

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Whau
Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2022/2023

Whau Local Board

Annual Report 2022/2023



Volume
2.21

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 ruru hau i nga hau āwhio o te wā.
 E aku whakakai pounamu, e aku māpihi maurea,
 kia oho te mauri, kia māiri 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 kōtiu, 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 Tiriwa me te Pae o te Rangī,
 Kia 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 a Maki,
 ko rātou nei te whāriki i āhei 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 Tiriwa, 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 a 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: Kids at the opening of Crum Park 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 Whau 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 Whau 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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▼ Whau Pasifika Festival



He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

Kia ora koutou, with the challenges brought by ongoing financial issues faced by Auckland Council, the local elections, and extreme weather events that have significantly impacted our community, 2022/2023 proved to be another year with its share of uncertainty for this local board. Despite this, the Whau Local Board can proudly speak to achievements of this past year and we look forward to continued progress on the betterment of our area.

We are grateful for the dedicated efforts by our partners, council staff, and community to deliver services and projects benefitting Whau residents. This year we saw several park amenities renewed across the Whau, including but not limited to Tahurangi / Crum Park and Temuka Gardens playgrounds, Craigavon Park fitness equipment, and the La Rosa Garden Reserve amenity block.



partnerships we continued to foster were with our Business Improvement Districts in Avondale, Blockhouse Bay, New Lynn and Rosebank.

Recent extreme weather events have highlighted the importance of environmental health. In 2022/2023, we participated in the Manukau Harbour Forum, funded several environmental partnerships (such as EcoMatters, Whau Wildlink, and the Whau River Catchment Trust), and supported tree protection and planting through the adoption of the Whau Urban Ngahere

Action Plan. We will expand this in the coming year to include advocacy around storm recovery, emergency response, and managed retreat.

Other work that we continue to advocate for includes the Whau Aquatic and Recreational Facility (ensuring it is retained on the Long-term Plan) and a Park-and-Ride facility in New Lynn.

Ngā mihi nui,

Kay Thomas
Chairperson, Whau Local Board

While challenges around the delivery of the Avondale multi-purpose facility linger, we were thankful to receive the gifted name “Te Hono” from Te Kawerau ā Maki for this facility and will continue to advocate for its delivery without staging.

To celebrate our community’s diversity, we welcomed the return of events and arts and cultural activities (reduced during COVID) delivered by partners Whau Pasifika Komiti, our Community Arts brokers, Age-Friendly Seniors; and strengthened mana whenua partnerships through Te Kete Rukuruku. Dedicated local board funding to community houses, hubs, and libraries also further supported whanaungatanga, wellbeing, and inclusion across the Whau area.

As part of a combined west local board approach, we engaged in a joint hui with mataawaka at Hoani Waititi marae and look forward to further developing our relationships with Māori. Other

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Whau

Whau Local Board



Your local board

(L to R) Sarah Paterson-Hamlin, Fasiatua Amosa (Deputy Chairperson), Warren Piper, Kay Thomas (Chairperson), Ross Clow, Susan Zhu, Catherine Farmer.



31 Tōtara Avenue, New Lynn 0600



09 301 0101



Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300, Auckland 1142



whaulocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/whau

Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Whau projects and improvements

