

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Waitākere Ranges
Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2021/2022

Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Annual Report 2021/2022



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,
 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 ā 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 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 2021 to 30 June 2022.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2021/2022. 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 2021/2022.

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

He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

Our new public holiday, Matariki, was a chance to reflect on the year that has gone as well as look forward.

I would like to acknowledge the mahi of those that have kept our community facilities going in what has been a challenging year. This includes our council run libraries and parks, as well as the many community run facilities we support.



We continued track upgrades in local parks to protect kauri. This year we completed Opuā Reserve and Paturoa Way and have started on Arapito, Arama Reserve and Kaurimu in Titirangi. We know how important these local connections are for the people who live there.

We have been laying the groundwork for future investment. A new walkway is planned for Glen Eden and a feasibility study is underway for a link from Glen Eden to Sunnyvale. We need to build the

case for regional funding to deliver projects at scale. We also developed plans for Waitipu (Te Henga Quarry), accessible parks, and local climate action.

Some highlights have been:

- A new neighbourhood park - Rangatū in Swanson - will open soon with a new playground and landscaping. This is our first park development for many years.
- Pedestrian safety works are nearing completion to make the Glen Eden town centre easier and safer to walk around.
- The revamped Waitemata Table Tennis Club house on Parrs Park opened its doors in December 2021, providing a new modern facility with significant council investment through a facility partnership.

On the environmental front, we made good progress with our buffer zone projects, clearing 64,000m² of climbing asparagus and ginger from properties around the regional park in Huia, Cornwallis, Laingholm, Waiatarua, Karekare, Piha and Anawhata. This shows the scale of the problem.

Saffron Toms
Chairperson, Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Waitākere

Waitākere Ranges Local Board



Your board

(L to R) Mark Allen, Greg Presland (Deputy Chairperson), Michelle Clayton, Saffron Toms (Chairperson), Ken Tuner, Sandra Coney.



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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Waitākere Ranges projects and improvements

