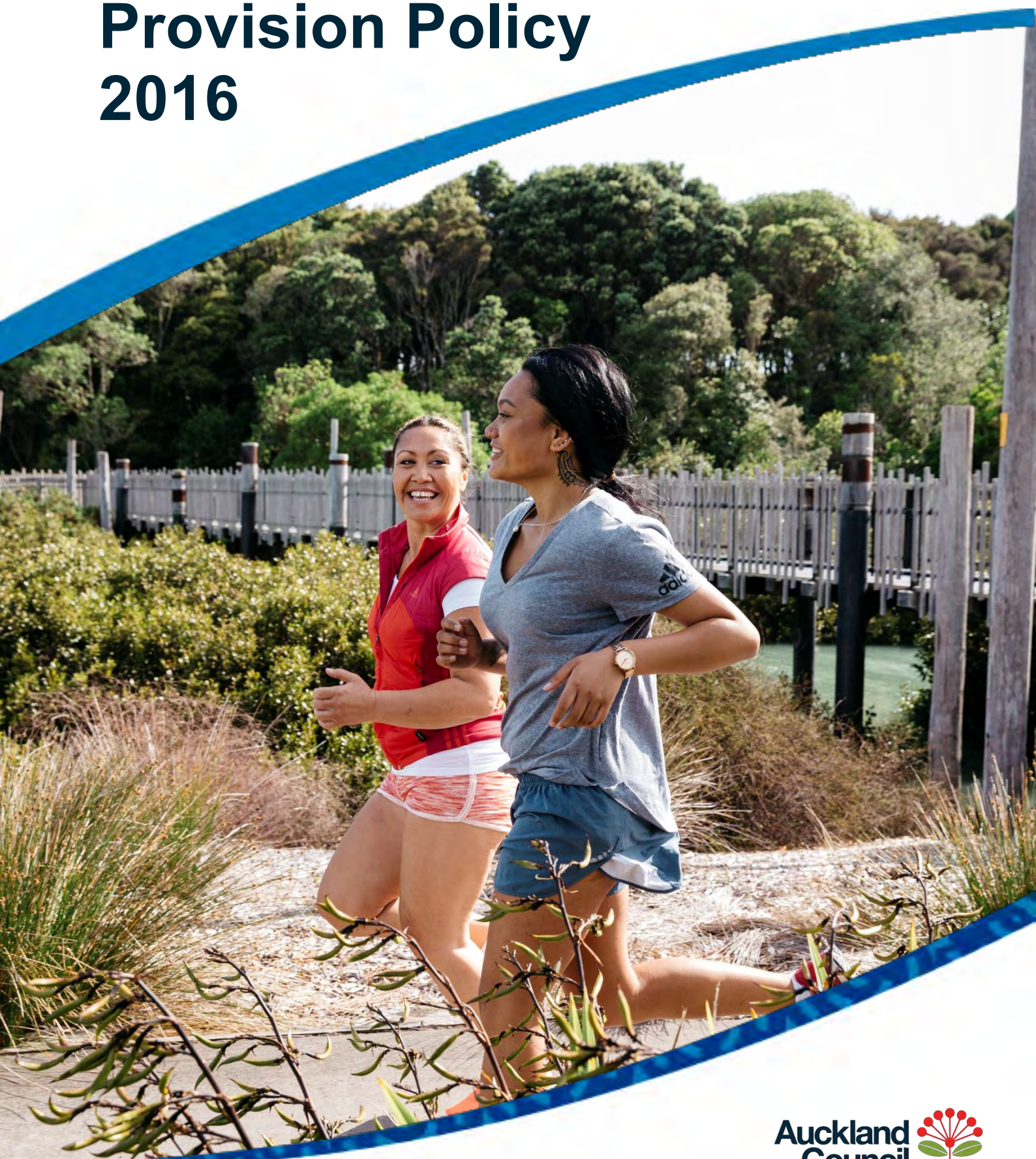


Open Space Provision Policy 2016





Adopted by the Regional Strategy and Policy Committee
4 August 2016
Resolution number: REG/2016/68

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Introduction

Open space makes a major contribution towards Aucklanders' quality of life and is integral to achieving the vision and strategy of the Auckland Plan.

Auckland Council invests in open space because it is important to council's wider objectives. It contributes to a range of health, social, environmental and economic benefits for Auckland.

Auckland Council manages an extensive network of open space including 26 regional parks, over 3,000 local parks and 241 sports parks. Auckland Council's park assets are worth over \$5 billion. Over the next 10 years, Auckland Council anticipates spending \$2 billion on development, acquisition and renewal of parks and recreation facilities, and a further \$4.2 billion on operation and maintenance of the network.

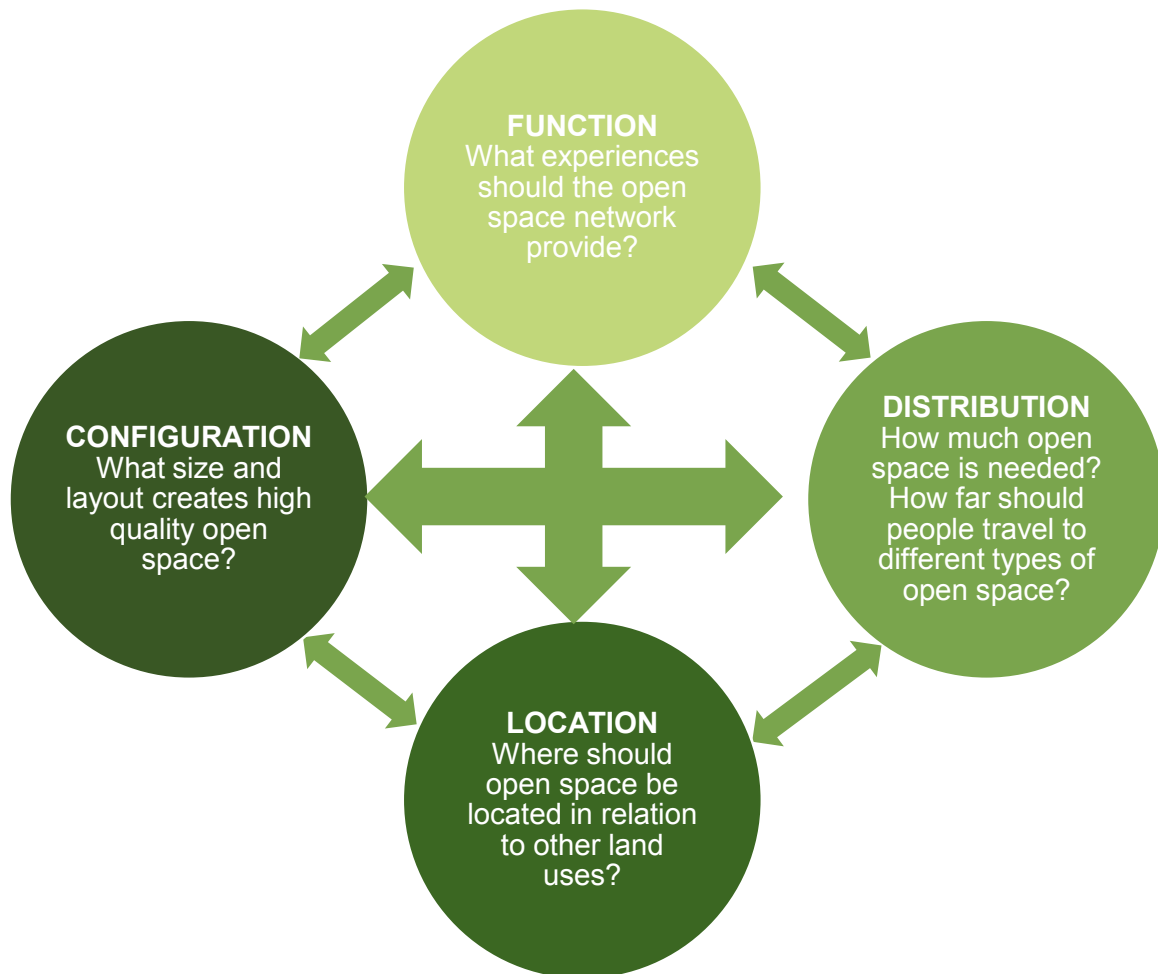
The council open space network is complemented by significant landholdings managed by the Department of Conservation, trusts, and areas of private land that provide recreational and conservation outcomes.

This policy informs investment decisions to create a high quality open space network that contributes to Aucklanders' quality of life. It provides direction on the provision of open space at a network scale (across multiple open spaces rather than an individual site). Provision is considered on the basis of four inter-related factors:

- function
- distribution
- location
- configuration.

The policy is complemented by the Auckland Design Manual, which provides direction on the design of parks or open space for individual sites. Refer to aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/project-type/parks/hub.

Figure 1: Factors that influence open space design.



Development of the policy

The open space provision policy has been informed by a range of sources and option testing, including:

- reviewing case studies of recent developments in Auckland
- reviewing open space provision policies and guidelines from across Australasia
- undertaking spatial analysis of Auckland's open space network
- trialling draft provision guidelines
- consulting with elected members, subject matter experts, the development sector and iwi.

