

RAUTAKI MŌ NGĀ PAPA
RĒHIA ME NGĀ WĀHI WĀTEA

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY

2021 – 51 *Draft*



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OUR VISION

Our parks and open spaces network meets the recreation needs of our community and protects our natural and cultural heritage.



OUR STRATEGY IN A NUTSHELL

VISION

Our parks and open spaces network meets the future recreation needs of our community and protects our natural and cultural heritage



PRINCIPLES

Maintain and enhance the parks & open spaces network

Plan ahead

Consider our community

Protect and enhance our heritage

Informed decision-making

Working with others



STRATEGIC GOALS

Tangata Whenua have meaningful opportunities to input into how our parks and open spaces are planned, developed and managed

Our parks and open spaces meet the diverse and changing needs of our communities and visitors

Our parks and open spaces are valued and cared for

Our parks and open spaces enable our community to be active and healthy

Our parks and open spaces protect and celebrate our cultural heritage and identity

Our natural heritage is understood, protected and enhanced

Our parks and open spaces are enhanced by community partnerships



STRATEGIC APPROACHES & PLACE-BASED STRATEGIES



ACTIONS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLES

Maintain and enhance the parks & open spaces network	Plan ahead	Consider our community	Protect and enhance our heritage	Informed decision-making	Working with others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a holistic, network-based approach to management • Develop & maintain parks and open spaces appropriately for their purpose • Enhance the network to meet changing community needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for the future • Monitor and respond to trends • Effective planning • Adaptable to change • Consider stakeholder, user and visitor needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider community needs • Consider wider community benefits • Provide opportunities for community involvement where practicable • Recognise stories and intangible values associated with parks and spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance our natural heritage • Protect and enhance our cultural-historical heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our staff are appropriately trained and developed • We keep up with industry good practice • We monitor trends that impact on parks and open spaces • We use reliable data to aid decision-making • We apply sound judgement • We consider the relevant benefits, costs, risks, rewards of our actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have good working relationships with Tangata Whenua, other agencies, landowners, and community groups • We work with others to achieve efficiencies and synergies • We support volunteer programmes and projects that are sustainable, achievable, and align with our vision and strategic priorities

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy sets a long-term vision for our parks and open spaces network.

It guides decision-making about the provision, development and management of parks and open spaces, to ensure we have the right parks and open spaces, in the right locations, managed in the right way, to meet the needs of our communities. The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy guides and informs the way we do things.

STRATEGIC VISION FOR PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Provision	Development	Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of parks or open spaces do we need? • How many do we need? • Where should they be? • How will we get them? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should they look like? • What should they have? • How should it be done? • When should it be done? • Who should do it? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should we look after them? • What are the priorities? • Who does what? • How do we fund it?

Over the next 30 years we plan to work on:

- Providing the right parks and open spaces in the right places
- Better connections between parks and open spaces
- Improving our current parks and open spaces
- Improving our current playgrounds and providing more where needed
- Providing a broad range of tracks and trails for different abilities
- Ensuring our town centres are attractive and vibrant
- Improving our working relationships with Tangata Whenua
- Working smarter with other agencies and volunteer groups
- Telling our local stories better at our parks
- Looking after our natural areas better

Chapters 10 to 13 explain in more detail how we plan to do this.

While it does identify potential projects and programmes as means to achieve our goals it is not intended to be a detailed project plan or development plan.

1 INTRODUCTION

In 2013 we adopted our first Open Spaces Strategy after consultation with our community. The Strategy set a long-term vision for the provision, development and management of the Parks and Open Spaces network provided by Matamata-Piako District Council over a 20 year period.

A few things have changed since then and it is time to review the strategy in light of things like:

- Population changes
- Growth
- Legislation and policy changes
- Sport, recreation, tourism and environmental management trends
- Community expectations and aspirations.

We have more recent census data and population projects available as well as greater clarity on the range and scale of residential developments. Applying the strategy over more than seven years also highlighted a few opportunities for improvement/refinement. We have also considered how the strategy might address Tangata Whenua aspirations and key issues raised by our community.

Surveys and workshops in 2020 identified a number of broad issues and opportunities. A tangata whenua working party was established and provided input into the strategy from a Māori perspective. When drafting the revised strategy, we considered the main issues identified in the feedback from the surveys, stakeholder workshops and mana whenua hui.

The Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was approved for public consultation on 10 March 2021. We are now seeking feedback on the draft strategy.



2 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

2.1 WHAT DO WE MEAN BY 'PARKS AND OPEN SPACES'?

This Strategy is primarily concerned with Parks and Open Spaces owned or managed by Matamata-Piako District Council.

For the purpose of this strategy, Parks and Open Spaces includes:

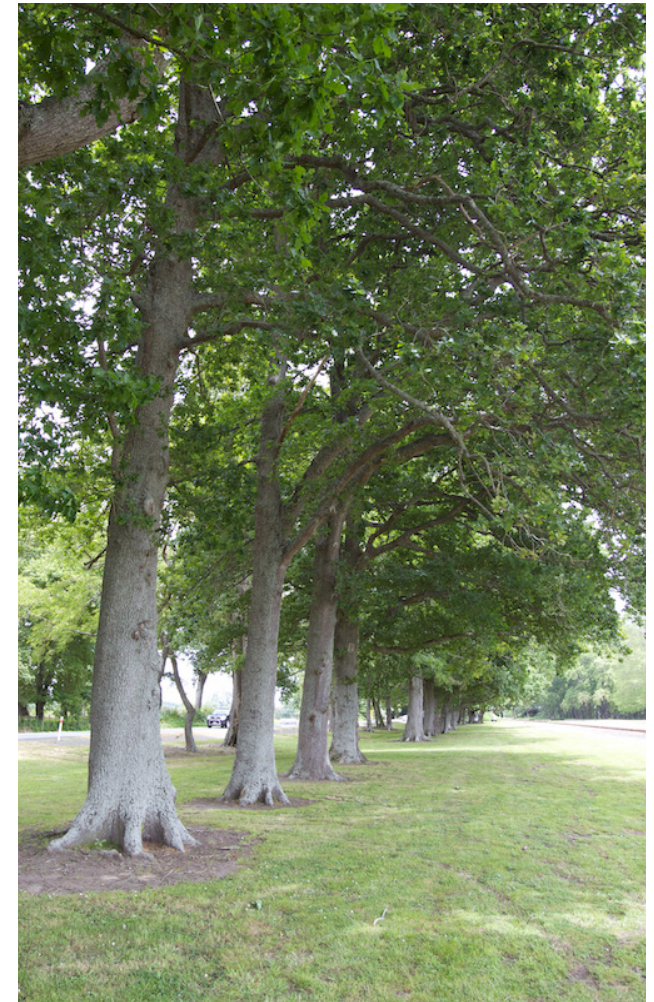
- Parks & Reserves
- Sports fields
- Playgrounds
- Walking and tramping tracks
- Cycle and mountain bike trails
- Beautification areas
- Town centre gardens and street furniture

2.2 WHY ARE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES IMPORTANT?

Parks and Open Spaces provide many social, health, economic, and environmental benefits.

Among other benefits, they:

- provide spaces for people of all ages to play, exercise, socialise or relax
- contribute to physical and mental health
- protect natural and historical heritage
- provide venues for community events
- celebrate local identity
- break up the built environment in urban and residential areas
- provide shade and shelter
- beautify of local communities
- provide habitat for wildlife
- serve as green corridors for the movement of native animals and plants
- provide linkages between communities
- offer safe alternative transport corridors for walking and cycling
- mitigate urban heating and flooding
- improve air and water quality



2.3 WHAT WE CURRENTLY PROVIDE

Matamata-Piako District Council manages a variety of Parks and Open Spaces ranging from highly developed urban parks to relatively undeveloped natural bush areas. The following graphics provide a snapshot of our current portfolio. More detail is available in our Parks and Open Spaces Asset Management Plan.

19
Community Parks
(13 ha)



4
Heritage Parks
(4.6 ha)



16
Sports & Recreation
Parks (72 ha)



9
Nature Parks
(203 ha)



80
Linkage Parks
(95 ha)



24
Amenity Parks
(5 ha)



1
Outdoor Adventure
Parks (136 ha)



21 km
Walking &
Tramping Tracks



46 km
Mountain
Bike Trails



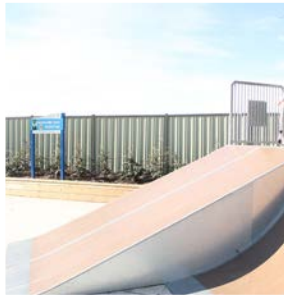
57 km
Cycle Trails

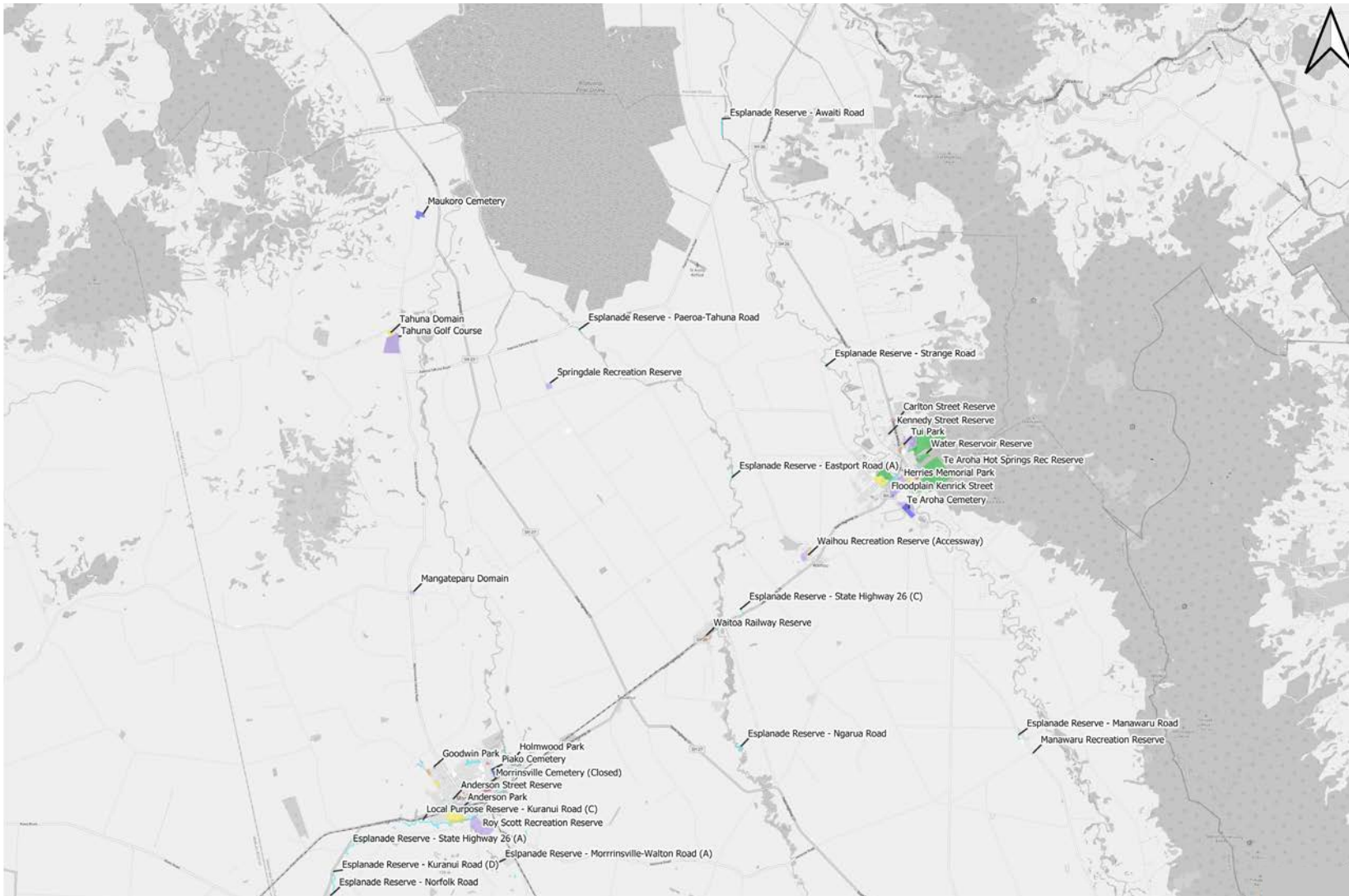


Playgrounds



Skate Parks





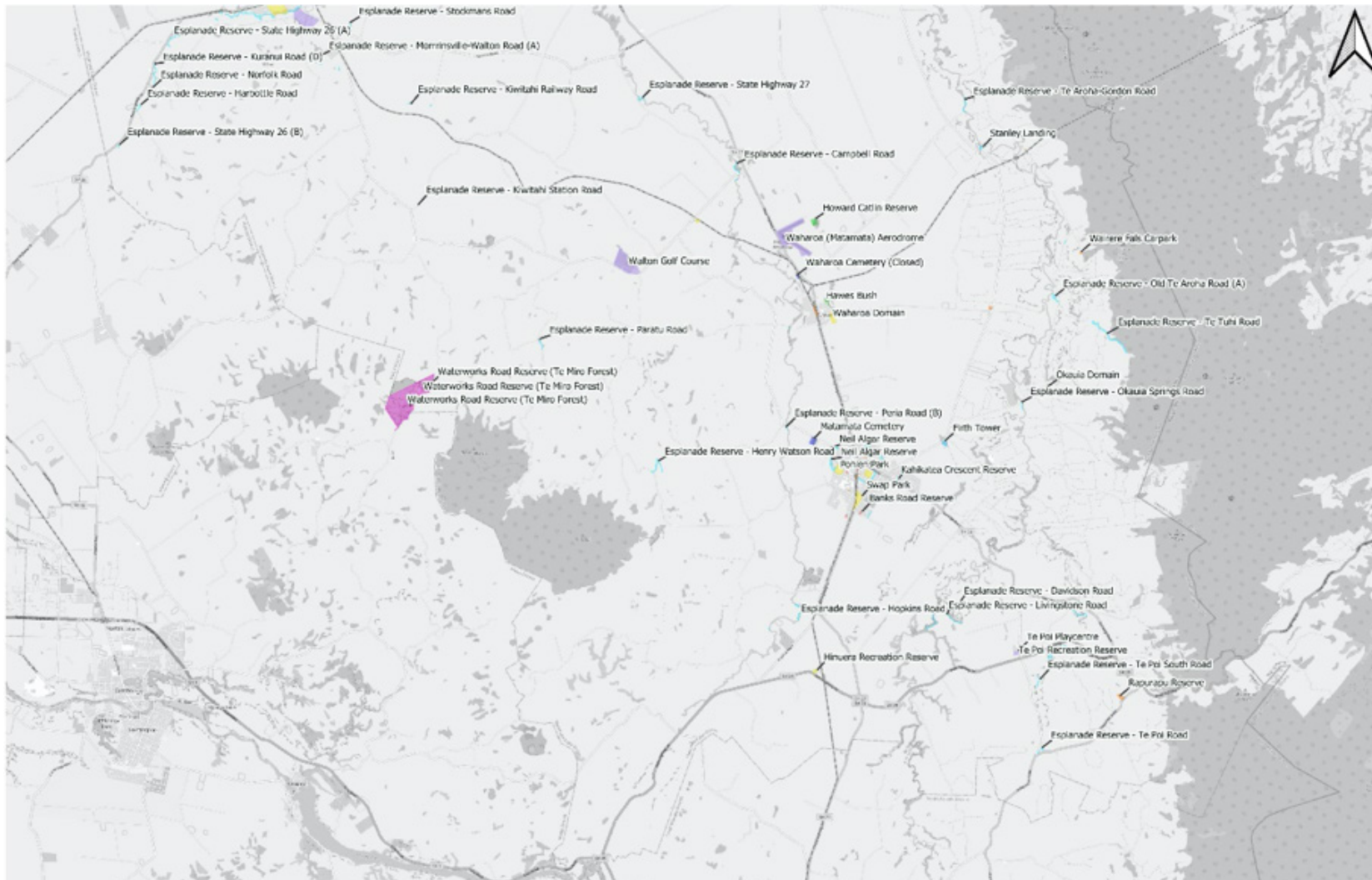
Map Legend



Reserve Category

- AMENITY
- CEMETERY
- LINKAGE - RECREATION / ECOLOGICAL
- NATURAL
- COMMUNITY 1
- COMMUNITY 2
- SPORT AND RECREATION
- HISTORICAL
- OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
- SPECIALIST / LEASED

Distribution of our current parks network (North)



Map Legend



Reserve Category

- AMENITY
- CEMETERY
- LINKAGE - RECREATION / ECOLOGICAL
- NATURAL
- COMMUNITY 1
- COMMUNITY 2
- SPORT AND RECREATION
- HISTORICAL
- OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
- SPECIALIST / LEASED

Distribution of our current parks network (South)

2.4 OTHER PROVIDERS

Council is not the only provider or manager of parks and open spaces in our district. We acknowledge the contributions of others:

- The Department of Conservation administers the Kaimai-Mamaku Conservation Area as well as a number of smaller reserves and marginal strips. Several Council parks and tracks adjoin the conservation estate. A coordinated approach to planning and managing these areas is therefore desirable
- Land in Māori ownership also makes a significant contribution to open space. This includes conservation land, wāhi tapu sites, marae and urupa. We acknowledge the endeavours of Tangata Whenua to provide areas for their people to meet their cultural, social and recreation needs
- Parks owned by private trusts include Bedford Park in Matamata and Campbell Park in Morrinsville which both provide significant facilities for community use
- Education providers contribute to the open space network through the local provision of sportfields and playgrounds. This is particularly important in smaller, rural settlements
- Waikato Regional Council works with landowners and community groups to improve biodiversity
- Fish and Game allows part of the Wetlands Walk to cross over land they own
- QEII National Trust works with private landowners to protect and enhance areas of natural vegetation or scenic beauty
- The Hauraki Rail Trail Trust manages more than 50 km of off road cycleway within our district
- Many private landowners protect and enhance the environment through riparian planting or protecting trees on their property. Some also provide public access to open spaces on their land



3 THE PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The Strategy sets a long-term vision for our parks and open spaces network. It guides decision-making about the provision, development and management of parks and open spaces, to ensure we have the right parks and open spaces, in the right locations, managed in the right way, to meet the needs of our communities.

We want to ensure that, long term, we are:

- Providing and protecting the right spaces in the right places for sport and recreation
- Protecting and enhancing significant environmental, cultural and historical spaces
- Planning, designing and managing our parks and open spaces well
- More strategic and purposeful about things like land acquisitions and disposals, partnerships and volunteer programmes
- Enabling our communities to be take pride in our parks and open spaces.

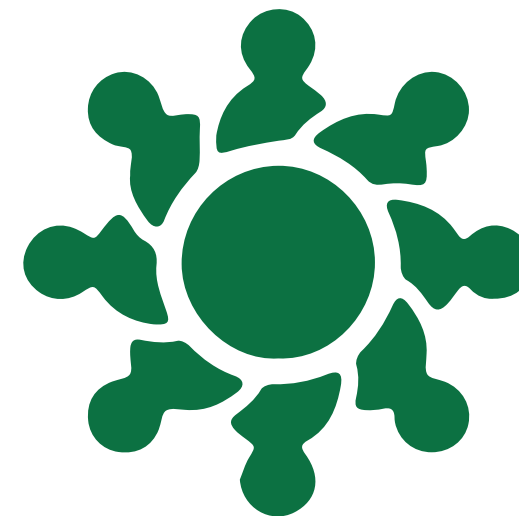
STRATEGIC VISION FOR PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Provision	Development	Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of parks or open spaces do we need? • How many do we need? • Where should they be? • How will we get them? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should they look like? • What should they have? • How should it be done? • When should it be done? • Who should do it? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should we look after them? • What are the priorities? • Who does what? • How do we fund it?

4 COUNCIL'S ROLE

Under the Local Government Act 2002, the role of a territorial authority includes promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and future.

While the Local Government Act does not specifically require Council to provide parks and open spaces, these areas contribute significantly towards social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being, so it makes sense for Council to be involved in these activities.



SOCIAL WELL-BEING	ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING	CULTURAL WELL-BEING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical & mental health benefits of exercise and just being in the outdoors • Places to play • Events • Volunteering opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive, vibrant towns attract and retain residents and businesses • Tourism • Property values • Economic benefits of improved social and environmental outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Wildlife habitat • Landscape protection • Water quality • Air quality • Pollution reduction • Shade • Reduce urban heat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of important historic & cultural sites • Storytelling opportunities • Learning opportunities • Venues for commemoration and celebration

Council has a number of roles relating to parks and open spaces:

ROLE	WHAT WE DO & WHY
Provider	We provide, develop, and maintain a wide range of parks and open spaces to cater for different needs. Council involvement helps keep parks and open spaces accessible and affordable for our communities
Planner	We plan for the future to ensure that our parks and open spaces network continues to meet the needs of our communities now and in the future
Protector	We protect special places for the community. Sometimes we need to use legal enforcement tools to ensure that our parks and open spaces are protected
Partner	We do not have to provide everything ourselves. We often partner with others to provide or maintain parks and open spaces to meet community needs
Advocate	We can advocate on behalf of our community. This includes making submissions on central and regional government proposals that affect our communities
Supporter	We provide support to a range of community groups and initiatives. This has included providing technical support to volunteer groups, financial support (grants), or providing letters of support to community groups seeking funding from external funding agencies.

5 TANGATA WHENUA

Council acknowledges the special relationship that Tangata Whenua have with the land. In the traditional Māori worldview, the natural and spiritual worlds are intertwined and the health of landscapes, plants and animals is integral to cultural wellbeing. It is acknowledged that ancestral landscapes require protection and Tangata Whenua need to continue to experience relationships with their whakapapa and traditions within the environment.

As Treaty Partners, Tangata Whenua will have meaningful opportunities to input into how our parks and open spaces are planned, developed, and managed.

There are opportunities for Tangata Whenua to express kaitiakitanga [guardianship] over the land including the restoration, protection and enhancement of natural areas, biodiversity and cultural heritage.



6 CONTEXT

Council does not operate in isolation. We are affected by legislation, central government policy, as well as regional strategies and policies.

6.1 LEGISLATION

The main pieces of legislation affecting the provision and/or management of parks and open spaces include:

- Reserves Act 1977
- Local Government Act 2002
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Pouhere Taonga Heritage New Zealand Act 2014
- Conservation Act 1987
- Biosecurity Act 1993
- Public Works Act 1981

There are a number of other Acts and Regulations that may apply in specific circumstances. More detail is available in the Parks and Open Spaces Asset Management Plan.

6.2 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES, POLICIES, PLANS, & PROGRAMMES

Our Parks and Open Spaces Strategy aligns with, or gives effect to, several national and regional initiatives.

National:

- Biodiversity Strategy
- Transport Strategy
- Planning Standards
- Conservation Policy
- NZ Cycle Trail

Regional:

- Sport Strategy
- Tourism Opportunities Plan
- Biodiversity Strategy
- Pest Management Strategy
- Cycling Strategy

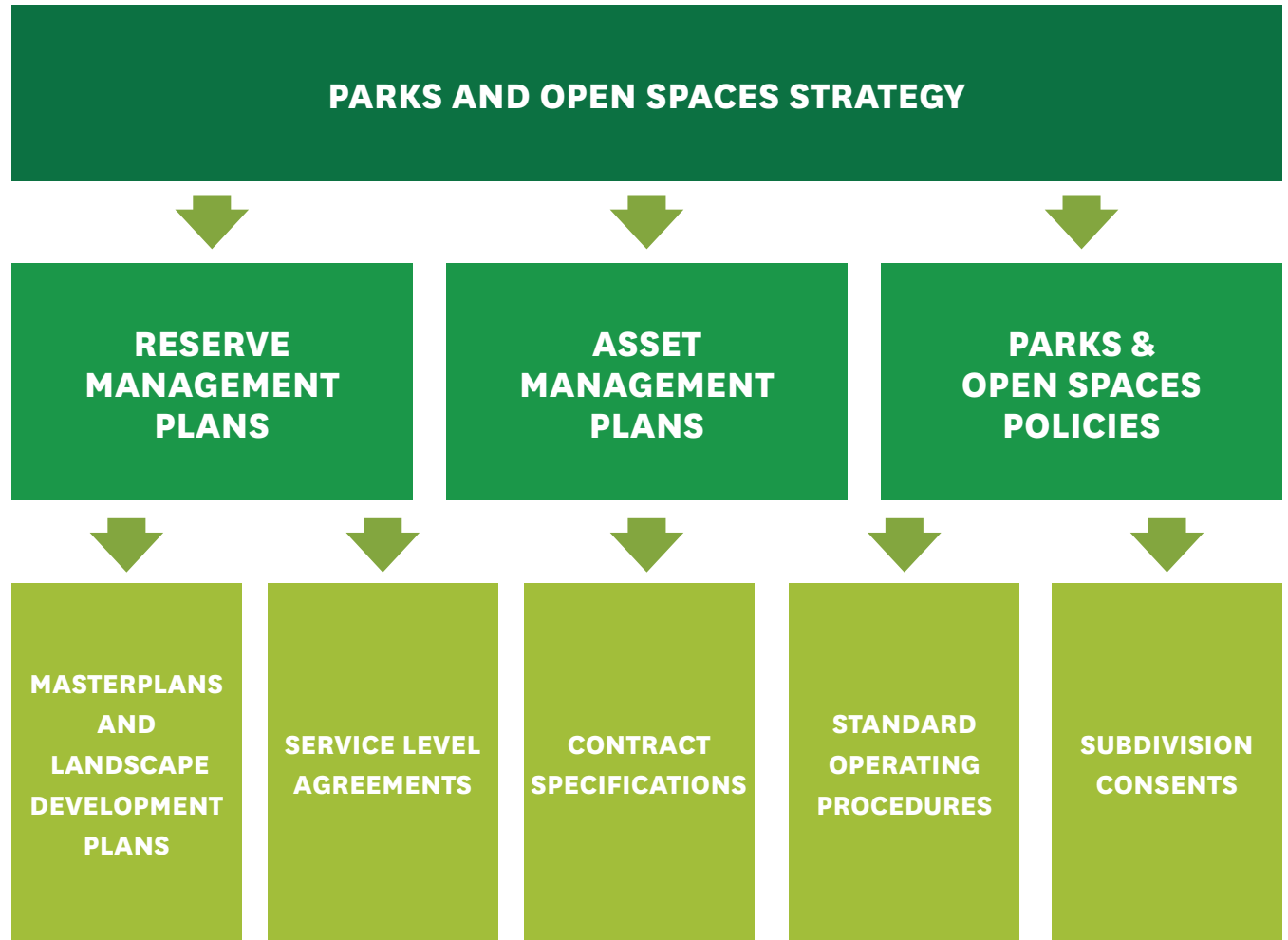


6.3 LINKS WITH OTHER COUNCIL STRATEGIES, POLICIES & PLANS

The Parks & Open Spaces Strategy informs various other Council policies and plans affecting parks and open spaces. The Strategy broadly identifies various ways to help achieve our long term vision. More detailed policies and plans, dealing with specific issues or locations, will help give effect to the Strategy. New policies and plans affecting parks and open spaces need to align with the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy.

6.3.1 LONG TERM PLAN

The Parks & Open Spaces Strategy does not allocate funding towards specific projects or programmes – this is done through the Long Term Plan (LTP). The Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to develop an LTP. An LTP outlines the main things Council plans to do over the next ten years, when it plans to do them and how it those activities will be funded. When projects or programmes are to occur and how they will be funded has an effect on rates.



The Strategy guides related policies and plans and subordinate documents

6.3.2 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

An asset management plan (AMP) aims to ensure that assets are provided, maintained, upgraded or replaced, as required, to provide an appropriate level of service now and in the future. The AMP covers a 30 year period and identifies projects and programmes to create new assets where required, upgrade or replace existing assets, or rationalise assets that are no longer required.

The Parks & Open Spaces Strategy informs the AMP by outlining the long term vision for the and identifying strategic issues. The Strategy may, for example, indicate that more parks and playgrounds will be needed in a particular area over the next 30 years. The AMP is a more detailed, tactical document that looks at options and potential costs for projects and programmes to achieve the strategic outcomes. It may for example take the need for more parks and playgrounds and break it down into a number of discrete projects, with cost estimates and recommend when they should occur. This in turn feeds into the LTP process for Council to consider in terms of priorities and funding.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY (POSS)

- Long term vision (30 years)
 - Guiding Principles
- Strategic Moves & Priorities



PARKS & OPEN SPACES ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP)

- Long term view (30 years)
 - Ensure P&OS assets can provide appropriate levels of service
- Projects and programmes to achieve strategic outcomes (30 years)
- Inform LTP process of relative priorities, estimated costs (10 years)



LONG TERM PLAN (LTP)

- Determine all of Council's priorities (10 years)
 - Allocates funding (10 years)

6.3.3 RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Reserves Act 1977 provides for the preservation and management of reserves for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. The Act requires the development of reserve management plans (RMP) to establish the desired mix of use and protection for reserves and to provide the community with certainty about the function and management of each reserve. The requirement to develop RMPs apply to most but not all classes of Reserve held under the Reserves Act.

There is no legal obligation to develop management plans for land not held as Reserves under the Reserves Act (i.e. areas defined as Parks by the Local Government Act 2002) but Council may develop management plans for such areas if it wishes to.

A suite of reserve management plans were adopted between 2006 and 2009. Our General Policies Reserve Management Plan was the first to be reviewed and came into effect on 1 July 2019. The General Policies are common to all parks and reserves administered by MPDC regardless of whether the land is held under the Reserves Act or not.

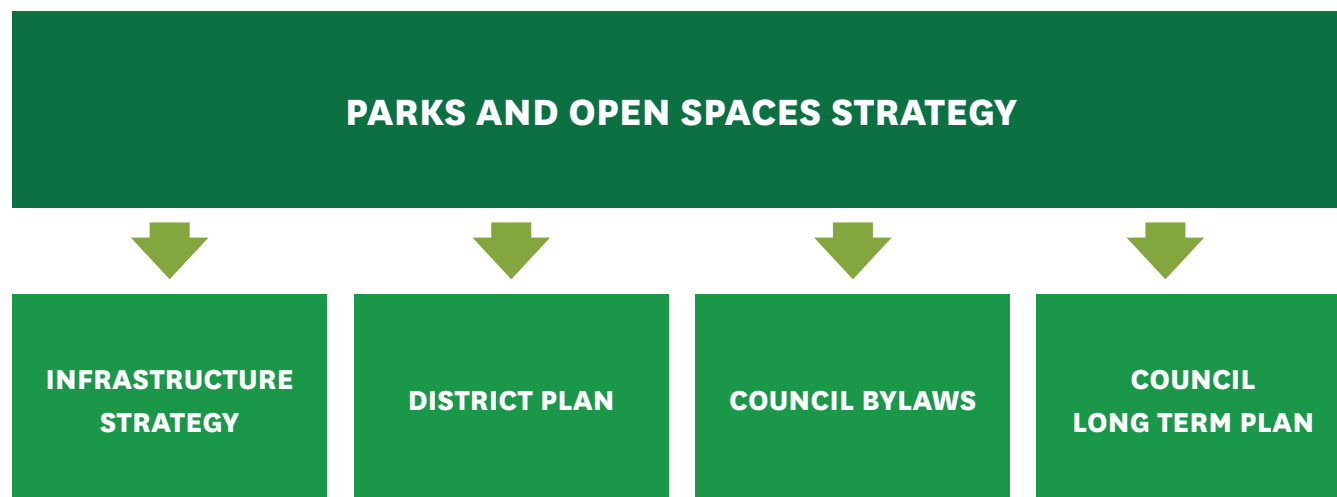
There are also a few site-specific or category-specific RMPs that deal with specific issues in more detail. The RMP for Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome is currently being reviewed. We intended reviewing the remaining RMPs over the next few years.

6.3.4 DISTRICT PLAN

The District Plan is a statutory document under the Resource Management Act 1991. The Plan regulates land use and development in our District.

The Strategy has an important role to play when it comes to subdivisions - to help ensure that any parks and open spaces acquired from subdivisions are appropriate to our needs.

Council must keep the District Plan under review to ensure it remains relevant. The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy can help inform reviews of the District Plan about things like Esplanade Reserves and Esplanade Strips, urban design principles, future zoning changes, and help identify future Designation requirements (e.g. future walkways). It can also inform reviews of the Development Manual.



The Strategy informs other Council documents

6.3.5 BYLAWS

The Local Government Act 2002 empowers Council to make bylaws. Bylaws are a tool that Council uses to regulate behaviour. Matters such as dog control or conduct in public places are often addressed through bylaws. The Strategy should inform reviews of bylaws that affect parks and open spaces.

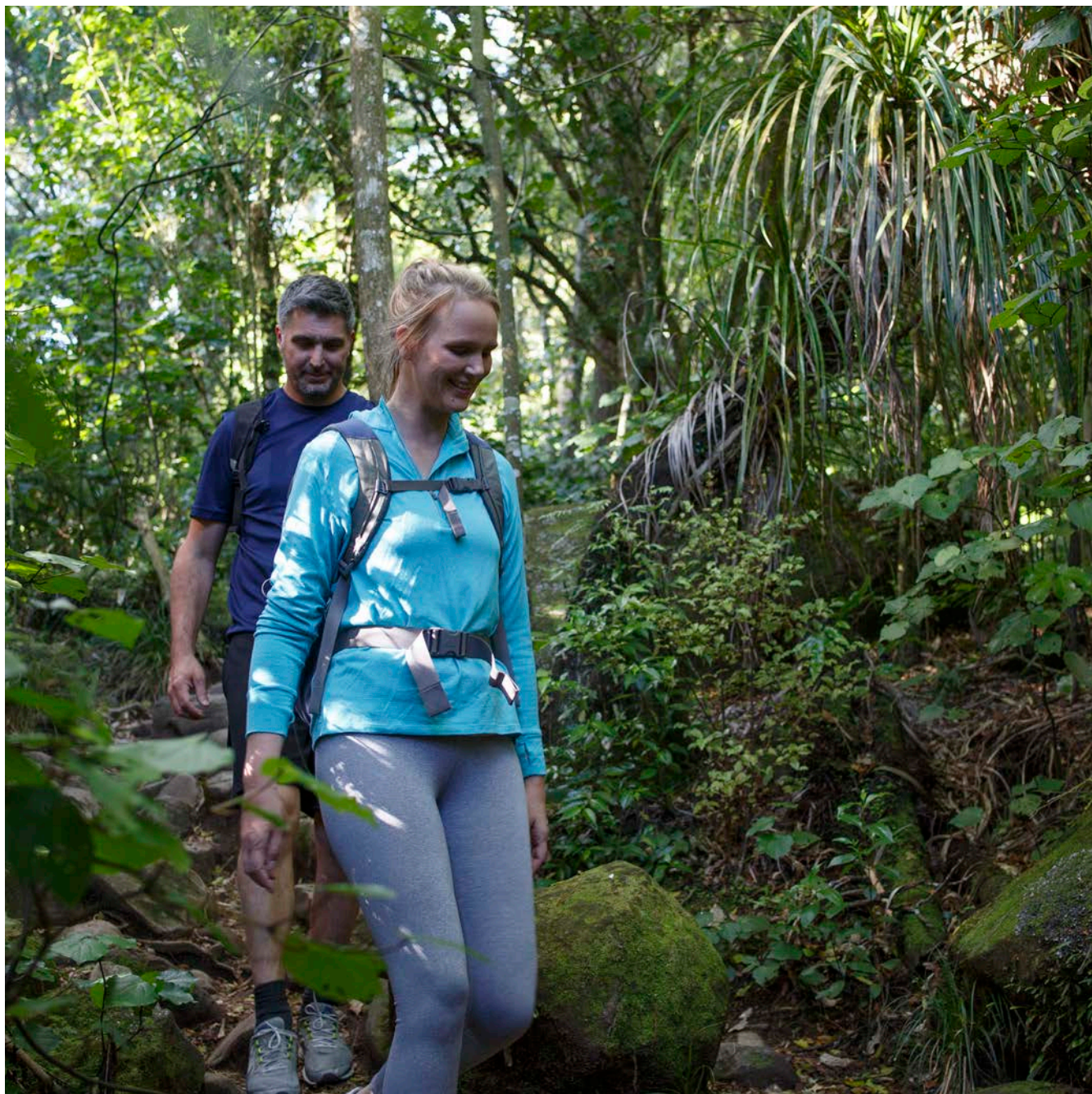
6.4 HOW WE USE IT

The Parks & Open Spaces strategy informs a number of other Council strategies, policies and plans (see 6.3 above).

