



Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Community Grants Programme 2025/2026



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Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Community Grants Programme 2025/2026

Purpose

Grants help groups and organisations to provide activities, projects, programmes, initiatives and events that make a positive contribution to the community within the local board area.

The local board would like to see applicants demonstrate that they are working collaboratively with other community groups, working towards their financial sustainability and resilience, and have identified alternative funding partnerships. It is important for groups and organisations to deliver good community outcomes in the local board area.

Important Advice for Applicants

Applicants are encouraged to read the **Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Plan 2023** before submitting an application. Making sure your application aligns with the priorities of the local board and show how the project will benefit the community in the local board area.

Ensure you describe your role in the event, project or activity.

[Please click and follow this link to the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Plan 2023](#) for further information on the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board's current outcomes and priorities.

Please also find the **Local Board Plan at a Glance** on page 7 of this document which identifies key themes, objectives, and initiatives from the Local Board Plan 2023.

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board are seeking applications in the 2025/2026 financial year which show a clear commitment to one or more of the following outcomes:

- Our community voice is heard, and all feel welcomed. Our resilience. networks enable us to be prepared for emergencies, while our youth thrive
- Native birds, plants and animals thrive in an environment where pests are eliminated. We have planned and designed our coastlines to be resilient to storms and the effects of climate change, our waterways are clean, and we minimise waste as we move to a circular economy
- In a word, vibrant. Our past is remembered, and our facilities cater for future needs. Our open spaces can be used by all, and we have an abundance of recreation facilities
- Our town centres are lively and full of interest, with a network of paths and cycleways that are as equally connected as our current roading network, all serving to create a safe, busy, and pleasant neighbourhoods. Hibiscus and Bays: a community of thousands that feels like a village, with strong connections and roots, but easy opportunities for participation

Priorities from the Local Board Plan – applications should meet one or more of these

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board has confirmed the following priorities for its contestable community grants. In your application identify how your events/projects/activity will contribute to one or more of the following:

Our people

- Hibiscus and Bays: a community of thousands that feels like a village, with strong connections and roots, but easy opportunities for participation

Our environment

- Hibiscus and Bays: where native birds and plants flourish, and the water is pure and clean through education, advocacy and restoration work
- Supporting our communities by planning and engagement on how to mitigate and manage risks from climate change

Our community

- Every corner of the Hibiscus and Bays has a past that we remember through the names given to places and the stories shared
- There is nowhere better than our local parks and reserves for a picnic, a sports game or meeting friends
- We have more opportunities for recreation in our community than ever before
- A vibrant and thriving community with places to celebrate, learn and enjoy culture and arts

Our places and our economy

- Town centres feel like a friendly village but operate like a bustling metropolis
 - Getting around without a car is attractive because of the seamless and safe network of paths and public transport
- People embrace and enjoy living, working, playing, and travelling locally

Important factors for a successful application (where appropriate to a proposed event/project or activity):

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board will also take into account whether the applicant:

- Has any accountability reporting pending for grants funded by the local board in previous grants rounds. **Applicants should ensure there is no accountability reporting pending for any previous grants.**
- The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board will prioritise funding groups who demonstrate an ability (or an attempt) to source additional funding or, sponsorship through external sources, and explored additional income streams.
- Is making a contribution to the event/project/activity (financial, volunteer time etc.)
- Has identified collaboration and working with other groups to deliver an event/project/activity and is seeking funding collaboratively
- Is utilising and supporting volunteer groups through the delivery of an event/project/activity

- Will get the community involved early on, by working collaboratively and creating opportunities to meet new people and share experiences

Facilities Grant

The Facilities Grant provides funding to assist with the costs of planning or developing a facility within the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area. This can include:

- needs assessments
- feasibility reports
- investigation and design
- small building work or minor capital work

Exclusions

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board will not consider grants for financial assistance for:

- Applicants who have had one successful local grant application within the current financial year from the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board unless there is mitigating circumstances (which need to be explained in the application)
- Administrative costs that are ongoing, such as salaries, debt servicing, legal expenses, medical expenses, or a commitment to ongoing funding or financial support
- A group that has accountability reporting pending for grants funded by the local board in previous grants rounds, unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Churches and Educational Institutions, except where these groups can demonstrate the wider community benefit
- Activities whose purpose serves to promote religious, political or contentious messages
- Activities that do not relate to one or more of the local board plan initiatives
- Activities or projects where the funding responsibility lies with another organisation or central government
- Prizes for sports and other events (except trophies)
- Commercial business enterprises and educational institutions in accordance with the Council's Community Grants Policy (Scope and Eligibility, Page 20)
- Applications to fund projects, programmes or facilities run by Auckland Council or its employees
- Auckland Council CCO's or organisations who receive funding from the Auckland Regional Amenities Fund
- Applications for activities, events or projects outside of the local board area*
- Applications to subsidise rentals, reduce debt, or payment of rates unless it is a Legacy Rates Grant
- Applications for the purchase or subsidy of alcohol or costs associated with staging after-match functions
- Grants for the sole purpose of an individual
- Family reunions

