

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Waitākere Ranges
Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2020/2021

Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Annual Report 2020/2021



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:
 Taking a picture of Piha from the Waitākere Ranges

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 2020 to 30 June 2021.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2020/2021. 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 also reports against the council's Long-term Plan 2018-2028 (10-year Budget 2018-2028) and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Agreement 2020/2021.

This report also reflects the local flavour of your area by profiling its population, people and council facilities. It also 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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Kauri Karnival

He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

This year has seen major milestones for several projects that have been a long time in the making.

- The facility partnership (council and community) to redevelop Waitemata Table Tennis Club on Parrs Park is nearing completion.
- Reserve land in Te Henga was transferred to Te Kawerau ā Maki for Te Henga marae.
- Establishing a new community facility ‘the old Piha school house’ on Piha wetland.
- Glen Eden pedestrian safety improvements to deliver on the Glen Eden Town Centre Plan’s transport aspirations for a safe and connected town centre.



Restoring significant ecological areas on local parks as well as private property has continued through our environmental programmes like the Our Backyard project for Piha, Karekare, Anawhata, Cornwallis and Huia.

Highlights of local park upgrades have included: new playgrounds at Takaranga Reserve, Parau and Nicolas Reserve, Glen Eden; small park improvements in Olive Grove and Prospect Park, in Glen Eden; and track upgrades to protect kauri, including the

opening of the Bill Haresnape track to connect South Titirangi neighbourhoods.

We have continued to lay foundations for other projects to come, including finalising a concept plan to develop the new Rangatū Reserve in Mettam Drive, Swanson in the coming year.

At a hui in June, Te Kawerau a Maki presented te reo Māori names for 19 of our local parks with accompanying narratives telling Māori stories of the area, both ancestral and contemporary. Some of the parks will have sole Māori names, while others have dual Māori/English. We will continue working with mana whenua on the next stage of the Te Kete Rukuruku programme.