It is also a decision-making tool.

The Strategy guides our decision-making on land acquisition and disposal. A more detailed acquisition policy will guide acquisitions from subdivisions and will deal with details like valuation methodologies and dispute resolution processes.

We are often approached by groups or individuals who want Council approval or funding for things they would like to see at a park or open space. Proposals are assessed against the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy to see if they align with our vision and objectives. This helps us to decide which projects or programmes we should be supporting and to assign relative priorities.

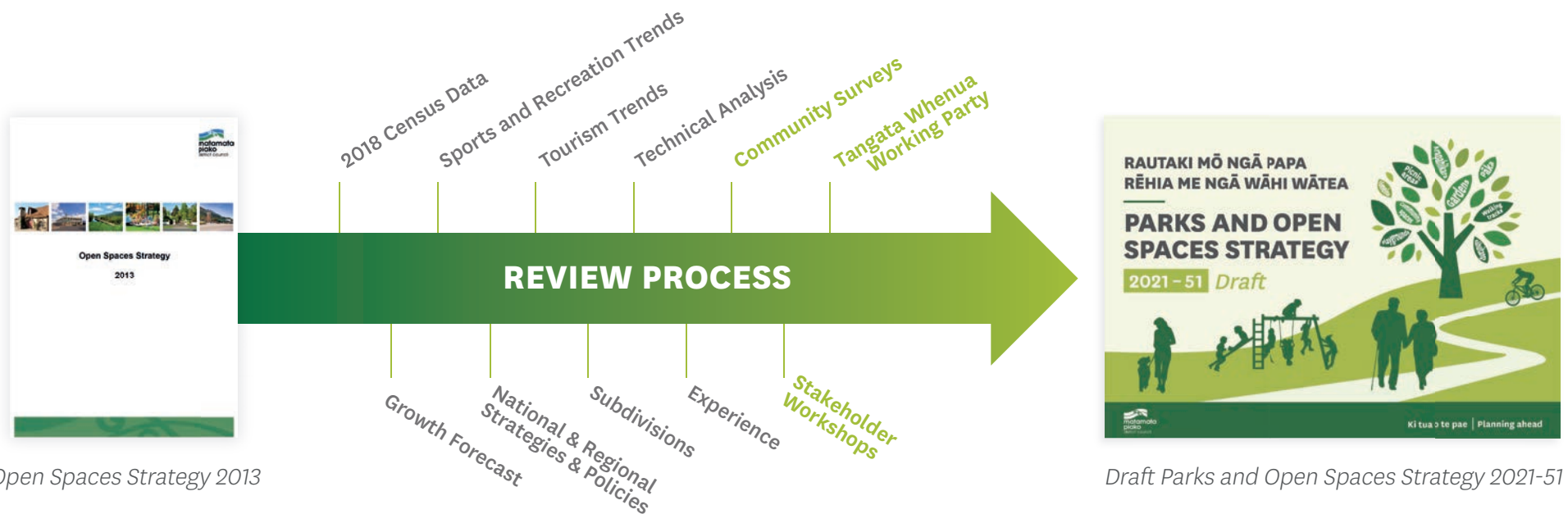


7 HOW WE DEVELOPED THE STRATEGY

We adopted an Open Space Strategy in 2013 which was a good foundation to build on.

We reviewed our 2013 strategy in light of:

- Latest census data (2018) and population forecast (2020)
- Sport and recreation trends
- Tourism trends
- National and regional strategies, policies, and plans
- Development trends (incl. location and timing of subdivisions)
- Tangata Whenua aspirations
- Community feedback
- Experience gained in applying the 2013 Strategy



Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021-51

We decided to include tracks and trails, street gardens and street furniture in the revised strategy. We also thought playgrounds needed to be considered in more detail than before. We researched and analysed various trends and data to help us draft the revised strategy from a technical perspective.

We started consulting with our communities early to help us develop and refine our draft strategy. A community survey in July 2020 received almost 200 responses and identified a number of broad issues and opportunities. A second survey, in

September 2020, asked more specific questions about issues raised in the first survey to help clarify and prioritise some of the issues raised. Stakeholder workshops were held in each of the three main towns. A Tangata Whenua working party provided input into the strategy from a Māori perspective. When drafting the revised strategy, we considered the main issues from the technical analyses, surveys, stakeholder workshops, and working party hui. The draft strategy is now available for further consultation.



Open Spaces Strategy 2013

Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021-51

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021-51

8 CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

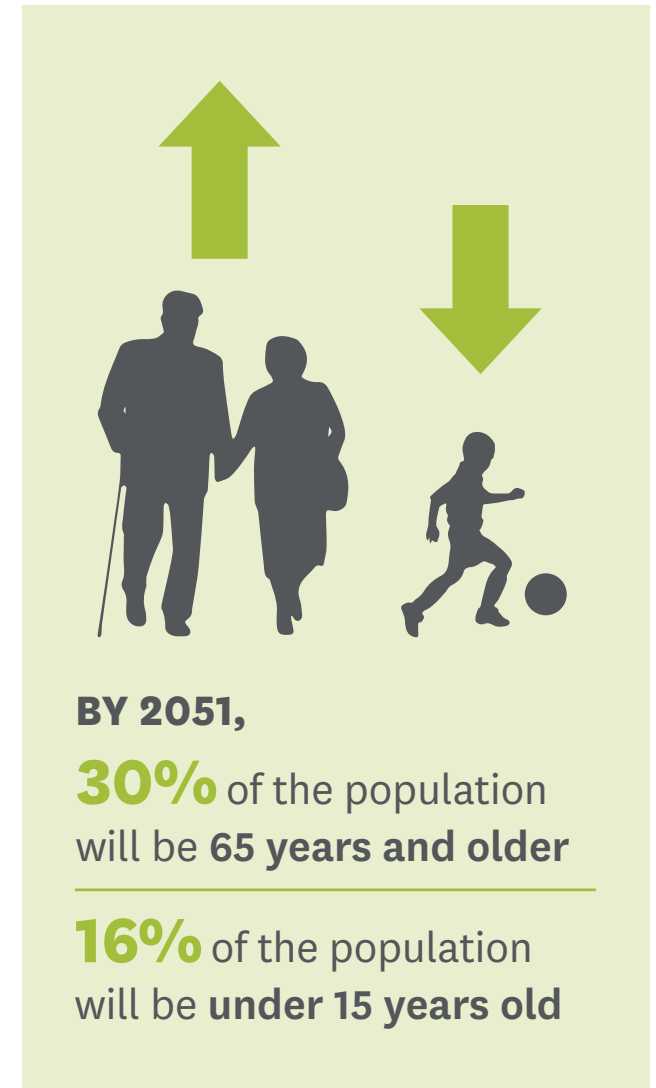
There are several challenges and opportunities affecting the future provision and management of parks and open spaces. The first part of this section will discuss trends affecting parks and open spaces in general.

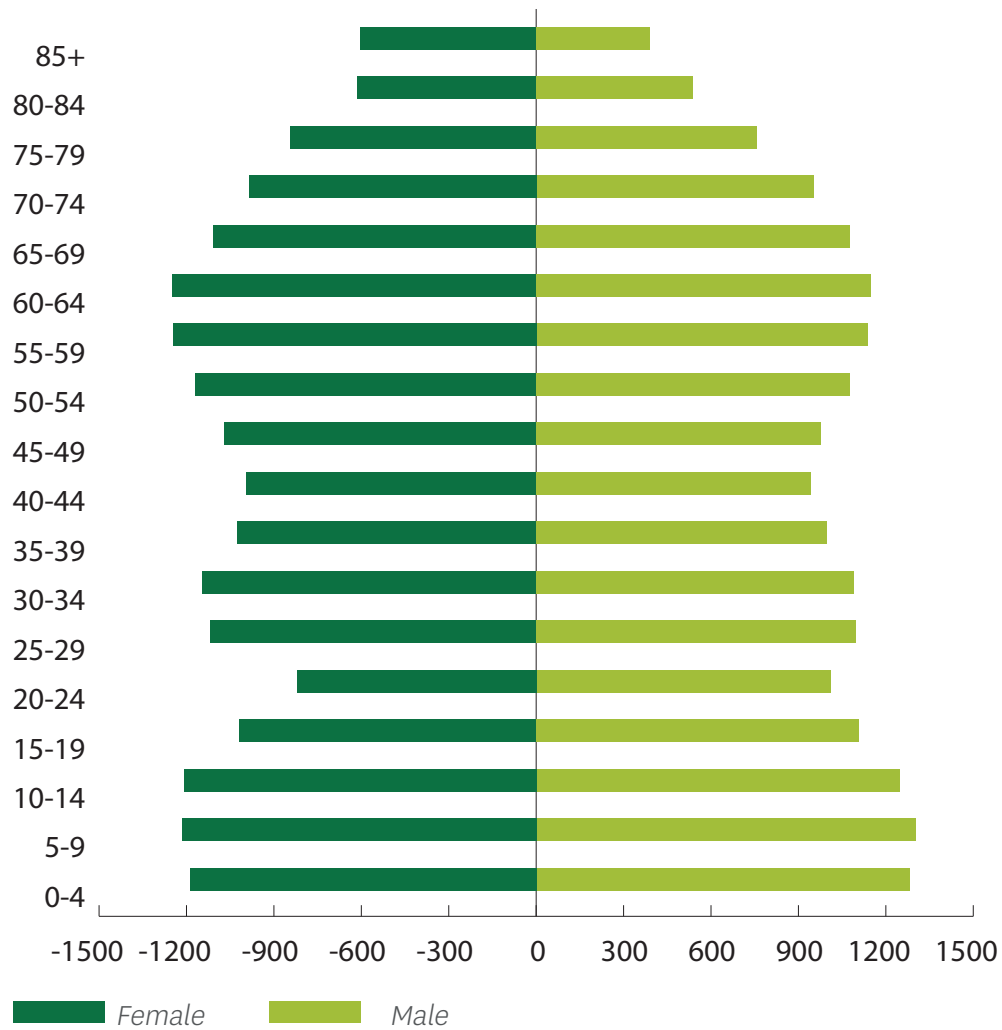
8.1 AN AGING POPULATION

Our District population is currently just over 36,000 and is forecast to grow to just under 39,000 by 2051. The population increase is mainly in the older age groups and within the three main towns. Our population is ageing. By 2051, people 65 years and older are expected to make up 30% of our district population. In contrast to this, the percentage of people under 15 years of age is likely to fall to just over 16% by 2051.

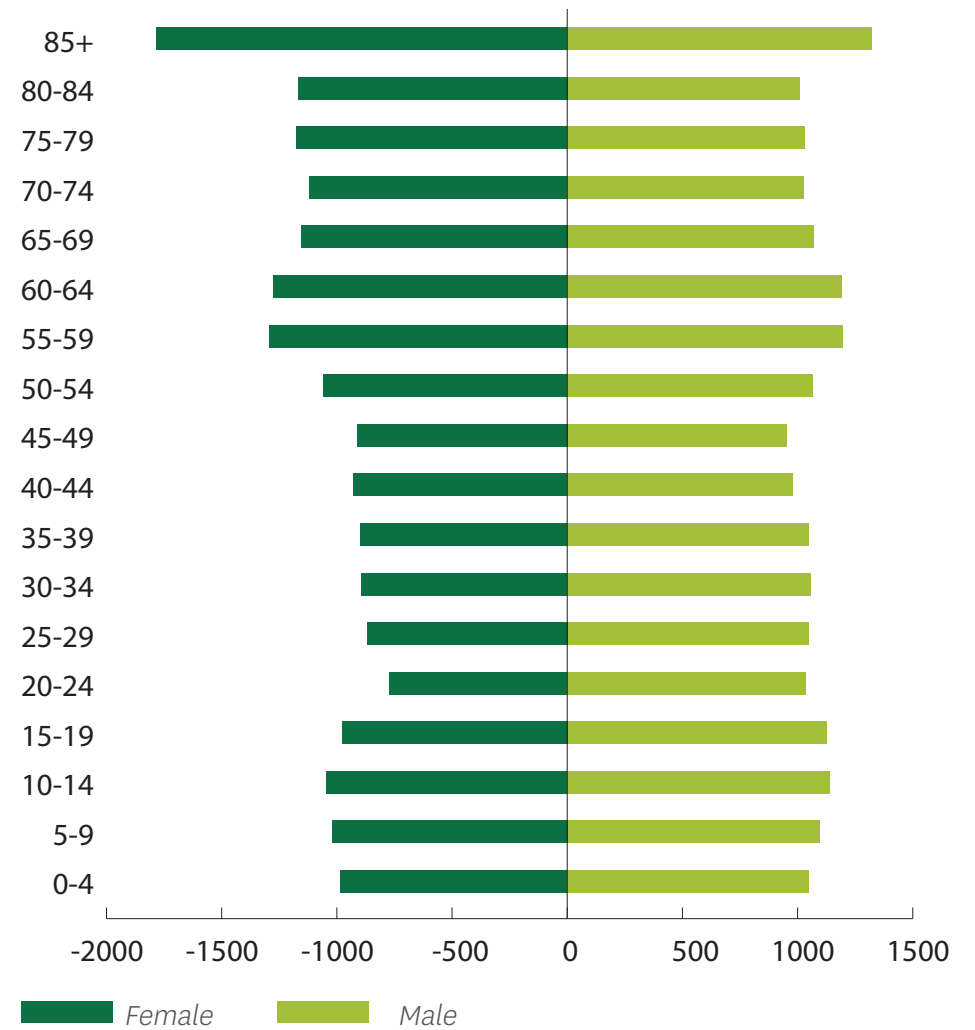
For the next twenty years there is likely to be an increase in the number of people over 75 years of age. During the 2040s the aging population is predicted to slow down somewhat in the 70-84 age group but with the number of people 55-64 years remaining strong. This is likely to drive demand for informal recreation activities (like walking and cycling) as opposed to traditional, competitive team sports (like rugby or netball). There is likely to be more demand for more accessible paths, tracks, bike trails, and playgrounds.

Numbers of young people are expected to grow slightly for the next ten years but then decline for the following twenty years. Demand for child and youth facilities (like playgrounds or skate parks) is likely to remain relatively strong over the next decade but may decline in subsequent decades.





District Age Pyramid in 2021



District Age Pyramid in 2051

8.2 SPORT AND RECREATION TRENDS

The way people live and work has changed. This has changed how, when and why people play sport or engage in other recreational activities.

HOW WE LIVED	HOW WE LIVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large families • Single income • Single income earner worked regular hours during the week • Seldom relocate home • Limited social & entertainment options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller families • More single parents • More double incomes • More weekend work • More part-time, casual, or fixed term work • More mobile • Relocate home often • Lots of social & entertainment options
HOW WE PLAYED	HOW WE PLAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive team sports, often gender specific • Saturday sports • Mostly amateur sport • Recreation often included food gathering • Time to volunteer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More individualistic • More casual/opportunistic • Less competitive • More diverse • Weekday evenings & weekends • Huge gap between amateur and professional sport • Often health/fitness focus

Sport and recreation trends include:

- Declining participation in traditional team sports (e.g. rugby, netball etc.)
- Increasing participation in informal recreation (e.g. running/walking, cycling, gym etc.)
- Decreasing in weekend sports training
- An increase in evening sports training during the week
- Decreasing volunteers for coaching and administration activities
- Increased participation in 'pay-to-play' (or 'pay-to-not-volunteer') activities
- More sports and recreation activities to choose from
- A widening gap between professional and amateur sports



8.3 SOCIAL TRENDS

Social trends affect the way that people use our parks and open spaces.

Trends include:

- Smaller families
- There are more single parent families
- There are more double income families
- More older people taking care of younger children
- More people are working outside of traditional office hours
- More people work on weekends
- There are more part-time, casual, or contract work options
- People are more mobile than previous generations
- There are more social and entertainment options competing with traditional sport and recreation activities
- People tend to be more aware of health issues and the health benefits of physical exercise and being outdoors
- People are more culturally aware
- More use of/reliance on technology.



The way people live and work affects their ability to participate in sport, recreation or social activity. Changing work patterns and family dynamics impact on traditional team sports in particular as many people are unable to commit to regular practice or tournament schedules due to competing work and/or family demands. Planning and designing for the future needs to take societal trends into account.

8.4 TOURISM TRENDS

Located less than an hour's drive from Hamilton and Tauranga, and less than two hours from Auckland, our district is easily accessible to more than half of New Zealand's population. It is also close to popular tourist destinations such as Rotorua and the Coromandel Peninsula.

Hobbiton, near Matamata is often among the top three international tourist destinations in the country and has attracted more than half a million visitors annually.

There is increasing interest in the natural environment and international tourists are becoming more interested in 'front country' nature experiences. The Kaimai Ranges offer a range of outdoor/nature experiences relatively close to towns.

The increase in campervans and other forms of independent travel also presents opportunities for our district.



8.5 ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS

There is increasing awareness and public concern about environmental issues such as loss of biodiversity and climate change.

Our community is likely to look to Council to provide the lead in environmental affairs at the local level.

This may include things like:

- more emphasis on protecting and enhancing our natural areas (e.g. better weed control, more native planting, restricting access/use of sensitive areas etc.)
- planting more trees in urban areas
- promoting alternative means of transport (e.g. walking, cycling, etc.)
- using environmentally sustainable materials, products and methods to develop and maintain our parks and open spaces
- reducing water and energy use
- minimising waste.

There are opportunities to partner with others and combine resources on environmental projects and programmes.

CASE STUDY: IWI RELATIONSHIP: TE AROHA TOURISM PRESCINCT PROJECT

Te Aroha has always been a spa town. Māori were aware of the hot springs and making use of the waters for hundreds of years before European arrival. Te Aroha had its heyday in the late 1800's as the premier spa destination in New Zealand, attracting more visitors than Rotorua. In 2018, MPDC was awarded a grant from the Provincial Growth Fund to study the potential for investment in making Te Aroha a health and wellness hub – to make the town boom as a premium spa destination once more. Ngati Tumutumu was actively engaged in the process to develop a Feasibility Study and Business Case. This included representation on the Project Governance Group as well as hui as part of the consultation process. Unfortunately, the Business Case was not progressed by Central Government but the process helped build a better relationship between Council and Ngati Tumutumu. Council is currently reviewing the spa business case and investigating alternatives. Ngati Tumutumu will play an important role in this process by not only being part of the governance group but also supplying the Co-Chair. Ngati Tumutumu are also involved in the Domain Working Party which is currently looking at a number of park maintenance and renewal projects in the Domain.



8.6.2 VOLUNTEERS

There are many different ways that volunteers are involved in parks and open spaces.

Most sports clubs rely on volunteers for coaching and administration.

A number of clubs and community groups own buildings or facilities that are located on our public parks. Good working relationships with these groups are desirable. Written agreements such as a lease, licence, or memorandum of understanding, can help minimise misunderstandings and resolve disputes.

Sometimes volunteer community groups develop or maintain specific assets e.g. the mountain bike tracks are all maintained by mountain bike clubs. Our volunteer base is aging and in some cases it is questionable whether efforts by volunteer groups will be sustainable long term without intervention. We have already seen the loss of some volunteer groups and increased costs to Council to fill the gap.

Interest in the state of our natural environment has increased in recent years and we now have a number of volunteer groups who help protect and enhance our environment through restorative planting and pest control activities. This is an area of volunteering that is likely to grow due to public concerns over issues such as biodiversity loss and climate change. There is currently also a variety of funding opportunities available to support environmental initiatives.

It is becoming more common for individuals to prefer being casual volunteers rather than members of a formal group. This is often due to the administrative burden associated with a formal group or the potential for internal politics and competing agendas to develop once a group has been formalised. It is often simply a matter of time. People like to be able to help out when it suits their schedule and interests without having to commit to regular attendance of meetings, paying subscriptions, or being on a committee. This has seen some Councils run their own volunteer programmes with Council staff taking a more active role in work planning, training and managing of volunteers, rather than relying on community groups to establish and manage themselves.

Volunteer efforts are challenged by:

- an aging volunteer base
- increasing compliance requirements and costs
- increasing administration requirements
- unfamiliarity with Council policies and processes
- competing demands on time
- funding uncertainty
- internal politics and competing agendas
- limited Council support to establish or support community groups.

Challenges to Council include:

- prioritising volunteer projects
- ensuring safety, health, environment and quality standards are met by volunteers
- sustainability of volunteer projects and programmes
- risk of unplanned costs if volunteer efforts are not sustainable
- no budget to help establish volunteer groups
- limited capacity to provide technical support to volunteers
- providing equitable support and funding to volunteers



8.6.3 OTHER AGENCIES

A number of our parks and open spaces adjoin public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Some walking and tramping tracks go over land we manage but also go over land managed by DOC. A good working relationship with DOC is important. There are many opportunities to cooperate or collaborate on things like wayfinding and interpretation signage, pest control, track standards and maintenance, promotion, law enforcement, technical support to volunteers etc. Central Government has also signalled significant investment into its 'Jobs for Nature' programme and there may be opportunities to benefit from this, working together with DOC we may be able to achieve more than we could individually.

We work with Waikato Regional Council (WRC) on projects to improve indigenous biodiversity. Some of our parks have benefited from pest control programmes undertaken by WRC. They also provide advice and funding to community groups involved in things like riparian planting and pest control. Currently there are funding opportunities available for community groups to support local indigenous biodiversity projects. There are opportunities to work with WRC, community groups and Iwi and achieve more than we could do on our own.



CASE STUDY: WAIRERE FALLS CARPARK UPGRADE & TOILETS

MPDC provides and maintains the public carpark at the end of Goodwin Road that provides access to the Wairere Falls Track in the Kaimai-Mamaku Conservation Area. The falls are among the tallest in the north Island and have become increasingly popular to visit. MPDC successfully applied to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) to help fund a major upgrade to the Wairere Falls carpark. The project was supported by DOC as well as local Iwi, Ngāti Hinerangi and Ngāti Hāuā. A further TIF application for a new toilet block was also successful. The location and design of the toilets was agreed with DOC & Iwi. DOC staff shared their knowledge and experience in managing toilets in similar tourist hotspots which informed the design requirements. Half of the construction costs of the carpark and toilet were met by the TIF. Ratepayers would otherwise have had to bear the full cost of these projects. DOC provided part-time rangers at the carpark over summer peak periods to inform and educate the public and encourage good behaviour. Tangata Whenua were also involved in choosing the external design for the toilet block to ensure it is appropriate for the site.

8.6.4 PRIVATE ENTITIES

There are two private trusts that provide sports parks in our district. Council recognises their contribution to the community and has traditionally supported them through grant funding or providing free mowing of the sportsfields. Supporting private trusts that provide facilities like sportsfields means that Council does not necessarily need to provide the same facilities in those areas.

There are opportunities to work more closely with businesses and individuals in various ways including joint/complimentary conservation projects, sponsorship of assets, bequests and donations, work opportunities etc.



DID YOU KNOW ?

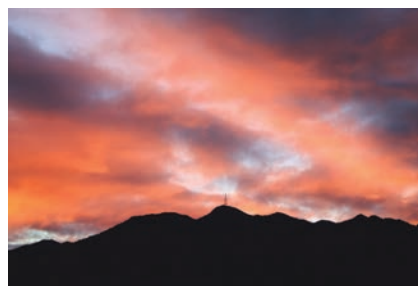
Te Aroha Domain (4.5 ha)
is our largest community park

8.7 PROVISION EQUITY

8.7.1 ONE DISTRICT, THREE TOWNS

Unlike many other rural districts of similar population, our district does not have one dominant, or central, town but three towns located towards the edges of the district. This creates challenges in terms of provision equity and the affordability of parks, open spaces and related facilities. It is not necessarily always possible or affordable to provide ‘exactly the same’ in each town. If Council invests significantly in improvements in one town there is often public perception that Council is ‘spending everything’ in that town to the detriment of the other two. On the other hand, if Council spends a little bit in each town at the same time, then it may be perceived as ‘fair’ in public opinion but may not necessarily have the desired impact where it is needed most.

The boundaries of sporting code regions and sub-regions do not always align with our district boundaries either.



8.7.2 HISTORICAL LEGACIES

When the present Matamata-Piako District was formed in 1989, it inherited the parks and open spaces portfolios of former borough and county councils which did not necessarily always do things the same way. This meant that some towns have more parks, gardens, walkways, or street trees, than others.

Matamata and Te Aroha are fortunate to have large berms along their main streets which can accommodate street trees, gardens, and, in some cases, walkways or cycleways. Morrinsville generally has very narrow berms and in some cases, no berms at all. While this limits the potential for street trees and street furniture in some areas it also makes it more important to make the most of the areas that are suitable for street furniture or vegetation.

A lack of parks in or near a town centre is neither easy nor cheap to address.

8.7.3 GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS

Te Aroha is by far the smallest of the three towns by population but its location at the base of the Kaimai Range provides natural opportunities for a variety of walking/tramping tracks and mountain bike trails in an urban setting, which is simply not possible in Matamata or Morrinsville. The flatter topography and growth potential of Matamata and Morrinsville however present opportunities to create additional parkland, walkways and cycleways.

8.8 SUB-OPTIMAL SPACES

Prior to the adoption of an Open Spaces Strategy in 2013, there was no overall strategic direction for parks and open spaces. Future planning tended to be site-specific, dealing with how an individual park should be developed/used without necessarily considering how the park fits into the wider network.

Acquisition and development of parkland was often ad hoc and reactive. This resulted in Council owning some properties that are not the best shape or size, are difficult to maintain, or which are not easily accessible. In some areas the distribution of parks is fragmented with poor connectivity.

Allowing the use of public parkland for subdivision drainage purposes has sometimes resulted in parks that provide very few opportunities for recreation or play.

Historic, ad hoc approvals to erect buildings and other structures at parks has sometimes resulted in sub-optimal areas of 'dead space' that have very limited potential for recreational use or development. Council has also 'inherited' abandoned buildings on parks from clubs or community groups that have ceased to operate. These 'inherited' buildings often require major maintenance or demolition.

New subdivisions offer opportunities to acquire and develop parkland that is the appropriate shape and size. There are often opportunities to improve existing spaces. Masterplanning and placemaking initiatives can often help revitalise existing spaces. In some cases, there may be limited scope for improvement and it may be more cost-effective to dispose of an unsuitable property and acquire land that is better suited as a park.

DID YOU KNOW

Te Aroha Hot Springs Reserve
(bush area behind Te Aroha
Domain) (81.7 ha)

is our largest nature park



8.9 UTILISATION

Underutilised assets incur servicing and maintenance costs while providing limited benefits to the community. There are currently gaps in utilisation data.

Improved knowledge about the use of different parks and associated assets can enable informed decision-making and improve budgeting.

An effective electronic booking system is one way in which use of Sports Parks and Community Parks could easily be monitored.

Recently there have been major advances in so-called 'smart technology'. There are currently a range of small electronic sensors and counters available that can operate remotely and wirelessly and provide real time data. These products are becoming more accessible and affordable.

8.10 PLAY VALUE

Play is important for all ages and holds benefits for different ages in various ways. It is a vital starting point for equipping children with motivation, physical competence, confidence, knowledge and understanding. It allows children to value and engage in physical activity for life. Play allows children to assess danger and navigate risk, and to solve problems through an understanding of cause and effect. This helps them with decision making in the future.

Age specific play equipment enables children to take risks appropriate to their typical abilities at a particular age. Some of our current playgrounds cater for particular age groups. This may have been appropriate when they were installed but may no longer reflect the demographics of the area surrounding the playground.

We have assessed our playgrounds to identify the age groups they currently do or do not cater for. A playability assessment by an external playground expert has also identified opportunities to improve the overall play value of our current playgrounds.

This will help guide renewals and upgrades to our existing playgrounds.

Play value should be the primary consideration when designing new playgrounds.



8.11 ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility has to do with easy it is for people to access our parks and open spaces. There are two aspects to this. Access in general and access for people with special needs.

8.11.1 ACCESS IN GENERAL

How easy it is to access parks and open spaces in the general sense is determined by their distribution (i.e. where the parks are located relative to residential areas) and connectivity (how well they are connected to transport routes like roads and walkways and also to how well they are connected to other parks and open spaces).

While the total provision of parks within a community provides an indicator of the adequacy or otherwise of recreational open space for a given population, an equally important factor is the distribution of particular types of parks across the urban environment. Balanced provision of the different types of parkland throughout the urban environment is critical to ensuring people have good access to a variety of recreational experiences.

8.11.2 ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES OR SPECIAL NEEDS

There are many misconceptions about disabilities and accessibility. People often assume that 'accessibility' is only about providing wheelchair-friendly facilities or that every tramping track should be 'wheelchair-friendly' and every

playground should have a 'wheelchair-friendly' swing or carousel. There are many forms of mental or physical disability or impairment that can be permanent or temporary. It may not be possible to cater for every conceivable situation however we can aim to provide facilities for a broad range of abilities and can improve access to areas where common problems exist.

We have an aging population. Limited mobility is likely to become more frequent as the population ages. The popularity of mobility scooters will require wider paths and mountable kerbs to enable entry into our parks. We are also likely to need more gentle paths and walking tracks to cater for an older population.

Older people often supervise younger children at playgrounds at there is a need to cater for this by providing more level access to the play areas as well as seating and shading for caregivers.

People with disabilities do not want to feel excluded socially. If they are unable to use all the equipment at a playground for example, there is value in being able to use some of it, or at least being able to get close enough to it to enjoy the company of others. Providing specialist equipment at every playgrounds may not be affordable however providing some specialist equipment at community or destination parks

may be appropriate. Where specialist equipment is provided it should be integrated with the overall playground rather than in a separate 'disabled area'. Playground design should also consider incorporating sensory elements such as different textures and where appropriate audio equipment.

Engagement with local disability groups as part of the planning and design process can assist in identifying and quantifying particular needs and issues.

The Building Act 2004 regulates the design of public buildings to facilitate access for people with disabilities. New toilet blocks and other buildings designed for public use are designed to comply with legislation. When older buildings that do not comply with modern standards are upgraded we look for opportunities to improve accessibility.



8.12 CONNECTIVITY

A well-connected parks network:

- provides alternative transport routes
- offers more varied recreation opportunities
- creates ecological corridors for plants and wildlife
- improve the sustainability of isolated or fragmented natural habitats

Connectivity between our current parks and open spaces is variable.

Due to changing legislation over the years esplanade reserves (a specific type of Linkage Park along watercourses) are often isolated and disconnected. There may be opportunities to be more strategic about when to acquire esplanade areas (within the limits of legislation).

In urban areas, subdivisions can provide opportunities to acquire more linkage parks. Subdivisions do not however always occur where the connections are needed most. Sometimes, Council may need to consider acquiring strategic linkages in other ways such as negotiating a public walkway easement or acquiring the necessary land under the Public Works Act.

The Walking Access Act 2008 provides a cost-effective option for securing key walkway or cycleway routes over privately-owned land. Public walkway easements enable and protect public access over private land. Council is appointed to control the public walkway regardless of the underlying land ownership. Public access is

protected if the land is sold in future. The main advantage is that there is no need to buy the underlying land. The process does however depend on the private landowner's willingness to agree to an easement.

Council could also use designations in the District Plan to greater effect to identify key future linkages.

Connectivity does not always need to involve additional parkland. Wider footpaths and/or shared paths along road corridors can also help link existing paths and open spaces. This could be achieved through a combination of widening existing footpaths and providing wider paths as part of new subdivisions.



8.13 COMPLIANCE

There are increasing compliance requirements and costs that affect physical works as well as routine maintenance operations. When it comes to compliance issues, Council is expected to lead by example.

As older track structures require upgrades or replacements they need to comply with current standards which are often more stringent than in the past. This adds to the design and capital/renewal costs of new structures. Due to the location of many of our visitor structures resource consent is often also required for upgrades.

Compliance with voluntary standards, such as the playground safety standards, reassures our community that Council is exercising its duty of care for the public and is not exposing people to unacceptable levels of risk. As play equipment becomes more complex so do maintenance and inspection costs.

Traffic management costs, for working within road corridors, has increased substantially which has pushed up the cost of servicing garden beds and street furniture, especially along State Highways. It is along the State Highways and other major roads in our towns however where attractive, well-maintained, vibrant gardens make the greatest visual impact and help form the first impressions of our towns.

Central Government have signalled that they intend to repeal the Resource Management Act (RMA) and replace it with new legislation. There is

currently uncertainty about what impact this will have on parks and open spaces. Most of our parks in new residential areas are currently acquired through subdivisions under the RMA framework. The RMA also regulates the creation and acquisition of esplanade reserves and esplanade strips along waterways.

8.14 COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

Our relative proximity to larger centres like Hamilton and Tauranga inevitably leads to comparisons. For example, Hamilton is well-known for its network of award-winning destination playgrounds. As Hamilton's portfolio of destination playgrounds have grown, so have community expectations that our towns should have destination playgrounds as well.

There is often a tension between community expectations for higher levels of service and their willingness to pay for the improvements via rates.

Quality is often defined as 'fitness for purpose' or 'meeting or exceeding customer/client expectations'.



Quality

As a local authority, we serve a diverse range of clients often with very different expectations. There is often a tension between what our clients expect our parks and open spaces to be and what they are willing to pay for (via rates, fees, charges etc.).

It is therefore useful to measure the quality of or parks and open spaces and the services we provide in a variety of ways, including:

- use of standards, specifications & industry guidelines
- conducting client satisfaction surveys
- independent audits
- benchmarking
- condition inspections
- complaints analysis
- performance measures
- specialist reports

8.14.1 STANDARDS, SPECIFICATIONS & INDUSTRY GUIDELINES

New playgrounds and visitor structures are designed and installed in accordance with the relevant New Zealand standards. An external safety audit of our playgrounds is undertaken every year in addition to regular inspections by our maintenance provider.

There is currently no agreed minimum service delivery standard for parks and open spaces. We intend to develop a service level agreement and associated minimum standards for park operations. The NZ Recreation Association Open Space Maintenance Specifications provide model specifications for a range of different activities and service levels that could be incorporated in an SLA. This will clarify the expectations for different management categories and help define 'quality' for everyday servicing and maintenance tasks. It will also enable more informed budgeting and allocating of resources.

8.14.2 SURVEYS & BENCHMARKING

Customer satisfaction surveys gauge client satisfaction with our parks and open spaces. In developing this strategy we conducted two surveys and ran stakeholder workshops to gather information about satisfaction levels and perceived issues and opportunities.