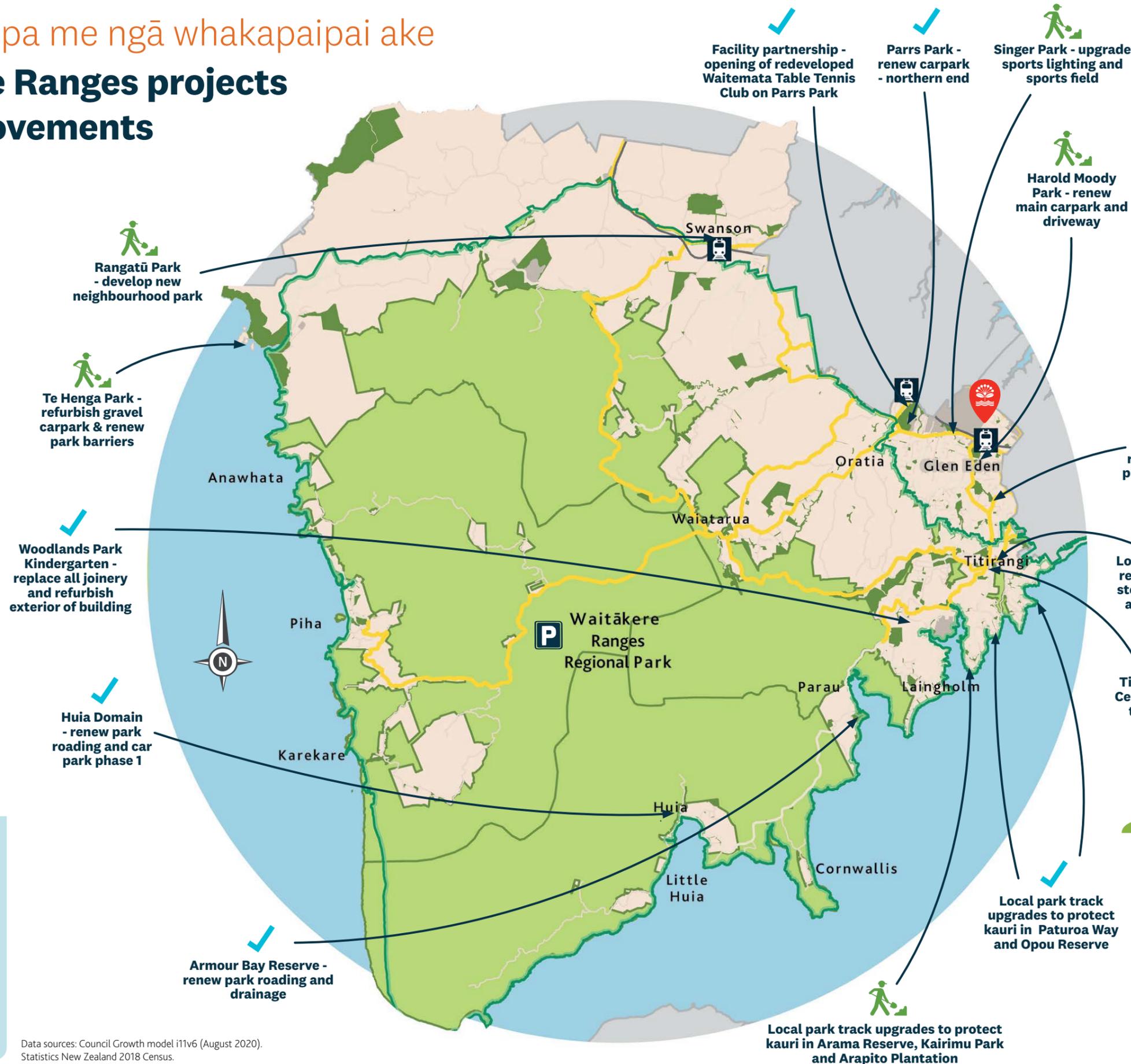
KEY TO CURRENT AND PLANNED PROJECTS

-  Delivered projects
-  Current projects

LEGEND

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

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

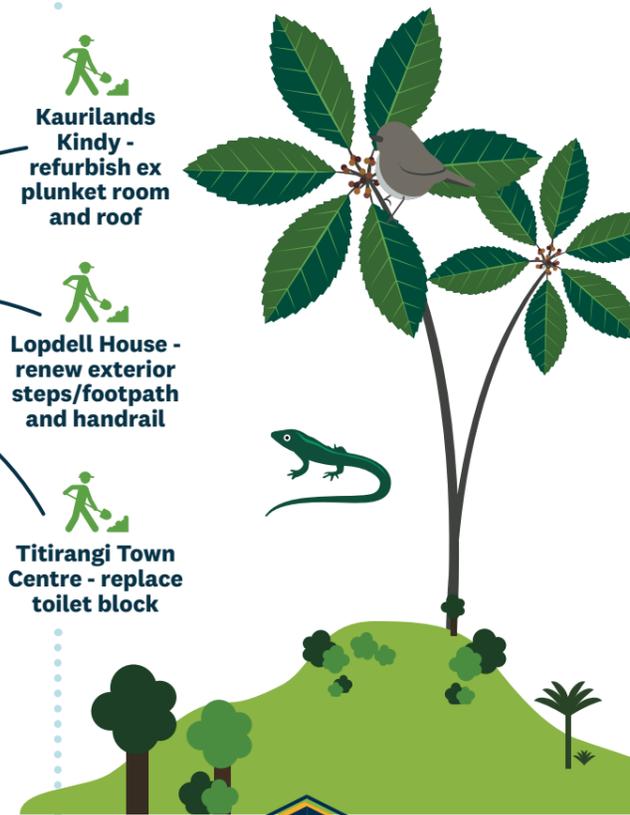


We are home to:
The **Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area** – the only part of mainland Auckland to have its own legislation

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 Waitarua



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 funded Going West Literary Festival and Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery which delivered several successful programmes and events. We completed a Business Development Strategy and Plan for the Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre and the Open Studios Waitākere event after it had to be rescheduled. We renewed park roading at Armour Bay Reserve and Huia Domain Phase 1, track upgrades to protect kauri in Paturoa Way and Opou Reserve, and opened the redeveloped Waitemata Table Tennis Club on Parrs Park through a Facility Partnership.