A bibliography of resources used to inform development of the policy can be found at the end of the document.

Strategic context

The Auckland Plan and Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan

The Auckland Plan sets out a 30-year vision and strategy. Open spaces make a major contribution towards Auckland's quality of life and are integral to achieving the vision and outcomes set out in the Auckland Plan.

“Maintain and extend an integrated network of quality open spaces across the region that meets community needs and provides a diverse range of recreational opportunities by 2040.”

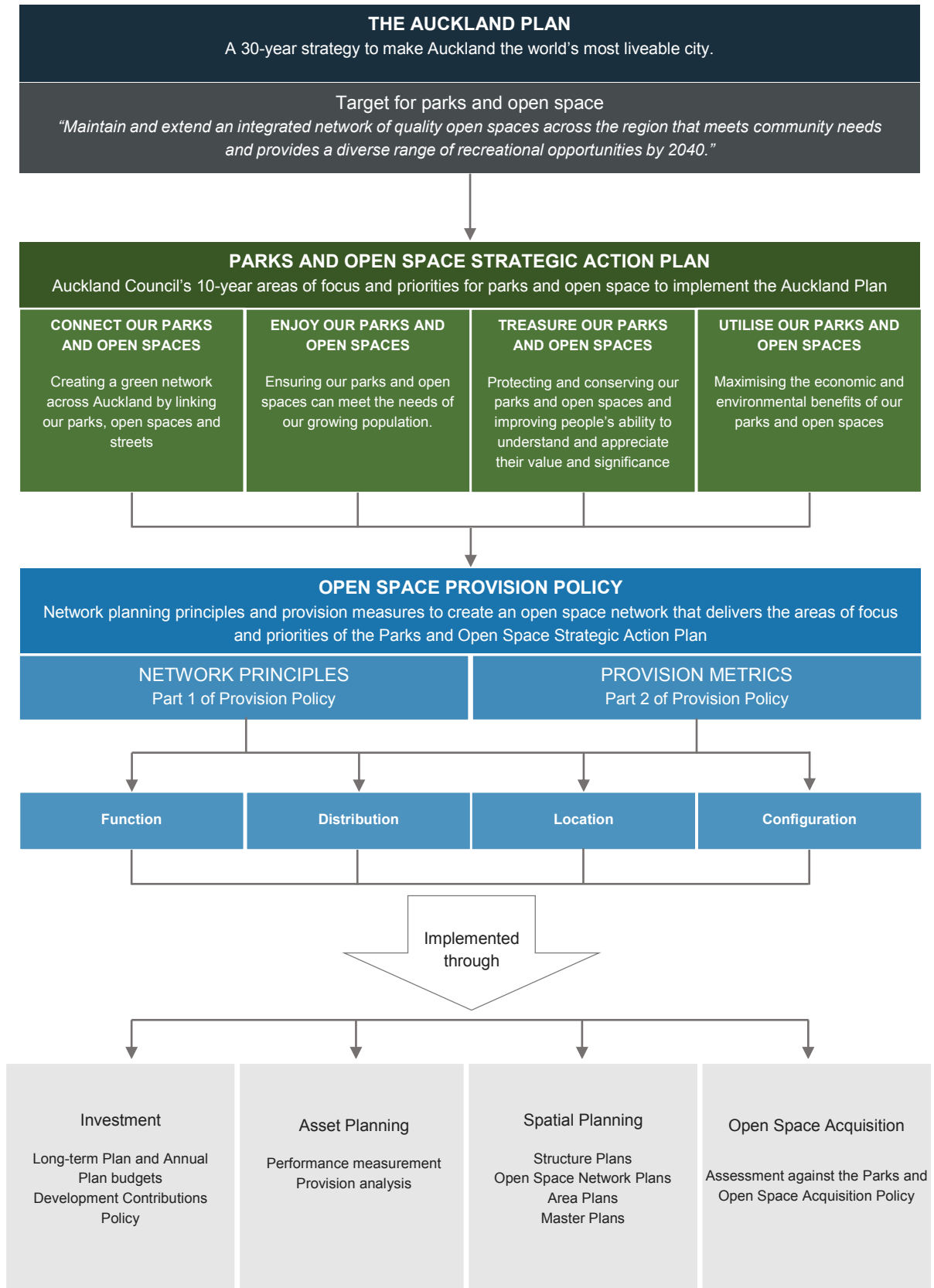
The Parks and Open Space Strategic Action Plan is Auckland Council's core strategy for parks and open space. It identifies the challenges, opportunities, priorities and actions for Auckland Council's involvement in parks and open spaces over the next 10 years and establishes four areas of focus. These are:

- connect
- enjoy
- treasure
- utilise.

The open space provision policy gives effect to the Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan. It informs the council's investment, asset and acquisition activities in open space, and guides spatial planning by both the council and the private sector.



Figure 2: Relationship between the Open Space Provision Policy and other strategies and policies that influence parks and open spaces.

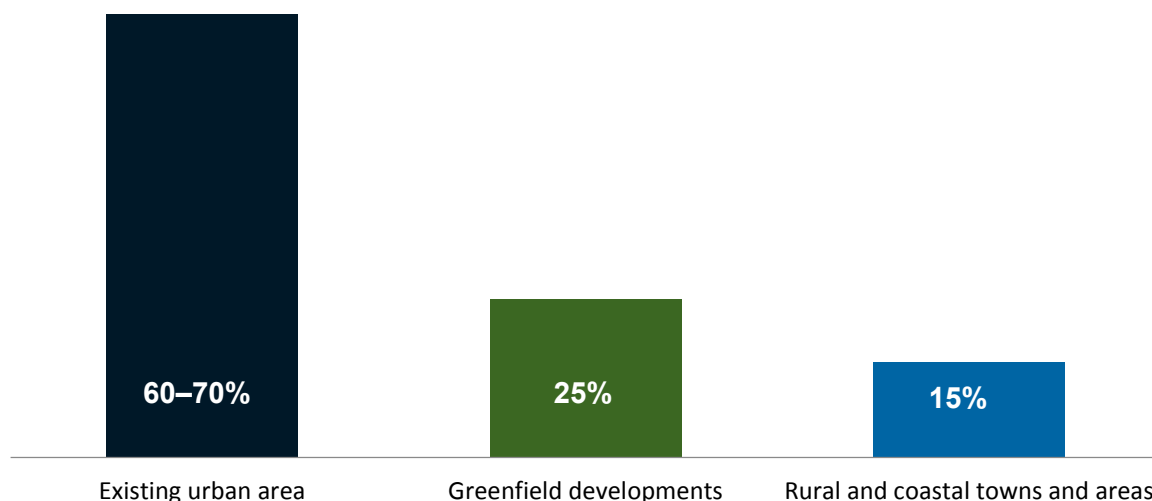


Responding to Auckland's growth

Auckland is anticipated to grow by approximately one million people over the next 30 years. The Auckland Plan adopts a compact city development strategy that aims to distribute between 60 and 70 per cent of Auckland's growth within the existing urban area through more intensive development. A further 25 per cent of growth will be in greenfield developments, and the remainder in rural areas and settlements.

Investment in the open space network needs to reflect the way Auckland is expected to grow over the next 30 years, while aligning with the strategic direction established by the Auckland Plan and the Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan. Greenfield areas and the existing urban area will require different approaches to investment in open space.

Figure 3: Auckland's growth is expected to be accommodated across both the existing urban area and in greenfield areas.



Existing urban area – improving the network

Quality open space is a critical component of attractive and liveable high density urban areas. Therefore, high quality open space can facilitate the regeneration and growth of urban centres.

The existing urban area of Auckland has an established, well distributed, open space network. The ability to significantly expand the urban network is constrained due to the land supply and budget constraints. Therefore, council's investment in open space in the existing urban area prioritises improving the existing network.

The focus for investment in open space in the existing urban areas is:

- investing in the established open space network to offer a wider range of activities for more people
- improving linkages between open space, such as establishing greenways
- optimising assets through land exchange and reconfiguration
- acquiring new open spaces as opportunities allow, particularly in large brownfield developments.



In greenfield development areas, such as Millwater, investment is required to both acquire and develop new open space networks when growth occurs.



Investment in high quality open space is necessary to support more intensive residential development located around regenerating and growing centres, such as New Lynn.

Greenfield areas – establishing the network

Auckland will continue to expand beyond the existing urban boundaries.

New open space networks will need to be established in growth areas to meet the recreational and social needs of residents in new settlements, as well as to conserve and enhance the environment.

The focus for investment in open space in greenfield areas is:

- investing in new open space when growth occurs
- integrating open space with stormwater, transport, schools and community facilities
- creating a resilient and multi-functional open space network that can evolve with changing community needs over time
- connecting new and existing open space networks.

How to use the policy

The policy aims to inform a broad range of investment decisions in open space. The policy is primarily intended to assist with:

- providing direction to developers, planners and designers on the provision of open space sought by council
- providing a consistent and transparent framework for assessing open space provision across the region
- clarifying the types of open space to be acquired using development contributions
- informing the council's investment in open space.

The policy is organised into two inter-related parts.