Periodic benchmarking exercises are also undertaken. As part of the development of this strategy, we benchmarked our park provision against a peer group of similar sized, rural districts.

It is also important to be aware of industry trends and developments. The value of professional development and networking opportunities through involvement in groups like Recreation Aotearoa and the Park Leaders Forum should not be underestimated. Council may also wish to consider participating in schemes like the Green Flag Award that recognises good park management practice.

8.14.3 PERFORMANCE MEASURES & COMPLAINT ANALYSIS

Performance measures can be set for various activities as part of Council's Long Term Plan process. Current performance measures relate to customer satisfaction levels and response times to complaints.

Analysing complaint records can sometimes help provide an indication of the magnitude of an issue. A major limitation of complaint analysis is that only some people are likely to make formal complaints about an issue. Multiple methods may thus be required to form an accurate picture of the nature and magnitude of an issue.

8.14.4 SPECIALIST REPORTS

Specialist reports from external experts can help us assess the quality of the services we provide and provide advice on improvements.

8.15 AGING ASSETS

A number of track structures and playgrounds are reaching the end of their useful life.

As assets age they require renewal to extend their useful 'life', replacement, or removal (if there is no longer a need for it). Assets tend to deteriorate faster as they get older and the cost of upgrading or replacing a network of old assets can be substantial. Sound planning is therefore required to ensure that our assets continue to meet our community needs and that we can afford to maintain them to the appropriate standards.

8.16 NATURAL DISASTERS

New Zealand is not immune from natural disasters with flooding and earthquakes being among the most common events.

Building Regulations ensure that modern buildings and structures are designed to withstand moderate earthquake events.

It is important that critical assets are designed for resilience to natural disasters. The Christchurch earthquakes demonstrated that it is not just so-called 'hard assets' like bridges that become critical in emergency response but also large open areas such as sports parks which can potentially be used as heliports, triage centres, field hospitals and temporary accommodation.

8.17 PANDEMICS

The global COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21 and the associated Lockdown measures highlighted the need for easily accessible, free, local parks and open spaces for recreation and relaxation in the outdoors while maintaining the required physical distancing from others.

The centralisation of recreation facilities can reduce operating costs and therefore has some appeal, but a network of local facilities scattered among neighbourhoods has advantages when dealing with a viral pandemic.

Resilience to pandemics has not traditionally been a key design consideration for our parks and open spaces. It is however worth considering especially in terms of park distribution and the detailed design of key linkages and high use community spaces.

9 VISION



Our parks and open spaces network meets the recreation needs of our community and protects our natural and cultural heritage.



VISION

What we aspire to. “Where we want to be in the future.”



PRINCIPLES

The fundamentals that guide decision-making. “How we do things.” For more explanation, refer to **10. Principles**.



STRATEGIC GOALS

The results we are aiming for. Explain the vision in more detail. For more explanation, refer to **11. Strategic Goals**.



STRATEGIC APPROACHES & PLACE-BASED STRATEGIES

Ways we will achieve our vision. For more explanation, refer to **12. Strategic Approaches & Place-Based Strategies**.



ACTIONS

Specific things that need to occur to help achieve our strategy. For more explanation, refer to **13. Action Plan**.

10 PRINCIPLES



The following principles guide implementation of the strategy. They describe ‘the way we will do things’.

PRINCIPLES

Maintain and enhance the parks & open spaces network	Plan ahead	Consider our community	Protect and enhance our heritage	Informed decision-making	Working with others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a holistic, network-based approach to management • Develop & maintain parks and open spaces appropriately for their purpose • Enhance the network to meet changing community needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for the future • Monitor and respond to trends • Effective planning • Adaptable to change • Consider stakeholder, user and visitor needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider community needs • Consider wider community benefits • Provide opportunities for community involvement where practicable • Recognise stories and intangible values associated with parks and spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance our natural heritage • Protect and enhance our cultural-historical heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our staff are appropriately trained and developed • We keep up with industry good practice • We monitor trends that impact on parks and open spaces • We use reliable data to aid decision-making • We apply sound judgement • We consider the relevant benefits, costs, risks, rewards of our actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have good working relationships with Tangata Whenua, other agencies, landowners, and community groups • We work with others to achieve efficiencies and synergies • We support volunteer programmes and projects that are sustainable, achievable, and align with our vision and strategic priorities

11 STRATEGIC GOALS



Our goals explain our vision and describe the results we are aiming for.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Tangata Whenua have meaningful opportunities to input into how our parks and open spaces are planned, developed and managed	Our parks and open spaces meet the diverse and changing needs of our communities and visitors	Our parks and open spaces are valued and cared for	Our parks and open spaces enable our community to be active and healthy	Our parks and open spaces protect and celebrate our cultural heritage and identity	Our natural heritage is understood, protected and enhanced	Our parks and open spaces are enhanced by community partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have good working relationships with Tangata Whenua • We consult Tangata Whenua on strategies, policies and plans affecting parks and open spaces • We work with Tangata Whenua to identify, protect, preserve and manage wāhi tapu sites and other sites of significance located at or near parks or open spaces • We work with Tangata Whenua to identify stories / themes that can be told at parks and other open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have the right parks and open spaces in the right places • Our planning for future parks and open spaces meets future needs • Our parks and open spaces are designed and managed well • We take a strategic approach to land acquisition and disposal to ensure our parks and open spaces are fit for purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our parks and open spaces are attractive, welcoming places • Our parks and open spaces are maintained to appropriate standards • There is a high level of satisfaction among users of parks and open spaces • Our communities take pride in our parks and open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We provide a wide range of options for play, recreation, sports and social activities • Our parks and open spaces are easily accessible and well connected • Information about our parks and open spaces is easily accessible • Our parks and open spaces have an appropriate level of use for their purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites of cultural and/or historic significance are adequately protected • There is diverse and multi-cultural use and enjoyment of our parks and open spaces • Our history is commemorated and our cultures are celebrated • Our local stories are told • Our unique local identity is celebrated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites of ecological significance are protected and enhanced • Knowledge of our natural areas is increased • We have good working relationships with others to protect and enhance sites of ecological significance • There are meaningful gains in biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work with other agencies, community groups or individuals for the greater good • Volunteer projects and programmes that align strategically are supported and encouraged • Volunteer programmes are sustainable and contribute to strategic goals • Cooperation, collaboration and partnerships among clubs and community groups is occurring and encouraged • Opportunities for multi-purpose use of facilities are maximised

12 STRATEGIC APPROACHES & PLACE-BASED STRATEGIES



To respond to the challenges and opportunities facing parks and open spaces we have developed strategic approaches to address District-wide issues as well as place-based strategies for our towns and major settlements.

The strategic approaches tend to be planning or policy-related e.g. provision and development guidelines.

The place-based strategies identify potential future project concepts spatially. These concepts are intended to inform other Council processes like subdivisions and the Long Term Plan.

12.1 DISTRICT

This section provides District-wide analysis and outlines our approach to issues and challenges common to the whole District.

12.1.1 ANALYSIS

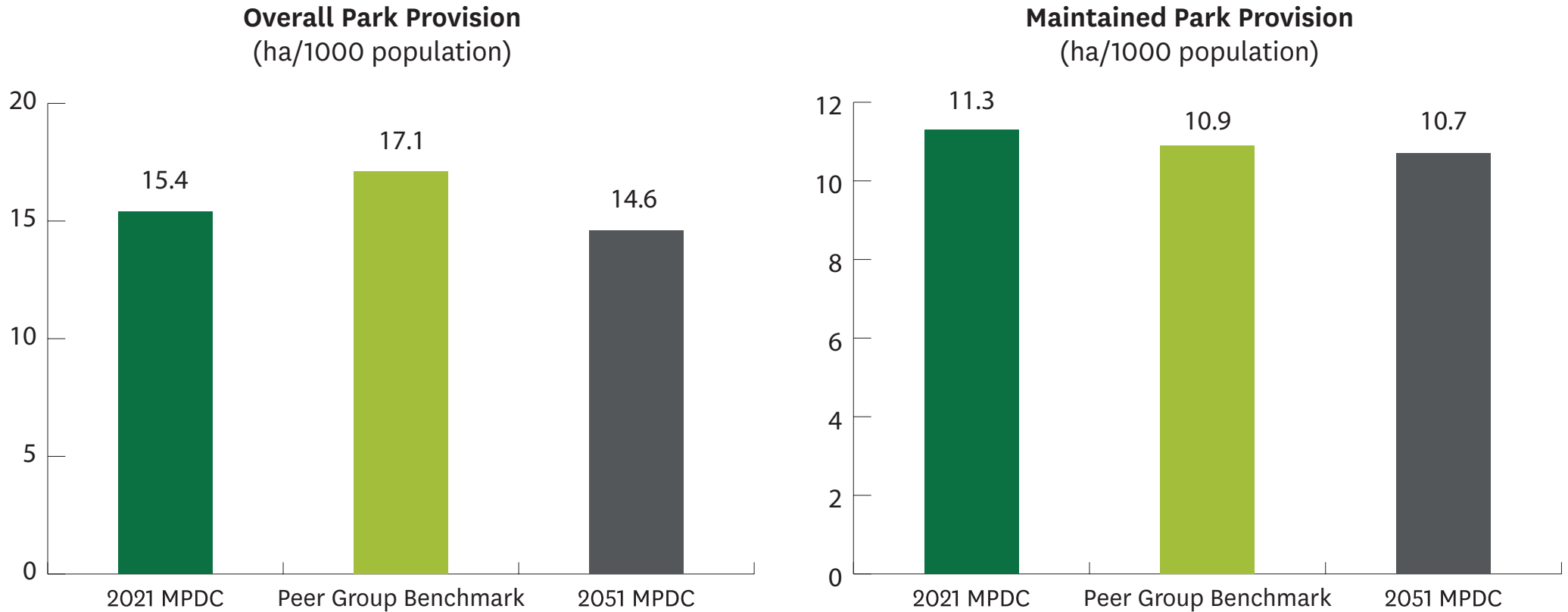
Compared to similar districts, we have reasonably good provision of parks and open spaces overall. Surveys indicate that the level of satisfaction remains quite high. There are however some gaps in provision and some areas for improvement.



12.1.1.1 PARKLAND

12.1.1.1.1 PROVISION

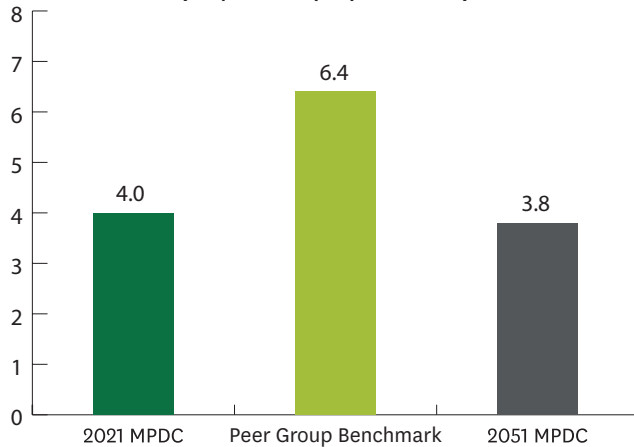
The following graphs illustrate how provision of different parks by MPDC compares with a peer group benchmark. The dark green bar on the left indicates our level of provision in 2021. The centre light green bar illustrates a peer group benchmark for rural councils with a similar population. The grey bar on the right illustrates what our current provision would look like compared to the population forecast for 2051.



The area of actively maintained parkland is adequate and fairly typical when compared to similar districts.

Our Natural Park figures exclude the large areas in our District managed by the Department of Conservation. If public conservation land is taken into account, our communities have more than adequate access to natural areas.

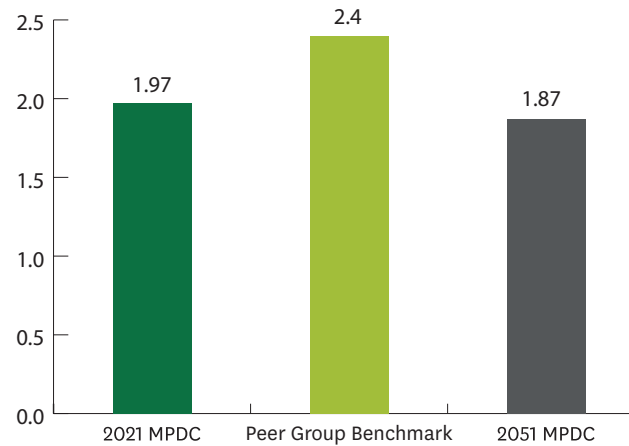
Natural Park Provision (ha/1000 population)



Our level of provision appears to be slightly less than what was indicated in the 2013 strategy. There has been no reduction in the number of sports parks but some parks have been split into different categories. For example, Boyd Park's sportsfields still fall under the sports parks category but the wetlands (which would never be developed for sportfields) now fall under the Nature Park category. This more accurately reflects the true nature and potential of the sites.

Our District is also fortunate to have privately-owned sports parks like Bedford Park in Matamata and Campbell Park in Morrinsville.

Sports Park Provision (ha/1000 population)

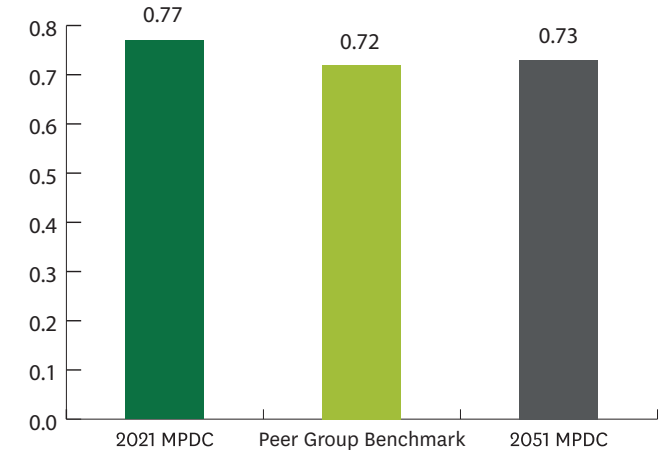


Privately-owned parks were not included in the calculation above. If they are taken into consideration the gap compared to the benchmark reduces somewhat. Compared to the current benchmark we would still have a slight deficit

Council & Private Sports Parks Combined (ha/1000 population)



Community/Amenity Park Provision (ha/1000 population)



in sport park provision in 2051. Our current spaces could possibly be used more efficiently. An electronic booking system could assist in better use of existing sportsfields and provide more accurate use data. We own some land that is currently leased to third parties that could potentially be developed in future if needed. We also know that participation in traditional team sports is currently declining. We will continue to monitor this trend and the demand for sports parks will be re-assessed when this strategy is next reviewed. For benchmarking purposes, we have grouped our Community and Amenity Parks together as they provide similar benefits to the community. Provision per population is adequate however as new residential areas are developed additional community parks will be required in some areas to ensure convenient pedestrian access to a local park.

12.1.1.1.2 NETWORK DESIGN

While the total provision of parks within a community provides an indicator of the adequacy or otherwise of recreational open space for a given population, an equally important factor is the distribution of particular types of parks across the urban environment. Well balanced provision of the different types of park land throughout the urban environment is critical to ensuring people have good access to a variety of recreational experiences.

Good distribution of parks and connectivity between them is also critical in enhancing the landscape values of an urban area. The distribution of parks of varying size and style and the linking of these with corridors of green space provides an attractive environment and a greater sense of “liveability”.

Historically, parks tended to be acquired on an ad hoc basis with no overall strategy guiding how the park would be connected to or function as part of an overall network. Planning tended to focus on meeting statutory requirements (e.g. Reserve Management Plans) or on the development of a particular park. Previous local authorities took different approaches to town planning and the provision of parks creating historical legacies and inequities.



12.1.1.2 TRACKS & TRAILS

In terms of participation, walking is the top recreational activity for in our district for adults (84%). Running has the highest participation rate among youth (55%) and is the third most popular activity for adults (35%)¹. Running and walking events also have the highest participation for adults and youth. These figures reflect national trends. Nationally, walking is the top recreation activity for adults at 85% participation² with running/jogging at 39% and tramping at 25%.

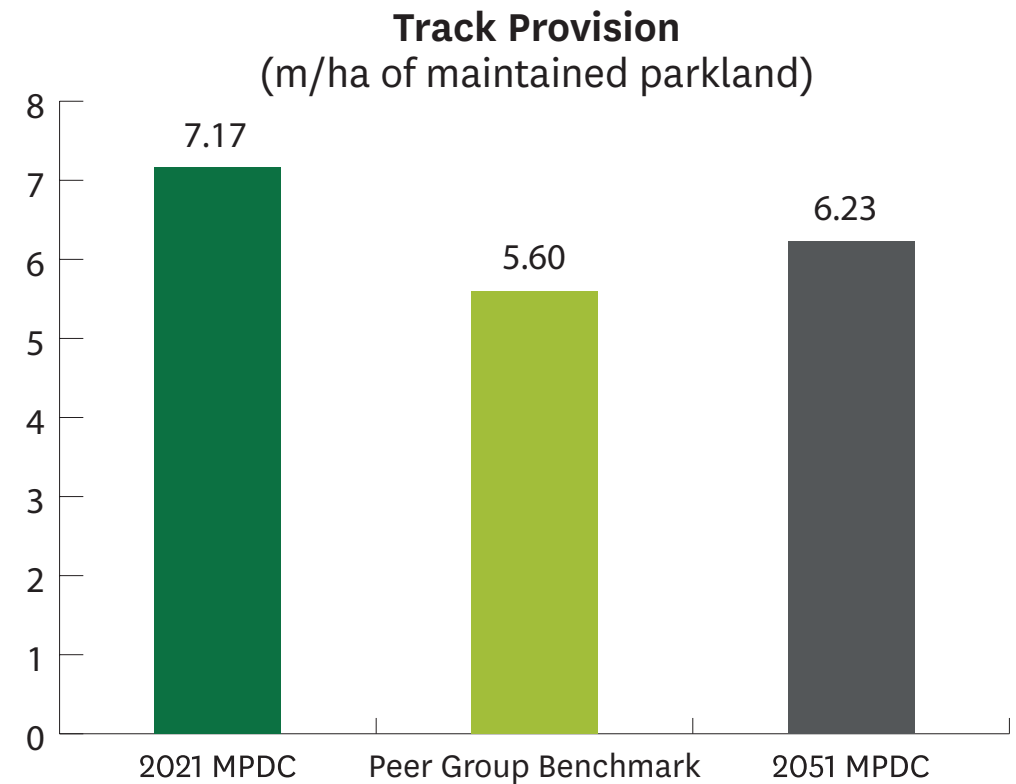
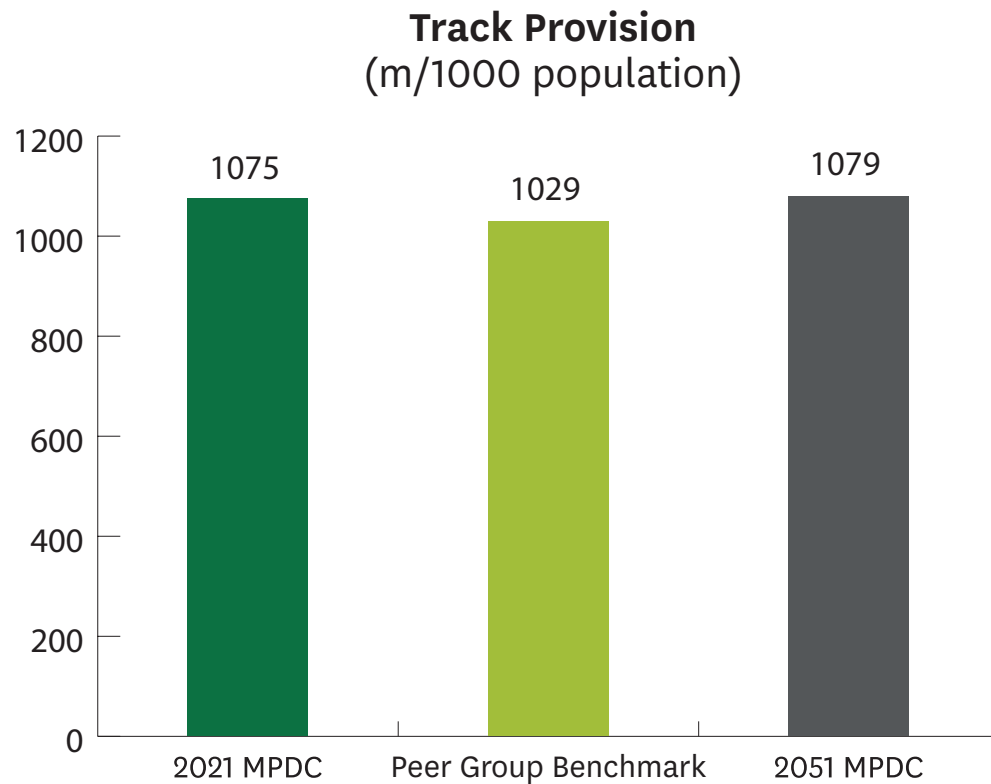
Overall provision of walking and tramping tracks compares favourably to a peer group of similar districts as well as the national median. It is important to note that the provision figures only concern tracks managed by MPDC. Residents and visitors also have access to a large network of tracks provided by the Department of Conservation.

Almost two thirds of the walking and tramping tracks provided by MPDC are located in Te Aroha. This is due to geographic and historic factors. Matamata and Morrinsville do not have a mountain on their doorstep and therefore have limited opportunities to develop more challenging categories of tracks. Matamata and Morrinsville’s relatively flat topography and residential growth rate present opportunities to gentler paths and tracks. The town-specific sections discuss this in more detail.

¹ Sport Waikato: Matamata-Piako District Adult Participation Profile 2018

² Sport New Zealand: Active New Zealand Survey 2019

MEASURE	MATAMATA-PIAKO	PEER GROUP MEDIAN ³	NZ MEDIAN ⁴
Track length by population (m/1000 people)	1,075	1,029	1,079
Track length by park area ⁵ (m/ha of parkland)	7.17	5.6	6.23

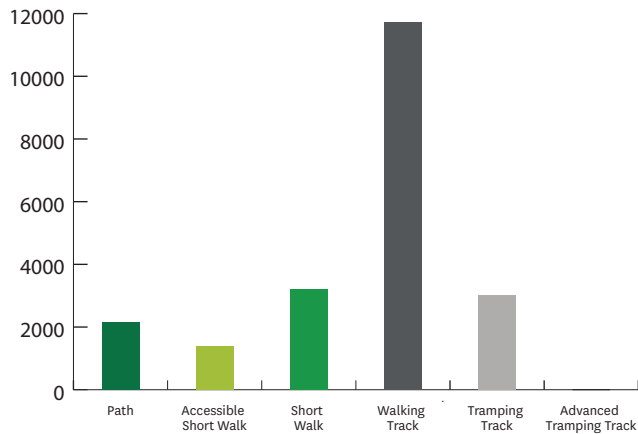


³ We selected a peer group of mostly-rural Councils with populations under 60,000 from the 2019 Yardstick Parkcheck Survey participants to compare ourselves against.

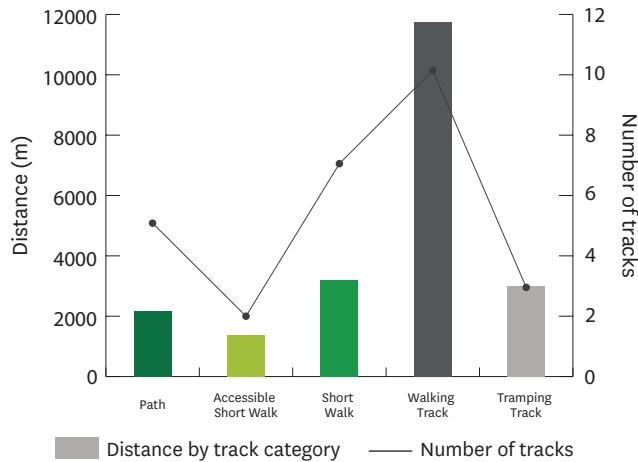
⁴ Includes all Yardstick Parkcheck participants including the larger city councils.

⁵ MPDC tracks only. Excludes tracks on public conservation land.

Provision by Track Category
(m of track)



Distance and Number of Tracks by Category



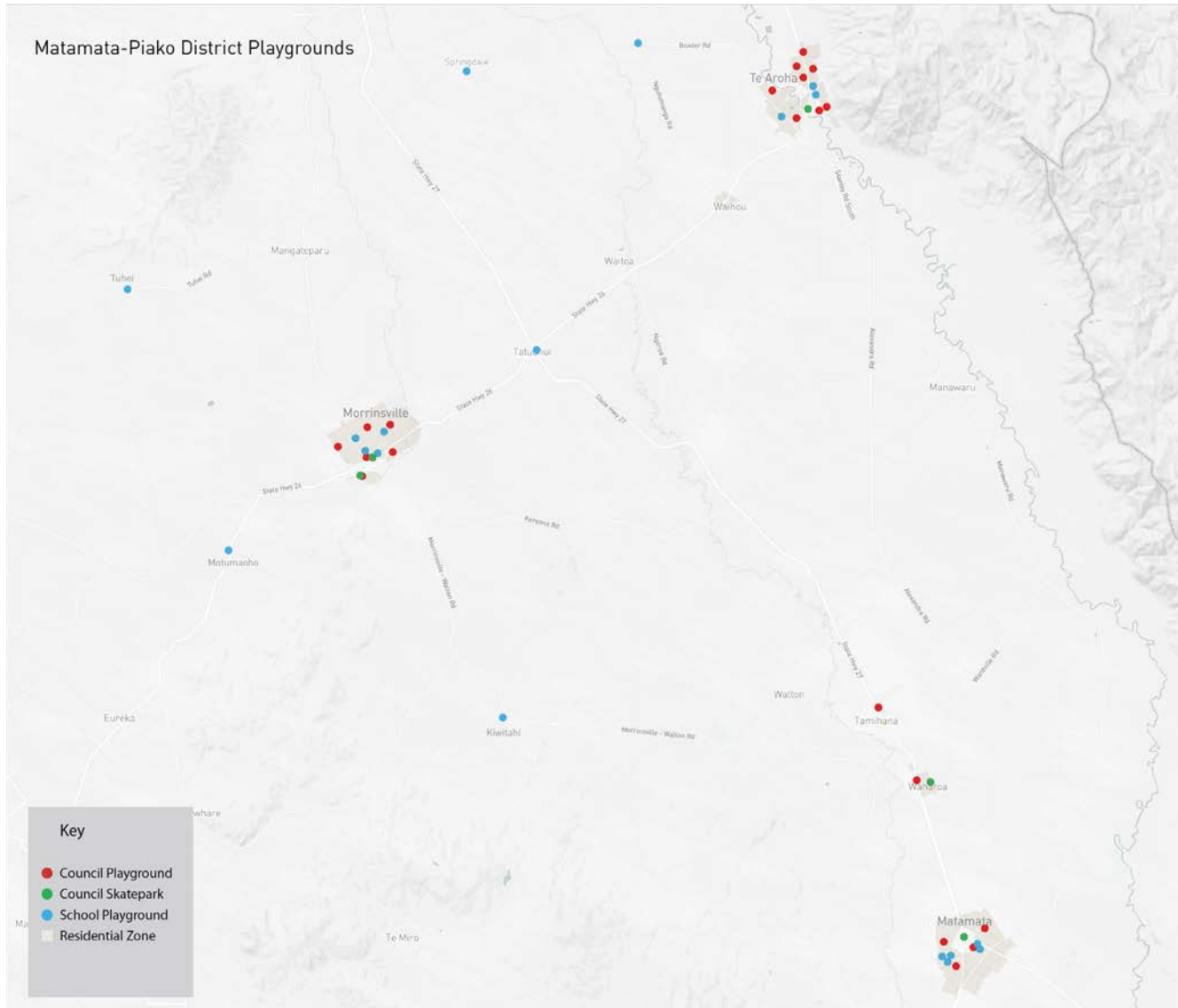
Nationally around 28% of adults participate in some form of cycling.⁶ Cycling is among the top five activities for youth in our district with a participation rate of 28%.⁷ There is currently 57 km of Grade 1 off road cycleway in the District which is managed by the Hauraki Rail Trail with financial support from MPDC. There are two locations at opposite ends of the District that together provide 46 km of mountain bike trails. This appears to be sufficient for a District this size. The Te Miro trails offer a good range of grades from beginner to expert. Te Aroha’s trails could be improved by providing more entry level trails. The trails focus should be on maintaining the existing tracks to appropriate standards and enhancing them where practicable.

⁶ Sport New Zealand: Active New Zealand Survey 2019

⁷ Sport Waikato: Matamata-Piako District Youth Participation Profile 2018

12.1.1.3 PLAY

Across the Matamata-Piako District there are 23 Council playgrounds, 22 school playgrounds (primary and intermediate) and 4 skate parks separate from Council playgrounds.



Morrinsville Recreation Ground



Matamata Domain



Herries Park, Te Aroha

MEASURE	MATAMATA-PIAKO (2019 DATA)	PEER GROUP MEDIAN ⁸	NZ MEDIAN ⁹
Playgrounds by population (per 1000 children)	3.4	3.7	4.1
Playgrounds by park area (per ha of actively maintained parkland)	0.10	0.12	0.12
Youth facilities by population (per 1000 youth)	2.3	1.7	1.6

The District is very diverse with a large geographic spread. This provides a challenge in providing good access to high quality playspaces to all the residents and visitors.

Current playground provision, expressed per population, or by park area, is slightly less than the median. The majority of urban residential properties are however within walking distance of a playground of some kind (see distribution maps in the town-specific sections).

While school playgrounds contribute to play opportunities and the overall provision of play opportunities in the District, particularly in a rural

context, continued access is at the discretion of the school. Council may wish to formalise arrangements for public access where the school playground is of strategic importance. In such instances the provision of support to schools either by way of technical assistance, surplus equipment or maintenance could be considered.

Compliance with safety standards is very high and has been improving over time.¹⁰ The current stock of play equipment is aging and several existing playgrounds will need to be replaced or removed over the next 30 years.

Community expectations of what playgrounds ought to look like and what equipment they should provide has increased. Consultation feedback indicated a desire for more and better playgrounds.



⁸ We selected a peer group of mostly-rural Councils with populations under 60,000 from the 2019 Yardstick Parkcheck Survey participants to compare ourselves against

⁹ Includes all Yardstick Parkcheck participants including the larger city councils

¹⁰ Annual independent playground safety audit records 2012-2021

The play value of the existing network does vary considerably. A play value assessment¹¹ by an external play expert was undertaken in 2021 to identify gaps and guide future improvements.

The assessment found that:

- There has been good development of playgrounds across the network
- High levels of compliance to playground safety standards
- The play stock is very well managed
- Focus on associated facilities should help provide more rounded playspaces that provide for a level of comfort for playspace users and their caregivers
- Improvements to access issues across the entire network would provide better access for all children and their caregivers

Recommendations include to:

- Provide wheeled or access for all into all playgrounds where topography does not already exclude these users. This can be achieved by removing (partially or totally) timber framing, providing ramp access into the play surface and or providing accessible loose-fill type of material and synthetic surfaces
- Provide equipment that caters for children with disabilities in an integrated way
- Use a diversity of construction materials. In particular, utilise opportunities to use locally available materials (stone, wood, planting) that fit with the landscape and climate

- Prioritise equipment that provides challenge for older children (i.e. 9+) and specific preschool playspaces
- Install water fountains at all playgrounds on Community Parks and skate parks
- Focus on provision of associated facilities such as seating and shade to provide more comfort for caregivers

The play value assessment data will inform future renewals and upgrades to playgrounds and help ensure that quality of play experience is maximised, that access for children of all abilities is improved, and that expenditure is directed to where it is most needed.

Most of the current playgrounds have a loose bark safety surface that is edged in timber (to contain the bark and stop it spreading). This design restricts access for people with disabilities or limited mobility. Newer playgrounds have used matting or artificial turf safety surfaces which do not require a barrier. These are more accessible and require less maintenance than loose fill safety surfaces. Future playground renewals should aim to improve accessibility where practicable. When existing playgrounds are renewed, loose safety surfaces should, where practicable, be replaced with flat surfaces that do not require hard edging. When existing play equipment is replaced, consideration should be given to improving play value and accessibility. It is not cost-effective to make all playgrounds fully accessible however there are significant improvements that can be made at relatively low cost.



Accessibility to playgrounds varies



Provision of shade near playgrounds is recommended. This can be in the form of trees or structures. Community and Destination Playgrounds will require more shade provision as people are likely to spend more time there.

¹¹ Matamata-Piako District Play Assessment 2021 prepared by Park Central

Proximity to the nationally recognised, destination playgrounds in Hamilton City is a major factor driving public expectations. Hamilton-style destination playgrounds are costly to install (\$1 Million+) and due to their complexity, they cost more to maintain. There may be some situations where they would be appropriate and feasible such as if they are part of a larger tourist destination ‘package’. Due to the costs involved, a thorough business case should be developed for any destination playground of this scale.

Providing Community Playgrounds in each town is recommended. Community Playgrounds provide more play opportunities than local/neighbourhood playgrounds but not quite at the same scale as city-based Destination Playgrounds. Providing mid-level playgrounds is a cost-effective option that still allows for the continued provision of local/neighbourhood playgrounds. There is the potential to upgrade some existing playgrounds to a Community Playground standard.

Play provision has traditionally been based around “of the shelf” play equipment. Play needs to be considered more broadly. Opportunities for nature play or natural play should also be considered in addition to traditional playground provision. There are many opportunities to incorporate play opportunities into the design of parks and open spaces.

Youth facilities have tended to focus on skate parks and basketball hoops. Youth facilities should be considered more broadly e.g. include outdoor fitness equipment.

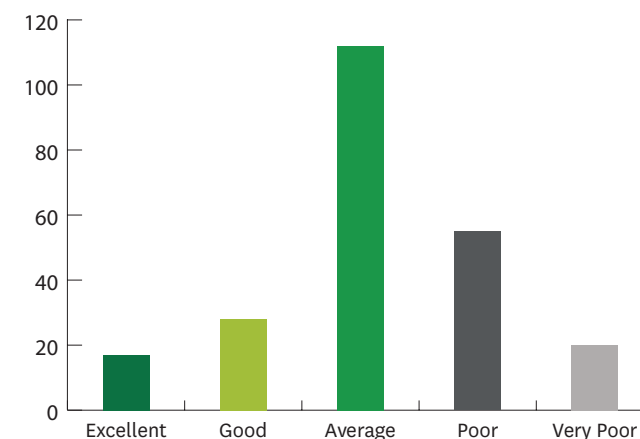
Pump tracks and outdoor fitness equipment are “crossover” items that cater for variety of ages.

12.1.1.4 STREETSAPES

Town entrances and town centres are the ‘shop window’ to the District and street furniture, trees, and gardens should be maintained to high standard in these areas. The use of colours and textures help create a sense of vibrancy. High profile streets should get the most attention with high quality furniture, colourful annual bed displays, and well-maintained street trees. Relatively lower levels of service may be appropriate along less prominent streets. A management category that puts different streets into a hierarchy with associated development and maintenance standards is recommended.

The three main towns currently have their own theme in terms of colour scheme and finish for street furniture in the town centres. Some of these are starting to look a bit dated. The majority of the CBD street furniture is aging and requires refurbishment or replacement. Projects are already underway to revitalise the town centres and replace worn out street furniture. Refer to the town-specific sections for more details.