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

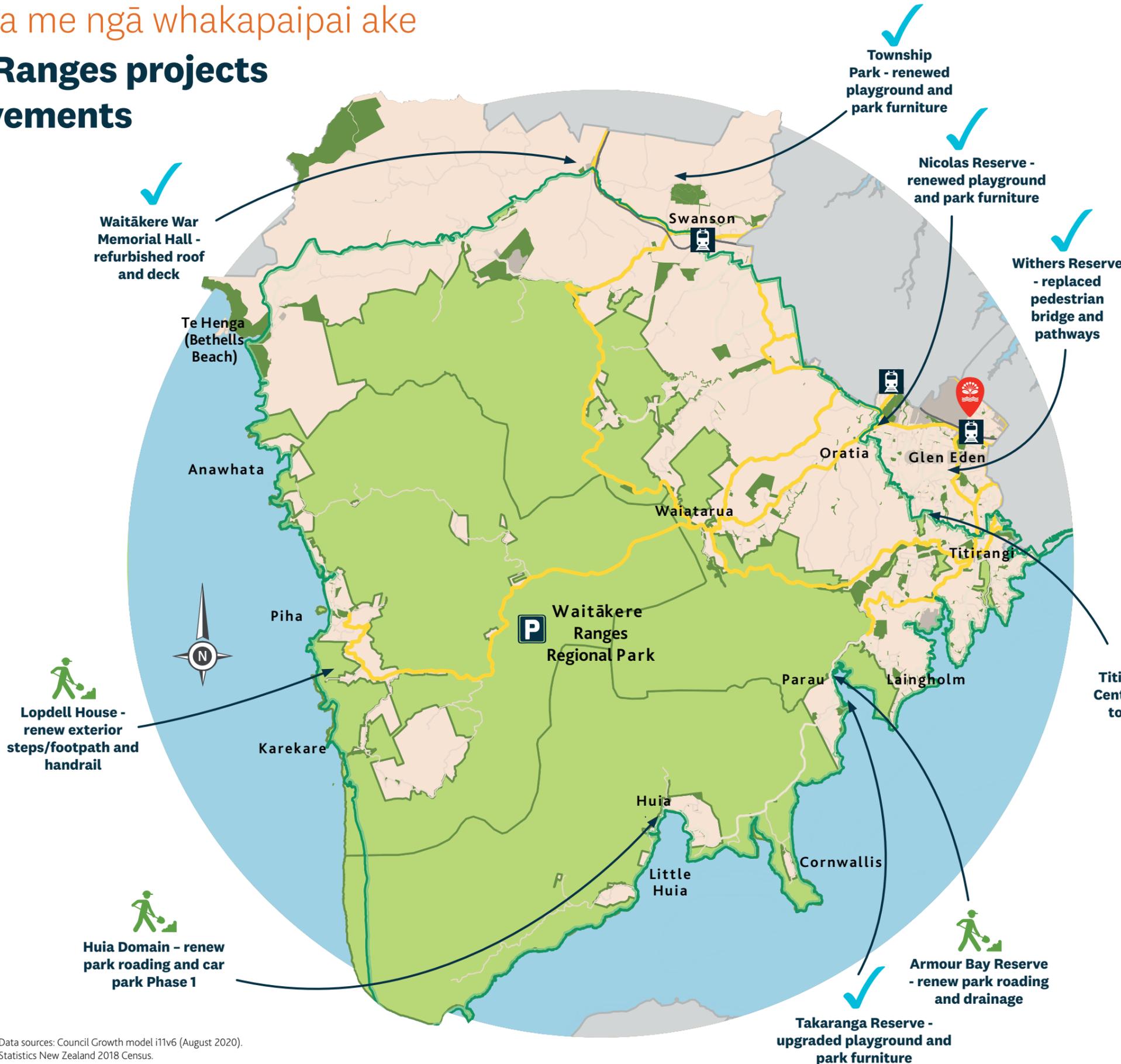
KEY TO CURRENT AND PLANNED PROJECTS

-  **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.



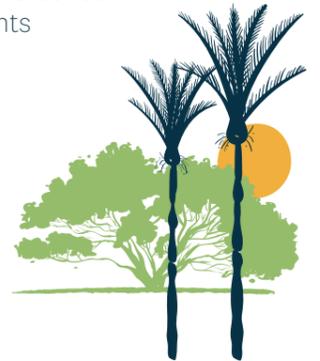
We are home to:
 The **Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area** – the only part of mainland Auckland to have its own legislation

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

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

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

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

● **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

Local Community Services

Highlights in the year included handover of Piha schoolhouse, the first new council-owned community facility to open in the Waitākere Ranges for over a decade, to its tenants. Playground and park furniture were renewed at Township Park, and the upgraded playground at Takaranga Reserve was celebrated at an opening in April 2021. The annual Open Studios event was again well received, with 80 artists and 40 studios participating across the local board area, and the Lopdell House Twilight Christmas market broke visitor records with nearly 1500 attendees.

We supported and funded 25 Neighbours Day events which were attended by approximately 1400 people from communities across the board area. Local Anzac day services and parades were held on 25 April 2021 and approximately 2000 guests attended the Waikūmete Anzac Dawn Service, which was enhanced by a surprise fly over by the Warbirds.

	Results against target	Year-on-year change	2021 Target	2021 Result	2020	2019	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	●	▼	76%	62%	68%	79%	The perception of safety in the town centre appears still to be influenced by the occurrence of antisocial activities and social media and media responses to these. The local board continues to work with community providers to fund a programme of activation of public spaces to help build community resilience.
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe – night time	●	▼	26%	26%	32%	30%	
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	●	▼	83%	82%	85%	83%	Many activities support community groups planning, designing, or delivering their own projects. Organisations such as Community Waitakaere, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Hoani Waititi Marae, the Glen Eden Business Association and Te Henga Swimmable Waterway group led a variety of initiatives this year.
The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that build capacity and capability	●	▲	90%	70%*	69%	90%	Target was not met due to a reduction of activities due to COVID-19. Many activities have a capacity building component such as grants for organisations for training, equipment or system upgrade, and youth leadership programmes.
We fund, enable and deliver arts and culture experiences that enhance identity and connect people							
The percentage of arts and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led	●	▲	100%	100%	99%	100%	
We fund, enable and deliver community events and experiences that enhance identity and connect people							
The number of attendees at council-led community events	●	▼	0	0	1,500*	2,800	The local board is not funding a council-delivered community event this year due to uncertainty around event planning.
The percentage of attendees satisfied with a nominated local community event			70%	Not measured*	69%	83%	Satisfaction surveys not carried out during the year due to COVID-19 impacts.
We provide art facilities, community centres and hire venues that enable Aucklanders to run locally responsive activities, promoting participation, inclusion and connection							
The number of participants in activities at art facilities, community centres and hire venues	●	▲	250,000	227,875*	215,669*	297,953	Community venues were closed for certain periods during the year due to COVID-19 related restrictions. When re-opened venues were working with reduced capabilities due to physical distancing rules which further impacted the number of participants.
The percentage of art facilities, community centres and hire venues network that is community led	●	—	86%	86%	86%	86%	
We provide library services and programmes that support Aucklanders with reading and literacy, and opportunities to participate in community and civic life							
The number of internet sessions at libraries (unique sessions over public computing or public WIFI networks)	●	▼	110,000	78,277*	91,673*	116,647	Reduction was partly due to the two alert levels restrictions during the year, customers opting for online services and more users having internet available at home. Glen Eden library has also partnered with Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa and the Skinny Jump programme to help provide affordable Wi-Fi access at home.
The number of visits to library facilities	●	▼	260,000	216,352*	241,303*	309,910	Library visits continued to decline due to changing customer behaviour and preference for online services. This was further affected by closures during COVID-19 lockdowns and the residual effect of initial outbreaks. Titirangi library is slowly returning to pre- COVID-19 levels with Q4 visits comparable to pre-COVID-19 period. However, Glen Eden library declined by 19%.