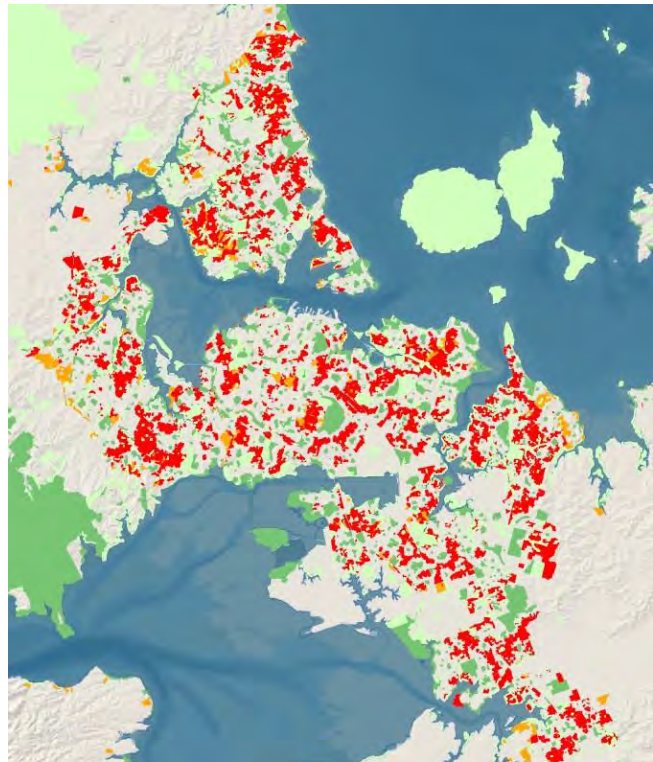
Part 1: Network principles

Network principles guide how high quality open space should be located and configured in relation to the social, built and natural environment.

Part 2: Provision metrics

Provision metrics guide the amount, type and distribution of open space expected in new greenfield development areas and large brownfield sites. They also provide a framework for analysing provision within the existing urban area, where the open space network is largely in place.

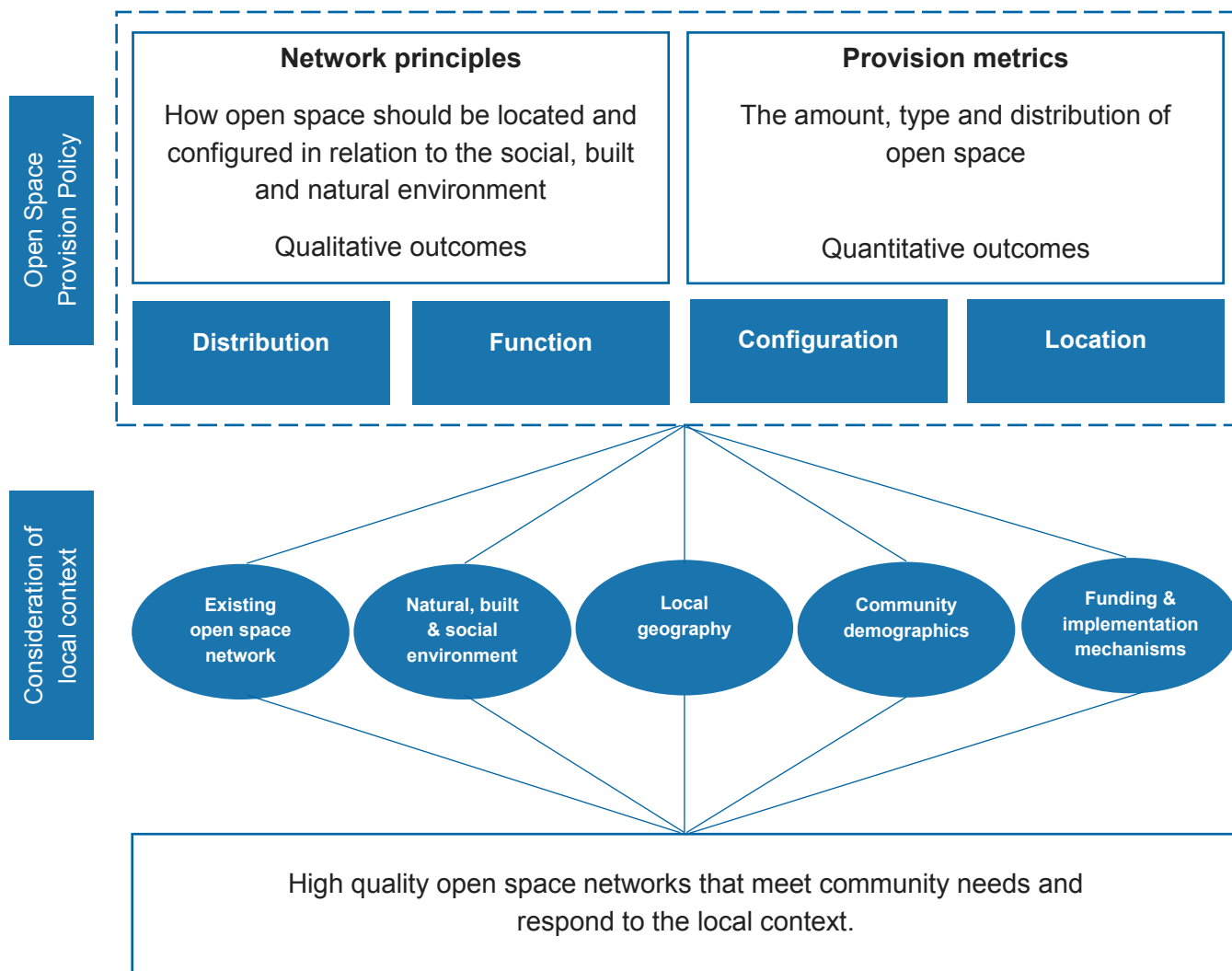
A successful open space network responds to the local context. Variation in the provision of open space will occur across Auckland. Consideration of context specific factors (as identified in Figure 4) is critical when applying the policy in order to create high quality open space networks that respond to community needs.



The policy provides a framework for analysing open space provision within the existing urban area. The red and orange areas are not within the walking distance provision target for neighbourhood parks (2015 analysis).

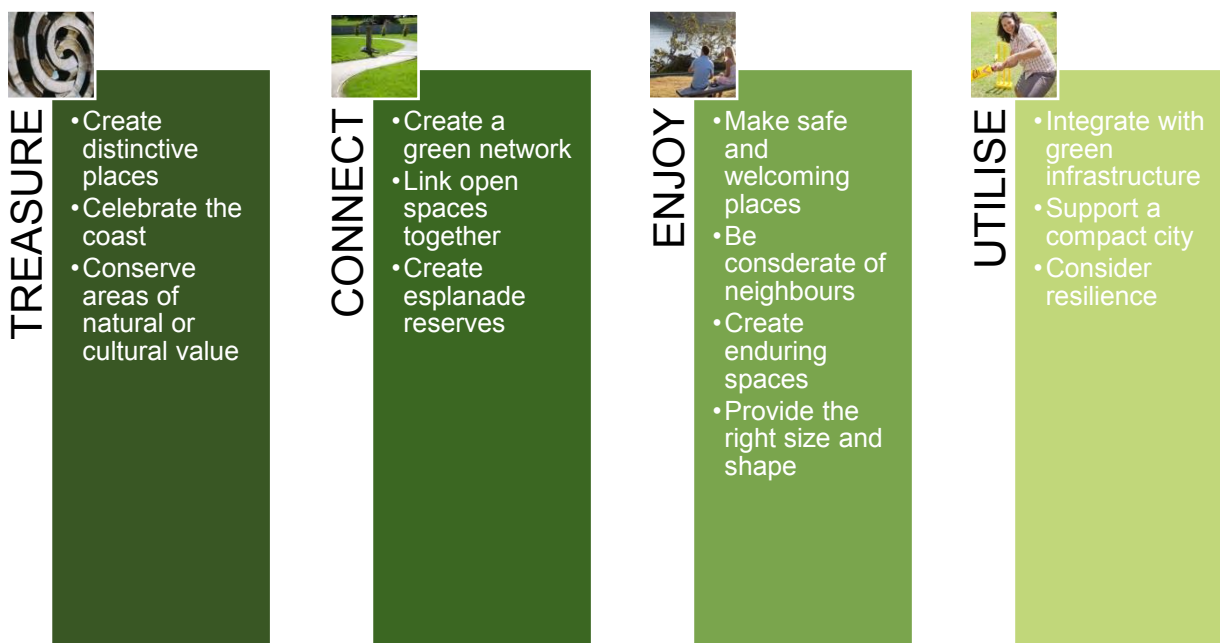
This information can help to prioritise where investment in the open space network should occur, such as improving facilities in an existing park, or acquiring new open space.

Figure 4: Network principles and provision metrics, along with the local context, influence high quality open space networks.



Part 1: Network principles

This section of the policy sets out principles to deliver high quality parks and open spaces across the region. The principles align to the four areas of focus of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan.



How open space interfaces with the nearby built, natural and social environment can significantly influence its quality, the network as a whole and the surrounding area. The network principles identify important qualitative factors to consider when making decisions about where open space should be located and how it is configured. The importance of each principle will depend on the intended function of an open space and the local context.