Overall CBD Street Furniture Condition



Overall CBD street furniture condition (2016 data)



12.1.2 RESPONSE

12.1.2.1 PARKLAND

Our planning will focus on providing for a variety of needs, improving connectivity between parks & open spaces, and addressing gaps in provision in the urban areas.

We will:

- Use park management categories to guide development & management
- Take a strategic approach to land acquisitions and disposals to ensure our parks & open spaces are fit for purpose.
- Protect and enhance our natural and cultural heritage.
- Work more closely with tangata whenua.
- Look at ways to improve our volunteer programmes.



¹² SNZ HB 8630:2004 for walking/tramping tracks, Recreation Aotearoa NZ Mountain Bike Trail Design and Construction Guidelines for mountain bike trails and NZ Cycle Trail Design Guide for off-road cycle trails

12.1.2.2 TRACKS & TRAILS

We will:

- Continue to provide a range of tracks for different experience/skill/fitness levels
- Provide more easy and accessible tracks
- Consider opportunities to create more loop tracks
- Improve wayfinding and interpretation signage and technological aids
- Work closely with other providers (e.g. DOC)
- Maintain tracks to appropriate standards¹²

12.1.2.3 PLAY

We will

- Improve accessibility, play value and shade provision at existing playgrounds
- Keep providing basic local playgrounds within 15 minutes walking distance from urban residential areas in Matamata, Morrinsville & Te Aroha
- Provide at least one community playground in each town within 15-20 minutes walking distance of urban residential properties
- Provide at least one recreation facilities aimed at youth in each town
- Use playground management categories to guide provision and development
- Think more broadly about 'play' and consider play opportunities in design of parks and open spaces as well as opportunities for nature play, fitness trails etc.
- Explore playground partnerships

12.1.2.4 STREETSCAPES

We will:

- Complete the current town centre revitalisation and street furniture replacement projects
- Maintain the condition of our street furniture, street trees and gardens in the CBD and town entrances to a high standard to provide a vibrant, colourful town centres that meet the needs of locals and visitors
- Use management categories to guide development and maintenance of our street furniture, street trees and gardens.



12.1.2.5 MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

In 2013 we introduced park management categories based on the main purpose of a park. Each park category had guidelines for development and service delivery. We have reviewed and refined these park management categories and have introduced management categories for tracks & trails, playgrounds, and streetscapes as well. These are summarised in the following table. More details are available in the Appendices.

PARKS				
Management Category	Description	Provision Guidelines	Development Guidelines	Service Guidelines
Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks developed and used primarily for informal recreation and sporting activities, play and family centred activities, and social and community activities, with good street frontage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision 0.75 ha/1000 residents. Minimum size of 1.0ha. The size needs to be appropriate to the intended use e.g. if the intent is to provide a multi-use venue for community events or to provide a community playground then the site will need to be larger than if it is intended to cater only for local neighbourhood needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Configuration that provides for easy access, open flat land area of minimum 30 x 30m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level of service. Sites with higher levels of public use receive higher level of service to manage this use and expectations.
Heritage Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks that protect the built cultural and historical environment, and/or provide for heritage conservation, education, commemoration, mourning and remembrance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. Area will depend upon characteristics of heritage area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site dependent. Development options may include parking, public amenities, gardens, interpretation signage, protection of heritage features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent upon the type and characteristics of the heritage features associated with the site and the level of public usage. High use will require medium to high level of service.
Sports & Recreation Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks (often quite large areas) set aside and developed for organised sport and recreation activities, recreation facilities and buildings, often multiple use. These parks may also provide for a range of community activities and facilities, and have good street frontage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision 2.4 ha/1,000 residents. Minimum size 2 ha, allowing for provision / configuration of two full sized sports fields, preferably side by side. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level of development with sports fields / courts, including provision for parking and public amenities, may include building facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive higher levels of public use – with higher level of service to manage the use and sport activities. Parks used for sport practice may receive a lower level of service compared to those that are used for tournaments and/or multiple uses.
Nature Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary purpose of Nature Parks is to provide opportunities for people to experience nature. Typically native bush areas, wetlands, riparian areas or other natural landscapes are considered Nature Parks. They may include walking tracks, mountain bike tracks, picnic areas and facilities to support and service these activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. Area will depend upon characteristics of natural area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can offer a diverse range of experiences from walking, biking, or other outdoor activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally low level of service. Focus is typically on tracks, trail and access maintenance, pest plant and animal control programmes.

PARKS CONTINUED

Management Category	Description	Provision Guidelines	Development Guidelines	Service Guidelines
Recreation & Ecological Linkage Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open space linkages and corridors, often linear and associated with waterways and transport corridors. May cater for walking and cycling activities and active transport linkages. May provide for environmental protection, wildlife corridors and access to waterways. Provision for access from multiple street frontages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision 3.0 ha/1,000 residents. Area will depend upon characteristics of natural area, and proposed linkages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water bodies may trigger esplanade reserve requirements under RMA. Provision to enable public access to waterbodies, develop walkways / cycleways, ecological restoration or revegetation plantings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally a medium level of service, for maintenance of paths, trails and plantings. Location and use(s) determine level of service e.g. urban access ways and urban esplanades receive Medium Level of Service. Remote, rural esplanades lower Level of Service.
Outdoor Adventure Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks developed and used for recreation and sporting activities and associated built facilities that require a large scale, forested, rural or peri-urban environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. Minimum size 5.0 ha, preferably larger to accommodate for a range of activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent upon location and activities being undertaken – land or water based. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium to lower levels of service, dependent upon site, activities and usage.
Amenity Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas set aside for beautification and landscape purposes, often with limited recreation or ecological function. May be urban or rural, large or small. Usually mown grass with trees and/or gardens. May include rest areas, public toilets and other visitor facilities. Also known as pocket parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. Minimum size of 0.3 ha. Smaller areas may not be accepted by MPDC and should be retained in common or private ownership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site dependent. May provide a range of options, including gardens, quiet settings, public amenities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level of service for town entrance and CBD areas, medium level of service for other urban settings, low service for rural settings.
Special Purpose Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special purpose parks can include areas such as golf courses, aerodromes and leased areas that are not immediately available for public use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normally leased and serviced separate from Council

PLAY

Management Category	Description	Provision Guidelines	Development Guidelines	Service Guidelines
Destination Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A destination playground offers a wide range of play experiences, which are comprehensive and interesting, for all ages and abilities and has a high level of use. The location will be attractive enough to be a destination in its own right and be a significant draw card in bringing people (residents and visitors) to the park / area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No minimum provision requirement. Consider merits on a case-by-case basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destination playgrounds have a high level of development, providing for play for all age groups – toddler, child, teenager play opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level of service.
Community Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A community playground offers moderate play experiences for all ages and is located in areas generally supported by or near to other recreational or community facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 15 - 20 minutes walk from residences in urban setting, located in key setting. Minimum of one playground in a central location per town Key location easy access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offering opportunities of play for all age groups. May have separate areas for different age groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium – High level of service
Local/ Neighbourhood Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A neighbourhood playground offers basic play experiences located less than a 15-minute walk from residential properties. These playgrounds support the immediate residential area providing for an hour-long visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 10-15 minutes walk from residences in urban settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood playgrounds are generally located within grass areas, small parks, local open space and are designed for play and informal recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium level of service.
Youth Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities providing physical activity opportunities for youth (e.g. skate parks, skate paths, pump tracks, outdoor exercise equipment, outdoor basketball courts, extreme swings etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one facility per town catering for youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically located at Sports Parks or Community Parks. Could also be located at Outdoor Adventure Park if the nature of the activity requires it or Linkage Park if compatible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium to high level of service depending on nature of facility and location.

TRACKS & TRAILS

Management Category	Description	Provision Guidelines	Development Guidelines	Service Guidelines
Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well graded paths, allowing for people of all abilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. Needs based approach based on the purpose of the park/open space and its usage. Typically provided at Sports and Community Parks that have high levels of use and at Linkage Parks where connectivity/alternative transport routes are the main purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 2.0m wide, concrete or other paved surface, no steps or steep sections – little or no gradient. A surface other than concrete may be used for heritage reasons or to match an existing path network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain surface and drainage to a good standard, eliminate trip hazards, keep path clear of encroaching vegetation to a height of 2.4m Frequent inspection. Quick response for maintenance/repairs.
Accessible Short Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy walking, suitable for people with all abilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. Our aim is to provide a broad range of track types at a District level. Landscape features tend to dictate the types of track that can practicably be provided at a particular location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 1.5m width. Even surface, well formed with no steps or steep sections. Stream and rivers are bridged. Walk surface may be undulating with no gradients greater than 1:15 (7%) for short lengths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain surface and drainage to a good standard, eliminate trip hazards, keep path clear of encroaching vegetation to a height of 2.4m Frequent inspection. Quick response for maintenance/repairs.
Short Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People of most ages and fitness levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. Our aim is to provide a broad range of track types at a District level. Landscape features tend to dictate the types of track that can practicably be provided at a particular location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track well formed, drained surface. There may be steps. Streams and rivers bridged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain surface, drainage, signage to appropriate standard. Wayfinding signage where there are multiple tracks or potential for confusion. Signage to indicate track category to manage user expectations. Periodic inspection.
Walking Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well formed tracks, some sections may be steep, for people with low to moderate levels fitness and abilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. Our aim is to provide a broad range of track types at a District level. Landscape features tend to dictate the types of track that can practicably be provided at a particular location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 0.8m width. Track is clearly marked, has signs and markers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayfinding signage where there are multiple tracks or potential for confusion. Signage to indicate track category to manage user expectations. Periodic inspection.

TRACKS & TRAILS CONTINUED

Management Category	Description	Provision Guidelines	Development Guidelines	Service Guidelines
Tramping Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track is marked, may be unformed, for people with moderate to high levels back country skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. Our aim is to provide a broad range of track types at a District level. Landscape features tend to dictate the types of track that can practicably be provided at a particular location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 0.6m width. Track is clearly marked, has signs and markers. Streams and rivers may be bridged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayfinding signage where there are multiple tracks or potential for confusion. Signage to indicate track category to manage user expectations. Periodic inspection.
Advanced Tramping Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track is unformed and natural, for people with high level of backcountry skills and experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. Our aim is to provide a broad range of track types at a District level. Landscape features tend to dictate the types of track that can practicably be provided at a particular location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track clearly marked. Little or no development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayfinding signage where there are multiple tracks or potential for confusion. Signage to indicate track category to manage user expectations. Periodic inspection.
Cycle Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well graded wide trails allowing from people of most ages and fitness levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific quantity guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail guide specific - Refer to NZ Cycle Trail Design Guide MBIE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain surface and signage to appropriate standards
Mountain Bike Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracks vary from 1.2m–0.3m width, graded on a 1–5 basis. Higher grades have higher levels of expertise required, including negotiating over rocks, stumps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quantity guidance. Our aim is to provide a broad range of MTB trail types at a District level and at a Park level where practicable. Landscape features tend to dictate the types of trail that can practicably be provided at a particular location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail Guide specific - Refer to Recreation Aotearoa NZ Mountain Bike Trail Design and Construction Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain surface, drainage, signage to appropriate standard. Wayfinding signage where there are multiple tracks or potential for confusion. Signage to indicate track category to manage user expectations. Periodic inspection.

STREETSCAPES

Management Category	Description	Provision Guidelines	Development Guidelines	Service Guidelines
Town Entrances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadside location – may include mown area, plantings and town name signage / structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quality guidance. Site dependent development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town entry signage, with backdrop of plantings and/or mown areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium level of service
Central Business Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May include gardens, trees, seating, art features, and street dining/ occupation. Site dependent upon existing buildings, heritage features, orientation to sun, parking and access to buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quality guidance. Site dependent development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level of development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High or Medium level of service depending on location. Main thoroughfares and commercial streets higher level of service.
Urban Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May include street gardens, trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quality guidance. Site dependent development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium level of development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium level of service
Industrial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May include trees, street gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quality guidance. Site dependent development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium to low level of development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium to low level of service
Rural and Rural Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May include trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quality guidance. Site dependent development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low level of development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low level of service

See Appendices for more detail about each category.

DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES BY PARK CATEGORY

●= appropriate; ○= sometimes provided e.g. parks that serve multiple purposes – see Appendix 5 for more detail

ASSET	PARK MANAGEMENT CATEGORY							
	Community	Heritage	Sports & Recreation	Nature	Rec. & Ecol. Linkage	Outdoor Adventure	Amenity	Special Purpose
Playground – neighbourhood/basic	○				○		○	
Playground – community/standard	○		○					
Playground – destination/premium	○							
Sports fields	○		●					
Mown grass areas	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	
Garden/shrub beds	●	○	○				○	
Native vegetation/ revegetation	○	○		●	○	○	○	
Path	●				○	○		
Walking Track			○	○	○	○		
Tramping Track						○		
Mountain Bike Trail					○	●		

ASSET	PARK MANAGEMENT CATEGORY CONTINUED							
	Community	Heritage	Sports & Recreation	Nature	Rec. & Ecol. Linkage	Outdoor Adventure	Amenity	Special Purpose
BBQ	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>					
Shelter structure	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>					
Picnic Tables	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Seating	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	
Signage – Park name	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Signage – Wayfinding	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Signage – Interpretation/story boards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>				
Drinking fountain	<input type="radio"/>							
Rubbish bins	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>			
Recycling bins	<input type="radio"/>							
Lighting	<input type="radio"/>				<input type="radio"/>			
Public toilets	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>					
Onsite parking	<input type="radio"/>							

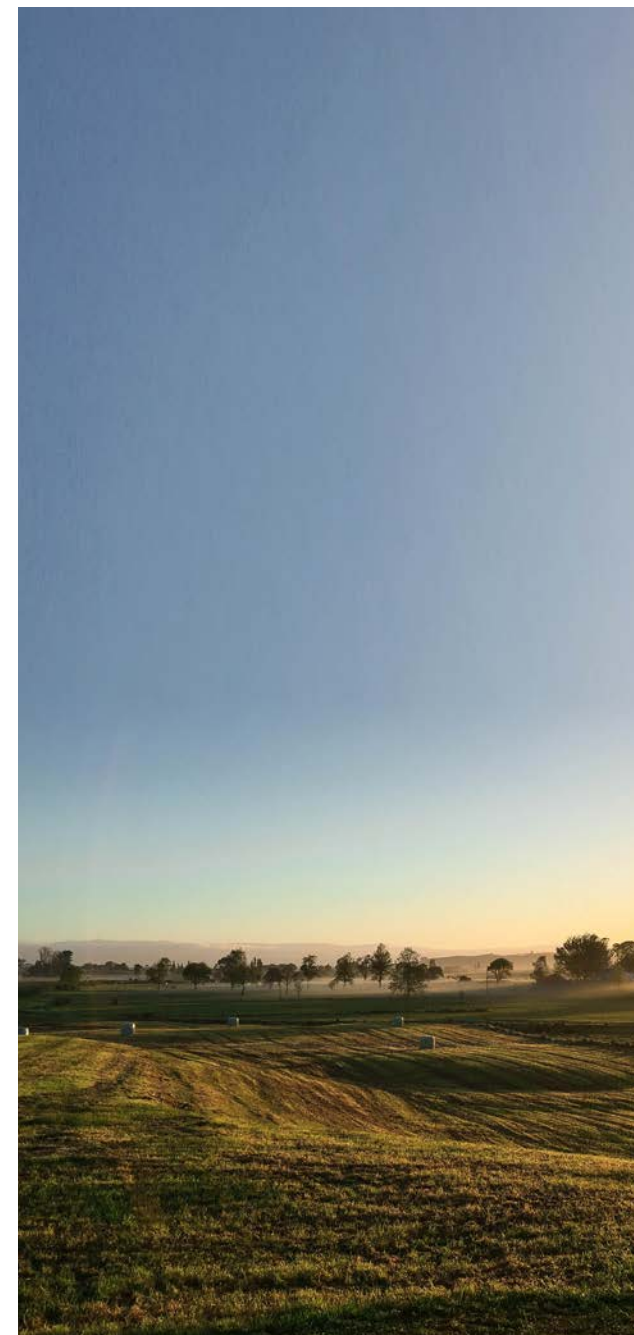
12.1.2.6 LAND ACQUISITION GUIDELINES

The following guidelines have been developed to enable a consistent approach to decision-making about the acquisition or disposal of land used for parks and open spaces. A more detailed Reserve Acquisition Policy is being developed that will align with these guidelines but deal with various matters in more detail e.g. subdivision processes, valuation methodology, dispute resolution etc.

Should land become available for Council acquisition, it is important to assess each opportunity on its merits against the following criteria:

1. The intended purpose and likely use of the land (using the park management categories in this strategy as a guide)
2. Whether the strategy identifies a need to increase the provision of that park category
3. Whether the land is in the desired location for that park category
4. Whether the land meets minimum size and other characteristics for the particular park category (refer to the provision and development guidelines for the relevant park category)
5. Whether acquiring the land would improve existing parks & open spaces assets (e.g. acquiring land adjacent to an existing park in order to enlarge it or improve connectivity)
6. Whether there are special features associated with the land that require protection and whether Council managing the land as a park is the most appropriate form of protection for it.¹³

¹³ Sometimes it may be more appropriate that a park is managed by a different agency e.g. the Department of Conservation. In other cases, it may be more appropriate to protect a feature via a Schedule to the District Plan or by a conservation covenant.



12.1.2.7 LAND DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

In general, caution should be exercised when considering disposal of parkland, especially if located in urban areas as it is very difficult, and often very expensive, to acquire new land if the population grows or demands change in the future. Peri-urban and rural land is far easier to replace in the future through the acquisition of land during subdivision planning and development.

When considering the potential disposal of land the following factors should be considered:

- The legal status of the land, including whether Council has the authority to dispose of the land, and any particular legal processes that need to be followed
- Whether the park is serving its intended purpose for the category it is in
- Whether the park is in the right location for the category it is in
- Whether the park is duplicating the purpose and values of parks nearby
- Whether the park meets the size requirements and other characteristics for the particular park category that it is in
- Whether there are special intrinsic or unique values or features within the park that should be protected for public good e.g. historical, cultural or natural attributes

Council manages a diverse land portfolio that has been added to over time in various ways under different legislation. This can make disposals rather complicated. Some of our parks and open spaces are subject to the Reserves Act 1977 while others are subject to the Local Government Act 2002. The Reserves Act prescribes processes involving public consultation and approval from the Minister of Conservation in order to revoke the reserve status of land before being able to dispose of it. The Local Government Act is less complicated but also requires consultation prior to the disposal of parks which are not subject to the Reserves Act. Some parks and open spaces were acquired under the Public Works Act and there may be requirements to offer the land back to its previous owner or their successor. Likewise, reserve land that was derived from the Crown generally reverts to the Crown if the reserve status is revoked and the distribution of any proceeds of sale are at the discretion of the Crown. Council does not own all its parks and open spaces either. Some are Crown Land that Council has merely been appointed to 'control and manage' under the Reserves Act. Council cannot sell off land that it does not own.

In some cases, it may be more cost-effective to lease out unsuitable land to a third party rather than to sell it off. When considering leasing as an option, it is important to note that the Reserves Act 1977 regulates leasing of various classes of reserve that it applies to.





12.2 MATAMATA

When it was first surveyed in 1904, Matamata was laid out into town sections with provision for wide streets and a central park for recreational needs (Matamata Domain). The surveyors enclosed the new settlement on two sides with a 40 metre wide plantation reserve which over the years developed into Centennial Drive (which was later extended to form what is now Tom Grant Drive).

Matamata's leafy green image is further emphasised through the parks located within the central business district, as well as its streetscapes and walkways. For example:

- The Hētana Street Railway Oak Tree Plantation originates from when the Thames Valley Railway line was first opened in 1885, and is today the sole survivor of railway plantations in the Matamata area
- Founders Memorial Park was dedicated to the memory of Wiremu Tamihana, Rev Alfred Brown and Josiah Firth, who were all connected to the early history of the town
- Broadway is for many the landmark of Matamata with its centre islands planted with weeping elms, oaks and chestnuts as well as colourful annual flower displays and public art
- Tower Road Walkway provides an avenue of English Oak trees which creates a pleasant environment to walk or cycle

12.2.1 ANALYSIS

12.2.1.1 PARKLAND



Map Legend



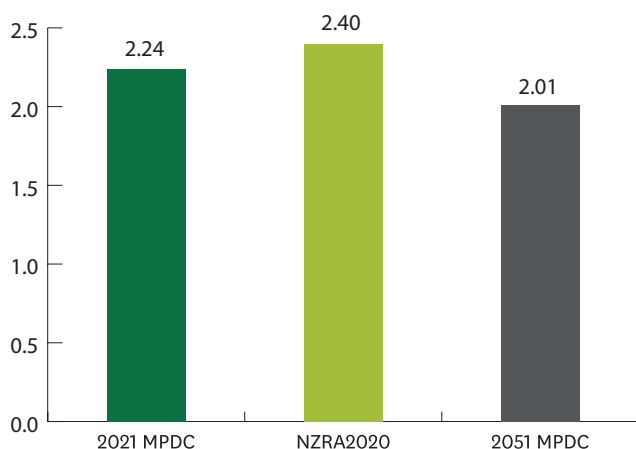
Reserve Category

- AMENITY
- CEMETERY
- LINKAGE - RECREATION / ECOLOGICAL
- NATURAL
- COMMUNITY 1
- COMMUNITY 2
- SPORT AND RECREATION
- HISTORICAL
- OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
- SPECIALIST / LEASED

Matamata by park management category (2021)

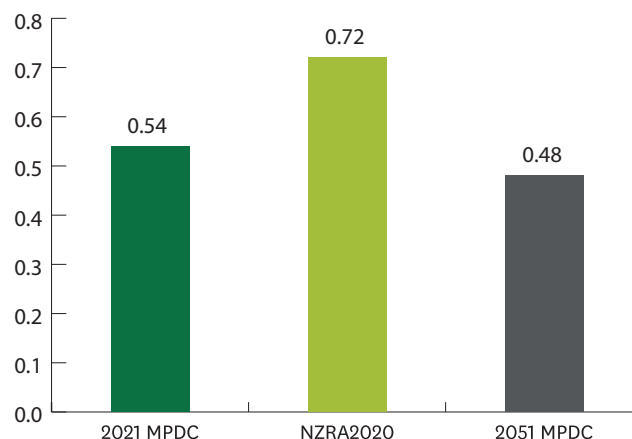
The following graphs illustrate how provision of different parks by MPDC in Matamata township compares with a peer group benchmark. The first blue bar indicates our level of provision in 2021. The green bar illustrates a peer group benchmark for rural councils with a similar population. The final blue bar illustrates what our current provision would look like compared to the population forecast for 2051.

Matamata Sports Park Provision
(ha/1000 population)



Sports park provision is adequate per population when considering public access to private parks e.g. Bedford Park. Community and amenity parks are well below the benchmark in terms of park area per population.

Matamata Community/Amenity Park Provision
(ha/1000 population)



Amenity and Community Parks in Matamata tend to be relatively small in area but the town is fortunate to have fairly large Linkage Parks, like Centennial Drive, which also provide many of the functions and benefits normally associated with Community or Amenity Parks. The wide berms and central medians along the main thoroughfare also function similar to an Amenity Parks. The Linkage Parks however have limited potential for larger scale gatherings or community events. Redeveloping existing parks near the town centre or, if a suitable opportunity arises, acquiring additional land in the town centre to redevelop as a park, may help address the issue.

Matamata is growing and residential subdivisions provide opportunities to acquire additional parkland.

There are opportunities to improve connectivity between parks and open spaces in Matamata. The focus should be on acquitting strategic linkages to complete an Inner and an Outer 'Green Route' and connect these to the centre of town. The 'Green Routes' can be achieved using a combination of linkage parks, wider footpaths or shared paths.

It is important to ensure that new residential areas will have adequate access to appropriate recreational spaces.

Community support for the Inner & Outer Green Routes is been strong.

Pre-draft consultation also indicated community interest in off lead dog exercise areas and bridle trails for horses.

12.2.1.2 TRACKS & TRAILS

Due to its relatively flat topography Matamata does not have any tramping tracks. It does however have paths and tracks connecting the town centre with residential areas or tourist destinations (e.g. Tower Road Walkway, Peria Road Walkway). There are opportunities to develop additional paths and walkways including the Inner & Outer Routes and connections between these and the town centre.

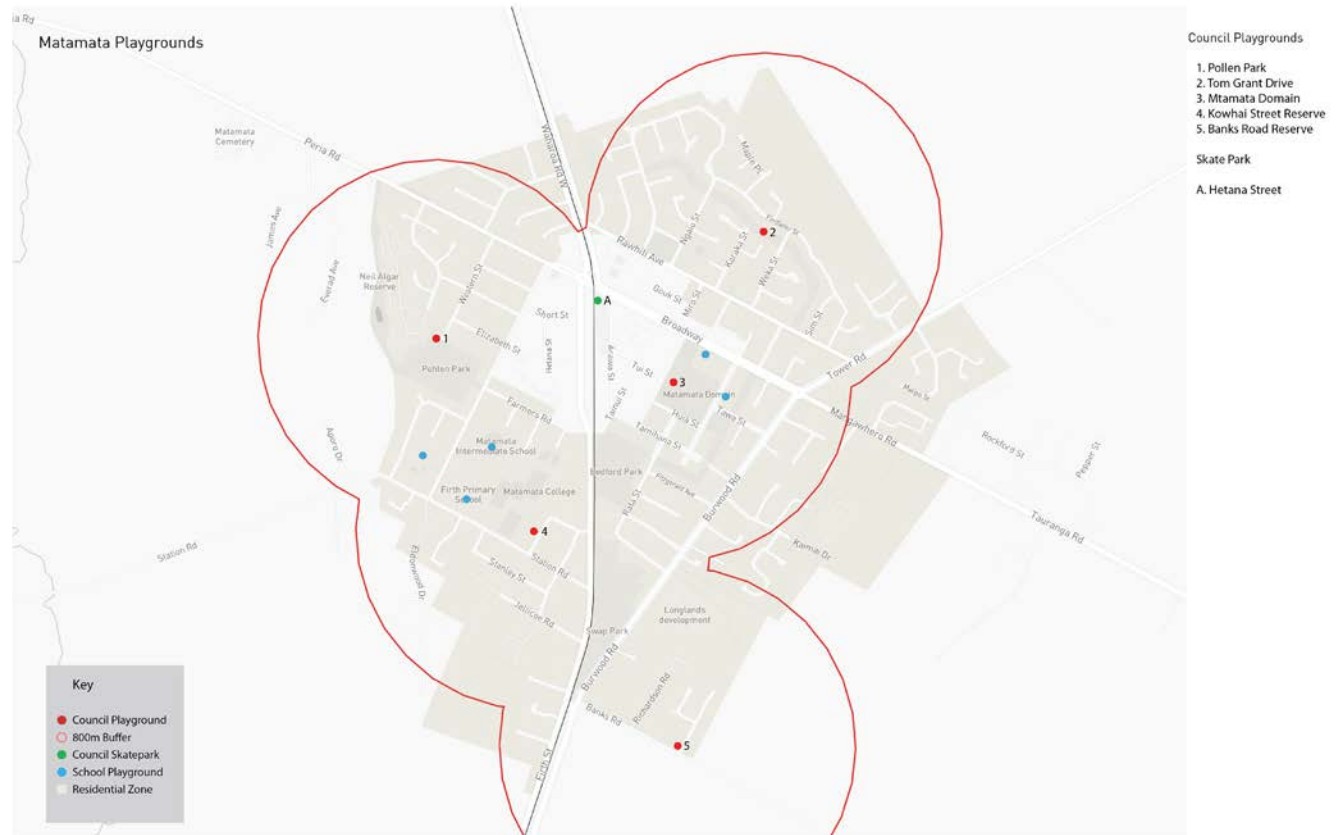
12.2.1.3 PLAY

Most of Matamata has access to a playground within 15 minutes walk (see map).

Matamata is growing and it is important to ensure that new residential areas will have adequate access to a playground. Additional playgrounds are likely to be required to cater for new residential subdivisions.

There are currently gaps in provision in the eastern part of town where residential subdivisions are in progress. This was anticipated by our 2013 strategy and we acquired an additional park off the recently extended Kaimai Drive for this purpose. We also have the option to locate playgrounds in existing parks between Mangawhero Road and Tower Road. Subdivisions are also occurring in the West (i.e. between Station Road and First Street). We already owned a park on Haig Street and have acquired additional parks as part of subdivisions as well that could be used for a playground in the future. There is also a small gap in provision between Dawson Street and Waharoa Road West. If land to the Northwest were subdivided in future this may increase demand in this area. Council has relatively undeveloped parks at Peria Road and Everard Avenue that could potentially cater for part of this area and if the area to the North were subdivided there may be opportunities to acquire additional land as well.

Pre-draft consultation indicated strong interest a destination playground for Matamata or improving playgrounds generally.



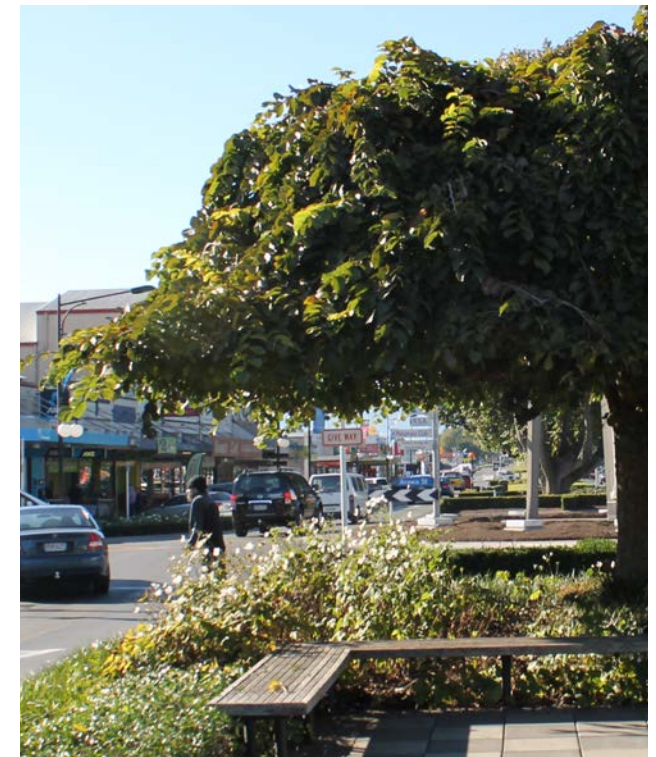
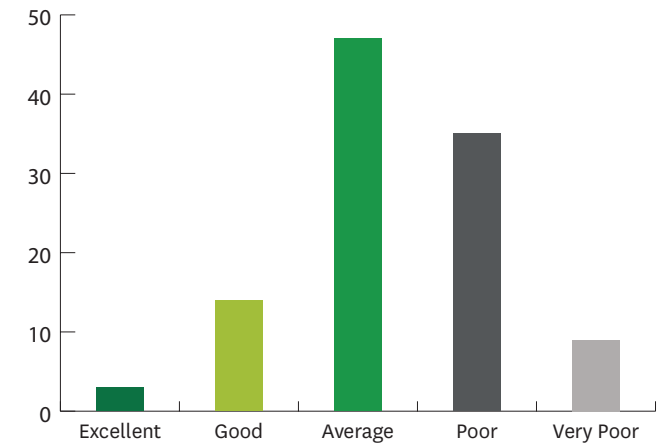
Current Matamata playground locations

12.2.1.4 STREETScape

Matamata is fortunate to have wide, tree lined, road berms that help shape the character of the town. The central medians and roundabouts along Broadway provide sufficient space for specimen trees, public art, and gardens. Annual bed displays add colour and vibrancy to the town centre.

The majority of the CDB street furniture is aging and requires refurbishment or replacement. Projects are already underway to revitalise the town centre and replace worn out street furniture. Matamata has experienced significant tourism growth over the past decade. Despite current downturn in international visitors due to the global pandemic, Matamata remains a convenient and popular rest stop for domestic travellers. It is therefore appropriate that good quality furniture and landscaping is provided along the main streets.

Matamata Street Furniture Condition



12.2.2 RESPONSE

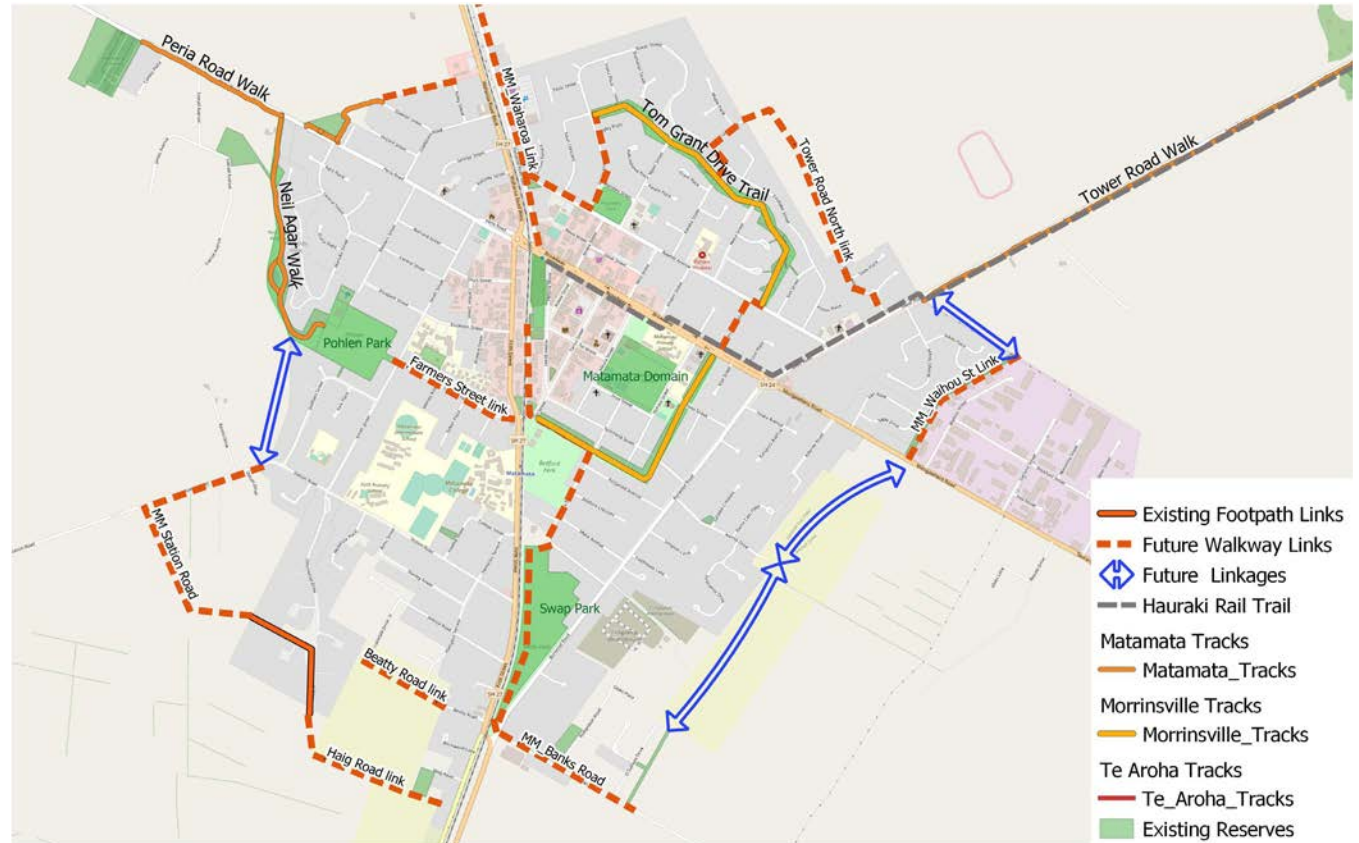
12.2.2.1 PARKLAND

Our focus will be to complete the Inner & Outer Green Routes and connect these to the town centre. This will involve the acquisition of additional Linkage Parks as well as improvements to existing footpaths and the development of formed paths on existing parks where necessary.