KEY TO CURRENT AND PLANNED PROJECTS

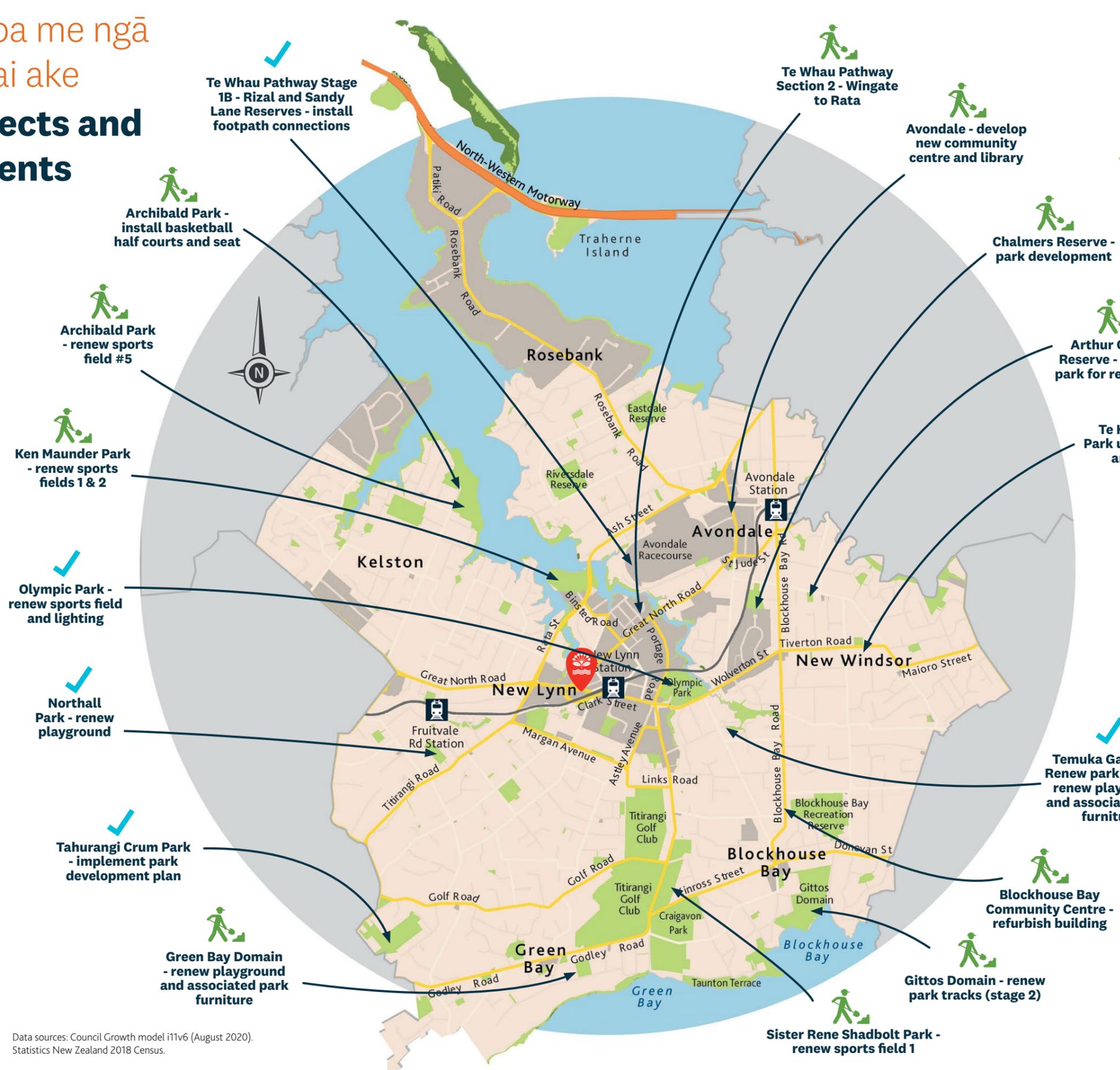
 **Delivered projects**

 **Current projects**

LEGEND

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

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



We are home to more than **80** local parks...



...and **3** libraries



A diverse population with:
10% identified as Māori
40% identified as European
40% identify as Asian
19% identify as Pasifika

Includes the major town centres of **Avondale** and **New Lynn**



Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

Our performance report

Local Community Services

We support a strong, diverse and vibrant community through funding libraries, local arts, culture, events, sports and recreation. Highlights included providing grants and partnering with local organisations to deliver community programmes and services such as local arts activities supported by the Community Arts Broker; the Aged Friendly Whau seniors event held in May supported through the Ethnic/Pacific voices programmes; Matariki celebrations and other Māori-focused and led initiatives. We also completed work on Olympic Park sports field and lighting, and installed footpath connections for Te Whau Pathway Stage 1B.

Achieved
Target has been met or exceeded

Progress made
Result improved from prior-year result

Substantially achieved
Target has not been met by a slim margin (+/-2%)

No change
No change from prior-year result

Not achieved
Target not achieved

No improvements
Not improved from prior-year result

*** Impacted by COVID-19**
Measures favourably/unfavourably impacted by COVID-19

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%	51%	62%	65%	Result reflects residents' perception of safety as a ongoing and deteriorating concern. The comments made in the residents' survey show a perception that there is little or no consequences for offenders.
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - night time	●	▼	33%	17%	23%	33%	The residents' survey shows that night time safety is more of a issue and media reports of crime rates increasing and anti social behaviour are having an impact on this. Residents feel unsafe to go out at night.
Utilising the Empowered Communities Approach, we support Aucklanders to create thriving, connected and inclusive communities							
The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that are community led	●	▼	65%	75%	98%	88%	Whau Local Board continues to produce community-led empowerment activities that are successful and encourage communities to engage. The Fund the Kai Across The Whau programme is a great example of a locally-driven kai project, connecting key stakeholders for the purpose of exploring opportunities for local food growing and distribution.
The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that build capacity and capability to assist local communities to achieve their goals	●	▲	80%	88%	81%	58%	The percentage of Whau Local Board activities that build capacity and capability exceeded their target, with a substantive increase in comparison to last financial year. Ongoing COVID-19 recovery and greater access to specialist staff have enabled more opportunities for capacity and capability building in the community. Networking events, The Māori Thought Collective and Whau Seniors events are all examples of increasing resilience, knowledge and capability in 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	●	▲	75%	74%	73%*	69%	The impacts of flooding and weather events on sports field surfaces has resulted in postponed or rescheduled maintenance along with renovation delays resulting in slightly lower satisfaction. Improvement and upgrades such as Olympic Park LED floodlighting 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%	61%	68%*	68%*	Weather events have caused significant damage and closures to parks, walkways, and paths with tracks at Craigavon Park and Green Bay Beach being damaged and sections of these tracks were closed to the public due to safety concerns. Contractors have worked to make these spaces safe and where required carry out further repairs. There has been damage to Crum Park playground where cushion fall was scoured from playgrounds and was required to be topped-up by contractors to make play equipment safe. There have also been reported instances of annuals being removed from beds damaging and detracting from displays. This has impacted on the satisfaction of local park visitors.
The percentage of residents who visited a local park in the last 12 months	●	▼	80%	81%	84%	84%	
We showcase Auckland's Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture							
The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations	●	▲	35%	41%	27%*	28%	Community empowerment activities responding to Māori aspirations for Whau were well above target. The main contributor to this result was the high number of Local and Quick Response grants that met Māori aspirations.