Guidelines that will be applied if a successful applicant seeks to repurpose their grant:

Under exceptional circumstances if a grant will not be able to be spent, the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board will consider using the following criteria:

- That the request meets the initial intention behind the grant, specifically, the main purpose and outcomes
- That the new activity/project/events outcome remains the same and does not fall within an exclusion

Legacy Rates Grants:

This is a closed grant, only available to existing recipients of Legacy Rates Grants (previously known as transitional rates grants) and must be applied for in Local Grants round one.

Objectives

The following Objectives apply to Legacy Rates Grants:

- to meet the needs of residents of the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area, by facilitating ongoing provision of non-commercial (non-business) in such fields as community services, recreational or sporting services
- to assist organisations to provide services during their path to financial self-sustainability to deliver programmes. Consideration will be given to other sources of income each organisation has available such as catering income as well as the organisation's Financial Statements
- to make membership of the organisation more accessible to all.

Criteria

The following Criteria apply to Legacy Rates Grants:

- Legacy Rates Grants will only apply to land owned by the council or owned and occupied by a charitable organisation, which is used exclusively or principally for sporting, recreation, or community purposes and is located in the **Hibiscus and Bays Local Board** area.
- Legacy Rates Grants will not apply to organisations operated for private pecuniary profit or which charge tuition fees based on the principal of cost recovery

Important factors for a successful application (where appropriate to a proposed event/project or activity):

- The application for a Legacy Rates Grant must be made in round one of the Hibiscus and Bays Grants Programme and must be applied for the same financial year.
- Note that successful recipients of the Legacy Rates scheme will likely receive their grant *after* the first instalment of their rates are due. The prompt payment of an organisation's rates is not the responsibility of the Local Board

- All other rules for Legacy Rates Grants are as per the **Hibiscus and Bays** Grants Programme guidelines for other applications.
- Recipients of the Legacy Rates Grant are also eligible to apply for Hibiscus and Bays Contestable Grants including the Facilities Grant.

Investment approach

Name of grant	Local board's proposed figures	
	Minimum	Maximum
Local Grants	\$2,000.00	8,000

Grant Round Dates

Local Grant 2025/2026

Grant round:	Open date	Close date	Decision date	Projects to occur after
Round One	25 August 2025	3 October 2025	2 December 2025	3 December 2025
Round Two	9 February 2026	20 March 2026	22 May 2026	01 June 2026

Legacy Rates Grant 2025/2026

Grant round:	Open date	Close date	Decision date	Payment to occur after
Round One	25 August 2025	3 October 2025	2 December 2025	Generally, 5-10 working days after returning funding agreement

Facilities Round 2025/2026

Grant round:	Open date	Close date	Decision date	Projects to occur after:
Round One	9 February 2026	20 March 2026	22 May 2026	01 June 2026

Obligations if you receive funding

In order to ensure that the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board grant achieves positive results, recipients will be obligated to provide evidence that the assistance has been used for the agreed purpose and the stated outcomes have been achieved. Obligations will be outlined in a funding agreement that the applicant will be required to enter into.

The following accountability measures are required:

- The completion and submission of accountability forms (including receipts), proving that grants have been used for the right purpose

- Any grant money that is unspent and not used for the project must be returned to the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board
- Recognition of the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board's support of your initiative (e.g. using the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board logo on promotional material)