We will consider opportunities to redevelop/ optimise existing parks in/near the town centre (e.g. Hētana Street, Founders Park, Swap Park).

We will consider opportunities to acquire more land near the town centre to develop as a park.

We will consider providing an additional off lead dog exercise area.



12.2.2.2 TRACKS & TRAILS

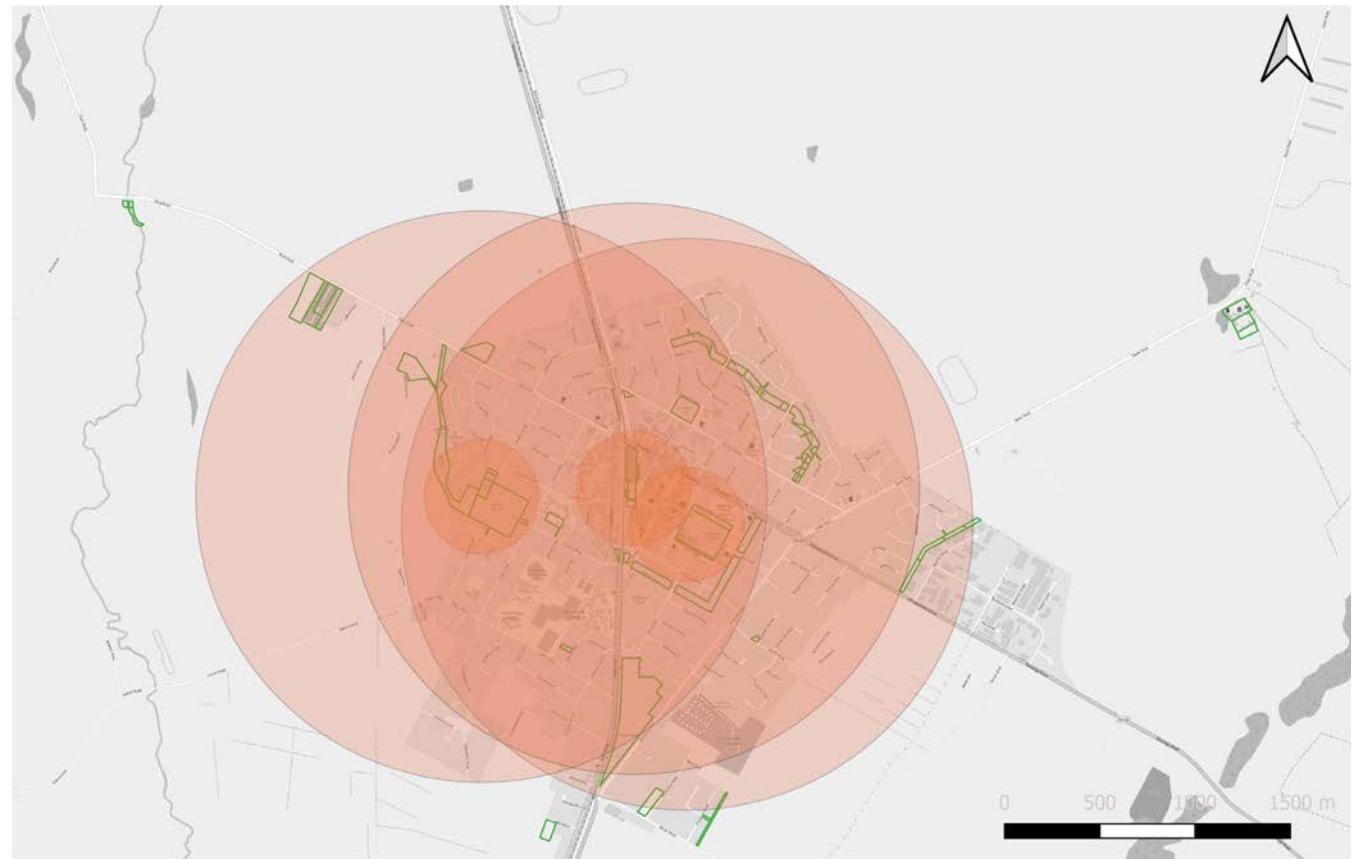
Our short-medium term focus will be to complete the Inner and Outer 'Green Routes' and connect these to the town centre.

We will consider opportunities to improve or develop paths, tracks and trails on existing parks to improve connectivity or enhance amenity.

12.2.2.3 PLAY

Our focus will be on:

- improving existing playgrounds in terms of access, play value, shade and seating
- providing new playgrounds in growth areas
- providing at least one community playground.



Potential locations for a Community Playground with indicating less than 15-20 minutes walk

12.2.2.4 STREETSAPES



Matamata - Streetscapes Levels of Service



12.3 MORRINSVILLE

In 1874 Thomas and Samuel Morrin purchased an estate, setting up a sheep and cattle station which led to the development of Morrinsville. The town was surveyed in 1882.

The town was the service centre for the Morrin Brothers' Lockerbie Estate. The railway line to Morrinsville was opened in 1884, giving a further boost to the fledgling township, increasing the population from 115 in 1881 to 633 in 1886. With the improvements to the dairy industry in the early 1900s, Morrinsville continued to prosper and grow. The dairy industry is still an important part of life in Morrinsville, with the town adopting the slogan "Cream of the Country". Its dairy heritage is also celebrated by a 'herd' of cow statues dotted throughout town as well as 'Mabel the Megacow' a 6 metre tall bovine landmark.

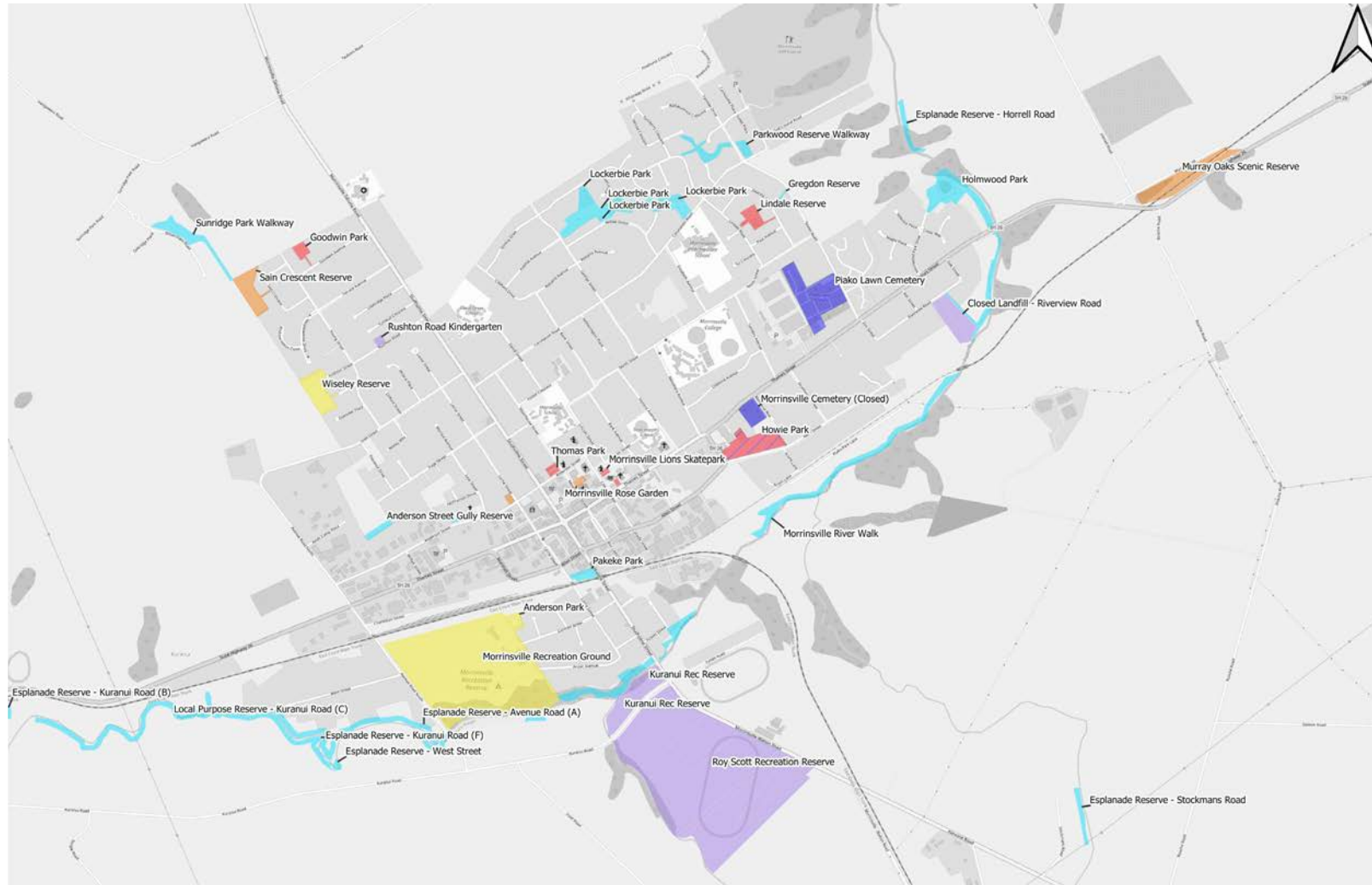
Morrinsville's Parks and Open Spaces reflect the town's agricultural history with names like Lockerbie Park and Thomas Park celebrating early farms and farming families and the 'herd of Cows' street art.

The town is still a strong agricultural service centre and home to agricultural manufacturing and similar industries. Morrinsville is also becoming a popular commuter town as it is within 30 minutes' drive of the centre of Hamilton. Increasing house prices in Hamilton have made living in Morrinsville an attractive option for those working in Hamilton.

12.3.1 ANALYSIS

12.3.1.1 PARKLAND

The origin of the town as an agricultural service centre probably contributed to the relatively low provision of parks and open spaces in Morrinsville compared to the two other main towns.



Map Legend

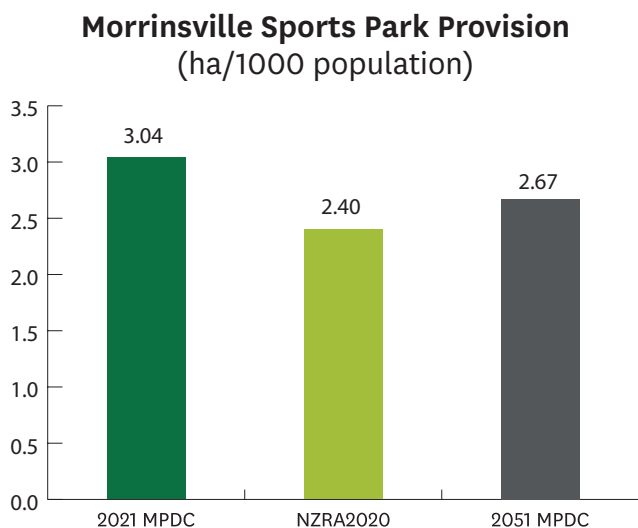


Reserve Category

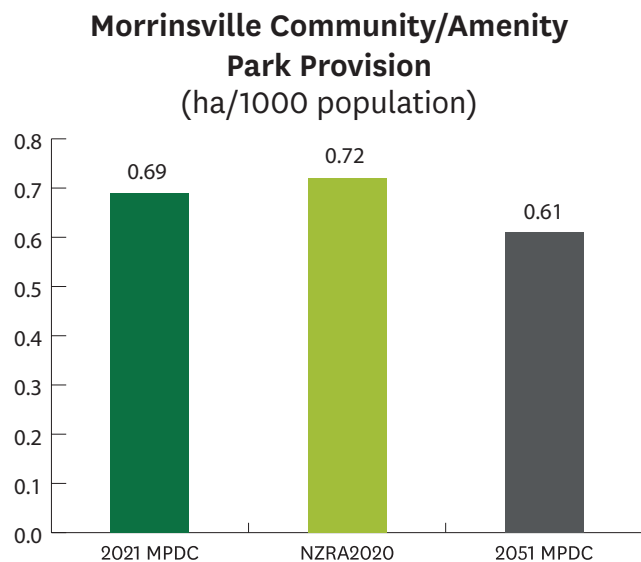
- AMENITY
- CEMETERY
- LINKAGE - RECREATION / ECOLOGICAL
- NATURAL
- COMMUNITY 1
- COMMUNITY 2
- SPORT AND RECREATION
- HISTORICAL
- OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
- SPECIALIST / LEASED

Morrinsville by park management category (2021)

The following graphs illustrate how provision of different parks by MPDC in Morrinsville township compares with a peer group benchmark. The first blue bar indicates our level of provision in 2021. The green bar illustrates a peer group benchmark for rural councils with a similar population. The final blue bar illustrates what our current provision would look like compared to the population forecast for 2051.



Sports park provision is adequate for the population. The graphs exclude Campbell Park which is owned by a private trust but is accessible to the community. There may also be opportunities to better utilise existing spaces e.g. at the Recreation Grounds.



Community and amenity parks are below the benchmark in terms of park area per population. As stated above, this is likely due to the town's origins as a service centre for the surrounding agricultural areas with more people living on farms and in rural settlements than is the case today.

Amenity and Community Parks in Morrinsville tend to be relatively small in area. Howie Park, the largest Community Park by land area, is unfortunately somewhat disconnected from the town centre. The main streets of Morrinsville typically do not have wide berms or central medians that could also have provided functions similar to Amenity Parks. Some Linkage Parks have some potential to provide amenity or even community park functions (e.g. Holmwood Park) but these are relatively few. Some currently undeveloped parks (e.g. Goodwin Park, Sain Crescent Reserve) were intended to serve as future

Community Parks their layout is not however particularly suitable for this purpose. If adjacent land is sub-divided in the future, there may be opportunities to acquire additional land and improve their overall layout and functionality. Subdivisions in the North also offer opportunities to acquire additional land for Community Park purposes that may be more suitable.

Redeveloping existing parks near the town centre or, if a suitable opportunity arises, acquiring additional land in the town centre to redevelop as a park, may help address the issue as well.

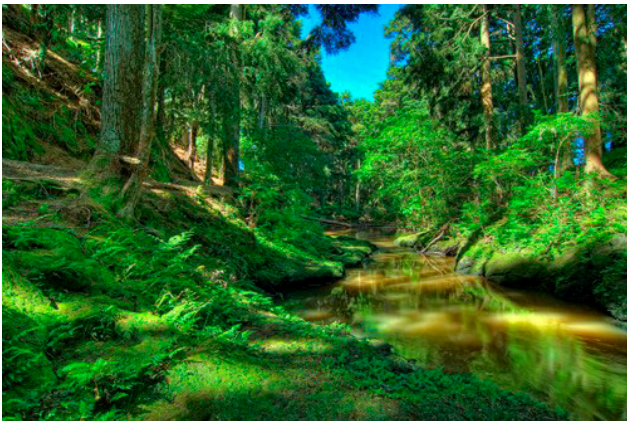
Morrinsville is growing and residential subdivisions provide opportunities to acquire additional parkland. It is important to ensure that new residential areas will have adequate access to appropriate recreational spaces.

There are opportunities to improve connectivity between parks and open spaces in Morrinsville. The focus should be on acquitting strategic linkages to extend the River Walk and to create North-South linkages between residential areas and the town centre.

12.3.1.2 TRACK & TRAILS

Due to its relatively flat topography Morrinsville does not have any tramping tracks near town. The town is fortunate to have a walking track along the river. The River Walk is currently being extended and once completed will connect the Recreation Ground to Holmwood Park.

The River Walk can be enhanced by developing the South Bank from Kuranui Road to Avenue Road South thus creating a loop walk from the Recreation Ground. It could potentially be extended west of Avenue Road and/or North from Holmwood Park.



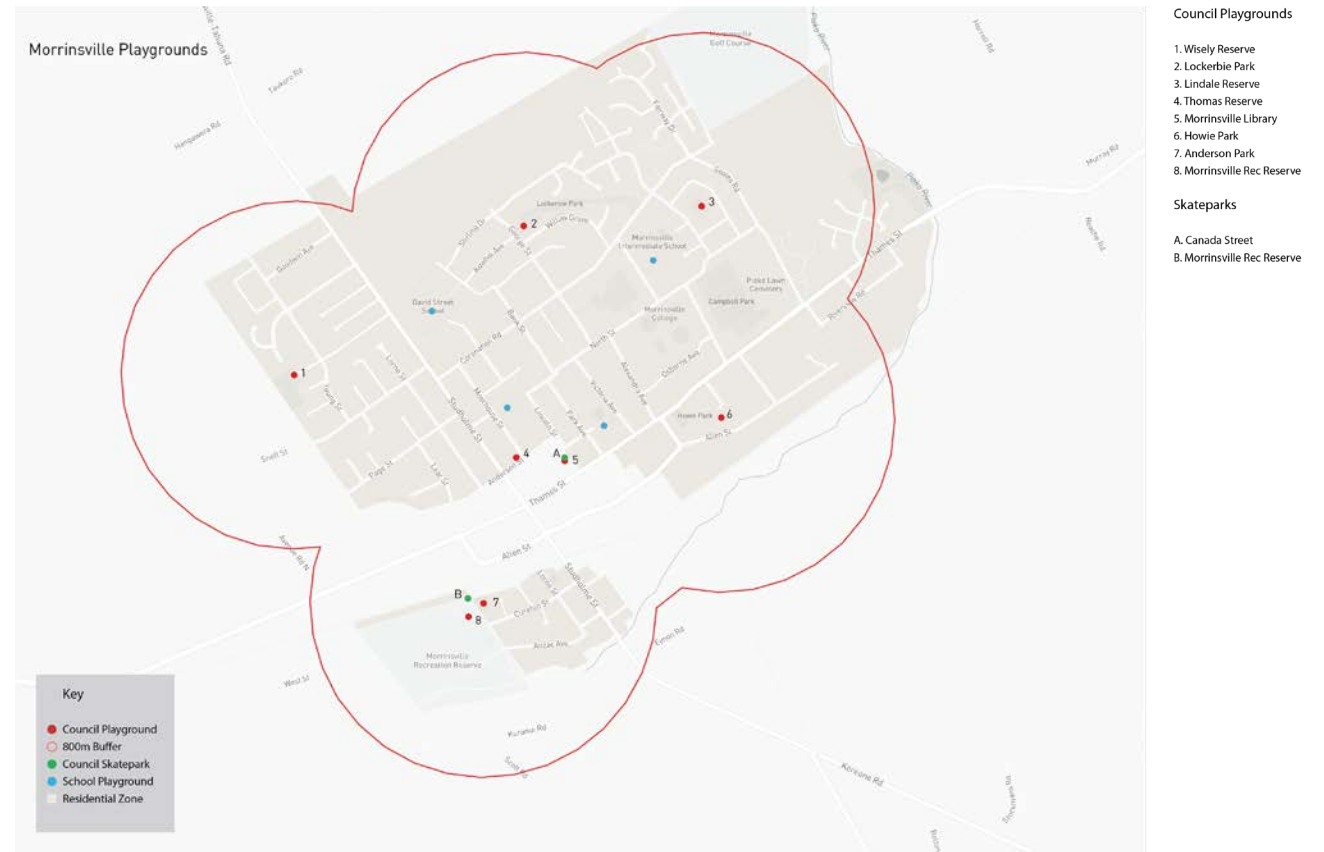
Connectivity between the Recreation Ground and the town centre could be improved.

There are also opportunities to develop additional tracks & trails on linkage parks created by subdivisions.

12.3.1.3 PLAY

Most of Morrinsville has access to a playground within 15 minutes walk (see map).

Morrinsville is growing and it is important to ensure that new residential areas will have adequate access to a playground. Additional playgrounds are likely to be required to cater for new residential subdivisions in the North.



Current Morrinsville playground locations



Playground at Morrinsville Recreation Grounds

There will be additional demand for 1-2 additional playgrounds as residential subdivision expands towards to the North. Council is currently acquiring additional parkland North of Stirling Drive as part of the Lockerbie Farm subdivision that is likely to cater for this need to a large extent.

There is also a small gap in provision in the eastern part of town (between Riverview Road, Cedar Way & the Piako River). Providing an additional playground in the eastern part of town (possibly at Holmwood Park) may cater for this area.

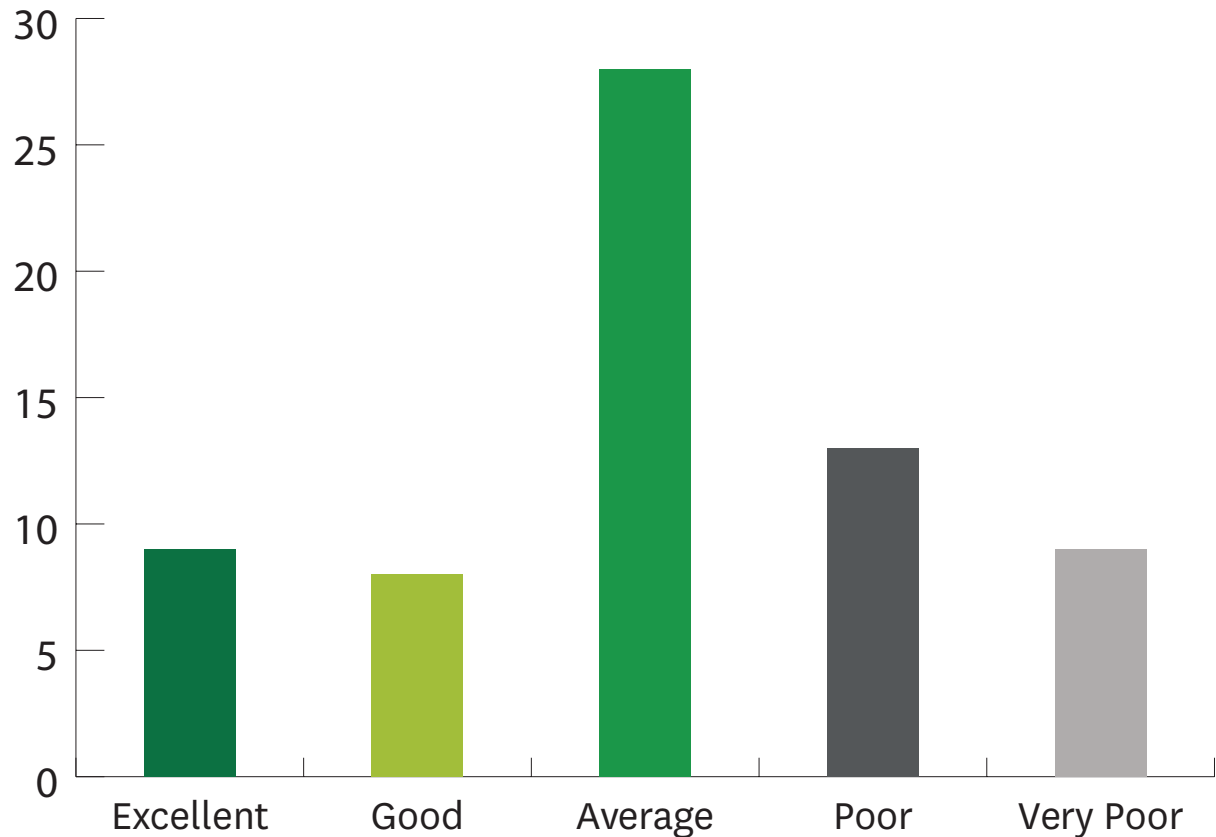
Pre-draft consultation indicated strong interest a destination playground or improving playgrounds generally.

12.3.1.4 STREETSAPES

The main entrances to Morrinsville lack wide, flat berms. The main streets tend to lack centre medians. Roundabouts and medians do not provide sufficient space for specimen trees, public art, or gardens. Garden displays and public art add colour and vibrancy to the town centre. Garden beds in the town centre tend to be relatively small due to the narrow footpaths and plants often sharing space with public art installations.

The CBD street furniture is aging and will require refurbishment or replacement. Projects are already underway to revitalise the town centre and replace worn out street furniture. Morrinsville is a relatively busy rural service town. It is therefore appropriate that good quality furniture is provided along the main streets. Given the limited scope for landscaping it is important to maintain colourful garden bed displays where possible to add vibrancy to the town centre.

Morrinsville Street Furniture Condition



12.3.2 RESPONSE

12.3.2.1 PARKLAND

We will acquire additional Community and Linkage Parks in growth areas.

Connectivity is to be improved through a combination of additional Linkage Parks and improved footpaths / shared pathways.

We will consider opportunities to redevelop/ optimise existing parks (e.g. Recreation Ground, Howie Park).

We will also consider opportunities to acquire more land near the town centre to develop as a park.



Morrinsville Links - Reserves with Current Walks and Tracks - DRAFT August 2020
Future Walkway and Reserve Linkages

NOTE: This map is conceptual. Where potential future linkages and routes are indicated they are indicative only. Exact routes and types of linkages will often be dependent on subdivisions that may occur in the future.

12.3.2.2 TRACKS & TRAILS

Our short-term focus will be to complete the extension of the River Walk and the connections within the Lockerbie Farm subdivision.

We will consider further enhancements to the River Walk. This includes developing the South Bank from Kuranui Road to Avenue Road South thus creating a loop walk from the Recreation Grounds.

We will consider acquiring additional linkages to create an outer walkway route.

We will consider opportunities to improve or develop paths, tracks and trails on existing parks (e.g. Recreation Grounds) to improve connectivity or enhance amenity.

DID YOU KNOW

Morrinsville Recreation Grounds
(22.9 ha)

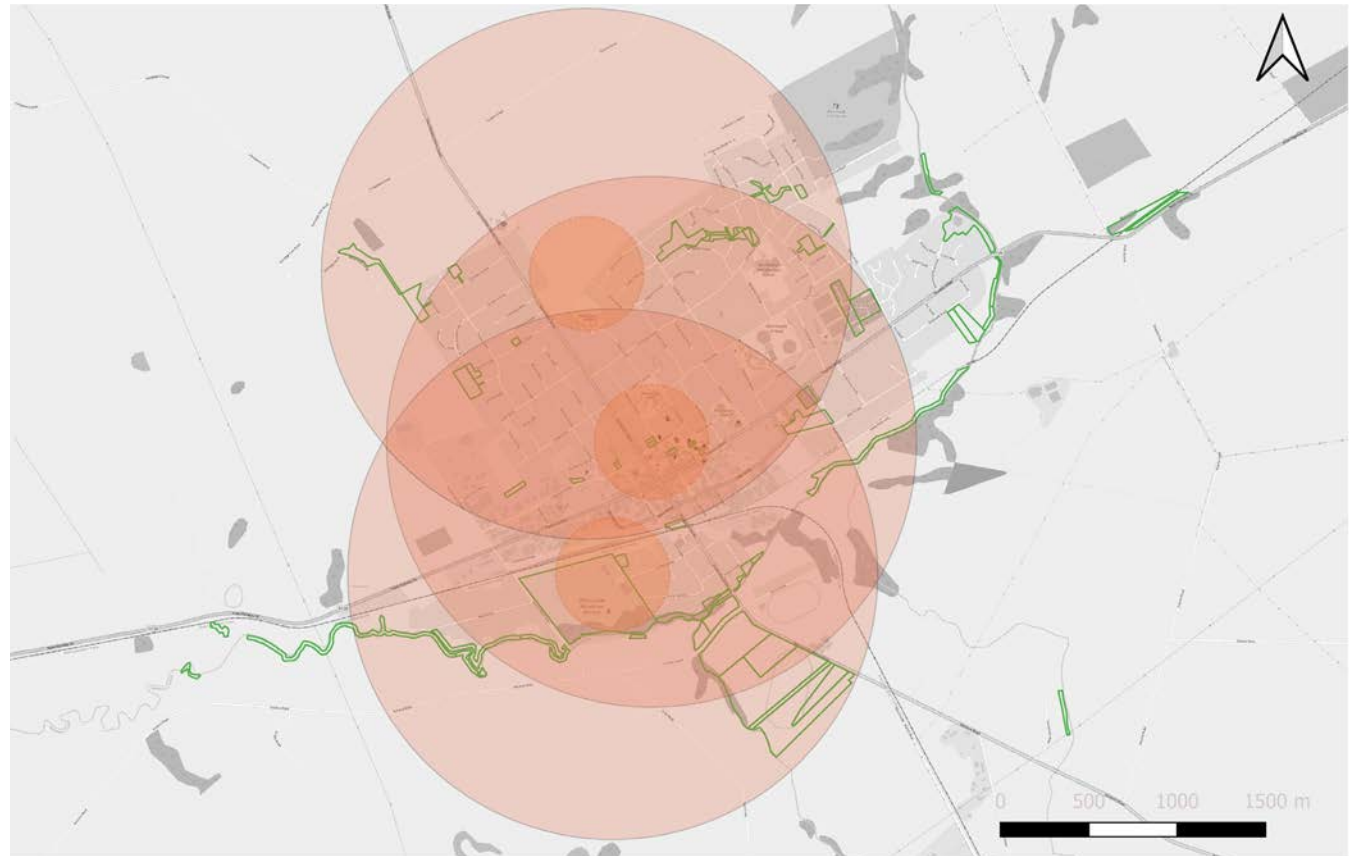
is our largest sports park



12.3.2.3 PLAY

Our focus will be on:

- improving existing playgrounds in terms of access, play value, shade and seating
- providing new playgrounds in growth areas
- providing at least one community playground



Potential locations for a Community Playground with a 1500m radius indicating less than 15-20 minutes walk

12.3.2.4 STREETScape



Morrinsville - Streetscapes Levels of Service



12.4 TE AROHA

The township of Te Aroha is located between the Waihou River and Mount Te Aroha which forms the backdrop to the town. The base of Mt Te Aroha contains several natural hot springs and a soda geyser.

The land known today as the Te Aroha Domain was made a public reserve under the Public Domains Act in December 1882 thus making it our oldest official park. The history of Te Aroha however goes back much further. The hot springs were used by Māori long before European settlement began.

After the opening of the Thames Goldfield in 1867, visitors from Thames travelled up the Waihou (or "River Thames" as they called it) using the area for recreation, including duck shooting, picnicking, and visiting the hot springs at Te Aroha. The discovery of gold-bearing quartz on Whakapipi/Bald Spur in 1880 at a time when the Thames Goldfield was declining led to Te Aroha experiencing an influx of new residents. A year later gold was also discovered at Waiorongomai and the population boom continued.

As reliance on gold mining declined, development of the hot springs dominated the town. The first permanent bath house facilities were built in 1883 and the town soon became known as a popular tourist destination. The Te Aroha Domain is still a popular park and visitors can still enjoy a spa experience.

There are several walking and tramping tracks in the area. Some were traditional East-West trading routes used by Māori, some are associated with mining, and others were purpose-built for health or tourism purposes.

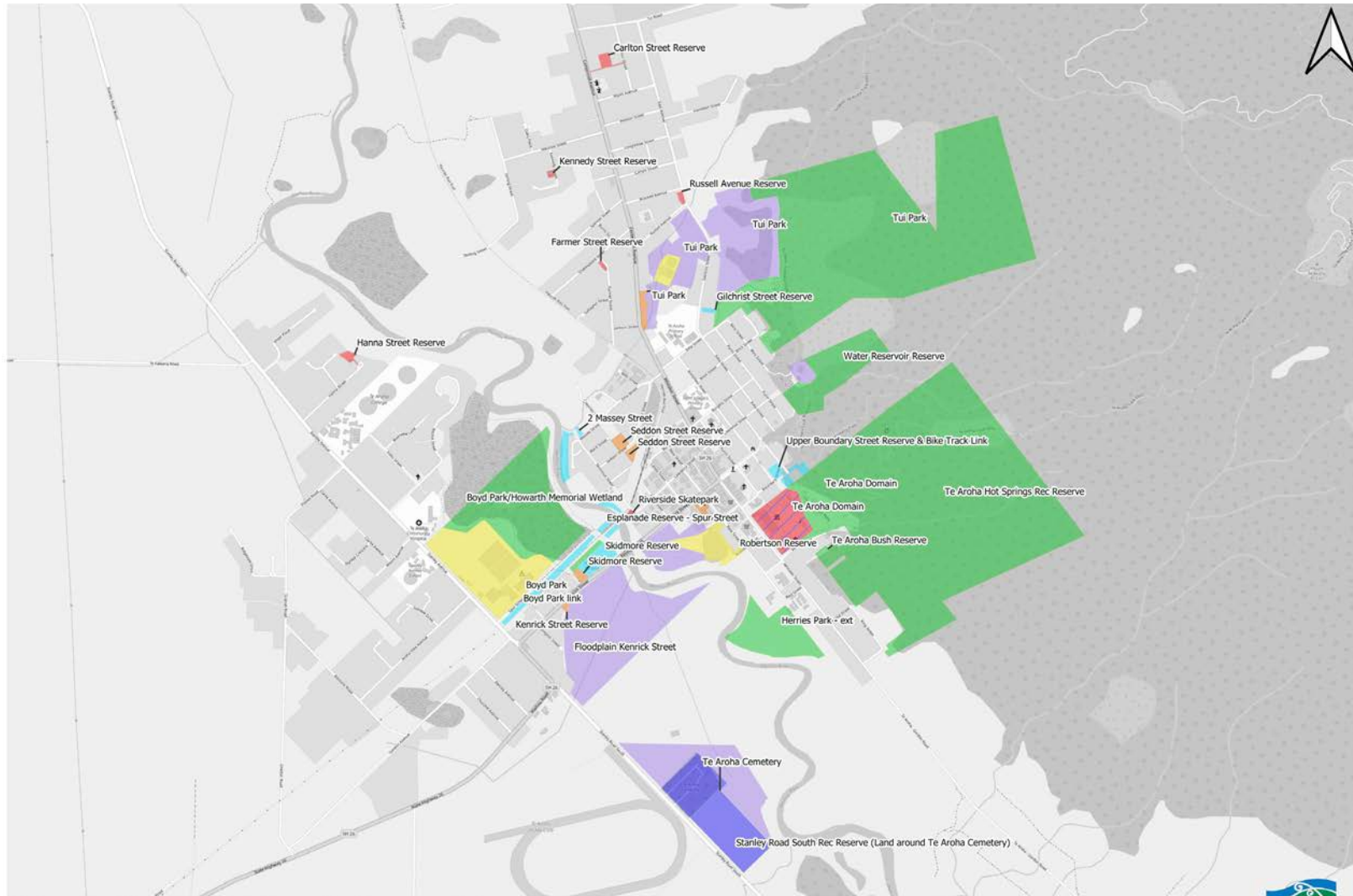
The Hamilton to Te Aroha railway opened in 1886. Trains stopped coming to Te Aroha in 1991. Today, the rail corridor is home to the Hauraki Rail Trail cycleway.

Of the three main towns, Te Aroha has the lowest population, is experiencing the smallest population growth, and has the least potential to expand as it is more limited by geography.

Te Aroha's rich history, wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities and convenient location mean it has great tourism potential.