The network principles focus on qualitative outcomes for the open space network which complement the criteria, such as size, function and distribution, outlined in Part Two.

Treasure our parks and open spaces

Open space plays an important role in protecting and conserving the features that make Auckland special. Understanding the natural, heritage and cultural values of a place is necessary to create engaging and distinctive open space.

Create distinctive places

Open space is an integral part of Auckland's identity. Open space makes places that communities feel connected to and value.

How: use open space to create distinctive settlements that reflect the identity of an area.

- Incorporate features such as streams, hills and significant trees in the open space network to make new settlements feel more established and distinctive.
- Maximise views of the surrounding area and nearby landmarks from open spaces.
- Locate open space at focal points and in prominent locations to create legible settlements that are easy for people to orientate themselves and navigate around.



Recent development of the Onehunga Foreshore Reserve has improved access to the coast, and re-established connections between the town centre and the Manukau Harbour. The reserve enjoys extensive coastal views and strong visual connections to nearby landmarks, such as Mangere Mountain, which creates a unique sense of place.

Celebrate the coast

The coast is a defining feature of Auckland's environment and lifestyle.

How: plan the open space network to protect and provide access to, and along, the coast.

- Locate some neighbourhood and suburb parks on the coast in locations that provide for water access and views of the coast and surrounding areas.
- Ensure coastal parks, particularly those with good beaches, are sized sufficiently to accommodate facilities and infrastructure that can support a high number of visitors.
- Provide access to, and along, the foreshore when access along coastal parks is not feasible, or as an interim measure around gaps in esplanade reserve networks.
- Provide regular access points to coastal open space networks and the foreshore from adjoining streets.

Coastal parks and beaches, such as Mission Bay, are often popular destinations which require facilities and infrastructure to cater for high numbers of users.



Conserve areas of natural or cultural value

Open space plays a vital role in conserving Auckland's rich natural and cultural heritage.

How: understand the intrinsic characteristics and values of a place when designing new open spaces and settlements.

- Examine the overlays of the Auckland Unitary Plan, which provide a starting point for understanding the natural and cultural values of a site and may trigger a need for more in-depth assessments.

- Include areas of natural and cultural value within the public open space network as one way of addressing the effects of a development.
- Locate corridors of multifunctional public space along the coast, streams and floodplains that provide for green infrastructure, conservation and recreation outcomes.
- Co-locate areas of natural and cultural value with compatible recreational and social open spaces to create interesting multi-functional parks that provide educational opportunities.
- Provide buffers around sensitive natural or cultural areas to improve conservation and interpretation outcomes.



Open space corridors at Millwater have retained large trees and streams, which, along with new riparian planting and path networks, create multi-functional spaces that have movement, stormwater, ecology and amenity functions. Large trees provide a distinctive and established feel to the development, and create attractive medium density residential areas.

Le Roys Bush Reserve (below) conserves significant remnant areas of native bush and streams while also providing informal recreation opportunities for the local community. The park includes flexible use of lawn spaces and a trail network that connects the reserve to the surrounding area.



Enjoy our parks and open spaces

Create flexible, vibrant and safe spaces that meet the needs of the community, now and in the future.

Make safe and welcoming places

Safety is fundamental to creating successful public open spaces.

How: create highly visible and welcoming spaces that are overlooked by neighbours and passers-by.

- Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles when investing in and designing any public open space.
- Ensure surrounding buildings front open space and commercial buildings have active uses at street level.
- Provide wide street frontage along recreational and social open spaces, with street frontage on two or three sides.
- Use pedestrian accessways to encourage buildings to front open space when a street is not possible.
- Encourage passive surveillance from neighbours by using boundary fencing that is visually permeable and unobstructed.
- Apply universal design principles to ensure parks and open spaces are accessible to everyone.

Lumsden Green is surrounded by active uses such as shops and cafes, and has street frontage along the sides. This provides passive surveillance of the space from passing pedestrians and shoppers, as well as making the civic space a prominent landmark within Newmarket.



Create enduring spaces

Sport, recreation and social trends and preferences change over time.

How: create flexible and adaptable open space that meets changing community needs.

- Use land efficiently by creating open spaces of a regular shape and relatively equal proportion.
- Cluster activities that use facilities at different times together, so that infrastructure can be shared and parks are used throughout the day.
- Use variation in terrain to add interest and opportunities for creative play experiences.
- Ensure small neighbourhood and pocket parks consist of mainly flat land, so they can provide for a wide range of activities in a small area.
- Include more variation in terrain in larger suburb and destination parks, so long as they include some multi-use flat areas.



Variation in terrain can provide opportunities for creative play experiences. This playground in Farm Cove is based on a concept of a life-size version of the classic snakes and ladders board game.

Despite being approximately the same area, the shape and proportion of these parks result in greatly different uses. The narrow shape of the park on the left limits its use to amenity and some passive recreational use. The squarer shape of the park on the right uses land much more efficiently and allows the space to provide for the full range of neighbourhood park functions.



Be considerate of neighbours

Open space can be used in many different ways, at different times of the day.

How: consider how activities interact with neighbouring properties to ensure open space can be used to its full potential.

- Allow for transition space between actively used areas of the park, such as main paths, playgrounds or kick-about spaces, and neighbouring private properties.
- Locate high use or noisy facilities, such as sports fields and large playgrounds, away from residential boundaries to reduce impacts on neighbouring properties.
- Avoid shading actively used areas of open space, such as playgrounds and seating, by neighbouring buildings.
- Carefully design the interface of public and private spaces to balance privacy and passive surveillance.

Ensure parks that are intended to accommodate high use or noisy activities are large enough for facilities to be located away from residential boundaries. Specialist noise assessments may be required to determine an appropriate set-back distance.



Dense planting is used to ensure an adequate buffer between the actively used areas of the park, such as the path and playground, and neighbouring residential properties.



Provide the right size and shape

The intended function of an open space and how it will be experienced by users informs its size and shape.

How: make functional open spaces that are easy to understand.

- Create open spaces that are easy for users to understand and orientate themselves. Avoid overly elongated, narrow or irregular shapes with dead-ends.
- Provide multiple entrance points and connections through the open space that link with the surrounding neighbourhood.
- The intended function of an open space will determine the size and configuration of land required. Organised sports will have exact requirements for facilities, while there is generally more flexibility for informal recreation space.
- Provide enough land to cater for the proposed activity, plus sufficient buffers and transition space to ensure facilities can be actively used throughout the day.
- A high degree of visibility and access is vital for recreation and social areas, but may be less important for some conservation areas.

Recreational and social open space should have street frontage along two or three sides to provide passive surveillance and increase prominence of the open space. Avoid narrow entrances to a park, which result in hidden, underutilised open spaces and poor Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design outcomes.



Open space corridors should be a logical, regular shape in which it is easy for users to orientate themselves. Corridors should have sufficient street frontage to ensure adjoining development fronts and provide visibility of the open space.



Connect our parks and open spaces

Create a connected network of parks, open spaces and streets that delivers a variety of recreation, ecological, transport, stormwater, landscape and health benefits.

Create a green network

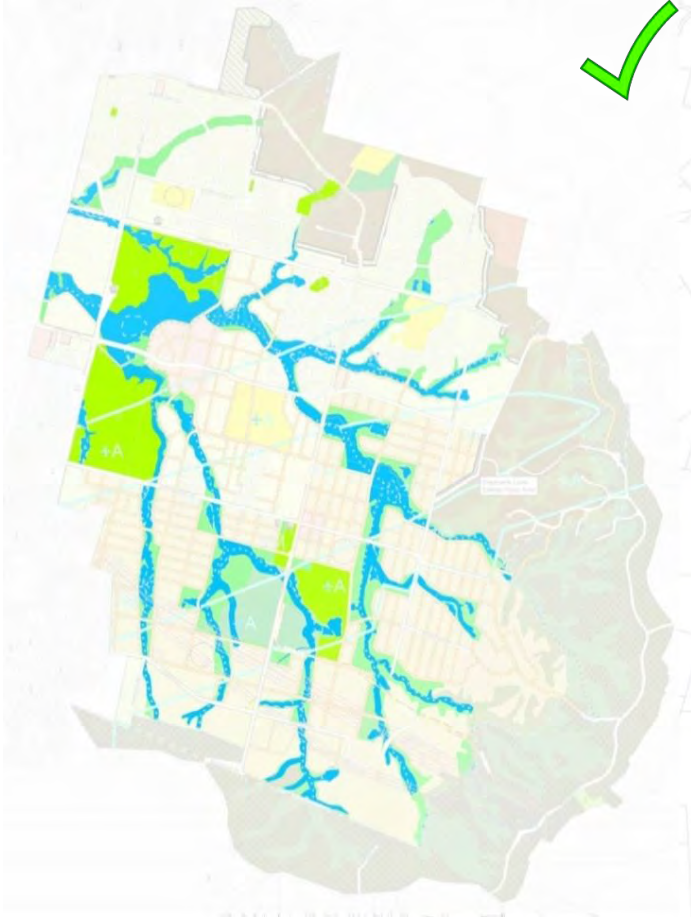
Connected open spaces provide opportunities for movement of people and fauna and help conserve Auckland's natural environment.