Local Board Plan at a Glance

Our People	Our Environment
<p>Themes: The voices of our community are heard, our youth thrive, and everyone feels welcome. Our resilience networks enable us to be prepared for emergencies.</p>	<p>Themes: Native birds, plants and animals thrive in an environment where pests are controlled. We have planned and designed our coastlines to be resilient to storms and the effects of climate change, our waterways and coastal areas are clean, and we minimise waste as we move to a circular economy.</p>
<p>Objectives: Hibiscus and Bays: a community of thousands that feels like a village, with strong connections and roots, with easy opportunities for participation</p>	<p>Objectives: Hibiscus and Bays: where native birds and plants flourish, and the water is pure and clean through education, advocacy, and restoration work</p> <p>Supporting our communities by planning and engagement on how to mitigate and manage risks from climate change</p>
<p>Key Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support, fund and build the capacity of the community to continue to take a lead in making everyone feel welcome, building connections, and celebrating the growing diversity of our area, through placemaking, events, and other initiatives; • Support the development of community led resilience networks in our area, so our community and organisations will know who does what, where to get information and how to help, including in emergencies; • Support the youth networks in our area to help our young people thrive, and to have a voice in local board decision making; • Take a proactive approach to ensuring that the different voices in our communities are heard to inform our local board decision-making; • Acknowledging the mana whenua the local board works closest with, Ngāti Manuhiri and Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, by initiating conversations intended to lead to the development of relationship goals 	<p>Key Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and advocate for further protection of our sea, soil and fresh water from contamination and sedimentation through methods such as re-naturalisation, or daylighting; • Support the work and leadership of environmental restoration networks and organisations and their volunteer workers who show us the way to be guardians and caretakers for our blue (waterways and coastal) and green (parks and reserves) spaces, and the indigenous plants and animals that live there; • Support and encourage businesses, neighbourhoods, community groups and education facilities to reduce energy use, reduce waste, restore the land and waterways, and live more sustainably and build a circular economy; • Supporting Ngāti Manuhiri, other mana whenua and mataawaka to draw on mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) to enrich the work of those groups working to restore the land and the sea; • Engage with our communities during the planning and process of adapting our coastal reserves to prepare for and mitigate damage from storms, flooding and erosion, with projects such as the shoreline adaptation plans; • Support and fund efforts to mitigate and adapt reserves, parks and public assets from the

	effects of climate change through initiatives such as the Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy;
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Our Community	Our places and Our economy
<p>Themes: In a word, vibrant. Our past is remembered, and our facilities cater for future needs. Our open spaces can be used by all, and we have an abundance of recreation facilities.</p>	<p>Themes: Our town centres are lively and dynamic, with a network of paths and cycleways that are as equally connected as our current roading network, all serving to create a safe, busy, and pleasant neighbourhoods.</p>
<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every corner of the Hibiscus and Bays has a past that we remember this through the names given to places and the stories shared • There is nowhere better than our local parks and reserves for a picnic, a sports game or meeting friends • We have more opportunities to connect for recreation, play and to help others in our community than ever before • A vibrant and thriving community with places to celebrate, learn and enjoy culture and arts 	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town centres feel like a friendly village but operate like a bustling metropolis • Getting around without a car is attractive because of the seamless and safe network of paths and public transport • People embrace and enjoy living, working, playing, and travelling locally
<p>Key Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the telling of our local heritage stories, resulting in the adoption of te reo Māori names to add to the English names of parks and places of our area, as well as making the historical stories from all peoples from this area more accessible; • Support participation for sports groups and community organisations to grow membership, improve their financial sustainability and the growth of good governance. Preference will be given to support any new or improved facilities to be multi-user or collaborative; • Support the development and increased use of our local parks, reserves, and sports fields by being available for 	<p>Key initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the voices of community by utilising placemaking and other engagement opportunities to enhance the character of our town centres, to transform our public spaces • Continue to support activities that promote vibrancy, diversity and showcases creativity in our area, such as events, festivals, and other shared experiences in our public spaces for all • Continue to renew and enhance the paths network (greenways) to create a safer, off road, well-connected networks for active modes of transport • Support and promote separated and safe routes for the use of active modes of transport, with an aim for them to be as connected and as well maintained as our roading network, through improvements to connectivity and dedicated infrastructure -

<p>people of all abilities, ages, and socio-economic backgrounds to enjoy in a range of leisure and recreation activities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate options to increase the awareness and use of all the recreation facilities, public or privately owned, in our community; • Engage with our community, and in particular mana whenua, on the future uses of our undeveloped reserves, and older established ones, including investigation of cost effective options for other informal recreation and play in these areas; • Investigate and support new or enhanced facilities that provide for more indoor courts, venues for hire, and community services, whether solely council owned, community-led, or with an emphasis on a partnership model; • Ensure our libraries, leisure centres, pool, halls, playgrounds, toilets, and other public assets are maintained and renewed by balancing of value for money, good design for all, and amenity value (reflecting or supporting: a sense of place, adaptability, durability, and imagination); • Engage with our arts and culture partners and providers to investigate equitable and sustainable funding models, by reviewing existing arrangements and establishing alternative options; • Engage with staff and users of our council owned facilities and spaces, such as libraries, leisure centres and pools, and venue for hire, to ensure that they continue to reflect the evolving ways our community wishes to use and access services and remain accessible to all. 	<p>such as improved path surfaces, signage, or seating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local business associations to continue to support business development, to contribute to safer, more vibrant, and attractive town centres, that continue to meet the changing needs of our residents • Support an enhanced sense of community through safer, vibrant and connected town centres and neighbourhoods
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