substantially achieved Target has not been met by a slim margin (+/-2%)	 Not achieved Target not achieved	* Impacted by COVID-19 Measures favourably/unfavourably impacted by COVID-19
 Progress made Result improved from prior-year result	 No change No change from prior-year result	 No improvements Not improved from prior-year result	

For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to page 171 of Volume 1 of the annual report.

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2023 Target	2023 Result	2022	2021	How did we perform
Provide safe, reliable and accessible social infrastructure for Aucklanders that contributes to placemaking and thriving communities							
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe – day time			68%	47%	65%	62%	The result reflects the growing concern about crime and violence. Although there are some respondents that feel Glen Eden is safe others perceive harassment and theft is on the increase.
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe – night time			32%	16%	21%	26%	Night time safety is on a downward trend with respondents feeling less safe after dark.
Utilising the Empowered Communities Approach, we support Aucklanders to create thriving, connected and inclusive communities							
Utilising the Empowered Communities Approach, we support Aucklanders to create thriving, connected and inclusive communities			85%	77%	91%	82%	The percentage of Waitākere Ranges Local Board community empowerment activities that were community led did not meet the target. There has been a substantive decrease in reporting on these outcomes and activities, however the level of performance was similar to last financial year with the Community Broker continuing to be instrumental in supporting community led initiatives which sit outside the work programme.
The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that build capacity and capability			65%	90%	82%*	70%*	The percentage of Waitākere Ranges Local Board activities that build capacity and capability has seen a substantive increase in comparison to last year, mainly due to the concentrated efforts of staff in building resilience and strengthening the capabilities of community groups. Te Kaiārahi deliver a programme supporting the wellbeing of students at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Hoani Waititi and the Tula'i Pasifika youth leadership programme has had a good uptake from the community.
We provide safe and accessible parks, reserves, beaches, recreation programmes, opportunities and facilities to get Aucklanders more active, more often							
The percentage of park visitors who are satisfied with the overall quality of sportsfields			80%	56%	73%*	74%	The impact of flooding and weather events on sports field surfaces has resulted in postponed or rescheduled maintenance along with renovation delays. Renovations have been undertaken at Okaurirahi/ Ceramco Park as pitted and low laying areas were causing a safety hazard for players. These areas have been repaired making the surface safer for athletes and communities. Improvement upgrades at Singer Park have also been completed. This is expected to have a positive impact on overall satisfaction in 2024.
The percentage of users who are satisfied with the overall quality of local parks			70%	54%	61%*	66%	Weather events have caused significant damage and closures to parks, walkways, and paths across the Waitākere Ranges. Parks and reserves with large grass areas continue to be a challenge. Mowing schedules have been disrupted due to weather conditions however contractors have focused on edging around paths, litterbins, and playgrounds to maintain a tidy appearance. Accessibility maps have been developed for Waitakere and are available on the Auckland Council website. These maps are a great resource to support communities and visitors to have more accessible experiences and are expected to positively impact on overall satisfaction with improved weather and park and track openings in 2024.
The percentage of residents who visited a local park in the last 12 months			75%	81%	79%	80%	Targeted exceeded in spite of the particularly wet summer season, flooding and weather events. Residents have made the most of visiting their local parks and contributed to visitor levels being maintained comparative to previous years.