How: create networks of physically connected, contiguous green spaces.

- Design a highly connected open space network in greenfield developments.
- Form contiguous open space networks along waterways, the coastline and floodplains, particularly where esplanade reserves or green infrastructure corridors are required.
- Leverage opportunities from large network infrastructure projects to improve connectivity and access to open space within the existing urban area.
- Retrofit linkages and improve access to open space in the existing urban area when opportunities arise.
- Link new open spaces in greenfield areas to the existing network in neighbouring urban areas.
- Locate neighbourhood and suburb parks as nodes along open space corridors to provide for a wider range of activities and reduce maintenance costs.
- Provide connectivity between areas of habitat and along natural features, such as streams, to enhance ecological connections and protect landscape and biodiversity values.



The Victoria Park Tunnel project was a catalyst for improving the open space network adjoining the motorway corridor. New shared paths, a pedestrian overbridge, landscaping and noise walls were installed to enhance connections, creating a popular walkway.



The masterplan for Flatbush aims to establish a highly connected open space network consisting of a large destination park (Barry Curtis Park), and a series of 'green fingers' which provide stormwater, ecology, cycling, walking and amenity benefits across the development. Neighbourhood park functions are integrated into the green fingers, providing easy access to recreational opportunities from the surrounding residential area.

Locate open space to provide direct and safe linkages to destinations in the surrounding neighbourhood. Ensure open space is of a suitable size and topography to provide high-quality pedestrian and cycle connections where opportunities exist.

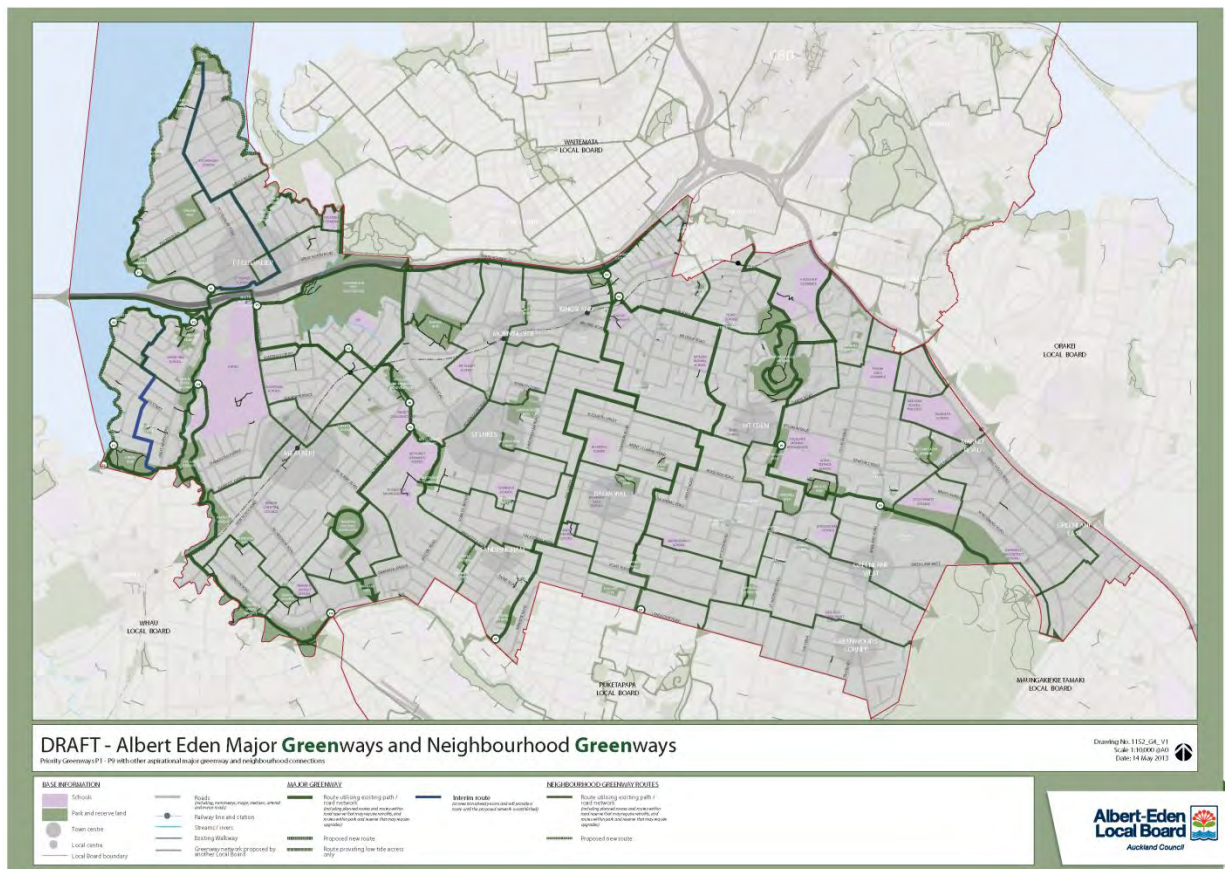


Link open spaces together

Open space is core infrastructure that people use to get around their community.

How: use streets, signs and sightlines to link open spaces together, making it easy for people to walk, cycle and exercise.

- Use greenways and 'green streets' with generous berms, street trees, wide footpaths and cycleways to connect parks and open spaces and create recreational circuits for walking, running and cycling.
- Design street networks to provide direct sightlines into and between open spaces.
- Use streetscape planting to connect habitat, enhance ecological connections and visually connect open spaces.
- Implement connections identified in greenways plans, walking and cycling strategies, or other spatial plans.
- Locate larger parks on main roads, public transport routes and cycleways so they can accommodate events, sports facilities or other attractions that may attract large numbers of visitors.
- Provide direct, high-quality pedestrian and cycle connections through open space to neighbourhood destinations such as shops, schools, public transport routes and other parks.



Greenway plans identify opportunities to create stronger connections between open spaces and neighbourhood destinations, such as schools and shops, to deliver multiple amenity, recreation, ecological and transport benefits.

Create esplanade reserves

Connected open space networks along waterways and the coast provide important access, recreation, environmental and cultural benefits.

How: realise the long-term benefits of creating a connected esplanade reserve network.

- Ensure esplanade reserves are wide enough to provide for access and environmental outcomes. Expect to provide a 20-metre wide esplanade reserve or strip along all qualifying water bodies.
- Development adjacent to an existing esplanade reserve may need to increase the reserve to 20-metre wide if a narrower reserve has been taken in the past, or the width of the reserve has eroded.
- Specialist geotechnical or coastal input may be required where significant networks of new esplanade reserves are proposed in areas where erosion may be an issue.



Utilise our parks and open spaces

Maximise the diverse benefits of parks and open spaces to create a green, resilient and prosperous city.

Integrate with green infrastructure

Embrace Water Sensitive Design principles to achieve stormwater management, ecology, urban design and open space outcomes.

How: integrate the design of green infrastructure with open space to maximise the benefits to the community.

- Co-locate green infrastructure land and recreational areas to create larger, multi-functional open spaces.
- Integrate landscaping and path networks to create a seamless interface between green infrastructure and recreation areas.
- Use terrain, landscaping and additional space around water bodies to avoid fencing, which can physically or visually fragment an open space.
- Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles to the design of all publicly accessible green infrastructure spaces.
- Ensure actively used spaces, recreation and visitor facilities in neighbourhood and suburb parks are located outside of flood plains.
- Clearly differentiate between recreational open space and green infrastructure.



Fencing is often installed for safety reasons to prevent access to the stormwater ponds. It is preferable that terrain and landscaping is used to form barriers to access. Sufficient space should be provided to bench the banks of deep water bodies for safety reasons.



Cyrrill French Park is part of the green finger network in Flatbush. The park combines a significant stormwater management function with a neighbourhood park area and path network that links to adjoining open space and the surrounding neighbourhood. The neighbourhood park area is located on land not subject to flooding.

Consider resilience

Changes to Auckland’s environment and proposals for new infrastructure can effect how open space meets community needs.

How: consider how these changes could affect future communities.

- Understand how natural hazards, such as flooding and coastal erosion, may affect open space over the long-term.
- Ensure there is sufficient space to accommodate park assets and facilities outside of hazard prone land.
- Ensure utility infrastructure on open space does not limit future park development options. Minimise the extent and effects of any encumbrances where these cannot be avoided.

Support greater urban density

High quality open space can make vibrant and prosperous town centres and add value to developments.

How: use open space to create liveable urban places that support the development of a compact city.

- Locate high-density development near quality open spaces to provide amenity, recreation and social opportunities for households with little private open space.
- Consider opportunities to reconfigure open space as part of large brownfield developments to create high quality spaces that better provide for the needs of the future community.
- Develop networks of civic spaces in urban centres that offer a range of experiences, such as events, play, respite and meeting space.
- Locate civic spaces in prominent locations in a centre to form an integral part of the movement network.
- Consider how adjoining buildings shade civic spaces.
- Integrate the design of civic space and adjoining streets to create larger spaces, and add interest to the street.
- Consider how private outdoor dining spaces interact with public space and movement patterns.