● **Achieved**
 Target has been met or exceeded

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

● **Not achieved**
 Target not achieved

▲ **Progress made**
 Result improved from prior-year result

▬ **No change**
 No change from prior-year result

▼ **No improvements**
 Not improved from prior-year result

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

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2022 Target	2022 Result	2021	2020	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%	65%	62%	68%	While the actual result is higher than the previous year, comments from the residents’ survey show that opinions on crime are a big concern at the moment highlighted by recent spate of youth crimes. However, generally people feel safe during the day but not at night.
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe – night time	●	▼	32%	21%	26%	32%	Respondents feel unsafe at night due to factors such as intimidation by homeless people, beggars and groups of youths.
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%	91%	82%	85%	
The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that build capacity and capability	●	▲	65%	82%*	70%*	69%	This result reflects the board’s ongoing effort and commitment to council’s empowered communities approach and the principles of enabling communities. West Auckland Together Collective delivered a shared response to identified community needs during the COVID-19 lockdown. Te Henga Kiosk successfully completed the build for this project and Pest Free Waitakere Ranges Alliance have been engaged with local iwi when developing their Welcome Pack resources.
We provide safe and accessible parks, reserves, beaches, recreation programmes, opportunities and facilities to get Aucklanders more active, more often¹							
The percentage of park visitors who are satisfied with the overall quality of sportsfields	●	▼	80%	73%*	74%	85%	The impact of the council’s recovery budget limited investment in playing surfaces in spring and autumn, along with general capital works, so activity did not meet community expectations. COVID-19 restrictions meant reduced service standards, leaving grounds without regular maintenance. However, lower use meant the surfaces, once maintenance resumed, came through the winter better than in a typical year.
The percentage of users who are satisfied with the overall quality of local parks	●	▼	70%	61%*	66%	74%	Despite the continued investment in existing local parks facilities and the delivery of park programmes and services, COVID-19 restrictions, which included playground closures, impacted satisfaction levels. Continued investment in existing local parks facilities, as well as the delivery of park programmes and services should see an upwards trend.
The percentage of residents who visited a local park in the last 12 months	●	▼	75%	79%	80%	74%	
We showcase Auckland’s Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture							
The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations	●	▲	26%	34.2%	29%	21.5%	This result is due to the ongoing focus on Māori outcomes, particularly on participating in key community networks that include mana whenua and mataawaka groups through our community empowerment approach, local grants and arts and culture activities. Shared responses to identified community needs during the COVID-19 lockdown, involving local iwi in resource development for local park land and activities to mark Matariki all helped contribute to this outcome.