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 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)	●	▲	260,000	260,061	139,275*	276,290*	Library internet sessions were expected to recover after the pandemic, but didn't until March 2023. However, when internet sessions in Whau did increase again in March, use was higher than expected and Whau ended up meeting 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	●	▬	85%	100%	100%	100%	All arts and culture programmes were delivered by funded partners, resulting in 100 per cent of the programmes being community-led.
The percentage of art facilities, community centres and hire venues network that is community led	●	▬	67%	67%	67%	67%	
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	●	▬	0	0	0*	800	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	●	▲	383,800	318,256	158,723*	167,434*	Many arts programmes report that participant numbers are still in a process of rebuilding after COVID-19 disruptions as people return to in-person events; in addition, a number of facilities suffered significant disruption due to the effects of January flooding and Cyclone Gabrielle.
The number of visits to library facilities	●	▲	480,000	397,390	249,471*	445,538*	Library visits were expected to recover after the pandemic, but didn't until March 2023. In addition, Auckland Libraries moved to an improved system of counting visitor numbers in this financial year, leading to more accurate but lower results. Despite the recovery, if Whau performed throughout the year as it did after March, it still wouldn't have reached the 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			75%	Not measured	Not measured*	Not measured	For Whau LB we had intended to survey the Whau Pacific Festival. This ended up being scheduled for the dates 1-7 July putting it just outside the FY23 year.
Percentage of customers satisfied with the quality of library service delivery	●	▬	80%	96%	96%	96%	Whau 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 worked with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and community associations to improve local economic development and employment initiatives. We contributed to the Young Enterprise scheme by funding participation of local youth in Kick Start Days in February 2023, which gave students the opportunity to participate in interactive workshops and brainstorm potential business ideas. We also supported local heritage initiatives and contributed to the West Auckland Heritage Conference and published article on the Avondale heritage trail.

	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 Whau Local Board complied with the BID Policy 2022.

Local Environmental Management

We supported healthy ecosystems and sustainability by working in partnership with our communities and iwi to deliver projects and programmes to improve local environments. We funded initiatives and programmes through partners and volunteers including efforts by Whau Wildlink to improve the biodiversity and water quality in the local board area, New Lynn Bike Hub services to encourage active transport, Healthy Homes on a Budget workshops promoting energy preservation and waste minimisation. We continue to support the Community Nursery teaching volunteers how to grow and nurture native plants for stream restoration projects.

	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%	100%	New measure	We successfully delivered seven sustainability initiative projects for Whau in the 2022/2023 financial year. These projects (for example the New Lynn Bike Hub and the Whau Climate Action Network) 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%	100%	100%	New measure	We successfully delivered five Natural Environment (Environmental Services) and Healthy Waters projects such as the Whau Community Pest Plant control buffer programme and continuation of the Whau Wildlink programme for Whau in the 2022/2023 financial year. These projects have contributed towards the board's environmental outcomes as described in its local board plan.

He whakamārama mō ā mātou mahi whakahaere

Our performance explained

A key priority for the Whau Local Board in recent years has been to invest in community development and resilience in communities and neighbourhoods outside of the main town centres. This has been done through community-led hubs. Having these initiatives in place was invaluable during the recent floods, with the community hubs catering for the needs of displaced people and empowering local communities.

In the current economically challenging times, our Community Arts Broker Programme has delivered numerous events that provide an outlet for local artisans, while also providing opportunities for low-cost community arts participation.

To increase awareness and be proactive, we have provided funding for ecological and environmental programmes that invite direct community involvement (including for migrant groups). These initiatives aim to increase urban ngahere or tree canopy cover, protect our waterways and green spaces, better manage waste and reduce our carbon footprint. Despite the challenges mentioned earlier, thousands of voluntary hours have been delivered to manage animal and plant pests, as well as to plant thousands of trees in urban green spaces. Many educational and active participation workshops have also been delivered through community partnerships.