Local Community Services measures cont'd over

Local Community Services cont'd

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2023 Target	2023 Result	2022	2021	How did we perform
We showcase Auckland's Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture							
The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations	●	▼	26%	28.0%	34.2%	29%	The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations met the target. This was largely driven by strong community empowerment results, with the arts and culture area just under target this year.
We fund, enable, and deliver services, programmes, and facilities (art facilities, community centres, hire venues, and libraries) that enhance identity, connect people, and support Aucklanders to participate in community and civic life							
The number of internet sessions at libraries (unique sessions over public computing or public WIFI networks)	●	▲	75,000	71,442	41,321*	78,277*	Library internet sessions were expected to recover after the pandemic, but didn't until March 2023. If Waitākere Ranges performed throughout the year as it did after March, it would've reached the target.
The percentage of local community services, programmes and facilities that are community led	●		Set baseline ¹	Baseline not set	Not Measured	New measure	
The percentage of arts, and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led	●	▼	90%	96%	98%	100%	The board exceeded its target. The main driver was the 77 per cent of programmes delivered by community-led facilities, with Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery being a major contributor.
The percentage of art facilities, community centres and hire venues network that is community led	●	—	86%	86%	86%	86%	
The number of participants for local community services, programmes, and facilities	●		Set baseline ¹	Baseline not set	Not Measured	New measure	
The number of attendees at council-led community events	●	—	2,000	0	0*	0	No council-led community events were scheduled by the local board this year.
The number of participants in activities at art facilities, community centres and hire venues	●	▲	252,500	272,931	168,725*	227,875*	The total number of participants for financial year 2022/2023 is the highest compared to the totals from the last three financial years before. Facilities were able to operate without COVID-19 disruptions, which likely helped increase participant numbers, although there was closures and significant disruptions due to flooding and cyclone events which affected participant numbers.
The number of visits to library facilities	●	▲	245,000	200,273	136,247*	216,352*	Waitakere Ranges Local Board is 18 per cent under target. The target was set assuming visitor numbers had recovered from the impact of COVID-19. Instead, visitor numbers didn't recover until March 2023. In addition, Auckland Libraries transitioned to a new system of counting visitor numbers in January 2023, which provided more accurate but lower results. Subsequently, targets were overstated, as they were set using the old system. Post-recovery, visits weren't high enough to reach the target, especially given the impacts of the storms. If Waitakere Ranges local board had performed at the level it had been post-recovery, it still would've been under target.
The percentage of customers satisfied with quality of local community services, programmes, and facilities	●		Set baseline ¹	Baseline not set	Not Measured	New measure	
The percentage of attendees satisfied with a nominated local community event			70%	Not measured	Not measured*	Not measured*	No suitable events were available for assessment during the surveying period. No non-contestable funding or delivered events.
Percentage of customers satisfied with the quality of library service delivery	●	▲	85%	98%	94%	97%	Waitākere Ranges Local Board Libraries continue to exceed the customer satisfaction target. This shows the dedication and commitment of our frontline library staff to ensuring our customers receive the best experience at all times, as shown by the high level of customer satisfaction.

1. Better measures on overall participation, satisfaction and enabling more community-led community services were the original intent when these measures were included in the 2021-2031 Long-term Plan, signalling a shift in our approach and scope in delivering community services. We explored different methodologies but data gaps in some services mean a consolidated measure across community services is difficult to measure, while the scope of council-led community services are expected to change. Further work will be on hold until future options for community services are considered as part of the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan.

Local Planning and Development

We work with business and community associations to improve local economic development and employment initiatives as well as improvements to town centres, local environment and heritage protection. We fund a range of activities across the local board area that help deliver on the objectives of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008, such as community weed bins, the Buffer Zone project and the long-tailed bat (pekapeka) community education project.

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2023 Target	2023 Result	2022	2021	How did we perform
We help attract investment, businesses and a skilled workforce to Auckland							
The percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) Partnership Programme obligations	●	—	100%	100%	100%	100%	All BIDs in the Waitakere Ranges Local Board complied with the BID Policy 2022.

Local Environmental Management

We support healthy ecosystems and sustainability through local board-funded initiatives such as continuing to fund a Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance Coordinator working with community restoration groups, alongside continuation of the Waitākere Weed Action Project controlling pest free plants and working with community conservation groups and private landowners. The work was paused temporarily in January/February due to storm events but has progressed well since then. Year two of the three-year climate action plan has seen the procurement of a Climate Action Activator who is working with stakeholders and developed a work programme. The trial west coast animal management officer has seen an increase in wildlife advocacy, and the issuing of warnings and infringements. The work was halted for some time due to the impact of the flooding event.

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2023 Target	2023 Result	2022	2021	How did we perform
We work with Aucklanders to manage the natural environment and enable low carbon lifestyles to build resilience to the effects of climate change							
The percentage of local low carbon or sustainability projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes	●	▲	75%	100%	88%	New measure	We successfully delivered eight sustainability initiative projects for Waitākere Ranges in the financial year 2022/2023 such as the continuation of the Climate Action and War on Weeds programmes. These projects have contributed towards the board's environmental outcomes as described in its local board plan.
The percentage of local water quality or natural environment improvement projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes	●	▼	85%	83%	100%	New measure	We successfully delivered five of six Natural Environment (Environmental Services) and Healthy Waters projects for Waitākere Ranges in the 2022/2023 financial year. These projects have contributed towards the board's environmental outcomes as described in its local board plan. The Waitākere Weed Action Project had delivery issues as a result of the weather events in early 2023.
The percentage of local waste minimisation projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes	●	—	75%	100%	100%	New measure	We successfully delivered the Kerbside recycling collection for commercial premises in Piha the one Waste Solutions project for Waitākere Ranges in the 2022/2023 financial year. This project has contributed to local board's environmental outcomes as described in its local board plan.