Local Community Services measures cont’d over

Local Community Services cont'd

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2022 Target	2022 Result	2021	2020	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 life¹							
The number of internet sessions at libraries (unique sessions over public computing or public WIFI networks)	●	▼	75,000	41,321*	78,277*	91,673*	The number of internet sessions was below target mainly due to COVID-19 restrictions which reduced the availability of internet services at libraries. During alert levels 4 and 3, WiFi availability outside libraries was removed, and during the Red setting they operated at reduced levels, returning back to normal in the Orange setting. Library computers were unavailable while libraries were closed during the lockdowns, and have been operating at reduced capacity since libraries reopened. Availability will return to normal at the Green setting.
The percentage of local community services, programmes and facilities that are community led			Set baseline ²	Not measured	New measure	New measure	
The percentage of arts, and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led	●	▼	90%	98%	100%	99%	Virtually all arts and culture programmes were delivered by independent and community-led partners who are supported with council funding. All programmes delivered respond to the vision and goals of Toi Whītiki – the Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan.
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 ²	Not measured	New measure	New measure	
The number of attendees at council-led community events			0 ³	0*	0	1,500*	Scheduled events were not delivered due to COVID-19 restrictions.
The number of participants in activities at art facilities, community centres and hire venues	●	▼	252,500	168,725*	227,875*	215,669*	COVID-19 restrictions greatly affected operating hours and participant numbers. Many facilities were either closed or had greatly reduced hours for about three-and-a-half months. A combination of added caution by participants, vaccination passes and other precautionary measures continued to affect bookings and participants. Since December, there has been a good progression towards participant numbers reaching close to results achieved last year in quarter four.
The number of visits to library facilities	●	▼	245,000	136,247*	216,352*	241,303*	Physical visits to libraries were impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and were below target. In response to COVID-19 risks, Auckland Libraries offered alternative services such as e-collections, online resources, Click and Collect, virtual programming and use of phone and email for research and information services. These alternative service methods were not included in the data collection for this performance measure. The ongoing benefit campaign and fines amnesty should also help.
The percentage of customers satisfied with quality of local community services, programmes, and facilities			Set baseline ²	Not measured	New measure	New measure	
The percentage of attendees satisfied with a nominated local community event			70%	Not measured*	Not Measured*	68.6%	Not measured - satisfaction surveys not done during the year due to COVID-19 restrictions.
Percentage of customers satisfied with the quality of library service delivery	●	▼	85%	94%	97%	97%	We exceeded our target and were only slightly down on the 2020/2021 result. Our libraries continued to exceed the customer satisfaction target, despite COVID-19 challenges. This shows the dedication and commitment of our frontline library staff in ensuring our customers receive the best experience at all times.

1. Some level of service statements have been combined to reflect the council's move toward new and integrated ways of delivering services. All levels of service and performance measures from previous years are included. There is no intended change to the level of service provided to the community.

2. New measure - methodology under review to determine baseline. We are utilising the expertise of kaimahi who work with communities to ensure the definition encompasses the right mahi and is workable from a data capture perspective. A survey has been created to understand how many activities fit the proposed definition and will support creation of a baseline. Once we understand the scope of activities the next step is identifying the baseline targets. We are also looking at how we can utilise existing customer experience programmes to capture customer satisfaction. However, this requires us to understand the activities that need to be included as part of any customer experience survey.

3. The local board did not fund a council-led community event in 2021/2022 as the local board felt the funds would be more appropriately allocated to other community initiatives.

Local Planning and Development

We worked with business and community associations to improve local economic development and employment initiatives as well as improvements to town centres, the local street environment as well as local environment and heritage protection. We funded a range of local activities across to help deliver on the objectives of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act, including community weed bins, a pekapeka / long-tailed bat community education project and the Buffer Zone project.

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2022 Target	2022 Result	2021	2020	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%	Our business association complied with its obligations.

Local Environmental Management

We partnered with local communities and iwi to deliver projects and programmes to improve local environments. We funded a Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance Coordinator and supported the continuation of the Waitākere Weed Action Project where controlling pest free plants with community conservation groups and private landowners has progressed well. We began a three-year climate action plan where a community partner has been engaged and held workshops with key stakeholders.

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2022 Target	2022 Result	2021	2020	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 change¹							
The percentage of local low carbon or sustainability projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes ²	●		70%	88%	New measure	New measure	We successfully delivered seven of eight projects this year. The Climate Action Programme required face-to-face contact and was not able to be completed due COVID-19 restrictions and staff turnover. We expect to deliver this in quarter one 2022/2023.
The percentage of local water quality or natural environment improvement projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes ²	●		80%	100%	New measure	New measure	We successfully delivered five natural environment and Healthy Waters projects this year.
The percentage of local waste minimisation projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes ²	●		70%	100%	New measure	New measure	One Waste Solutions project was successfully delivered for Waitākere Ranges this year.

1. The level of service statement has been amended to include the growing focus on addressing climate change. There is no intended change to the level of service provided to the community.
2. New local environmental services performance measures have been introduced to track the delivery performance of local projects that contribute towards specific environmental outcomes in the local board plans.

He whakamārama mō ā mātou mahi whakahaere

Our performance explained

We continued supporting the arts, culture and events sectors and partnering with local organisations to deliver community services.