Albany Lakes combines stormwater management functions into a highly structured park which forms the central civic space for the Albany metropolitan centre. The park provides for a range of social, recreation and event opportunities.



The Talbot Park development by Housing New Zealand included a land exchange to replace a poorly configured, unsafe park (left) with two new, well-configured parks (right) that offer a greater range of recreational opportunities for the community.

The location of this utility box detracts from the quality of the main entrance to Heron Park.





Part 2: Provision metrics

This section of the policy establishes metrics for the provision of open space.

The metrics primarily guide the type, size and location of open space sought in new greenfield developments.

The metrics can also be used to assess and compare the provision of open space in existing urban areas, relative to other areas in Auckland.

The council does not have a target for the provision of open space in general, such as a ratio of open space to population. Having a clear understanding of the purpose of an open space area is critical to understanding the range of opportunities and outcomes provided across the open space network. Therefore, the provision metrics are based on a series of open space typologies, which relate to the function and/or scale of an open space.

Different types of open space have different drivers of demand. The demand for recreation and social open space are driven by human factors such as population, access, or the nature of built environment. Provision of open space for conservation purposes is determined by natural factors such as landform, or the presence of ecological or heritage values. The different drivers of demand for open space are reflected in the provision target for each open space typology.



Recreational and social open space

The table below identifies open space typologies and associated provision metrics that primarily achieve recreational or social outcomes.

Typology	Description	Indicative amenities	Provision target
Pocket Park	<p>Provides 'door step' access to small amenity and socialising spaces in high density residential areas.</p> <p>Provides visual relief in intensively developed areas.</p> <p>New pocket parks are typically between 0.1 to 0.15 hectares.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> landscaping and gardens small lawn areas furniture specimen trees hard surface treatments areas for socialising and respite 	<p>Voluntarily provided at no capital cost and only on agreement by council. Alternatively pocket parks can be retained in private ownership.</p> <p>Located in urban centres or high density residential areas. Must be located on a public street and not an internalised space within a development block.</p> <p>Not to be located within 100m of other open space.</p> <p>In addition to requirements for neighbourhood parks.</p>
Neighbourhood Park	<p>Provides basic informal recreation and social opportunities within a short walk of surrounding residential areas.</p> <p>New neighbourhood parks are typically between 0.3 to 0.5 hectares.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> play space flat, unobstructed, kick-around space for informal games (30m by 30m) areas for socialising and respite landscaping specimen trees furniture 	<p>400m walk in high and medium density residential areas.</p> <p>600m walk in all other residential areas.</p> <p>Provides a range of different recreation opportunities between nearby neighbourhood and suburb parks.</p>
Suburb Park	<p>Provides a variety of informal recreation and social experiences for residents from across a suburb.</p> <p>Located in prominent locations and help form the identity of a suburb.</p> <p>Suburb parks will often accommodate organised sport facilities, such as sportsfields.</p> <p>New suburb parks are typically 3 to 5 hectares if providing for informal recreation uses only and up to 10 hectares or larger if also accommodating organised sport uses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> walking circuits or trails within the park multiple kick-around spaces socialising spaces, including picnic and barbeque facilities larger and more specialised informal recreation attractions, such as large playgrounds, skate parks, hard courts beaches and watercraft launching facilities organised sport facilities community event space car parking and toilets 	<p>1000m walk in high and medium density residential areas.</p> <p>1500m walk in all other residential areas.</p> <p>Provides a range of different recreation opportunities between nearby neighbourhood and suburb parks.</p> <p>Provides a neighbourhood park function for immediately neighbouring residential areas.</p>

Typology	Description	Indicative amenities	Provision target
Destination Park	<p>Provides for large numbers of visitors, who often visit for an extended period of time, and may travel from across Auckland.</p> <p>Many destination parks are tourist attractions.</p> <p>Typically they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be more than 30 hectares • accommodate specialised facilities • have significant or unique attributes. <p>Regional parks are considered to be destination parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large events space • networks of walking circuits and trails • destination and/or multiple playgrounds • specialised sport and recreation facilities • distinct natural, heritage or cultural features • multiple places for gathering and socialising such as barbeque and picnic facilities 	<p>A variety of destination parks should be located to serve each of the northern, western, central and southern areas of urban Auckland.</p> <p>Future provision will be determined through network planning, which will identify if and where new destination parks are required.</p> <p>See Figure 5 on page 34 for indicative provision guidance.</p> <p>Provides neighbourhood and suburb park functions for immediately neighbouring residential areas.</p>
Civic Space	<p>Provides spaces for meeting, socialising, play and events in Auckland's urban centres.</p> <p>Civic space encompasses a network of public space including squares, plazas, greens, streets and shared spaces.</p> <p>Civic spaces can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small (<0.1 hectares), typically providing respite, informal meeting and socialising opportunities • medium (0.15 to 0.2 hectares, typically capable of hosting small events) • large (0.3 to 0.4 hectares), typically capable of hosting medium scale events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • highly structured and developed urban spaces • predominately hard-surfaces • meeting and socialising opportunities • event space • landscaping and gardens • public artworks 	<p>The extent of the civic space network should reflect the scale of the urban centre.</p> <p>Civic space should be planned as part of an integrated network, which responds to the local character and needs of an urban centre.</p> <p>Local Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one small civic space. <p>Town Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one or more small civic spaces; and • one medium civic space. <p>Metropolitan Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one or more small civic spaces; • one or more medium civic spaces; and • one large civic space.
Connection and linkage open space	<p>Provides contiguous networks of open space that establish recreational, walking cycling and ecological connections, integrated with on-street connections.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trails • walkways • cycleways • seating • landscaping • boardwalks • native bush 	<p>The provision of open space for linkages and connections will depend on the particular characteristics of an area.</p> <p>Primarily provided along watercourses or the coast.</p> <p>Refer to the section <i>connect our parks and open spaces</i> for further provision guidance.</p>

Organised sport open space

Providing land for organised sport is a core function of the public open space network. It is envisaged that organised sport facilities will primarily be accommodated within suburb or destination parks.

Different approaches to the provision of open space for organised sport are required between new greenfield areas and the existing urban area.

In the existing urban area, opportunities to acquire new parks to accommodate large new sports facilities are limited due to the availability of suitable sites and the cost of urban land. Additional demand for organised sport will primarily need to be met by improving the capacity of existing facilities and parks by:

- investing in improved technology (for example, hybrid or artificial turf fields, lighting or sand carpet drainage)
- altering the use or allocation of existing open spaces to provide for changing demands
- maximising the use of all facilities (for example through scheduling and partnership).

Limited areas of new land may be acquired within the existing urban area for organised sport when opportunities arise, and where these are economically viable when compared to alternative ways of increasing capacity. Some land acquisition may be required within greenfield areas to accommodate spill-over demand from growth within the existing urban area.

There is more ability to determine the amount of open space needed when greenfield areas are planned for urbanisation. Sufficient suitable land should be provided in greenfield areas to meet the organised sport demands of the planned population of those areas. Figure 5 on page 34 provides an estimate of the amount of land required for organised sport in greenfield areas. Final requirements will be confirmed as growth and more detailed planning of these areas occurs.



Conservation open space

Auckland's open space network plays a vital role in conserving Auckland's unique cultural and environmental values. As the city grows and budgets allow, it is expected that areas of high conservation value will be included in the public open space network.

The Parks and Open Space Acquisition Policy guides council decisions on acquiring land primarily for conservation purposes.

Cultural and environmental values that may warrant protection (by inclusion in the public open space network) are site specific. They will typically be identified by overlays in the Auckland Unitary Plan with further assessment required as part of the development process.

Including areas of natural and cultural value within the public open space network may be one way of containing, remedying or mitigating the effects of a development. The cost of acquiring land solely for conservation purposes is excluded from development contribution charges. Therefore, acquisition of conservation open space in new developments will require budget to be allocated or the land to be provided at no capital cost to council.