He whakamārama mō ā mātou mahi whakahaere

Our performance explained

Local community services

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board continues its support for the arts, culture, and events sectors, and to partner with local organisations to deliver community services. This year, the board supported and partnered with community groups to run capacity building programmes, such as one on community resilience, which became highly significant after the storm events early in 2023.

The Open Studios Waitākere event was held over the weekend of 26 and 27 November 2022. Additional funding was provided by the board so that local artists and crafts people could participate in capability building workshops and have opportunities to connect with each other and grow their online presence.

The Upstairs Gallery continues to work in partnership with Lopdell House, using spaces within the house such as the rooftop (for a performance) and the seminar room (for pop-up exhibitions and film screenings). There was an emphasis on public programmes throughout April, May and June 2023, including free screenings of artist films, a Mother’s Day workshop, a workshop connected to an exhibition, and regular hosting of a local artists group.

As part of our commitment to showcasing Māori identity, the board (through Te Kete Rukuruku) recently adopted sole te reo Māori names for 10 local parks, as well as dual Māori-English names for a further nine parks and two libraries.

Local environment

The board successfully delivered all of its sustainability initiatives, and five out of six of its natural environment and healthy waters projects in 2022/2023. The Waitākere Weed Action Project was paused for several weeks due to the weather events in early 2023. The project is working to control a whole suite of buffer weed species and work resumed in the last quarter of the financial year.

The local board contributed \$35,000 in 2022/2023, as part of its natural environment initiatives, to appointing a west coast animal management officer. The appointment was a collaboration between the council’s Animal Management and Environmental Services departments, regional and local park rangers, surf lifesavers and community members. The officer has been successful to date, with an increase in wildlife advocacy, warnings, and infringements.



▲ Ōkaurirahi / Ceramco Park

Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

Rangatū playground a delight to community



▼ There was plenty of entertainment on offer at the playground opening

The newly opened Rangatū Playground in Swanson is a delight to local community, according to Greg Presland, the Waitākere Ranges Local Board chairperson.

Opened in September 2022, where once there had been just an empty field, now stands the new playground, which boasts a pendulum swing, tunnel, swing basket, hammock, carousel and more.

Fantastic playground

“This is a real asset to the local community, which is growing. The playground is ideally situated within the residential area on Mettam Drive, and is well placed for locals.”

“It’s also a fantastic playground for our disabled community . It features three accessible play elements and wet pour accessible surfacing.”

“I believe Rangatū playground will be a gathering point for the community for the foreseeable future.”

Further improvements to come

There is more to look forward to from the project as well, with the drainage work to improve the kick-a-ball space next to the playground set to finish soon.

Originally scoped as part of the project, escalating costs due to the pandemic meant that drainage work had to be postponed. The board has since secured \$45,000 to undertake the work after the summer holiday.

“The community has been keen to see this project finished. Given the extreme weather events since the beginning of this year, I’m pleased that the majority of the work has now been completed,” says Greg.

“I know the playground will be much loved and used by our community and our board is pleased that the investment in this space has been made.”

Te tahua pūtea

Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2023

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2022/2023	Annual Plan 2022/2023	Annual Plan 2021/2022*
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		11,457	11,457	10,130
Targeted rates		91	95	93
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		20	11	11
Fees and charges		114	118	130
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		436	491	665
Total operating funding		12,117	12,172	11,029
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	10,485	10,564	9,135
Finance costs		413	413	362
Internal charges and overheads applied		1,099	1,099	1,530
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		11,997	12,076	11,027
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		120	96	2
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	2,671	3,572	2,903
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		2,671	3,572	2,903
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		554	517	800
- to improve the level of service		276	275	299
- to replace existing assets		1,961	2,875	1,807
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		2,791	3,668	2,905
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		(120)	(96)	(2)
Funding balance		0	0	0

Variance explanation Actual 2022/2023 to Annual Plan 2022/2023

1. Payments to staff and suppliers were below plan as normal maintenance and repairs for community assets including community buildings, parks and open spaces ceased due to adverse weather conditions causing contractors to be diverted to assess storm damage and undertake recovery works.
2. Capital expenditure was below plan. This resulted in a capital funding surplus which meant that less debt funding was required than planned.
3. Capital expenditure was below plan mainly due to earlier completion of Parrs Park carpark renewal and Armour Bay Reserve projects in 2021/2022. The planned renewal of walkways and paths were delayed due to weather impacting the construction season.

* Same target as the Year 1 of the Long-term Plan 2021-2031 (10-year Budget 2021-2031).



▲ Waitākere Quarry

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