Local Community Services cont'd

	Results against target	Year-on-year change	2021 Target	2021 Result	2020	2019	How did we perform
Percentage of customers satisfied with the quality of library service delivery	●	—	85%	97%	97%	96%	The overall satisfaction rating of libraries in the Waitākere Ranges Local Board remains at one of the highest in Auckland, and driven to a large extent by perception of excellent service delivered by staff.
We provide 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	●	∨	73%	74%	85%	81%	
We provide safe and accessible parks, reserves, and beaches							
The percentage of users who are satisfied with the overall quality of local parks	●	∨	60%	66%	74%	70%	
The percentage of residents who visited a local park in the last 12 months	●	∧	70%	80%	74%	79%	The result is well above target and at pre COVID-19 level result of 2019 and reflects the importance of local parks to the quality of life of Aucklanders.
We showcase Auckland's Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture							
The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations	●	∧	28.0%	29%	21.5%	26.5%	Key areas of focus are arts partners prioritising Māori outcomes, engagement with mana whenua and local iwi, as well as contestable grants administered through the Creative Communities scheme that respond to Māori aspirations.

Local Environmental Management

Highlights include: The Ecofest-West festival which was held with a record 146 events registered by 47 different organisations, groups and individuals and Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance's strategic plan is now complete. The continued programme of the Waitākere Weed Action Project (Our Backyard) which surveys and controls the six main

Regional Pest Management Plan buffer species is now recognised by landowners as important for the protection of the ecological area that is worth defending against the tide of invasive pest plants.

	Results against target	Year-on-year change	2021 Target	2021 Result	2020	2019	How did we perform
We manage Auckland's natural environment							
The proportion of local programmes that deliver intended environmental actions and/or outcomes	●	∧	90.0%	100.0%	86.7%	85.7%	We successfully delivered 13 environmental projects for Waitākere Ranges in the 2020/2021 financial year. COVID-19 restrictions did not impact as expected. These projects have contributed to local board's environmental outcomes as described in its local board plan.

Local Planning and Development

	Results against target	Year-on-year change	2021 Target	2021 Result	2020	2019	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%	The Glen Eden Village Business Association has complied with its BID Policy obligations.



Te āhuatanga ā-rohe Local flavour

Matariki at Sunvue Park a special occasion



It was a special occasion when local rangatahi (youth) and community came together to mark Matariki at Sunvue Park in Glen Eden in June 2021.

Supported by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, more than 50 members of the community came together to celebrate Matariki and put some hard mahi (work) in to help restore the whenua (land) by planting 700 eco-sourced native plants.

The community Matariki event took months of hard work and planning to create a memorable event that reinforced the importance of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of the park.

In addition to the planting mahi, which was done to help restore the fauna at Sunvue Park, community Rangers Aimee Hoeberigs and Glenn Browne were on hand to teach the community about how it would help to restore the whenua (land) and increase the wildlife.

Once the planting was done, the group enjoyed a hāngi and cooked on the park to help bring the community together.

Despite the weather being challenging, Aimee says that the event was phenomenal.

“As a Community Park Ranger, our role here is to connect people to nature. This event brought the local community together to share kai, stories, ideas on the future of play in the park, learn about how to protect our precious native wildlife and increase biodiversity in our own backyards.

“We now have over 700 native plants in the ground through the hard mahi of neighbours, friends, and family. Even people just passing by stopped in to help, and we hope to see more people and wildlife connected to this park.

“It’s fantastic that the local board was able to support this event to make it happen and show the value of the park and its connection to the community,” she says.

“This is just the beginning of our journey to restore the whenua and help keep Sunvue Park special for generations to come.”

Te tahua pūtea

Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2021

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2020/2021	Annual Plan 2020/2021	Annual Plan 2019/2020
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		10,000	10,000	11,122
Targeted rates		80	84	92
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		5	6	6
Fees and charges		113	73	85
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		569	681	343
Total operating funding		10,768	10,844	11,648
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers		8,920	9,053	9,518
Finance costs		412	410	525
Internal charges and overheads applied		1,364	1,364	1,587
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		10,696	10,827	11,630
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		72	17	18
Sources of capital funding:				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	1	1,744	1,095	4,218
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		1,744	1,095	4,218
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:				
- to meet additional demand		214	0	482
- to improve the level of service		326	42	812
- to replace existing assets		1,276	1,070	2,941
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding	2	1,816	1,112	4,236
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		(72)	(17)	(18)
Funding balance		0	0	0

Variance explanation Actual 2020/2021 to Annual Plan 2020/2021

- Capital expenditure was higher than planned, and funding from local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts was lower than planned. This resulted in a funding shortfall that was partly met by lower payments to staff and suppliers than planned. The overall funding deficit meant that more debt funding was required than was planned.
- Capital expenditure was above plan primarily due to renovations of both the park roading and carpark at Armour Bays Reserve being brought forward to 2020/2021. Renovations to the playground and furniture at Nicolas Reserve as well as replacement of the bridge and pathway at Withers Reserve cost more than anticipated.

Parrs Park playground ▶



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