



Waitākere
Ranges
**Community
Grants
Programme**
2025/2026



Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Community Grants Programme 2025/2026

Our Community Grants Programme aims to provide contestable community grants to local communities.

Our grants programme will be targeted towards supporting the following outcomes and priorities, as outlined in our [Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan 2023](#).

Local Board Plan	Outcomes
Our people Our distinctive and diverse communities are thriving, resilient and adaptable. People are connected, feel a sense of belonging, and work together to support wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong and productive mana whenua and mataawaka relationships.• To enhance the health, wellbeing and resilience of local communities.• People from our diverse communities are connected and feel as though they belong.
Our environment Biodiversity is enhanced, significant ecological areas are protected and restored as a sanctuary for native plants and wildlife. Our people are connected to, and care for, the environment. The mauri of our freshwater streams, the Manukau Harbour, and West Coast lagoons and wetlands are restored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ecosystems are protected, restored and enhanced in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.• Natural areas on parks are protected restored and enhanced.• Protection and enhancement of urban tree cover.• Our Manukau Harbour beaches and west coast lagoons are clean and safe for swimming, with improved environmental outcomes for the harbour and its catchment.• Our streams and wetlands are healthy and restored.• We understand climate change risks, take action to reduce our climate impact, and are prepared to adapt and respond to future events.
Our community Parks, facilities and services are accessible and meet the needs of our diverse urban and rural communities. Māori culture and identity is visible and valued. Arts, culture and creativity are a celebrated part of living in the West	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our parks and open spaces provide opportunities for recreation and enjoyment by the surrounding local communities, and a place for nature.• Parks and facilities are adaptable in the face of climate change, growth and other pressures.• A network of vibrant arts and culture organisations, facilities and events that enliven the west.• Our libraries and facilities provide engaging spaces at the heart of the community.
Our places We have thriving town and village centres, supporting strong neighbourhoods, connected by a reliable, resilient and sustainable transport network. The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) is protected and restored for current and future generations, and the relationship with Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua is acknowledged	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thriving, sustainable villages that people take pride in.• A reliable, resilient and sustainable transport network connects our neighbourhoods, centres and villages.• The heritage of our people, places and buildings is recognised and valued.• The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area is recognised for its character and heritage.

Our economy

Sustainable local economic activity is supported. Our business centres are active and successful. Home-based businesses and innovation are fostered. Opportunities for rural activities continue

- A successful and resilient Glen Eden Business Improvement District.
- Economic wellbeing for rangatahi.
- Sustainable economic activity that supports people, places and the natural environment.

Higher Priorities

In addition to the priority outcomes above, a higher priority will be given to projects/activities:

- That are smokefree (incl. vaping) and provide healthy food for events and projects
- That encourage waste minimisation and endorse zero waste practices
- That foster increased resilience, connectedness, and wellbeing in our communities and environment

Note: Waitākere Ranges Local Board will endeavour to allocate funds from filming charges to support the affected communities.¹

Lower Priorities

A lower priority will be given to applications in the following circumstances:

- Where the applicant has considerable cash reserves relative to the amount applied for, unless the applicant can verify that the reserves are required or tagged for a specific project
- Groups and/or activities taking place outside the local board area, unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate benefit to the local board area community members
- Applications for projects that have already received alternative local board funding during the current financial year
- Where the applicant is a national organisation

Exclusions

In addition to the exclusions outlined in the [Community Grants Policy 2014](#) (Paragraphs 84-86), Waitākere Ranges Local Board will not fund:

- Events that promote a brand or company advertising alcohol or fast food, particularly if the event has young children and young people participating
- Applicants that have failed to meet previous accountability obligations, except on the condition that the outstanding accountability is completed
- Projects that have already been supported twice by Waitākere Ranges Local Board grants during the current financial year

- ¹ Funding received from ScreenAuckland for filming activity on local parks and beaches is available for community grants

Eligibility

Please refer to the [Community Grants Policy 2014](#) 'scope and eligibility' for general eligibility criteria:

- Ineligible applicants – Paragraph 78
- What we won't fund – Paragraphs 84-86
- Lower priority – Paragraphs 87-88

Investment approach

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board has allocated budgets to support the grants programme as follows:

Grants scheme	Minimum amount per application	Maximum amount per application
Quick Response Grants	\$500	\$1,500
Local Grants	\$1,500	\$12,000

Application dates

- Applications will be accepted starting from the **opening date** and must be submitted by the **closing date**. Applications closes at 10pm and late submissions will not be accepted.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome after the **decision date**.
- Projects and funding request item(s) must occur on or after the *Project to Occur After* date to be eligible.

* Please note that due to the local board elections in October 2025, the decision date for 2026 may be subject to change.

2025/2026	Opens	Closes	Decision Made	Project to Occur After
Quick Response Round one	7 July 2025	1 August 2025	25 September 2025	1 October 2025
Quick Response Round two	12 January 2026	6 February 2026	26 March 2026 *	1 April 2026

2025/2026	Opens	Closes	Decision Made	Project to Occur After
Local Grant Round one	4 August 2025	12 September 2025	4 December 2025 *	4 December 2025
Local Grant Round two	16 February 2026	27 March 2026	28 May 2026 *	1 July 2026

Accountability measures

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board requires all successful applicants to:

- Complete and submit accountability report by the due date, proving that the grant has been used to deliver the set outcomes and objectives.
- Provide all required receipts and sufficient photos for the implemented activities on the grant's accountability report.
- Include local board logo on publicity and signage and display of Waitākere Ranges Local Board branding whenever appropriate in accordance with Council's brand guidelines.
- Acknowledge the Waitākere Ranges Local Board as a supporter in media releases or other communication to the public.
- Extend an Invitation to the local board members for any event or function funded.