12.4.1 ANALYSIS

12.4.1.1 PARKLAND



Map Legend



Reserve Category

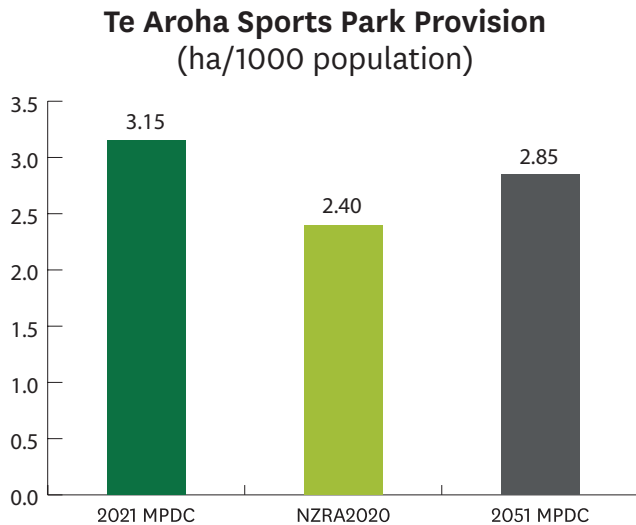
- AMENITY
- CEMETERY
- LINKAGE - RECREATION / ECOLOGICAL
- NATURAL
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- COMMUNITY 2
- SPORT AND RECREATION
- HISTORICAL
- OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
- SPECIALIST / LEASED

Matamata Piako District Council - Reserve Categories - Te Aroha

Te Aroha by park management category (2021)

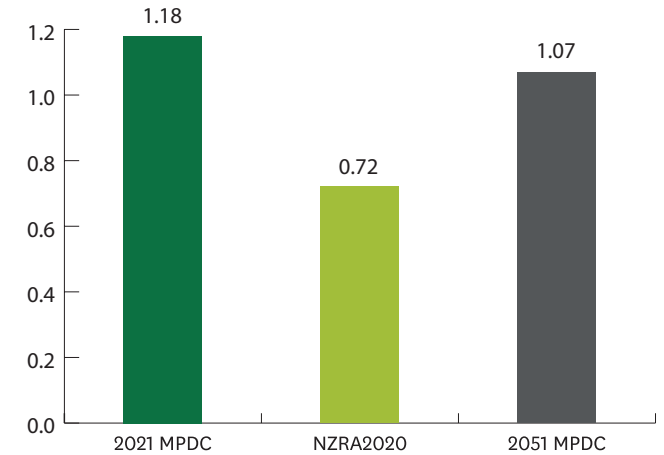


Sports park provision is adequate for Te Aroha's current population and is likely to remain adequate for population growth over the next 30 years if no additional sports parks are created. Population forecasts indicate that the aging population trend is most evident in Te Aroha. It is unlikely that there will be increasing demand for more sportsfields given the aging population.



Provision of Community and Amenity Parks exceeds the benchmark in terms of park area per population. This is largely due to Te Aroha's early history as a tourist destination. Te Aroha is fortunate to have a large Community Park in the town centre (Te Aroha Domain) and a network of smaller Community or Amenity Parks spread throughout the residential areas. Some of these smaller parks are rather small and limited scope for development however Te Aroha Domain's town centre location and size compensate for this to some extent with larger community events typically being held at the Domain or at Boyd Park. In terms of distribution there are far fewer Community Parks on the Western side of town however Boyd Park tends to play an important secondary role as a Community Park in this part of town.

Te Aroha Community/Amenity Park Provision (ha/1000 population)



Te Aroha Domain



Te Aroha has the lowest growth of the three main towns and the potential for expansion is limited and there may be limited opportunities to acquire additional parkland through subdivisions.

There are unformed legal roads ('paper' roads) along the Waihou River that are currently used and managed as though they were part of the parks network. Council may wish to consider changing the status of these to esplanade reserves so that their future as parks is protected and managed appropriately. The riverside parks offer potential to create additional walkways/cycleways and to better connect the river to the town centre in particular Te Aroha Domain.

Te Aroha has good park provision. There are however opportunities to improve connectivity between parks; to revitalise some existing parks (e.g. Te Aroha Domain); and to consider the best use of undeveloped parkland (e.g. parts of Tui Park and Herries Park).

12.4.1.2 TRACKS & TRAILS

Te Aroha has good overall provision of tracks and trails. Almost two thirds of the walking and tramping tracks provided by MPDC are located in Te Aroha and there are also number of tramping tracks provided by the Department of Conservation.



Trails

Path

1. Geysir Walk

Walking Track

2. Hamilton Street Track
3. Tui Domain Track
4. Crusher Link Track
5. Tutumangao Falls View Walk
6. Lower Domain Walk
7. Upper Domain Walk
8. Upper Domain Link
9. Tui Domain Circuit Link
10. Howarth Memorial Wetland Walk
11. Spur Road Walk
12. Spur Road Link Walk

Tramping Track

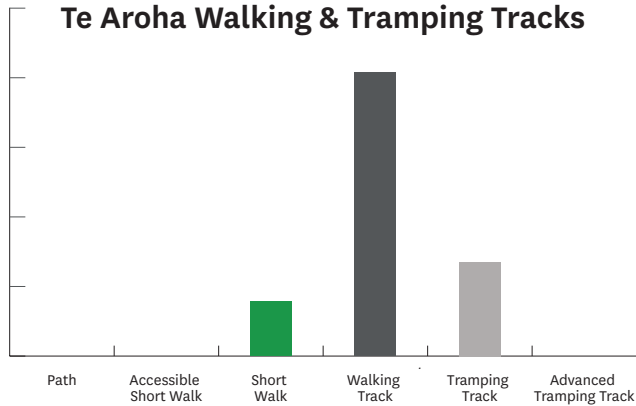
13. Golf Links Track
14. Tui Domain Track
15. Tutumangao Falls Link track
16. Lipsey Track
17. Horseman Track
18. Mt Te Aroha / Bald Spur

Mountain Bike Trail

19. Mushroom Bridge
20. Gum to Native
21. Rockhampton
22. Moonlight Bridge
23. Water Tank Trail
24. Te Aroha Mtn Bike Main Track

Te Aroha walking and tramping tracks

Te Aroha Walking & Tramping Tracks



Relative provision by track type for Te Aroha (MPDC tracks only)

Given the town's projected aging population there is likely to be increased demand for easier, short walks and accessible short walks relatively close to town.

The Wetlands Walk provides a shady looped track which is very popular. Some sections of this track could be improved relatively easily and cost-effectively to greatly improve accessibility.

The Hauraki Rail Trail is a shared path and does provide a relatively easy option for walkers however the linear nature of the trail and the lack of shade along it make it less appealing to walkers than for people on bikes.

Consideration should be given to creating more loop tracks with a common start/end point as these tend to be more popular with New Zealand walkers. There may be potential to link up some existing tramping tracks e.g. connecting Noel's

Lookout to the Waterfall Access Track to create a loop off the Tui-Domain Track.

The public lands along the Waihou River offer opportunities to create river walks and walking loop routes using a combination of parkland and urban footpaths.

There are several tramping tracks including more advanced tramping tracks on public conservation land near Te Aroha which cater adequately for locals and visitors.

Several assets along the track network are aging and in need of renewal or replacement.

There are opportunities to improve the entrance to the track network above Te Aroha Domain and to improve wayfinding and interpretation signage.



DID YOU KNOW

Crusher Falls Track (89 m)

is our shortest walking or tramping track





Te Aroha Mountain Bike Trails

Te Aroha has 18.5 km of mountain bike trails that are located very close to town. The network comprises Grade 3 and 4 trails and includes some challenging trails that are only suitable for experienced riders. The network would benefit from having some Grade 2 trails that would attract newcomers and less experienced riders.

Wayfinding signage requires improvement. There are also opportunities to improve information signage so that riders can make informed decisions before embarking on a trail.

12.4.1.3 PLAY

Most of the town has access to a playground within 15 minutes walk (see map). These are expected to cope with anticipated growth. Improvements to existing playgrounds and the replacement of old equipment should be the main focus.

Pre-draft consultation indicated interest a destination playground or improving playgrounds in general.



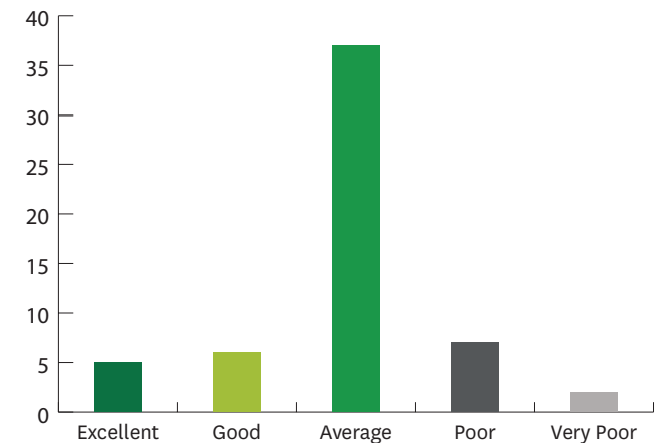
Current Te Aroha playground locations

12.4.1.4 STREETSCAPES

Te Aroha is fortunate to have wide, tree lined, road berms along the main roads into town that help shape the character of the town. Wide road verges provide sufficient space for specimen trees, public art, and gardens in the town centre. Annual bed displays add colour and vibrancy to the town centre.

The majority of the CDB street furniture is aging and requires refurbishment or replacement. Replacement furniture styles in the town centre need to be sympathetic to the heritage character of the town especially in the vicinity of Te Aroha Domain. Projects are already underway to revitalise the town centre and replace worn out street furniture. Te Aroha is an increasingly popular tourist destination and it is therefore appropriate that good quality furniture and landscaping is provided along the main streets.

Te Aroha Street Furniture Condition



12.4.2 RESPONSE

12.4.2.1 PARKLAND

Our short-term focus is to revitalise Te Aroha Domain. This is likely to include upgrading entrances and footpaths, improving wayfinding and interpretation signage, landscaping and improved parking.

We will consider opportunities to redevelop/optimize existing parks.

We will consider providing an additional off lead dog exercise area.

12.4.2.2 TRACKS & TRAILS

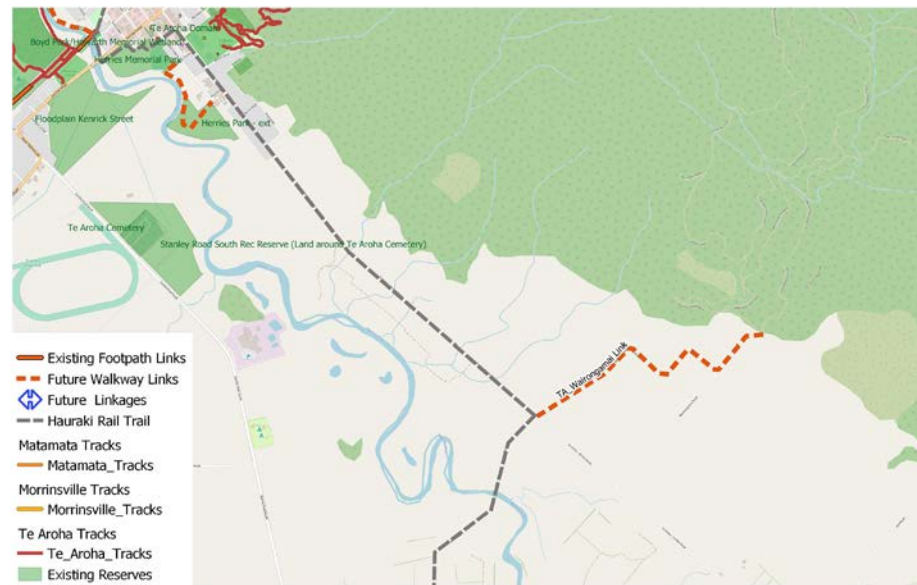
Our main focus will be to improve existing tracks. This includes making some tracks more accessible (e.g. Wetlands Walk), replacing old/worn structures along various tracks, and improving connectivity (e.g. Wetlands Walk to Stanley Avenue, potentially using the rail corridor), and improving signage.

We will consider opportunities to create more loop tracks (e.g. linking Noel's Lookout to the Waterfall Access Track and Tui-Domain Track, developing new River Walks in the centre of town).



Te Aroha Links - Reserves with Current Walks and Tracks - DRAFT August 2020
Future Walkway and Reserve Linkages

NOTE: This map is conceptual. Where potential future linkages and routes are indicated they are indicative only. Exact routes and types of linkages will often be dependent on subdivisions that may occur in the future.



Te Aroha South Links - Reserves with Current Walks and Tracks - DRAFT August 2020
Future Walkway and Reserve Linkages

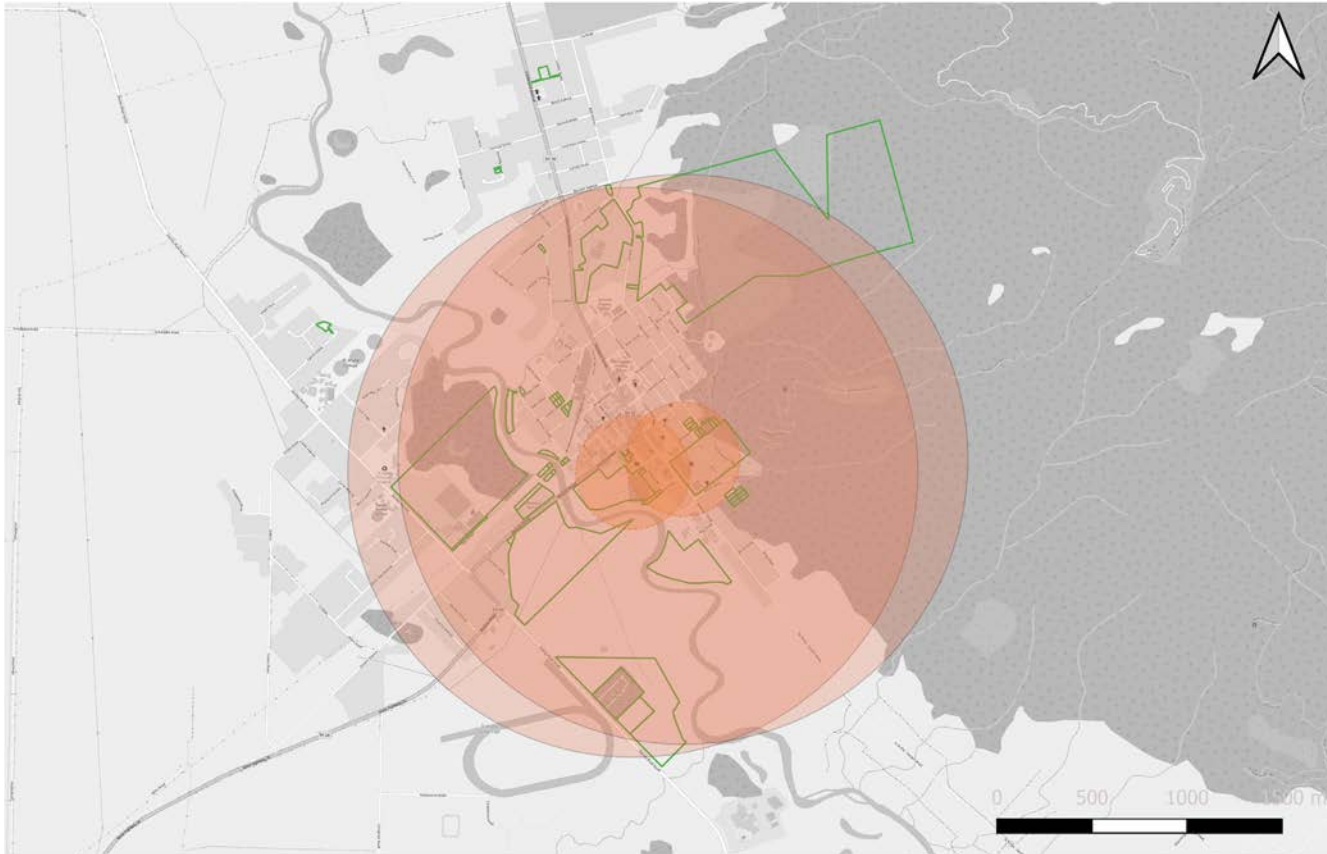
NOTE: This map is conceptual. Where potential future linkages and routes are indicated they are indicative only. Exact routes and types of linkages will often be dependent on subdivisions that may occur in the future.



12.4.2.3 PLAY

Our focus will be on:

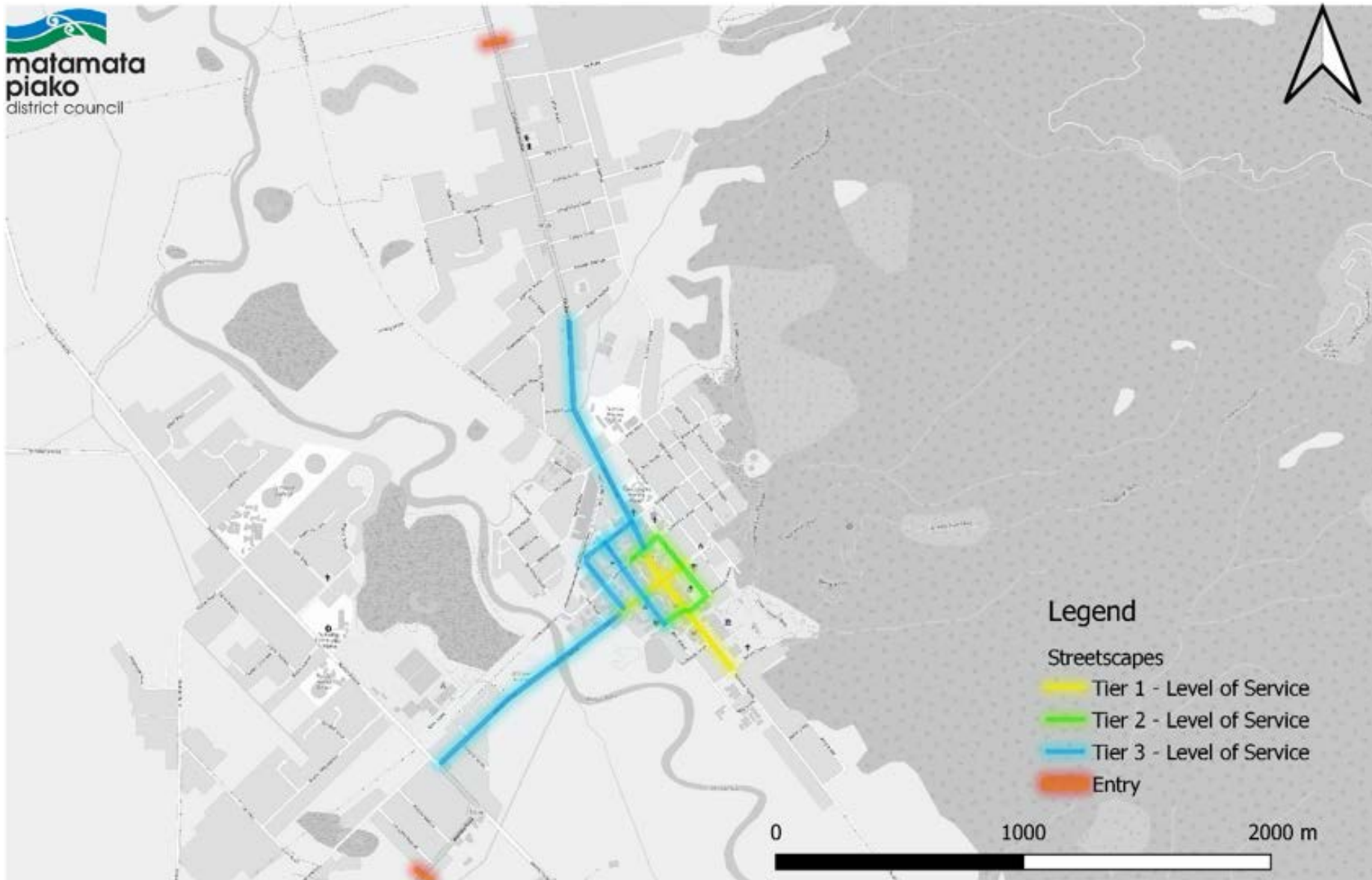
- improving existing playgrounds in terms of access, play value, shade and seating
- providing at least one community playground.



Te Aroha - Community Playground Options



12.4.2.4 STREETSCAPES



Te Aroha - Streetscapes Levels of Service



12.5 RURAL SETTLEMENTS

There a number of rural settlements in our District.

Historically, settlements were often associated with a creamery or dairy factory (e.g. Ngarua, Te Aroha West). These settlements included housing for factory workers and sometimes included a recreational facility of some kind. With improvements in transport and refrigeration, a number of dairy factories closed, the populations of many settlements declined, and sports facilities were often abandoned (e.g. Ngarua, Te Poi etc.).

Other settlements were built around a school and/or community hall. As farming became more mechanised and commercialised the rural population declined. Some once vibrant settlements have all but disappeared. This has led to the closure or amalgamation of a number of rural schools however schools continue to play an important part in open space provision in rural areas.

Some settlements have experienced slight growth. These are typically those closer to urban centres (e.g. Waharoa, Waihou) or active factories (e.g. Waitoa).

12.5.1 ANALYSIS

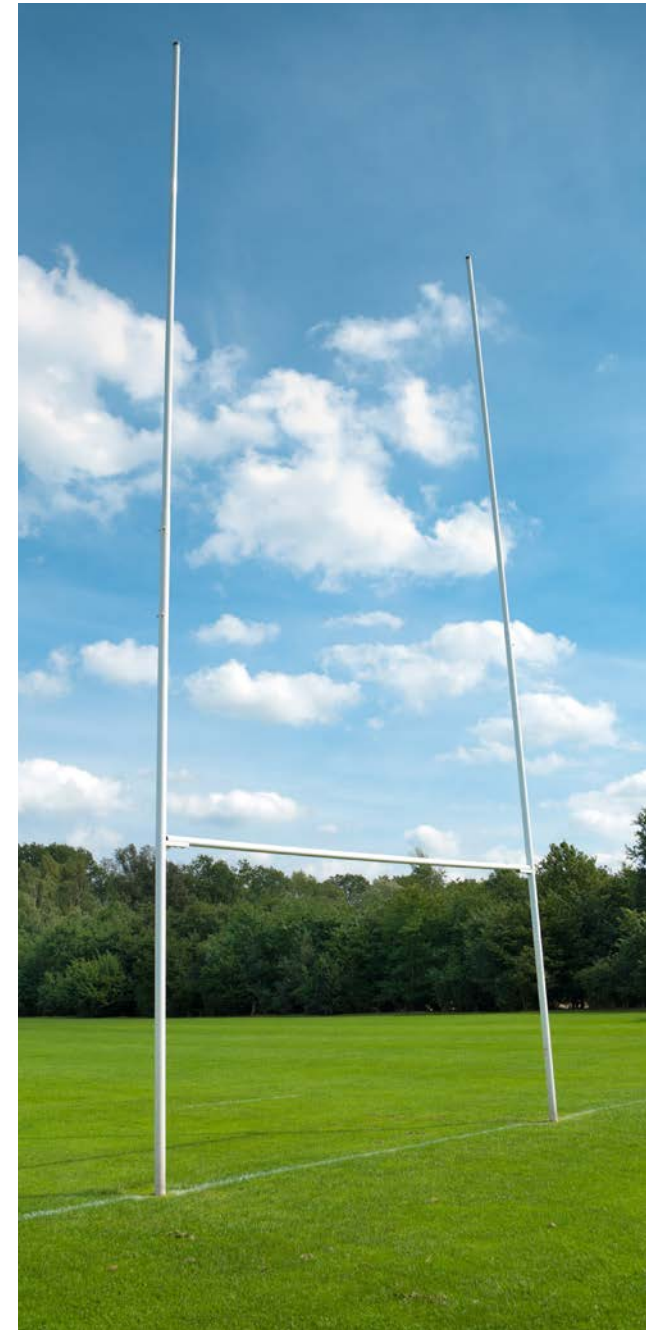
12.5.1.1 PARKLAND

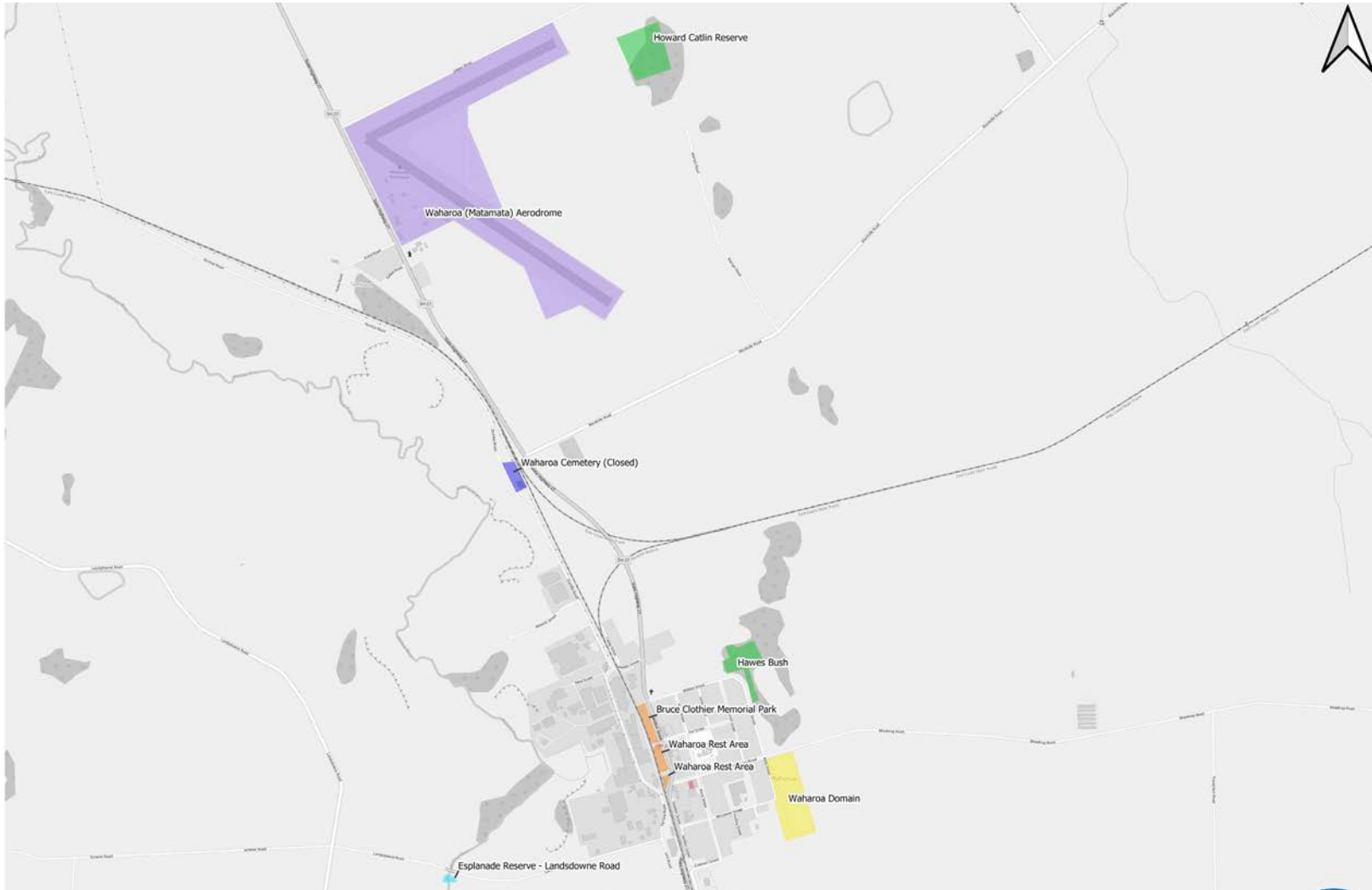
It is generally accepted that rural areas have less need for the public provision of open space compared to urban areas where property sizes are smaller and populations are greater. Provision of parkland in settlements is variable and influenced by geographic and historical factors.

Some settlements have their own Sport & Recreation Parks with sportsfields. Use of sportsfields varies considerably. Some are used for games (e.g. Hinuera), others for training (e.g. Waihou) with others barely used at all (e.g. Waharoa). Some Sports Parks are used for multiple purposes (e.g. Waihou is used for rugby training as well as a range of equestrian disciplines). Sportsfields are expensive to maintain and it would be appropriate and cost-effective to provide a higher level of service at the main urban Sports Parks that are used for tournaments and events and to provide a lower level of service at rural parks that have low use. Some Sports Parks have been abandoned and have been leased for grazing for a number of years (e.g. Te Poi Recreation Reserve). Council needs to consider the long term future of such land in consultation with the local communities.

Some settlements have Linkage Parks or Nature Parks due to natural features present in the area. There are two Nature Parks near Waharoa (Hawes Bush & Harold Catlin Reserve). These lowland kahikatea forest remnants are regarded as being of regional ecological significance and are worth of protection and enhancement. There are opportunities to work with adjoining landowners, Tangata Whenua, and other agencies to enhance Hawes Bush. The appropriateness of the current lease arrangement for the land surrounding Harold Catlin Reserve and the potential to improve protection and facilitate access to the forest also needs careful consideration.

Amenity Parks are provided in some settlements, typically as rest stops along main transport routes (e.g. Waharoa Rest Area, Waitoa Railway Reserve).





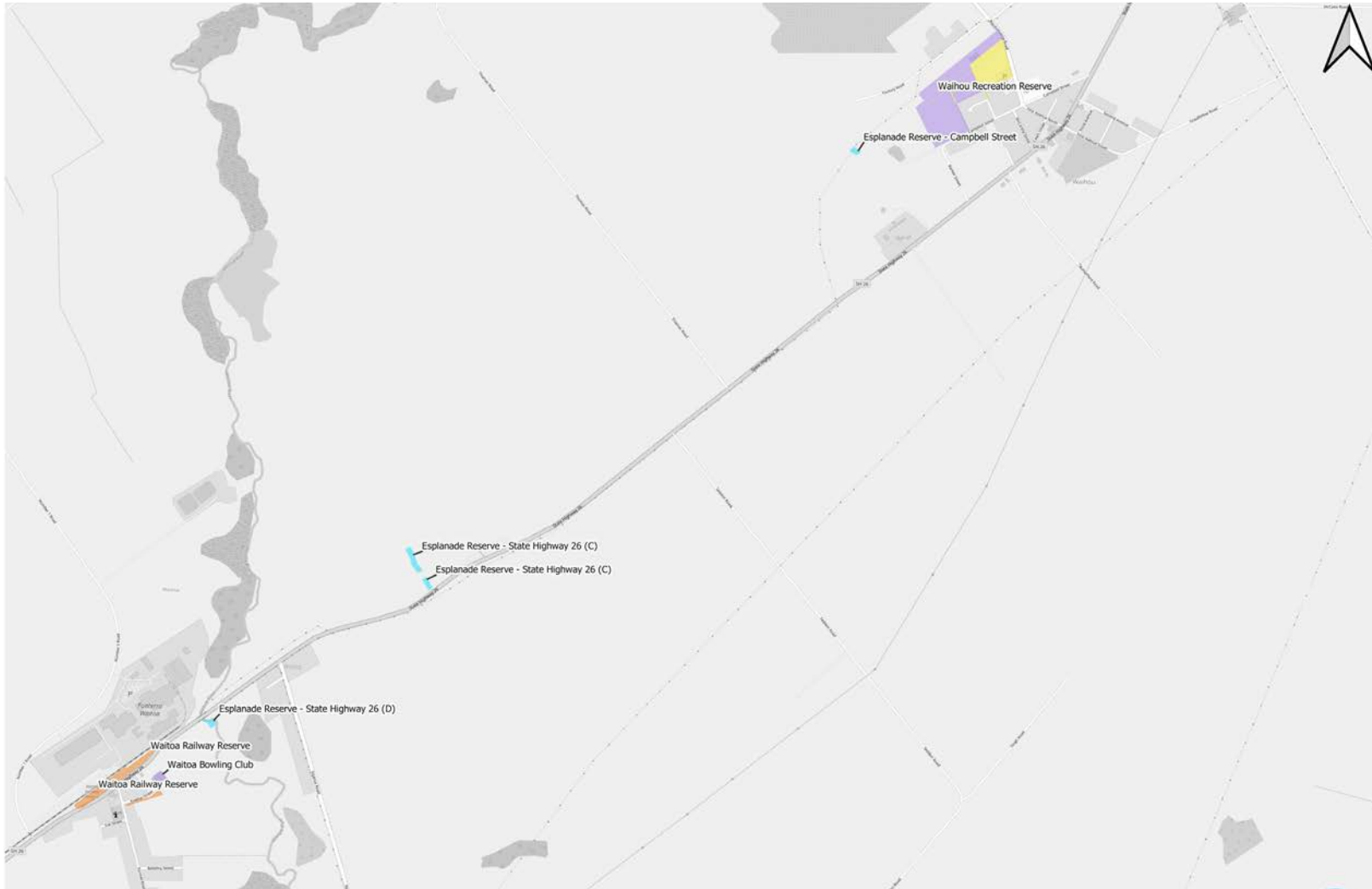
Map Legend



Reserve Category

- AMENITY
- CEMETERY
- LINKAGE - RECREATION / ECOLOGICAL
- NATURAL
- COMMUNITY 1
- COMMUNITY 2
- SPORT AND RECREATION
- HISTORICAL
- OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
- SPECIALIST / LEASED

Waharoa



Map Legend



Reserve Category

- AMENITY
- CEMETERY
- LINKAGE - RECREATION / ECOLOGICAL
- NATURAL
- COMMUNITY 1
- COMMUNITY 2
- SPORT AND RECREATION
- HISTORICAL
- OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
- SPECIALIST / LEASED

Waihou & Waitoa

12.5.1.2 TRACKS & TRAILS

Hawes Bush at Waharoa provides a walking track loop through lowland kahikatea forest. There is an opportunity to connect Waharoa to Matamata via shared path on road reserve.

Some rural settlements are close to tracks provided by the Department of Conservation in the Kaimai-Mamaku Conservation Area and elsewhere (e.g. Te Tapui). Others are close to tracks in adjacent districts (e.g. Tauhei is very close to Pukemokemoke Reserve in Waikato District).

The Hauraki Rail Trail off road cycleway passes through a number of rural settlements (e.g. Mangaiti, Te Aroha West, Manawaru) and provides cycling and walking opportunities in these areas. This cycleway is not maintained directly by MPDC but by the Hauraki Rail Trail Trust which is part funded by MPDC.



Forest track, Waharoa)

12.5.1.3 PLAY

Schools and early childhood centres often provide play equipment in rural settlements.

Council playgrounds are not generally provided in rural settlements. There are exceptions such as Waharoa where some play equipment is provided at the popular rest area along the State Highway.

Provision of Council play equipment in rural settlements may sometimes be appropriate. The rest area at Waharoa for example has very high visitor numbers due to its convenient location along a busy State Highway and the play equipment is intended more to compliment the toilet and picnic facilities on site rather than serve as a neighbourhood playground. Waharoa is our largest rural settlement and to some extent can be considered a ‘satellite suburb’ of Matamata. It may therefore be appropriate to either provide a Council playground in a central location within 15 minutes walk of residential sections, or to partner with the local school to ensure public access for residents to the school playground. In a similar way, Waihou can be regarded as a satellite suburb of Te Aroha. Housing affordability in Waihou has attracted more young families in recent times and the Waihou Recreation Reserve is becoming popular for various equestrian pursuits and events. The closure of the local primary school also meant the loss of access to a playground. These factors potentially justify providing a playground in future at the Waihou Recreation Reserve.