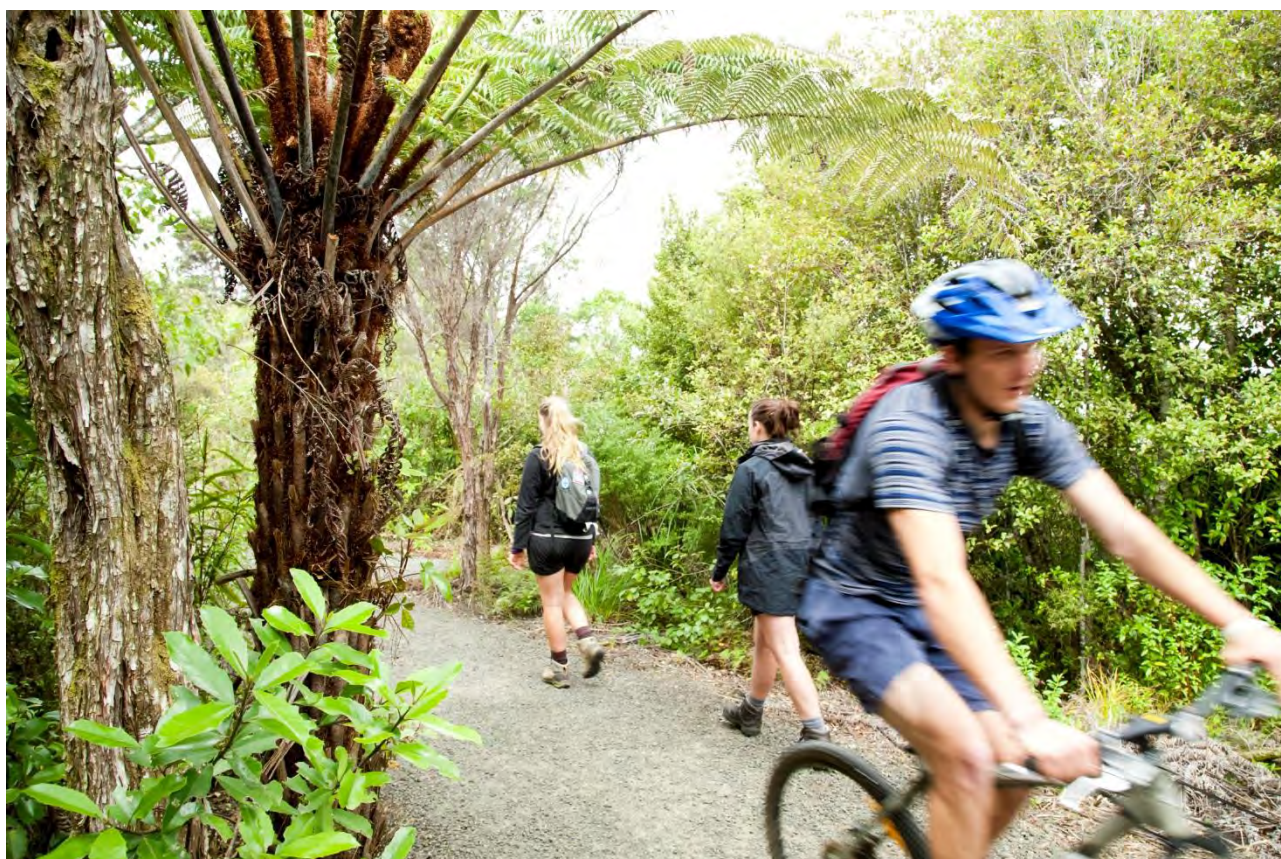
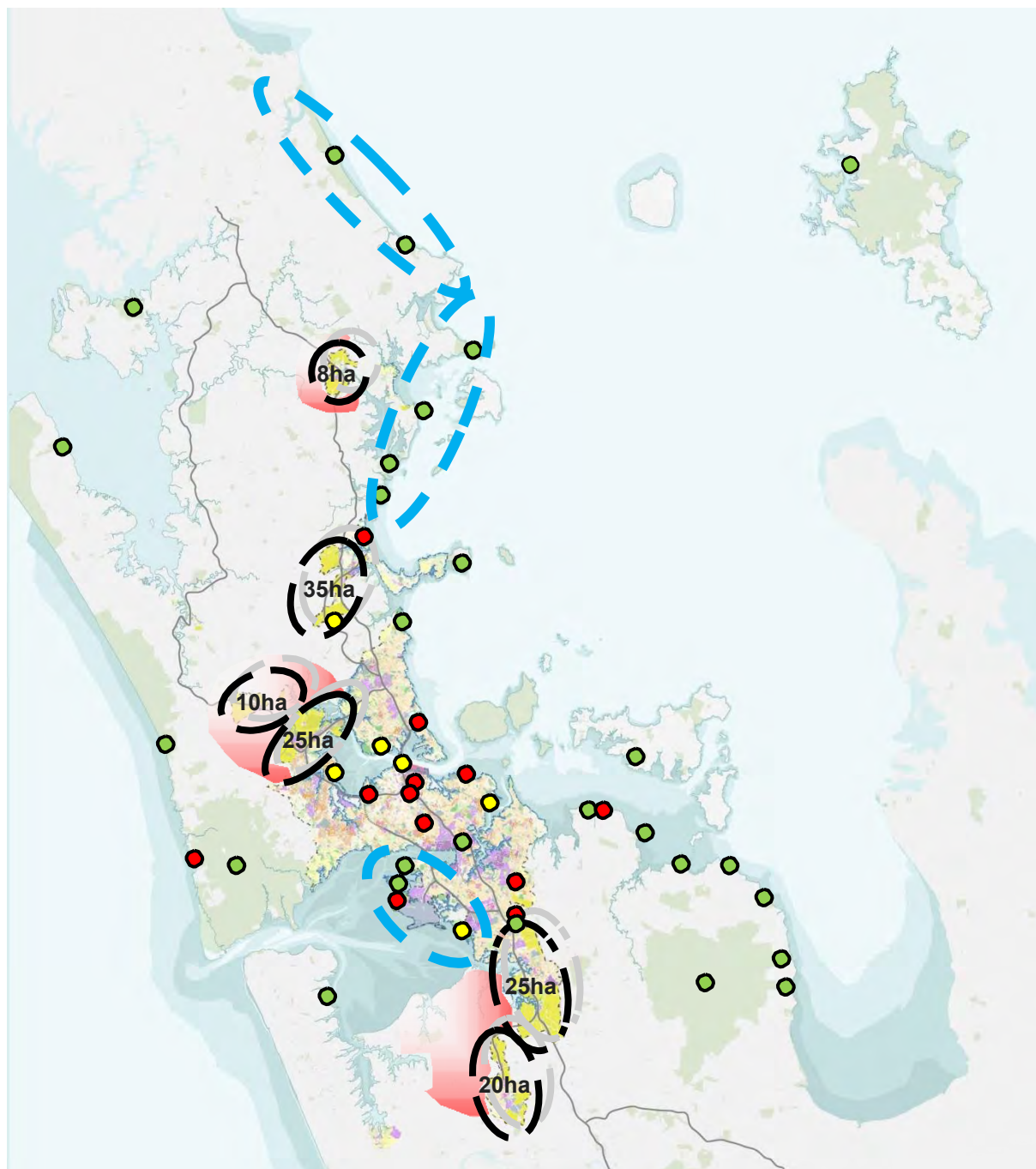


Figure 5: Destination park network and open space for sport and organised recreation.



Approximate area of open space for organised sport need to serve future urban areas



Possible areas for expansion of the regional park network



Investigate acquisition of new destination parks to serve future urban areas.



Existing destination park



Existing regional park network



Potential future destination park (upgrade of existing land in council ownership)

Applying the provision targets

Measuring walking distances

Walking distances are used for the provision targets for neighbourhood and suburb parks.

The actual walking distance a user would need to travel to access the open space should be used when assessing these targets. This requires identifying 'pedsheds' of all feasible walking routes using public streets, accessways and path networks through public spaces.

The quality of the journey should also be considered, including factors such as topography, footpath provision, and the ability to safely cross major roads, where controlled intersections and pedestrian bridges / underpasses are available.

If it is not possible to identify actual walking distances, such as in the early stages of planning for greenfield developments, the following radial distances should be used as proxies for walking distances.

		Walking distance	Radial distance proxy
Neighbourhood Park	High and medium density	400m	300m
	Low density	600m	450m
Suburb Park	High and medium density	1000m	750m
	Low density	1500m	1125m



The actual walking distance (pedshed) following public streets, paths and accessways should be used when assessing the distribution of open space. This diagram shows the properties that are located within the 'service area' as they are located within 600m walk of the neighbourhood park.



Neighbourhood park



600m walk from neighbourhood park



Properties within the 600m 'service area' of the neighbourhood park

Park size

The policy sets out an expected size range for new pocket, neighbourhood and suburb parks. While the footprint of activities or facilities to be accommodated will primarily determine the size of a park, the table below outlines other factors which should be considered when deciding whether a park at the smaller or larger end of the range is appropriate.

	Smaller 0.1 hectare pocket park 0.3 hectare neighbourhood park 3 hectare suburb park	Larger 0.15 hectare pocket park 0.5 hectare neighbourhood park 5–10 hectare suburb park
Proximity of similar open space	Next neighbourhood or suburb park is located closer than the walking distance target	Next neighbourhood or suburb park is located at or further than the walking distance target
Amenity of surrounding area	There is a variety of other open space (for example, green infrastructure, conservation) nearby, or the area has an attractive outlook (views, coastal aspect)	There is little other open space (for example, green infrastructure, conservation) nearby and the area does not have any notable outlook (views, coastal aspect)
Density of surrounding development	Small proportion of the park catchment is medium or high density	Large proportion of the park catchment is high or medium density
Usability	Adjoining land uses are compatible with park experiences, only small areas are required as buffer or transition space	Adjoining land uses adversely affect park experiences, significant areas are required as buffer or transition space
Topography	Topography is generally flat and can provide for a range of activities without modification	Contains areas of steep topography which limits the range of activities the park can accommodate without modification being required (retaining, re-contouring)
Contiguity	Parks adjoining other open space, such as conservation, connection or green infrastructure land	Discrete, stand-alone parks

Type and density of surrounding land use

The provision targets reflect differences in the type and density of land use in an area, as determined by zoning in the Auckland Unitary Plan. The terms used in the provision targets should be defined as per the table below.