Shadbolt House in Titirangi took a step toward becoming a writer’s residency. The former house of author Maurice Shadbolt is a heritage listed property. Your board supported transferring the house and writing studio buildings to the Going West Trust, subject to approval from the Governing Body, and retaining council ownership of the land. Following building restoration, a writer’s residency will be established, completing a network of art facilities in Titirangi and adding to the west’s arts and culture vitality.

Our arts and culture partners had to pivot in this past year, with some finding new ways of delivering events. The Going West Festival delivered a series of events over four months to adapt to COVID-19 settings.

Parrs Park received facility upgrades with regional investment in Hoani Waititi Marae and Waitemata Table Tennis Club complementing local investment. The redeveloped table tennis club opened the new purpose-built building in December with the support of a facility partnership grant. The marae was significantly upgraded through the regional Marae Infrastructure Investment Fund while we provided support through our annual operating grant to the marae.

We funded an accessibility audit of 10 high-profile parks to produce a guide for future investment into improving access.

Ecological restoration work through the OurBackyard and BufferZone programmes supported pest plant control on private property at a catchment level in areas around the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.



French Bay

Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

A little love goes a long way to get rid of those weeds



Piha resident Dr Jill Poulston is systematically weeding in the bush near her home, supported by family, friends and a Love Your Neighbourhood grant funded by Waitākere Ranges Local Board.

The grant has helped buy equipment, showing Dr Poulston she wasn’t wasting her time.

“What really mattered to me was the fact that someone thought what I was doing was important. That endorsement showed me the local board does care and will support people doing this work.”

In early 2020, Dr Poulston noticed a few jasmine flowers in the bush and set off, secateurs in hand, to deal with this invasive weed. As she followed its trail, she realised it would need more than one quick snip.

So, she marked out an area of bush, and for the last two years has been visiting regularly to tackle one patch at a time, removing jasmine, ginger, agapanthus, honeysuckle and more.

“I’ve got to know every inch of the bush, literally,” says Dr Poulston.

“I remember working around a small kawakawa that was being throttled by jasmine and seeing it three times higher a year later.”

“The bush is beautiful, but we need more people who care about it. Weeds like this will not go away by themselves, we have to remove them if we want our bush back,” says Dr Poulston.

Love Your Neighbourhood grants are funded by Waitākere Ranges Local Board and administered by EcoMatters Environment Trust.

Te tahua pūtea

Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2022

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2021/2022	Annual Plan 2021/2022*	Annual Plan 2020/2021
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		10,130	10,130	10,000
Targeted rates		89	93	84
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		6	11	6
Fees and charges		84	130	73
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts	1	508	665	681
Total operating funding		10,817	11,029	10,844
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	2	8,907	9,135	9,053
Finance costs		363	362	410
Internal charges and overheads applied		1,566	1,530	1,364
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		10,837	11,027	10,827
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		(20)	2	17
Sources of capital funding:				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt		2,942	2,903	1,095
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		2,942	2,903	1,095
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:				
- to meet additional demand		371	800	0
- to improve the level of service		423	299	42
- to replace existing assets		2,128	1,807	1,070
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		2,922	2,905	1,112
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		20	(2)	(17)
Funding balance		0	0	0

Variance explanation Actual 2021/2022 to Annual Plan 2021/2022*

1. Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts were below plan due to delays in finalising residential leases during the COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions.
2. Payments to staff and suppliers were below plan mainly due to lower than budgeted levels of full facility maintenance and arboriculture services during the COVID-19 lockdown. In the last quarter of the financial year, a new full facility contractor was appointed that provided continuing services with minimal disruptions. Although COVID-19 lockdown restrictions were eased in the second half of the financial year, the continued presence of COVID-19 in the community resulted in it being difficult to get contractors, and therefore planned maintenance remained lower than planned.

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

Cleaning Station, Karamatura Track ►





Waitakere Quarry

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ISSN 2624-2176 (Print)
ISSN 2624-2184 (PDF)