12.5.1.4 STREETSCAPES

The provision of street furniture, gardens, and street trees in settlements tends to be minimal. There are small gardens at the entrances to some settlements (e.g. Hinuera, Tahuna) and rubbish bins in settlements along State Highways where there are known rest stops or food premises (e.g. Waharoa, Waitoa).

The cost of maintaining remote gardens can be relative high. As they are often located along busy roads it is usually not appropriate, from a safety perspective, to allow local volunteers to “adopt” them. Traffic management requirements for the servicing of roadside gardens are becoming increasingly restrictive and expensive. Consideration may need to be given to removing remote gardens, possibly relocating them to more convenient locations if practicable, or selecting low maintenance species to minimise costs.

A minimalist provision approach is recommended for rural settlements. Generally street furniture and gardens should only be provided if the settlement serves as a gateway to a town, is a busy rest area along a main road, or if the level of business activity and size of the local population justifies it.

12.5.2 RESPONSE

12.5.2.1 PARKLAND

We will review our portfolio of land in rural settlements and work with our local communities to determine the appropriate future use of parkland that is abandoned, is unsuitable, or simply surplus to requirements. This could include repurposing, redeveloping or disposing of some land.

Additional Amenity Parks will generally only be developed in rural settlements if the settlement is located along a main road and it is necessary to provide a rest area (with or without public toilet facility).

12.5.2.2 TRACKS & TRAILS

There is no minimum provision guideline for rural areas. Track and trail development may occur at Nature Parks, Outdoor Adventure Parks, or at Linkage Parks that provide access to watercourses or significant features or, in the case of cycleways, as offshoots to an existing trail

12.5.2.3 PLAY

Generally playgrounds will not be provided in rural settlements.

Council may however consider providing a playground under special circumstances. When making a decision, Council will consider matters such as the population of the settlement, access to other playgrounds (e.g. schools), whether the settlement attracts large groups of visitors due to community events, tourist destinations or other special features of the place, and whether the play equipment would be complementary to any existing Council facility in that place.

12.5.2.4 STREETSCAPES

Generally street furniture and gardens will only be provided if the settlement serves as a gateway to a town, is a busy rest area along a main road, or if the level of business activity and size of the local population justifies it.





12.6 RURAL AREAS

12.6.1 ANALYSIS

12.6.1.1 PARKLAND

Wairere Falls Carpark and Waiorongomai Carpark are Amenity Parks located in rural areas. They both provide access to public conservation land. Amenity Parks sometimes provide rest areas or picnic sites (e.g. Rapurapu Reserve).

Due to their size requirements, Outdoor Adventure Parks (e.g. Te Miro Forest/Waterworks Road Reserve) are typically found in rural areas.

Linkage Parks in the form of esplanade reserves are found along several watercourses. They are sometimes relatively isolated or difficult to access and are often not actively maintained. There is a need to be more strategic about the acquisition of esplanade areas.

12.6.1.2 TRACKS & TRAILS

Track and trail development may occur at Nature Parks, Outdoor Adventure Parks, or at Linkage Parks that provide access to watercourses or significant features or, in the case of cycleways, as offshoots to an existing trail.

12.6.1.3 PLAY

Playgrounds are generally not provided in rural areas.

12.6.2 RESPONSE

12.6.2.1 PLAY

Playgrounds will generally not be provided in rural areas. Nature Parks and Outdoor Adventure Parks typically provide opportunities for natural, free play without the need for play equipment. A dedicated play area can sometimes be appropriate at an Outdoor Adventure Park if it is compatible with the character and use of the park (e.g. a bike skill area aimed at children at a mountain bike park).

12.6.2.2 STREETSCAPES

Street furniture, gardens and street trees are generally not provided in rural areas.

13 ACTION PLAN

The action plan records detailed actions that will contribute towards achieving our strategic vision.

Refer to Appendix 2 for details.



14 MONITORING & REVIEW

We will monitor progress towards achieving the strategy and will report on it annually to Council and Te Manawhenua Forum.

We will review the strategy from time to time, in response to changing circumstances or better information, to ensure it remains up to date and relevant.

Unless circumstances warrant an earlier review, we intend to review it five years from when it was adopted.



15 AMENDMENTS & UPDATES



From time to time matters arise that require amendments or updates to be made to this document.

Updates and corrections that do not change the intent of the plan (e.g. name changes to organisations or other documents mentioned in the text) may be made without public consultation as they do not change the intent or meaning of the document. Major amendments to the document should be approved by Council and be subject to public consultation if the matter is significant. For transparency, a record of updates and amendments will be maintained as an appendix to this document.

16 APPENDICES

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APPENDIX 2	ACTION PLAN
APPENDIX 3	PARK MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES AND ASSOCIATED QUALITY STANDARDS
APPENDIX 4	DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES SUMMARY BY PARK CATEGORY
APPENDIX 5	DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR PARK MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES
APPENDIX 6	TRACK AND TRAIL CATEGORIES
APPENDIX 7	TRACK AND TRAIL CATEGORIES
APPENDIX 8	STREETSCAPE CATEGORIES
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APPENDIX 1 - GLOSSARY

This glossary is intended to assist with understanding some terms used in the main document. It is not intended to provide comprehensive definitions nor to supercede defined legal terms. Where appropriate, we have mentioned the relevant legislation where the term is more fully defined.

Annual Plan	<p>The Annual Plan is Council's budget for one financial year, explaining how the Council will fund projects, activities and services identified for that year. Councils have to adopt an Annual Plan every year except in years that they adopt a Long Term Plan.</p> <p>Defined in: Local Government Act 2002</p>
Asset Management Plan	<p>An asset management plan (AMP) aims to ensure that assets are provided, maintained, upgraded or replaced, as required, to provide an appropriate level of service now and in the future.</p>
Bylaw	<p>Bylaws are local regulations made by Council under the authority of an Act of Parliament. Bylaws tend to be used to regulate behaviour e.g. minimising the potential for offensive behaviour in public places.</p> <p>Defined in: Local Government Act 2002</p>
District Plan	<p>A statutory document that guides land use and development in a district.</p> <p>Defined in: Resource Management Act 1991.</p>
Esplanade Area	<p>Collective term for Esplanade Reserves and Esplanade Strips.</p>
Esplanade Reserve	<p>Esplanade reserves may be required when land is subdivided, when land is reclaimed, when land is developed (through the use of conditions), or when a road is stopped under the Local Government Act. Esplanade reserves can also be created voluntarily. They are classified as reserves under the Reserves Act 1977 and land ownership is transferred upon deposit (completion) of the subdivision plan to a territorial authority.</p> <p>Defined in the Resource Management Act 1991.</p>

Esplanade Strip

Has the same meaning as in the Resource Management Act 1991.

Esplanade strips are a legal instrument created between a land owner and a territorial authority. They are registered on the title, but the land within the strip remains in the ownership of the landowner. Although identified on a survey plan, they do not need to be formally surveyed.

Defined in the Resource Management Act 1991.

Kaitiakitanga

Managing and conserving the environment as part of a reciprocal relationship, based on the Māori world view that we as humans are part of the natural world

Long Term Plan

The Long Term Plan (LTP) outlines the main things Council plans to do over the next ten years, when it plans to do them and how it those activities will be funded Councils have to adopt an LTP every 3 years.

Defined in the Local Government Act 2002

Masterplan

A non-statutory, planning document that outlines a vision to guide growth and development of a site over a long time period. Masterplans are useful tools for complex sites with multiple interests and stakeholders.

The level of detail and extent of engagement and consultation involved in a masterplan can vary considerably depending on the significance and complexity of the site.

Parkland

Any land acquired or used principally for community, recreational, environmental, cultural, or spiritual purposes, regardless of its underlying legal status of the land.

In this document we use the term to identify the land itself rather than any structures or other assets on the land.

Parks and Open Spaces

In this document, 'Parks and Open Spaces' refers to any land acquired or used principally for community, recreational, environmental, cultural, or spiritual purposes, regardless of its underlying legal status of the land and the activities associated with it.

Explanation:

Council manages a diverse portfolio of land that is held or controlled under various pieces of legislation e.g. Reserves held under the Reserves Act 1977, Parks as defined by the Local Government Act 2002, Unformed Legal Roads which used primarily for recreation etc. Generally, the underlying legal status of is of little interest and has little effect on people's understanding, use or enjoyment of these areas. We have therefore tried to keep it simple and have chosen to use the broad term 'Parks and Open Spaces'

In New Zealand law, there are, for example subtle differences between 'parks' and 'reserves'. The Reserves Act 1977 defines and regulates 'Reserves' while 'Parks' are defined in the Local Government Act 2002. It generally does not matter to the person going for a walk in their local park whether the particular land parcel they are on is a technically a 'Park' or a 'Reserve' or an 'Unformed Legal Road'. The Strategy is mainly concerned with the 'big picture' - the network as a whole - rather than detail about individual land parcels.

Reserve Management Plan

A document that provides for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation, the development, as appropriate, of a reserve for the purposes for which it is classified under the Reserves Act. See Section 40 of the Reserves Act 1977.

Streetscape

The 'Street landscape'. In this document, it collectively refers to street furniture, gardens and street trees.

Tangata Whenua

Persons of Māori descent who maintain or seek to maintain an ancestral connection to a particular place through:

- Tūrangawaewae: place where one has rights of residence and belonging through kinship and whakapapa;
- Hau kāinga: local people of a marae, meeting place, village, pā, homestead or papakāinga, the home people; and
- Ahikāroa: burning fires of occupation, continuous occupation – title of land through occupation by a group, generally over a long period of time.

Persons with an ancestral connection to a particular place and who hold a legal interest and/or customary interest in the whenua (land or property).

**Te Aranga
Design Principles**

A nationally recognised framework for iwi engagement named after Te Aranga Marae where it was first adopted.

The principles address traditional core Māori values:

- Rangatiratanga - The right to exercise authority and self-determination within one's own iwi/hapū realm
- Kaitiakitanga - Managing and conserving the environment as part of a reciprocal relationship, based on the Māori world view that we as humans are part of the natural world
- Manaakitanga - The ethic of holistic hospitality whereby mana whenua have inherited obligations to be the best hosts they can be
- Wairuatanga - The immutable spiritual connection between people and their environments
- Kotahitanga - Unity, cohesion and collaboration
- Whanaungatanga - A relationship through shared work and experiences that provides people with a sense of belonging
- Mātauranga - Māori/mana whenua knowledge and understanding. A set principles that guide design processes and enable positive engagement with Tangata Whenua, based on a set of traditional Māori values. Named after Te Aranga Marae where the principles were formulated, they are now used across New Zealand.

Te Mana Whenua Forum

Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako, a liaison forum, comprising representatives from the various Iwi in our District and Council representatives.

Tracks

Tracks of various grades that provide for walking or running as their primary purpose.

Trails

Trails primarily intended for use by people on bicycles.

APPENDIX 2 - ACTION PLAN SPREADSHEET

ACTION	PRIORITY	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Monitor sport & recreation trends	BAU			
Work with national/regional sport & recreation organisations to get good data on needs, trend, issues to enable informed decision-making	BAU			
Update/Review webpages on Council website concerning P&OS	BAU			
Participate in regional/sub-regional forums e.g. catchment forums, Recreation Aotearoa, Sport Waikato etc.	BAU			
Proritise support to volunteer programmes that align with the strategy	BAU			
Provide technical support to volunteers	BAU			
Promote and provide support to community events	BAU			
We will report progress annually to Te Manawhenua Forum	BAU			
Engage with Tangata Whenua and apply Te Aranga Design Principles when designing a new park or open space or when significantly redeveloping an existing one	BAU			
Look for opportunities to incorporate storytelling into landcape & urban design, naming of sites, signage, artwork, technological aids (e.g. apps)	BAU			
Review the strategy periodically or in repsonse to change	BAU			
Use a design approach e.g. using masterplan or landscape development plan to guide significant redevelopment of existing parks	BAU			
Use a design approach e.g. using masterplan or landscape development plan to guide development of new parks	BAU			
Consider the use of tactical urbanism & co-design approaches to trial potential solutions	BAU			
Undertake regular CPTED audits to identify and address safety improvements	BAU			
Conduct regular condition assessments of structures and playgrounds to inform renewal and maintenance programmes	BAU			
Conduct surveys to guage satisfaction with parks and open spaces	BAU			
Participate in benchmarking programmes	BAU			
Establish Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) or similar agreements with volunteer community groups	BAU			
Periodically review the provision of different categories of parks and open spaces	BAU			
Playground renewal programme to target improving accessibility at existing playgrounds	BAU			
Work with tourism, sport & recreation organisations to promote our parks & open spaces	BAU			
Work with agencies like DOC, regional council, QEII National Trust etc. to identify sites of ecological significance on/near our P&OS	BAU			
Acquire esplanade reserves or strips along major rivers in urban areas and other strategic locations (incorporate in reserve acquisition policy)	BAU			
Optimise opportunities presented by national or regional programmes e.g. Working for Nature, Billion Trees, Predator Free NZ, LIBS, etc.	BAU			
Establish a technical advisory group representing Tangata Whenua to assist with & monitor implementation	H			
Develop a reserve acquisition policy to guide subdivision process	H			
Improve administrative process for P&OS input into subdivisions	H			
Work with Tangata Whenua and other groups e.g. historic societies, Heritage New Zealand, DOC etc. to map sites of significance on or near our P&OS	H			
Work with Tangata Whenua to identify stories / themes that can be celebrated at our P&OS	H			
Incorporate bilingual approach in Signage Manual	H			
Identify and fund signage improvements especially wayfinding & interpretation	H			
Playground improvement programme to increase play value at existing playgrounds	H			
Investigate demand for additional off leash dog exercise areas and/or dog parks. If sufficient demand, develop a response e.g. acquiring/developing suitable land.	H			
Undertake ecological assessments of natural areas (e.g. native forest, wetlands etc.)	H			
Develop restoration plans for natural areas where needed	H			
Review the support given to volunteers and models to support volunteers	H			
Resource/Fund training programmes for volunteers to enable them to undertake key tasks	H			
Review Memorandum of Understanding with DOC	H			
Investigate demand for bridle trails for horses, potentially working with neighbouring Councils. If sufficient demand, develop a response e.g. acquiring/developing suitable land	L			
Review current names for parks and reserves and consider dual naming and/or renaming as appropriate	M			
Consider changing District Plan to align with strategy for esplade areas	M			
Develop a localised set of Tangata Whenua engagement and design principles	M			
Investigate suitable sites for recreational use of RPAS/UAVs/"Drones" where they may be flown without a permit	M			
Consider stopping unformed legal roads along the banks of the Waihou River and change status to Esplanade Reserve	M			
Audit land portfolio, identify unsuitable or underutilised land, consider ways to revitilise or repurpose it or rationalise it and acquire more suitable land instead	M			
Adopt maintenance standards and set minimum standards for operations and maintenance activities	M			
Develop service level agreements	M			
Audit compliance with standards	M			
Participate in the Green Flag Award or similar schemes that recognise good park management	M			
Establish user groups or similar forums for major sports & recreation parks	M			
Consider providing each town with a community or destination playground that provides a wide variety of play experience	M			
Realign reserve management plan framework to the park management categories	M			
Review reserve management plans	M			
Investigate needs and potential of motorcaravan tourism and consider ways to respond appropriately	M			
Use technology (e.g. apps) to promote our parks & open spces	M			

LEGEND

BAU= To become 'Business as usual' (i.e. not a discrete project)

H = High i.e. 1-3 years

M = Medium

L = Low

APPENDIX 3 - PARK MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES AND ASSOCIATED QUALITY STANDARDS

Proposed Category	Primary purpose	Quality Standard 1	Quality Standard 2	Quality Standard 3	Relation to previous categories in the 2013 strategy
Community Park	Parks developed and used primarily for informal recreation and sporting activities, play and family centred activities, and social and community activities.	✓	✓	✓	This category includes all former 'neighbourhood parks', some former 'amenity parks' and some 'premier parks' e.g. Howie Park. The use of 3 quality standards would cover all levels of service from basic to very high.
Sports and Recreation Park	Parks (often quite large areas) set aside and developed for organised sport and recreation activities, recreation facilities and buildings, often multiple use. These parks may also provide for a range of community activities and facilities.		✓	✓	Two quality standards should be sufficient for basic to medium/high level of service.
Nature Park	The primary purpose of Nature Parks is to provide opportunities for people to experience nature. Typically native bush areas, wetlands, riparian areas or other natural landscapes are considered Nature Parks. They may include walking tracks, mountain bike tracks, picnic areas and facilities to support and service these activities.		✓	✓	This category covers former 'nature parks' and some former 'linkage parks' where the natural values are high (or potentially high) and there is a low linkage function. Two quality standards should be sufficient for basic to moderate level of service.
Recreation and Ecological Linkage Park	Open space linkages and corridors, often linear and associated with waterways and transport corridors. May cater for walking and cycling activities and active transport linkages. May provide for environmental protection, wildlife corridors and access to waterways.		✓	✓	This category would cover all linkage parks and some amenity parks that don't have a strong recreation function but form ecological corridors. Two quality standards should be sufficient to cover varying provision, development and maintenance levels of service between developed and undeveloped areas.
Amenity Park (Visual)	Areas set aside for beautification and landscape purposes, often with limited recreation or ecological function. May be urban or rural, large or small. Usually mown grass with trees and/or gardens. May include rest areas, public toilets and other visitor facilities.	✓	✓	✓	The 'amenity park' category in the 2013 version of the strategy included a number of parks that may have a better fit with Community, Linkage or Nature. Amenity should be used for areas that have beautification and/or public convenience as their primary purpose and may therefore have a moderate to high maintenance requirement.
Outdoor Adventure Park	Parks developed and used for recreation and sporting activities and associated built facilities that require a large scale, forested, rural or peri-urban environment.		✓		Same as current outdoor adventure park category. May require only one quality standard or possibly two if there is a significant difference in operational standards between parks in this category.
Heritage Park	Parks that protect the built cultural and historical environment, and/or provide for heritage conservation, education, commemoration, mourning and remembrance.	✓	✓	✓	This category would cover closed cemeteries and other parks with a strong heritage protection function, potentially such as Stanley Landing and Firth Tower park. Three quality standards will be needed for basic to high level of service.
Special purpose Park	Special Purpose Reserves are not specifically described in the Recreation Aotearoa Parks Categories. Special purpose parks can include areas such as golf courses, aerodromes and leased areas that are not immediately available for public use.				Levels of service for this category need not be defined or linked to quality standards as these parks are often essentially privatised through a lease arrangement.

APPENDIX 4 - DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES SUMMARY BY PARK CATEGORY

●= appropriate; ○= sometimes provided e.g. parks that serve multiple purposes – see Appendix 5 for more detail

ASSET	PARK MANAGEMENT CATEGORY							
	Community	Heritage	Sports & Recreation	Nature	Rec. & Ecol. Linkage	Outdoor Adventure	Amenity	Special Purpose
Playground – neighbourhood/basic	○				○		○	
Playground – community/standard	○		○					
Playground – destination/premium	○							
Sports fields	○		●					
Mown grass areas	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	
Garden/shrub beds	●	○	○				○	
Native vegetation/ revegetation	○	○		●	○	○	○	
Path	●				○	○		
Walking Track			○	○	○	○		
Tramping Track						○		
Mountain Bike Trail					○	●		

ASSET	PARK MANAGEMENT CATEGORY CONTINUED							
	Community	Heritage	Sports & Recreation	Nature	Rec. & Ecol. Linkage	Outdoor Adventure	Amenity	Special Purpose
BBQ	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>					
Shelter structure	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>					
Picnic Tables	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Seating	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	
Signage – Park name	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Signage – Wayfinding	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Signage – Interpretation/story boards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>				
Drinking fountain	<input type="radio"/>							
Rubbish bins	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>			
Recycling bins	<input type="radio"/>							
Lighting	<input type="radio"/>				<input type="radio"/>			
Public toilets	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>					
Onsite parking	<input type="radio"/>							

APPENDIX 5 - DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR PARK MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

Amenity Parks

Services and Facilities	Development Standard
Transport parking provision	Not generally required.
Toilets	Not generally required, but dependent on size and location.
Tracks and paths	Walking and mountain bike tracks provided as appropriate – otherwise generally not required. Higher use walking tracks sealed and graded appropriate to usage.
Furniture & structures	Not generally required except for in beautification areas in built up pedestrian zones – otherwise standard quality furniture, fencing and structures provided. Lighting not generally required.
Visitor information	Standard name and control signage not usually required, except where appropriate due to location or significance.
Tree planting	Opportunities to establish specimen trees will be maximised to provide shade, shelter and enhance amenity values.
Gardens	High quality gardens in beautification areas – otherwise gardens will not be provided.
Play equipment	Not required unless the Amenity Park can also function as a Neighbourhood Park.

Linkage Parks

Services and Facilities	Development Standard
Transport parking provision	Not generally required.
Toilets	Not generally required, but dependent on size and location.
Tracks and paths	Walking and mountain bike tracks provided as appropriate – otherwise generally not required. Higher use walking tracks sealed and graded appropriate to usage.
Furniture & structures	Not generally required except for in beautification areas in built up pedestrian zones – otherwise standard quality furniture, fencing and structures provided. Lighting not generally required.
Visitor information	Standard name and control signage not usually required, except where appropriate due to location or significance.
Tree planting	Opportunities to establish specimen trees will be maximised to provide shade, shelter and enhance amenity values.
Revegetation	If additional revegetation is required, a native planting and weed control programme will be undertaken. This will aim to re-create ecosystems characteristic of the original ecology. Eco-sourcing of plant materials will be used where practicable.
Play equipment	Not required unless the Linkage Park can also function as a Neighbourhood Park.

Natural Parks

Services and Facilities	Development Standard
Transport provision	Off street car parking provided at high use sites only. Metalled surface or sealed at high use areas.
Toilets	Standard toilets to be provided at entranceway/car park area, or other gathering points throughout the park, where user stays of over 1 hour are envisaged or for high use sites.
Tracks and paths	Walking and mountain bike tracks provided as appropriate. Higher use walking tracks metalled and graded appropriate to usage. NZS HB 8630:2004 used to categorise tracks.
Furniture & structures	Limited furniture such as picnic tables provided at carparks/ picnic areas. Seats provided at key viewing or rest points. Where it is appropriate to provide litter bins, they shall be recycling bins. Shelters may be provided at high use sites.
Visitor information	Signage to be provided to identify the park and provide directional/control information. Additional signage and visitor info as appropriate: Interpretation signs provided at historic sites Map sign provided at entrance to larger sites with multiple tracks Directional signage at path junctions
Revegetation	If additional revegetation is required, a native planting and weed control programme will be undertaken. This will aim to re-create ecosystems characteristic of the original ecology. Eco-sourcing of plant materials will be used where practicable.

Sports and Recreation Parks

Services and Facilities	Development Standard
Transport provision	Developed off street car parking where possible, with hard paving. Size of carpark will be dependent on site usage.
Toilets	Standard quality toilets to be provided on site - either standalone or as part of clubrooms. May only be accessible during times of sports play.
Tracks and paths	Tracks and paths will not generally be required unless the park is providing a linkage route
Furniture & structures	Standard quality furniture, fencing and structures provided. Lighting may be provided around carpark/clubroom areas. Floodlighting of sports fields permitted.
Visitor information	Standard name and control signage
Tree planting	Opportunities to establish specimen trees as appropriate to the site and location will be maximised. Typically these will be on the boundary to create a sense of enclosure and shelter and to minimise impact on the area's use for sports fields
Gardens	Little or no garden development
Play equipment	Playground not generally provided unless the park also provides dual neighbourhood use function.
Drainage & irrigation	Field drainage and irrigation will be provided on the premier sports turf fields where conditions require this.

Outdoor Adventure Parks

Services and Facilities	Development Standard
Transport provision	Sealed entry road. Sealed carparks at high use sites. Metalled secondary roads and low use carparks.
Toilets	Standard toilets to be provided at entranceway/carpark area and at gathering points throughout the park as required
Tracks and paths	Metalled or natural walking paths dependent on category and level of use. MTB tracks to graded to a standard dependent on intended usage. Apply NZS HB 8630:2004 category system. Apply recognised MTB grading system e.g. Kennett Brothers.
Furniture & structures	Seats provided at key viewing or rest points on walking tracks. Vehicle barriers along roads to control vehicle access as required. Shelters, picnic facilities.
Visitor information	High quality signage at entrance to identify the park. Interpretation & map signs provided at major entry areas. Control and safety signage provided as required. Directional signage at path entries/junctions.
Tree planting	Opportunities to establish specimen trees will be maximised to provide shade, shelter and enhance amenity values
Recreation facilities	Dependant on intended purpose and use, development of recreation facilities such as adventure playgrounds, rope challenge courses, climbing walls, etc
Amenity grass and landscaping	Mown amenity grass and landscaping may be provided at picnic areas and site entrances.
Re-vegetation	If additional re-vegetation is required a native planting and weed/pest control programme will be undertaken to protect and add to existing values.
Buildings	Generally buildings will not be provided.

Community Parks – Level 1

Services and Facilities	Development Standard
Transport provision	Developed off-street car parking where possible, with hard paving.
Toilets	High quality toilets to be provided on site
Tracks and paths	Developed dual use (min 2.5 m width) pathways on main routes. Main routes to be hard paved or fine metal surface used appropriate to the nature of the park and level of use.
Furniture & structures	High quality furniture, fencing, lighting and structures provided. Seats, bins, tables, lights etc. to be of a consistent brand /style. Use of specifically themed or quality furniture & structures above that normally used in other parks to be used where possible. Unless park is closed at night, pedestrian standard lighting provided along main routes. May include statues and sculptures.
Visitor information	Comprehensive signage to be provided that includes as appropriate: Interpretation panels describing history and special values or features. May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of the park • Guided trail(s) • Information and control signage at all entrances • Directional signage at path junctions • Educational information and plant labels
Tree planting	Extensive general and specimen trees as appropriate to the site and location to create a sheltered and protected environment and to add interest and colour.
Gardens	High quality gardens will be developed that may include mixed shrubs, roses, perennials or annuals as appropriate.
Play equipment	Depending on the purpose and use of the park, development of high quality playground will be undertaken to standard above that normally provided at Neighbourhood Parks. Play equipment suitable for pre-school, junior and senior children's play may be provided.
Water features	Depending on the nature or topography of the park opportunities for the development of water features such as lakes, ponds, streams or fountains may be included.
Buildings	Cafes/ restaurants and visitor centres may be provided. Maintenance buildings, aviaries and small zoological displays may also be provided.

Community Parks – Level 2

Services and Facilities	Development Standard
Transport provision	Pedestrian and cycle access. On site car parking not generally required unless recreation/community buildings provided. Street side parking bays for larger sites.
Toilets	Not usually provided although may be considered on larger, well used sites.
Tracks and paths	Dual use paved pathways that provide linkages between roads and access to play equipment.
Furniture & structures	Provision of seating and litter bins. Standard quality furniture, fencing and structures provided. Lighting not generally provided other than along walkway routes.
Visitor information	Standard name and control signage
Tree planting	Opportunities to establish specimen trees will be maximised to provide shade, shelter and enhance amenity values
Gardens	Low maintenance shrub gardens will generally be developed to create an attractive landscaped environment.
Play equipment	Playground equipment provided to meet local community needs. To include a minimum of three items of play equipment aimed at junior children. Where the Community Park is large enough, or well used, it shall also contain play equipment suitable for senior children.
Vehicle barriers	Provision of vehicle barriers as required to create a visual boundary to the park and to prevent vehicle access.
Buildings	Generally buildings will not be provided for. Appropriate community or recreation buildings that do not compromise open space values will be considered to meet specific local needs.








APPENDIX 6 - TRACK AND TRAIL CATEGORIES

TRACK CATEGORIES

Symbol	MPDC Track classification	Generic description	Name to be used on signs and visitor information
 	Path	Well formed firm surface. Suitable for all ages and most fitness levels. Suitable for wheel chairs, buggies & strollers.	Path
	Short Walk	Well formed surface. Suitable for most ages & fitness levels. Easy walking for up to an hour. Walking shoes recommended.	Walk
	Walking Track	Well defined track. Mostly well formed surface . May have short sections that are wet, muddy or steep. Suitable for low to moderate fitness levels & abilities. Walking from a few minutes to several hours. Walking shoes or tramping/hiking boots recommended.	Walking Track
 	Tramping Track	Well defined track. Mostly well formed surface. Sections may be steep, rough, rocky, wet or muddy. Suitable for moderate fitness levels & abilities. Walking up to several hours. Tramping/hiking boots recommended.	Track
	Advanced Tramping Track	Mostly unformed surface. May be steep, rough, rocky, wet or muddy. Suitable for moderate to high fitness levels & abilities. Suitable for people with moderate to high level backcountry skills & experience e.g. navigation and survival skills. Challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking. Tramping/hiking boots required.	Track
	Route	Unformed surface. Steep, rough, or rocky. May be wet or muddy. Suitable only for people with high level backcountry skills and experience e.g. navigation and survival skills. Challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking. Tramping/hiking boots required.	Route

For more detailed specifications refer to SNZ HB 8630:2004 *Tracks and outdoor visitor structures*.

TRAIL CATEGORIES

Symbol	Track Grade	Generic description
	Grade 1: Easiest	Fairly flat, wide, smooth track or gravel road.
	Grade 2: Easy	Mostly flat with some gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.
	Grade 3: Intermediate	Steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles possibly on narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure at the track's outside edge.
	Grade 4: Advanced	A mixture of long, steep climbs, narrow track, poor traction and obstacles that are difficult to avoid or jump over. Generally exposed at the outside edge of the track. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk.
	Grade 5: Expert	Technically challenging. Giant climbs, narrow track and numerous hazards including dangerous drop-offs, sharp corners and difficult obstacles. Expect walking and possibly bike carrying.
 	Grade 6: Extreme	Downhill/free ride specific tracks. Extremely steep sections with large drop-offs and other unavoidable obstacles. May include built structures and jumps.

For more detailed specifications refer to the *NZ Cycle Trail Design Guide* and the *NZ Mountain Bike Trail Design & Construction Guidelines*.

APPENDIX 7 - TRACK AND TRAIL CATEGORIES

PLAYGROUND CATEGORIES

Playground Category	Description
<p>Destination</p>	<p>A destination playground offers a wide range of play experiences, which are comprehensive and interesting, for all ages and abilities and has a high level of use.</p> <p>By nature, the location will be attractive enough to be a destination in its own right and be a significant draw card in bringing people (residents and visitors) to the park or area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high level of play values for all ages and abilities • play equipment for preschool, junior, intermediate and youth age groups • comprehensive amenities such as accessible toilets (with baby-changing facilities), accessible paths, lighting, drinking fountains, seating, shade, family picnic facilities and amenity planting to support a half-day visit • adequate parking, accessible parking and bike racks provided in proximity to the playground • premium service standard which may be higher than what is just required by NZS 5828:2015 • Recreation Aotearoa’s Maintenance Standards, premium level of service
<p>Community</p>	<p>A community playground offers moderate play experiences for all ages and is located in areas generally supported by or near to other recreational or community facilities.</p> <p>Some facilities, ie public toilets, can be minimal as they are likely to already be supported in the area.</p>

Playground Category	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • located near busy and connected facilities such as town centres, supermarkets, i-sites • within a 15-20 walk from most residential properties • provide moderate level of play value • diverse, multiple purpose equipment to suit a range of ages and abilities • include a minimum of three types of play equipment • provide basic amenities, ie seating, shade, accessible paths and rubbish bins as a minimum • typically accessed via vehicle, foot or bike • maintenance as per New Zealand Standards 5828:2004 • Recreation Aotearoa’s Maintenance Standards, standard level of service
Local / Neighbourhood	<p>A neighbourhood playground offers basic play experiences located less than a 15-minute walk from residential properties. These playgrounds support the immediate residential area providing for an hour-long visit.</p> <p>These sites can be reached safely by children beginning to travel independently and with friends, and with or without accompanying adults. Neighbourhood playgrounds are generally located within grass areas, small parks, local open space and are designed for play or informal recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include a minimum of three types of play equipment • provide basic amenities, ie seating, shade and accessible paths as a minimum • no more than a 15-minute walk from urban residential property • typically accessed by foot, or bike • maintenance as per New Zealand Standards 5828:2004 • Recreation Aotearoa’s Maintenance Standards, basic level of service

APPENDIX 8 - STREETScape CATEGORIES

Service Level One

Streetscape Development	Description
All assets	Furniture style and design should be consistent within townships and zones, and with Heritage overlay areas where present. Whole of life cost to be considered in asset planning, design and project implementation.
Gardens	Garden plantings to add colour and interest at all intersections, on central medians (where present), and at town entrances. Colours and textures add vibrancy to high profile areas. A mixture of perennials, low shrubs and hedges, flower carpet roses and ground covers are used to provide a range of colours and textures, and for practicality of maintenance. Annual beds may be provided in high visibility locations and adjacent to key pedestrian routes and seating areas where their colour and vibrancy can best be appreciated and they can be maintained safely. All gardens to have automated irrigation installed.
Trees	High quality specimen trees to be provided on central medians where available, or on both sides of the street where there are no verandas. Ornamental tree guards and grates to be provided for juvenile trees in paved areas.
Litter bins	High quality “off the shelf” litter bins located approximately every 50m including at each pedestrian crossing point and seating area.
Seats	High quality bespoke or “off the shelf” seating to be provided in conjunction with garden beds to create attractively landscaped seating areas every 30 to 50m. Consistent design for each township. Seats should have backs where these can be safely provided without obscuring sight lines.
Bike stands	High quality bespoke or “off the shelf” design, located in convenient places that don’t block pedestrian or disability access. Quantity will depend on design and location.
Bollards and pedestrian barriers	High quality bespoke or “off the shelf” barriers and bollards at key intersections and crossing points where required to safely separate pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
Drinking fountains	High quality bespoke or “off the shelf” design. Maximum 2 per town, located in prominent gathering or high use pedestrian areas.
Information or “Welcome” signage	Information signage with map and visitor information may be located in prominent pedestrian friendly location.
Decorative lighting	High quality “off the shelf” pedestrian lighting to add ambience and enhance the attractiveness and vibrancy of town centres.
Artworks	Artworks provide character and vibrancy to town centres, and are unique to their location.