Term	Auckland Unitary Plan zones	Applicable provision measures
High density residential areas	Metropolitan centre Town centre Local centre Mixed use Terraced housing and apartment buildings	Pocket parks by agreement Neighbourhood parks within 400m walk Suburb parks within 1000m walk
Medium density residential areas	Mixed housing urban Mixed housing suburban	No pocket parks Neighbourhood parks within 400m walk Suburb parks within 1000m walk
Low density residential areas	Single house Rural and coastal settlement	No pocket parks Neighbourhood parks within 600m walk Suburb parks within 1500m walk
Urban centres	Metropolitan centre Town centre Local centre Neighbourhood centre	Civic space

The provision targets for neighbourhood and suburb parks do not apply to the following Auckland Unitary Plan zones.

- **City centre** – open space provision in the city centre is primarily guided by the City Centre Masterplan.
- **General business, business park, light industry or heavy industry** – in these zones green infrastructure, conservation or connection open space may offer some recreational opportunities, however the provision of suburb and neighbourhood parks that primarily serve a recreational function is not anticipated.
- **Residential large lot and rural** – in these zones it is not expected residents will be able to walk to neighbourhood or suburb parks and will need to travel to nearby urban areas, such as rural towns, to access these parks.

Other providers of public open space

This policy primarily applies to the public open space network owned and managed by the council. Other open space that is held in perpetuity for public use and enjoyment should also be considered when assessing open space provision (for example, Department of Conservation land and Cornwall Park). School land is excluded from consideration of open space provision, as access is often restricted during school hours and long-term public access cannot be guaranteed.

Assessing open space in plan changes and structure plans

Open space is an important component of creating successful urban settlements and needs to be considered from the inception of new brownfield and greenfield developments. An open space assessment should accompany plan change applications for large greenfield and brownfield developments to demonstrate how the open space needs of the community will be met and implemented.

This assessment should typically address:

- alignment with council's open space strategies and policies, including the Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan and the network principles of the open space provision policy
- existing open space network in the area (function of existing reserves, distance to site)
- overall concept for the open space network
- plans identifying the proposed open space network, including typologies, approximate location, size of each open space
- assessment of the proposed network against the provision measures
- plans clearly demarcating public open space, esplanade reserve and green infrastructure areas that include the size and dimensions of each space and the extent of flood plains
- proposed funding and implementation mechanisms
- timeframes for implementation
- demonstration of concepts and feasibility for significant open spaces, or in areas subject to constraints (steep topography, encumbrances, hazards).

Funding of open space

The provision policy assists with quantifying future open space requirements and the investment needed to meet Auckland's needs in response to growth.

The council seeks to recover from those undertaking development a fair, equitable, and proportionate contribution towards the regional investment in open space. This primarily occurs through the use of development contribution charges.

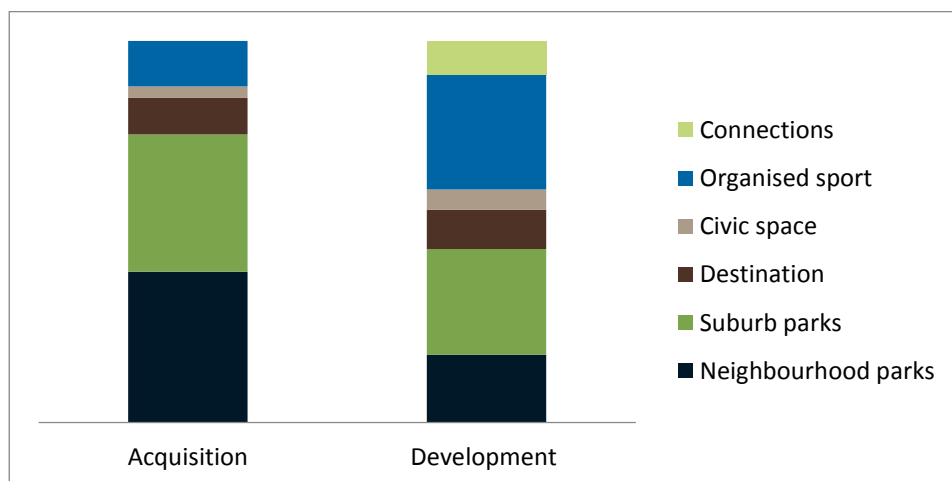
The provision policy clearly sets out the types of open space investments the council will make and the costs it will recover through development contributions. Development contributions fund the acquisition and development of a broad range of open spaces that meet the needs of the growing community.

Council's ability to acquire any specific area of land for open space, at any given time, is dependent on:

- the budget available
- the level of committed spend against the available budget
- the level of provision sought and the price of land.

While council makes every effort to provide sufficient budget to enable the provision policy to be progressively implemented, implementation is always subject to budget being available.

Figure 6: Indicative split of investment requirements in new greenfield areas to acquire and develop the range of open spaces identified in the policy.



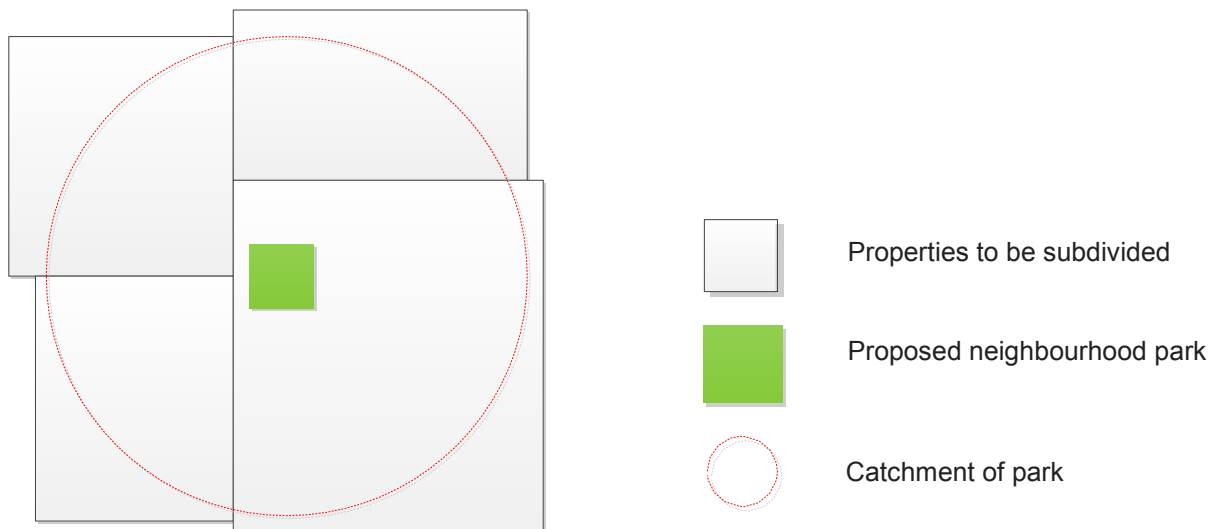
The following are excluded from open space development contributions:

- berms
- pocket parks
- conservation open space
- stormwater areas
- esplanade reserves / strips and riparian open space
- margins between roads and stormwater management areas or riparian open space.

The amount of investment in open space that development contributions can fund depends on the need for the open space and who will use the it.

Many types of open spaces serve a community beyond a single development or subdivision. To equitably share the costs of providing new open space across those who cause and benefit from new investment in open space, development contributions are generally required in cash rather than land. This allows landowners to be fairly recompensed for accommodating a park and ensures sufficient funding is available to provide for larger / specialised open spaces (such as sports parks) that are unlikely to be acquired within many subdivision proposals due to their scale. In larger developments with a single landowner, entering into an infrastructure funding agreement may be preferable to using development contributions.

Figure 7: The catchment for a park in one development can cover neighbouring developments in the area.



The diagram above illustrates a typical scenario where one neighbourhood park serves four neighbouring subdivisions. By taking development contributions in cash from all four subdivisions, the owner of the property on which the park is located can be fairly compensated. The cost of providing the neighbourhood park is equitably shared among the developments causing the need for the park in the area and those that benefit from the investment.



Additional open space provision

A successful open space network responds to local diversity. It is expected that variation in the provision of open space will occur across Auckland, due to factors such as the geography of a site or product differentiation between developments. The provision policy establishes a base level of provision for a quality open space network. Where an increase in the level or type of provision is proposed that has additional cost implications, then alternative funding mechanisms will be required to meet the additional costs incurred. These could include:

- an area specific ‘ring-fenced’ development contribution charge
- an area specific targeted rate
- an infrastructure funding agreement
- gifting of land for development of open space
- developers voluntarily make capital or operational funding allocations for open space development or maintenance.

The appropriateness of different funding mechanisms is context specific and will need to be agreed between the council and developers early in the development process.

Development of new parks

Local boards are responsible for approving the design and development of new local parks. An infrastructure funding agreement, alternative funding mechanism, or other commercial arrangement would need to be agreed with the council if a developer intends to undertake the development of a new park. Developers are encouraged to confirm with council early in the development process if they desire to develop new parks.

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