The Whau Local Board’s funding for the Diverse Participation: Pacific Voices and Diverse Participation: Ethnic Voices programmes has led to two committees being established. These committees have gone from strength to strength in creating opportunities for people to make connections within their own communities and neighbourhoods, and in voicing ideas and aspirations to the local board.

The board also continued to invest in initiatives that promote Māori history, language and identity in our community spaces. These initiatives are supported through the Māori Responsiveness – E Tu and Te Kete Rukuruku council

initiatives, and various Connected Communities programmes delivered in our libraries and community hubs. Examples are Matariki events, te reo classes and rongoā mauri workshops.

The board successfully delivered all its environmental services programmes this year, one of which was the EcoFest West Festival. The festival was attended by more than 6,600 people, with 62 per cent attending an event for the first time. In all, 56 organisations, groups and individuals hosted events at the 2023 festival, including 15 hosting events for the first time.



▲ Rongoā rākau wānanga held in Whau have helped attendees understand more about the medicinal properties of native plants and the right way to harvest them. Credit: EcoMatters Environment Trust



▲ New Olympic Park Pedestrian Bridge Site

Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

Local groups pitch in to preserve Whau’s native habitat

Friends of Kurt Brehmer Walkway, a local conservation group, is an example of achieving positive outcomes through protecting and restoring native wildlife and plants.

Named after the conservationist Kurt Brehmer, the group clears weeds, replants local bush with natives and cares for the environment through continuous volunteering. Currently, they are working hard to care for a patch of local bush on the Rosebank Peninsula, both for the good of the neighbours and for native birds to nest.

“We’re getting rid of weeds in the bush, including Arundo donax, moth plant and Madeira vine, and replanting the gaps with eco-sourced plants. The walkway will benefit everyone in the area, including workers on the Rosebank Peninsula who can take a walk during their lunch break,” says coordinator Robin Brehmer.

Robin has a personal connection with the group, she is Kurt Brehmer’s daughter. A keen trumper and lover of the outdoors, Robin has been volunteering at the walkway since its opening 20 years ago, and says it is a wonderful way of contributing and being part of the community.

Avondale is undergoing large-scale urban development, so getting into nature is even more important, says Robin.

“Many people don’t have backyards anymore, but they still need to go out there and see a bit of green for their mental and physical health. The walkway is a wonderful asset for Avondale, running alongside the Whau River.

“The bush strip along the walkway is also a vital link in the Whau Wildlink for the birds to pass through,” says Robin.

The group is a part of Whau Wildlink, an initiative funded by the Whau Local Board. Whau Wildlink connects and nurtures a network of local groups working together for positive environmental outcomes in Whau.

“Local groups do valuable work in contributing to the greater vision of the North-West Wildlink, a green corridor between the pest-free sanctuaries in the Hauraki Gulf in the North, and the Waitākere Ranges in the West,” says Whau Local Board Chairperson Kay Thomas.

“By connecting and supporting local groups we are doing our bit to preserve native habitat and local wildlife that we can enjoy today and the future,” she says.



▶ Robin at a weeding session on Rosebank Road

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		15,241	15,241	16,263
Targeted rates		886	925	870
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		37	27	26
Fees and charges		192	264	247
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		61	118	90
Total operating funding		16,417	16,575	17,496
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	12,911	11,368	12,934
Finance costs		2,766	2,766	2,214
Internal charges and overheads applied		2,236	2,236	2,190
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		17,914	16,370	17,338
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		(1,496)	205	158
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	7,066	16,048	10,168
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		7,066	16,048	10,168
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		1,531	11,671	8,537
- to improve the level of service		1,481	556	364
- to replace existing assets		2,558	4,026	1,426
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		5,570	16,253	10,326
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		1,496	(205)	(158)
Funding balance		0	0	0

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

1. Payments to staff and suppliers were above plan due to increased vandalism, resulting in unplanned remedial work. In addition, adverse weather events in January and February created a large backlog of work and this combined with damp ground put contractors behind schedule for mowing parks which required overtime work to catch up. Further, costs related to a property rental at Avondale Racecourse were included in the current year results, however these costs were planned to be incurred at a regional level.
2. Whilst partly offset by higher than planned payments to staff and suppliers, capital expenditure was lower than planned. This resulted in a funding surplus which meant that less debt funding was required than was planned.
3. Capital expenditure was below plan mainly due to underspend on Te Whau Pathway which was paused due to cost escalations resulting in a funding shortfall. Further, Te Hono (Avondale community centre and library) replacement was put on hold as the preliminary design was over plan.

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



EcoMatters Bike Hub in New Lynn ▶



▲ Whau Pasifika Festival

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