Service Level Two

Streetscape Development	Description
All street furniture	Furniture style and design should be consistent within townships and zones, and with Heritage overlay areas where present.
Gardens	Low maintenance shrub and ground cover plantings at key intersections, pedestrian crossings central medians or roundabout medians where these can be safely provided and maintained, and are warranted due to traffic volumes. Generally perennial gardens, shrub gardens, ground covers to provide a range of textures and colours and for practicality of maintenance. No annual beds.
Trees	Specimen trees to be provided on both sides of the street and in conjunction with gardens where there are suitable locations.
Litter bins	Standard quality “off the shelf” bins in locations that are visible and easy to service located every 50 to 100m.
Seats	Standard quality seats – “off the shelf” design. Quantity and location based on community needs, but generally locate in conjunction with garden areas around 100m apart.
Bike stands	Standard quality “off the shelf” designs.
Bollards and pedestrian barriers	Standard quality “off the shelf” barriers and bollards at key intersections and crossing points where required to safely separate pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
Drinking fountains	Not applicable
Information or “Welcome” signage	Not applicable
Decorative lighting	Not applicable
Artworks	Not applicable

Service Level Three

Streetscape Development	Description
All street furniture	Style and design should be consistent within townships and zones.
Gardens	Not applicable
Trees	Trees may be provided on either side of the street where there are suitable locations.
Litter bins	Not applicable
Seats	Not applicable
Drinking fountains	Not applicable
Bike stands	Not applicable
Information or "Welcome" signage	Not applicable
Bollards and pedestrian barriers	Not applicable
Decorative lighting	Not applicable
Artworks	Not applicable

Service Level – Town Entry

Streetscape Development	Description
All street furniture	Not applicable
Gardens	Low maintenance shrub and ground cover plantings at key town entry points. Generally perennial gardens, shrub gardens, ground covers to provide a range of textures and colours and for practicality of maintenance. No annual beds.
Trees	Trees may be provided on either side of the street where there are suitable locations.
Litter bins	Not applicable
Seats	Not applicable
Drinking fountains	Not applicable
Bike stands	Not applicable
Information or "Welcome" signage	Feature design "Welcome" sign structure in prominent location at town entrances that can be read by passing traffic (compliant with NZTA requirements for font sizes etc).
Bollards and pedestrian barriers	Not applicable
Decorative lighting	Not applicable
Artworks	Simple artworks may be incorporated into entry signage

APPENDIX 9 - CURRENT PARKS BY PARK MANAGEMENT CATEGORY (MARCH 2021)

AMENITY PARKS

PARK NAME	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	AREA (ha)	WARD
Founders Park	Lot 1 DPS 3951	1.21	Matamata
Jaycee Reserve	Lot 7 DPS 86435	0.09	Matamata
Jaycee Reserve	Lot 5 DPS 86435	0.13	Matamata
Jim Gardiner Grove	Lot 1 DP 20193	0.10	Matamata
Kaimai Drive Reserve	Lot 35 DPS 37533	0.08	Matamata
Kaimai Tunnel Reserve	Part Section 8 Block X Wairere SD	0.13	Matamata
Kenrick Street Reserve	Lot 29 DP 9205	0.10	Te Aroha
Kowhai Street Reserve (Matamata)	Lot 36 DPS 42	0.14	Matamata
Kowhai Street Reserve (Waitoa)	Lot 8 DPS 1224	0.13	Te Aroha
Manawaru Recreation Reserve	Lot 6 DPS 18009	0.13	Te Aroha
Morrinsville Rose Garden	Lot 1 DPS 84388	0.03	Morrinsville
Morrinsville Rose Garden	Lot 1 DPS 84721	0.10	Morrinsville
Murray Oaks Scenic Reserve	Section 4 Block II Maungakawa SD	1.68	Morrinsville
Murray Oaks Scenic Reserve	Section 5 Block II Maungakawa SD	0.72	Morrinsville
Okauia Domain	Part Section 1D Block III Tapapa SD	0.61	Matamata
Okauia Domain	Section 1B Block III Tapapa SD	0.81	Matamata
Old Morrinsville Museum Site	Part Lot 2 DP 17371	0.07	Morrinsville
Old Morrinsville Museum Site	Part Lot 1 DP 17371	0.03	Morrinsville
Rapurapu Reserve	Section 78 Block XII Tapapa SD	1.85	Matamata
Rapurapu Reserve	Section 79 Block XII Tapapa SD	0.42	Matamata
Rapurapu Reserve	Lot 1 DPS 17684	0.42	Matamata
Sain Crescent Reserve	Lot 94 DPS 11211	1.39	Morrinsville
Seddon Street Reserve	Section 36 Block LII TN OF Te Aroha	0.06	Te Aroha
Seddon Street Reserve	Section 24 Block LII TN OF Te Aroha	0.10	Te Aroha
Seddon Street Reserve	Section 39 Block LII TN OF Te Aroha	0.06	Te Aroha
Seddon Street Reserve	Section 95 Block LII TN OF Te Aroha	0.04	Te Aroha
Seddon Street Reserve	Section 23 Block LII TN OF Te Aroha	0.08	Te Aroha
Seddon Street Reserve	Section 35 Block LII TN OF Te Aroha	0.06	Te Aroha
Seddon Street Reserve	Section 40 Block LII TN OF Te Aroha	0.06	Te Aroha
Seddon Street Reserve	Part Section 38 Block LII TN OF Te Aroha	0.04	Te Aroha
Seddon Street Reserve	Part Section 37 Block LII TN OF Te Aroha	0.04	Te Aroha
Skidmore Reserve	Lot 2 DPS 85918	0.23	Te Aroha
Tainui Street Reserve	Part Section 6 Block XIII Matamata TNSP	0.06	Matamata
Te Aroha Community Garden	Lot 2 DP 310588	0.15	Te Aroha
Tui Park	Section 170 Block IX Aroha SD	0.40	Te Aroha
Turanga-O-Moana Recreation Reserve	Section 43 Matamata SETT	0.57	Matamata
Turanga-O-Moana Recreation Reserve	Section 44 Matamata SETT	0.40	Matamata
Waharoa Rest Area	Lot 1 DP 86557	0.46	Matamata
Waharoa Rest Area	Lot 2 DPS 86557	0.11	Matamata
Wairere Fals Carpark	Section 1 Survey Office Plan 523878	0.63	Matamata
Waitoa Railway Reserve	Section 27 Block IV Maungakawa SD	0.34	Te Aroha
Waitoa Railway Reserve	Lot 1 DPS 68970	0.50	Te Aroha
Waitoa Railway Reserve	Section 26 Block IV Maungakawa SD	0.24	Te Aroha
Waitoa Railway Reserve	Section 1 SO 56525	0.05	Te Aroha
SUB TOTAL		15.04	

HERITAGE PARKS

PARK NAME	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	AREA (ha)	WARD
Firth Tower	Lot 1 DPS 19768	0.96	Matamata
Firth Tower	Lot 1 DPS 40537	0.68	Matamata
Firth Tower	Lot 3 DP 422017	0.45	Matamata
Morrinsville Historic Cemetery (Closed)	Part Motumaoho 2 Block	0.81	Morrinsville
Stanley Landing	Lot 1 DPS 57281	0.95	Matamata
Waharoa Cemetery (Closed)	Part Lot 14 DP 850	0.48	Matamata
Waharoa Cemetery (Closed)	Part Section 1 Block XIII Wairere SD	0.28	Matamata
SUB TOTAL		4.61	

COMMUNITY PARKS

PARK NAME	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	AREA (ha)	WARD
Hetana Street Reserve	Section 255 Matamata SETT	0.09	Matamata
Hetana Street Reserve	Section 2 SO 332296	1.27	Matamata
Howie Park	Part Lot 2 DP 16037	2.03	Morrinsville
Howie Park	Lot 2 DP 31459	0.03	Morrinsville
Te Aroha Domain	Section 16 Block IX Aroha SD	4.53	Te Aroha
Ancroft Reserve	Lot 57 DP534704	0.09	Matamata
Banks Road Reserve	Part Section 86 Matamata SETT	0.72	Matamata
Carlton Street Reserve	Lot 59 DPS 6433	0.36	Te Aroha
Farmer Street Reserve	Section 42 Block LXII TN OF Te Aroha	0.07	Te Aroha
Furness Reserve	Lot 11 DP 311033	1.40	Matamata
Furness Reserve	Lot 12 DP 311033	0.00	Matamata
Goodwin Park	Lot 95 DPS 6516	0.38	Morrinsville
Haig Road Recreation Reserve	Lot 29 DP 14138	0.54	Matamata
Hanna Street Reserve	Lot 28 DPS 22930	0.23	Te Aroha
Hetana Street Reserve	Lot 2 DPS 86435	0.16	Matamata
Kennedy Street Reserve	Lot 21 DPS 26220	0.05	Te Aroha
Kennedy Street Reserve	Lot 3 DPS 24562	0.03	Te Aroha
Lindale Reserve	Lot 46 DPS 22352	0.67	Morrinsville
Lindale Reserve	Lot 19 DPS 69946	0.03	Morrinsville
Morrinsville Library Playground	Part Lot 1 DP 8254	0.06	Morrinsville
Morrinsville Lions Skatepark	Lot 2 DP 8452	0.04	Morrinsville
Morrinsville Lions Skatepark	Lot 3 DP 8452	0.04	Morrinsville
Mowbray Road Reserve	Lot 7 DP 14095	0.03	Matamata
Mowbray Road Reserve	Lot 8 DP 14095	0.03	Matamata
Riverside Skatepark	Lot 4 DPS 86153	0.06	Te Aroha
Russell Avenue Reserve	Lot 11 DPS 518	0.13	Te Aroha
Thomas Park	Lot 9 DP 17212	0.10	Morrinsville
Thomas Park	Lot 10 DP 17212	0.10	Morrinsville
SUB TOTAL		13.29	

NATURE PARKS

PARK NAME	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	AREA (ha)	WARD
Boyd Park/Howarth Memorial Wetland	Section 113 Block IX Aroha SD	16.26	Te Aroha
Hawes Bush	Lot 1 DPS 26844	1.80	Matamata
Hawes Bush	Lot 2 DPS 26844	0.38	Matamata
Hawes Bush	Section 77 Block XIII Wairere SD	0.02	Matamata
Herries Park - ext	Section 171 Block IX Aroha SD	6.31	Te Aroha
Howard Catlin Reserve	Part Matamata North A1&D1 Block	4.32	Matamata
Te Aroha Bush Reserve	Section 9 Block XXXIV TN OF Te Aroha	0.10	Te Aroha
Te Aroha Bush Reserve	Section 4 Block XXXIV TN OF Te Aroha	0.12	Te Aroha
Te Aroha Bush Reserve	Section 5 Block XXXIV TN OF Te Aroha	0.10	Te Aroha
Te Aroha Bush Reserve	Section 8 Block XXXIV TN OF Te Aroha	0.10	Te Aroha
Te Aroha Bush Reserve	Section 10 Block XXXIV TN OF Te Aroha	0.10	Te Aroha
Te Aroha Bush Reserve	Section 7 Block XXXIV TN OF Te Aroha	0.10	Te Aroha
Te Aroha Bush Reserve	Section 6 Block XXXIV TN OF Te Aroha	0.10	Te Aroha
Te Aroha Domain	Section 16 Block IX Aroha SD	3.60	Te Aroha
Te Aroha Hot Springs Rec Reserve		81.72	Te Aroha
Tui Park	Part Section 169 Block IX Aroha SD	73.92	Te Aroha
Water Reservoir Reserve		7.30	Te Aroha
Water Reservoir Reserve	SA25C/819	7.30	Te Aroha
	SUB TOTAL	203.64	

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PARKS

PARK NAME	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	AREA (ha)	WARD
Waterworks Road Reserve (Te Miro Forest)	Section 11 Block III Cambridge SD	0.08	Morrinsville
Waterworks Road Reserve (Te Miro Forest)	Section 12 Block III Cambridge SD	0.32	Morrinsville
Waterworks Road Reserve (Te Miro Forest)	Section 73 Te Miro SETT	39.69	Morrinsville
Waterworks Road Reserve (Te Miro Forest)	Kiwitahi 2D Block	75.82	Morrinsville
Waterworks Road Reserve (Te Miro Forest)	Section 13 Block III Cambridge SD	0.40	Morrinsville
Waterworks Road Reserve (Te Miro Forest)	Part Lot 1 DP 21110	19.40	Morrinsville
	SUB TOTAL	135.71	

SPORT & RECREATION PARKS

PARK NAME	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	AREA (ha)	WARD
Anderson Park	Lot 21 DPS 468	0.40	Morrinsville
Boyd Park	Section 90 Block IX Aroha SD	0.27	Te Aroha
Boyd Park/Howarth Memorial Wetland	Section 113 Block IX Aroha SD	11.50	Te Aroha
Herries Memorial Park	Section 167 Block IX Aroha SD	0.04	Te Aroha
Herries Memorial Park	Section 1A Block IV TN OF Te Aroha	0.07	Te Aroha
Herries Memorial Park	Section 167 Block IX Aroha SD	0.84	Te Aroha
Herries Memorial Park	Section 167 Block IX Aroha SD	1.47	Te Aroha
Hinuera Recreation Reserve	Lot 1 DP 306765	1.39	Matamata
Matamata Domain	Blk XII Matamata TNSP	3.96	Matamata
Matamata Domain	Section 1 Block XXIII Matamata TNSP	0.23	Matamata
Matamata Domain	Section 1 Block XXIII Matamata TNSP	0.23	Matamata
Matamata Domain	Blk XXII Matamata TNSP	0.70	Matamata
Morrinsville Recreation Ground	Part Lot 28 DP 2465	22.98	Morrinsville
Pohlen Park	Lot 11 DPS 8842	0.02	Matamata
Pohlen Park	Lot 45 DP 15621	0.49	Matamata
Pohlen Park	Lot 46 DP 15621	5.11	Matamata
Pohlen Park	Lot 101 DP 13191	0.19	Matamata
Pohlen Park	Lot 100 DP 13191	0.11	Matamata
Robertson Reserve	Section 1 SO 56154	0.21	Te Aroha
Swap Park	Lot 4 DP 306522	7.77	Matamata
Tahuna Domain	Lot 2 DPS 752	0.31	Morrinsville
Tahuna Domain	Section 29 Tahuna VILL	0.10	Morrinsville
Tahuna Domain	Lot 1 DPS 15845	0.02	Morrinsville
Tahuna Domain	Lot 1 DPS 752	0.20	Morrinsville
Tahuna Domain	Section 27 Tahuna VILL	2.00	Morrinsville
Tui Park	Section 170 Block IX Aroha SD	0.97	Te Aroha
Waharoa Domain	Section 26 Waharoa TNSP	2.14	Matamata
Waharoa Domain	Section 27 Waharoa TNSP	1.90	Matamata
Waharoa Domain	Section 28 Waharoa TNSP	1.42	Matamata
Waihou Recreation Reserve	Lot 19 DPS 7681	1.80	Te Aroha
Waihou Recreation Reserve	Lot 18 DPS 7681	0.16	Te Aroha
Waihou Recreation Reserve	Section 50 Block XVI Waitoa SD	0.47	Te Aroha
Waihou Recreation Reserve	Section 57 Block XVI Waitoa SD	0.00	Te Aroha
Waihou Recreation Reserve	Part Lot 20 DPS 7681	0.00	Te Aroha
Waihou Recreation Reserve	Section 50 Block XVI Waitoa SD	0.00	Te Aroha
Waihou Recreation Reserve	Lot 19 DPS 7681	0.00	Te Aroha
Waihou Recreation Reserve (Accessway)	Lot 20 DPS 26461	0.01	Te Aroha
Walton War Memorial Domain	Section 22 Block VIII Wairere SD	0.14	Matamata
Walton War Memorial Domain	Part Lot 3 DP 64	0.09	Matamata
Walton War Memorial Domain	Part Lot 3 DP 64	0.91	Matamata
Wiseley Reserve	Lot 52 DPS 22226	1.42	Morrinsville
Wiseley Reserve	Lot 12 DPS 50000	0.35	Morrinsville
	SUB TOTAL	72.44	

RECREATION & ECOLOGICAL LINKAGE PARKS

CATEGORY	PARK NAME	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	AREA (ha)	WARD
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Closed Landfill - Riverview Road	Lot 20 DP 15222	0.00	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Closed Landfill - Riverview Road	Lot 20 DP 15222	0.90	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Closed Landfill - Riverview Road	Lot 21 DP 15222	1.00	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Floodplain Kenrick Street	Lot 1 DPS 85918	18.32	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Herries Memorial Park	Section 167 Block IX Aroha SD	0.26	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Herries Memorial Park	Section 167 Block IX Aroha SD	3.38	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Hetana Street Reserve	Section 1 SO 332296	0.08	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Kuranui Rec Reserve	Part Te Au O Waikato A1A Block	0.83	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Kuranui Rec Reserve	Section 21 Block VI Maungakawa SD	1.76	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Mangateparu Domain	Section 11 Mangateparu TNSP	0.16	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Mangateparu Domain	Section 10 Mangateparu TNSP	0.16	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Mangateparu Domain	Section 13 Mangateparu TNSP	0.14	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Mangateparu Domain	Section 14 Mangateparu TNSP	1.01	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Mangateparu Domain	Section 12 Mangateparu TNSP	0.15	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Matamata Playcentre	Lot 1 DP 33961	0.45	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Roy Scott Recreation Reserve	Te Au O Waikato A1C Block	12.53	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Roy Scott Recreation Reserve	Te Au O Waikato A2B2B2B2 Block	2.32	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Roy Scott Recreation Reserve	Part Te Au O Waikato A1 Block	1.23	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Roy Scott Recreation Reserve	Part Te Au O Waikato A1A Block	7.17	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Roy Scott Recreation Reserve	Te Au O Waikato A2B2B2B4B Block	8.53	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Roy Scott Recreation Reserve	Te Au O Waikato A1B Block	3.63	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Rushton Road Kindergarten	Lot 11 DPS 10522	0.14	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Springdale Recreation Reserve	Section 3 Block XI Waitoa SD	4.24	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Stanley Road (Te Aroha Cemetery)	Part Section 8 Block XI Aroha SD	9.42	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Tahuna Golf Course	Part Lot 2 DP 26380	34.21	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Tahuna Waterworks Reserve	Lot 2 DP 305752	0.09	Morrinsville
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Te Poi Playcentre	Lot 2 DPS 13601	0.09	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Te Poi Recreation Reserve	Lot 1 DPS 13601	2.16	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Tui Park	Section 170 Block IX Aroha SD	6.27	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Tui Park	Part Section 169 Block IX Aroha SD	11.86	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome	Part Section 71 Block XIII Wairere SD	0.97	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome	Part Matamata North 2G2 Block	0.77	Matamata

SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome	Part Lot 1 DP 29064	0.36	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome	Part Matamata North G2 Block	2.43	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome	Part Matamata North 1B (Roadway) Block	0.42	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome	Part Matamata North 2H2 Block	0.07	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome	Part Matamata North 2G1 Block	1.21	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome	Section 72 Block XIII Wairere SD	46.84	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome	Matamata North E Block	2.20	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome	Matamata North F Block	2.76	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waihou Recreation Reserve	Section 51 Block XVI Waitoa SD	0.40	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waihou Recreation Reserve	Part Lot 20 DPS 7681	1.15	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waihou Recreation Reserve	Section 13 Block XVI Waitoa SD	3.27	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waihou Recreation Reserve	Section 57 Block XVI Waitoa SD	0.53	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waihou Recreation Reserve	Section 50 Block XVI Waitoa SD	0.31	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waihou Recreation Reserve	Section 57 Block XVI Waitoa SD	1.27	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waitoa Bowling Club	Lot 1 DPS 27300	0.25	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Walton Golf Course	Section 31 Block XVI Maungakawa SD	1.92	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Walton Golf Course	Part Lot 12 DP 64	35.35	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Walton Golf Course	Part Lot 2 DPS 5397	7.30	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Walton Golf Course	Part Lot 2 DPS 5397	2.62	Matamata
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Water Reservoir Reserve	SA25C/819	0.84	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Water Treatment Plant		0.84	Te Aroha
SPECIALIST / LEASE	Waterworks Road Reserve (Te Miro Fores	Part Lot 1 DP 21110	3.34	Matamata
		SUB TOTAL	249.90	

APPENDIX 10 - CURRENT TRACKS BY CATEGORY (MARCH 2021)

PATHS

Walk	Length - m	Ward
Wiseley Reserve Walkway	95	Morrinsville
Memorial Grove Walk	151	Matamata
Neil Agar Walk	1014	Matamata
Peria Road Path	607	Matamata
Stanley Farm Lane Walk	283	Matamata
Sub Total	2150	

ACCESSIBLE SHORT WALKS

Walk	Length - m	Ward
Lockerbie Park Walk & links	944	Morrinsville
Parkwood Walk & links	432	Morrinsville
Sub Total	1376	

SHORT WALKS

Walk	Length - m	Ward
Geyser Walk	149	Te Aroha
Tutumangaeo Falls Walk Track	205	Te Aroha
Lower Domain Walks	344	Te Aroha
Upper Domain Walk	418	Te Aroha
Spur Road Walk links	550	Te Aroha
Skidmore Reserve Link	100	Te Aroha
Holmwood Park Walk & links	1426	Morrinsville
Sub Total	3192	

WALKING TRACKS

Walk	Length - m	Ward
Mt Te Aroha / Bald Spur	1929	Te Aroha
Tutumangaeo View Walk Track	187	Te Aroha
Tutumangaeo Falls link track	190	Te Aroha
Crusher Link Track	89	Te Aroha
Tui Domain Circuit Track	429	Te Aroha
Tui Domain Track	3138	Te Aroha
Hamilton Street Track	634	Te Aroha
Wetlands Walk	2706	Te Aroha
Hawes Bush Walk	460	Matamata
Tower Road Walk	1976	Matamata
Sub Total	11738	

TRAMPING TRACKS

Walk	Length - m	Ward
Horseman Track	1110	Te Aroha
Lipsey Track	580	Te Aroha
Golf Links Track	1321	Te Aroha
Sub Total	3011	

APPENDIX 11 - ALLOCATING & CHANGING PARK MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

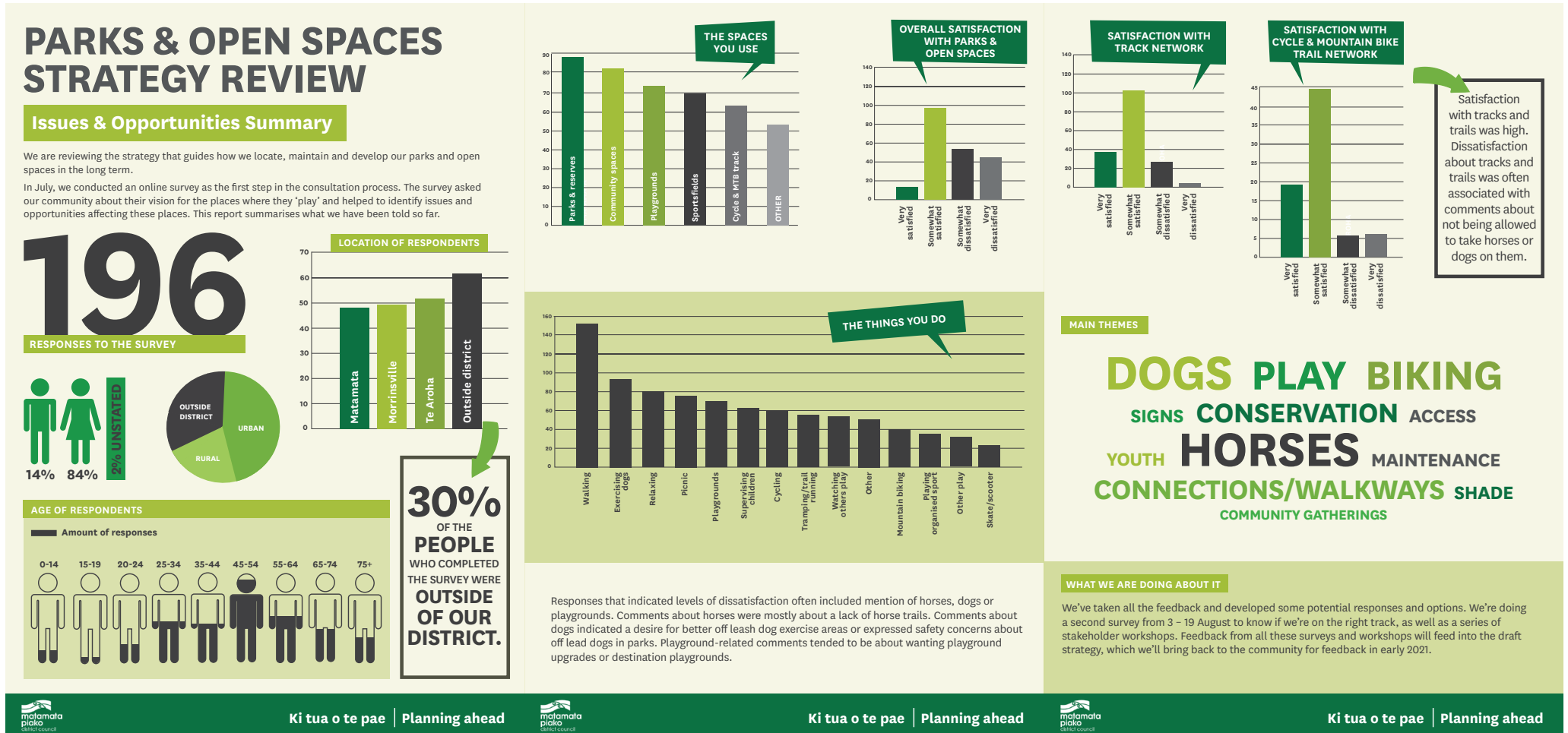
Refer to **Section 11.3 of the General Policies Reserve Management Plan 2019** for more detail.

The Reserve Acquisition Policy (under development) will also provide guidance.

APPENDIX 12 - CONSULTATION SUMMARY – PRE-DRAFT CONSULTATION

SURVEYS

Two surveys were conducted in the second half of 2020. The results are summarised below.



PARKS & OPEN SPACES SURVEY RESULTS

Are we on the right track?

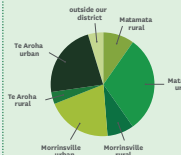
We are reviewing the strategy that guides how we locate, maintain and develop our parks and open spaces in the long term.

In August we conducted a second survey called 'Are we on the right track'. This was to find out your thoughts about options and priorities for things raised in our previous survey. This report summarises what you have told us.

WHO WE HEARD FROM

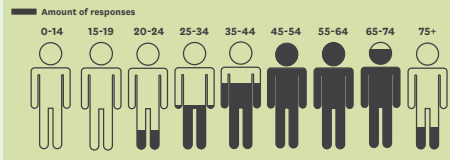
MORE THAN 80
RESPONSES TO THE SURVEY

LOCATION OF RESPONDENTS



Most people who responded live in urban areas within our District.

AGE OF RESPONDENTS

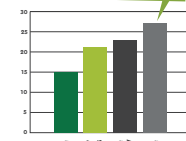


WHAT YOU TOLD US

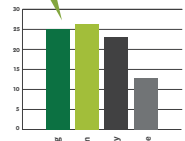
THE MAIN THINGS YOU SUGGESTED WE IMPROVE WERE:

- More shade
- Enhancing the natural environment through more planting & pest control
- Better connectivity between parks, including walking & cycling links
- Improving accessibility to seating, paths & toilets
- Better signage to help people find their way and learn about the history & environment of the area

REASONS WHY WE SHOULD PLANT TREES



SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

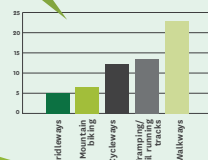


TRACKS & TRAILS

Walkways and tracks were the main types of tracks & trails that people wanted us to focus on. There was less interest shown in bridleways for horses compared to the first survey.

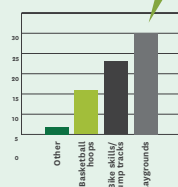


WHAT TRACKS/TRAILS SHOULD WE BE FOCUSING ON?

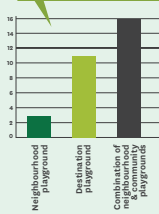


PLAYGROUNDS

FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



PREFERENCE FOR PLAYGROUND PROVISION



Playgrounds and basic bike skills/pump track facilities were the top requests to cater for children and youth. However, none of the responses were from anyone under the age of 20.



Most people who commented on playgrounds preferred Council to provide a combination of a basic neighbourhood playground within walking distance of people's homes and one or two community playgrounds in each town that offer greater variety of play equipment and experiences.



DOG EXERCISE AREAS

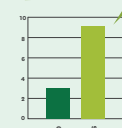
Our first survey included several requests for off leash dog exercise areas. Our second survey asked for more information about the preferred type of area.

The majority of those who answered the question wanted a larger, wilder space where dogs could be off leash rather than a smaller, park-like area. The majority of those who answered the question, thought dog exercise areas should be funded from rates.

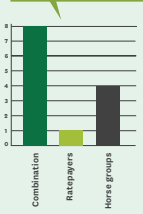


HORSE TRAILS

SHOULD COUNCIL EXPLORE ACQUIRING ADDITIONAL LAND FOR HORSE TRAILS?



WHO SHOULD FUND THESE ACTIVITIES?



SHOULD HORSES BE ALLOWED ON FUTURE RIVER AND TOWN WALKWAYS?



Areas suggested to investigate for horse trails included unformed legal roads ('paper roads') and rural road verges. A number of suggestions were however for places that are not under Council control such as public conservation land or privately owned land.

WHAT WE ARE DOING ABOUT IT?

Feedback from the two surveys, as well as the stakeholder workshops and Mana Whenua engagement, will feed into the draft strategy that will be released for comment next year.



TANGATA WHENUA WORKING GROUP

Following advice from Te Manawhenua Forum, a technical working party was set up to provide input into the strategy from a Māori perspective. Forum participants were invited to nominate representatives for the Working Group. The group includes representatives from Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Hinerangi, and Ngāti Tumutumu. The group has held several hui and work has co-drafted text to capture Tangata Whenua aspirations.

Matters of interest to the group include:

- Acknowledging Tangata Whenua's relationship to the land
- Engagement and consultation
- Opportunities for storytelling not just through signage but also through landscaping, art etc.
- Protecting sacred sites
- Enhancing the environment
- Family-friendly recreation facilities

The Group would like Tangata Whenua to have input into Council strategies, policies & plans and to be consulted on operational plans and projects as well. The Group would like Council to use Te Aranga Design Principles for new park developments and major park redevelopments, potentially developing a localised engagement/design protocol over time.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

Stakeholder Workshops were held as follows:

- Morrinsville - 28 September
- Te Aroha - 29 September
- Matamata - 30 September

Attendance varied. Morrinsville was attended by 10 members of the public, Te Aroha 9, and Matamata 4. Unfortunately, the workshops had to be postponed due to the changing COVID-19 situation. Uncertainty about COVID, school holidays, and consultation fatigue may all have contributed to the relatively low turnout. Those who attended tended to be passionate about the parks and spaces in their towns.

Each session asked attendees a set of questions:

- Where do you want to be in 30 years? / what do you want our parks and open spaces to look like in 30 years?
- What's working well?
- What's not working well?
- What opportunities do you see?

Where there were sufficient numbers, attendees were split into groups to work on these questions. Despite small attendance numbers making it challenging to theme comments, the main themes emerging from the workshops were:

- Connectivity (incl. Walkways / Cycleways / Bridleways)
- Multi-use / Hubbing / Cooperation
- Tree planting & nature restoration
- Destination playgrounds
- Signage improvements
- Better promotion
- Improved support for volunteer groups

APPENDIX 13 - PARTICIPATION PROFILES

ADULTS

MATAMATA PIAKO DISTRICT

Sport and Active Recreation

PARTICIPATION PROFILE
ADULTS 18+

Physical activity makes a positive contribution to health and wellbeing.

WHAT WE DO

53% do more than 150 minutes* a week of physical activity – enough to positively impact their health.

*Based on the WHO recommendation.

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Due to a small sample size, all results in this profile are indicative only. *Motivated to increase physical activity for sport, exercise and recreation. Activity increases a child's and adolescent's bone and heart health, or is a means through to make you feel of health. Responses from those that indicated they have done physical activity in the last 7 days (participants).

WHERE WE PARTICIPATE

INDICATIVE PROFILE ONLY

TOP 5 PLACES TO BE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE*

- 54% Private property, home, garden or pool
- 50% On the road or footpath
- 22% Walkway
- 18% Public park, field, playground, skate park or BMX track
- 17% Gym or fitness centre

70% want to do more physical activity (n=76 respondents)

77% feel being physically active in the great outdoors is an important part of New Zealanders lives

HOW WE PARTICIPATE

PARTICIPATION VARIES BY GENDER, AGE AND ETHNICITY

TOP 5 ACTIVITIES OVER LAST 7 DAYS

- 84% Walking
- 52% Gardening
- 35% Running/jogging
- 34% Playing games (e.g. with kids)
- 33% Individual workout using equipment

TOP 10 SPORTS WHERE ADULTS ARE ACTIVE (OVER THE LAST 7 DAYS)

- Golf
- Tennis
- Touch
- Netball
- Volleyball
- Horse riding/equestrian
- Football/soccer
- Basketball
- Rugby
- Other

TOP 5 ACTIVITIES FOR EVENTS ARE

- Running/walking events
- Sports tournament
- Fishing tournament or event
- Endurance running/walking events
- Biking events

GYM OR FITNESS CENTRE

16% belong to a gym or fitness centre

Of those that belong to a gym or fitness centre, 24% have not visited the gym in the last 7 days

EVENTS

33% have participated in events in last 12 months (SPORT TEAM RESPONDENTS)

21% have continued doing the activity after the event

COMPETITION OR TRAINING

29% have been competitive or part of organised training

CLUB

30% belong to a sport or recreation club (SPORT TEAM RESPONDENTS)

QUALITY EXPERIENCES ARE DEFINED BY:

Societal change means the landscape for delivery of sport is changing. For sport and active recreation providers it will be critical to understand these changes and what can be done to keep people engaged.

DRIVERS FOR A GOOD CLUB SPORTS EXPERIENCE ARE:

- Social environment
- Fulfilling potential
- Quality of coaches
- Being friendly & welcoming
- Fair & equal opportunities
- Providing information when needed
- Professional & well managed
- Clean & well maintained facilities

COACHING AND INSTRUCTION*

TOP 3 reasons to receive coaching

- To improve skills
- To keep them motivated or focused
- To improve performance

14% have received coaching in last 7 days

16% have used technology over last 7 days to receive instruction

*Source: Sport New Zealand, Voice of participant survey 2017. Responses from those that indicated they have done physical activity in the last 7 days (participants).

WHY WE PARTICIPATE

AND HOW WE FEEL ABOUT IT

79% of adults see physical activity as an essential part of their life

84% are satisfied with their life

SCREEN TIME 53% say they would be lost without their mobile phone

TURN IT OFF TO BE ACTIVE AND CONNECT WITH YOURSELF AND OTHERS

REASONS FOR BEING ACTIVE:

- 61% Improve skills or performance
- 49% To lose or control weight
- 49% Will only do the physical activity if they find it fun
- 46% Challenging yourself and trying to win
- 42% Being physically active with others
- 28% Wanting to look good

WELLBEING

82% recognise that being physically active is important for their mental health and wellbeing

55% state sport and physical activity gives them motivation and a sense of purpose

53% say they find it easier to concentrate after physical activity

TOP 5 BARRIERS ARE:

When adults would rather spend time doing other activities, spending time with the family takes precedence over physical activity.

- 56% Other commitments are taking priority (e.g. work, family)
- 22% I struggle to motivate myself
- 21% I prefer to spend my time on other interests/hobbies
- 21% I am too tired or don't have the energy
- 20% I already do a good amount of physical activity
- 68% know they should do more physical activity

SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ENABLES HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER PEOPLE AND BETTER CONNECTED COMMUNITIES*

- reduces rates of non-communicable disease (cancer, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and obesity) and improves life expectancy
- reduces rates of mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety
- participation early in life is positively associated with maintaining active and healthy behaviours later in life
- participation is positively associated with better cognitive function and academic achievement
- participation can help develop important life skills including teamwork, self-confidence and leadership
- participation has the potential to strengthen social networks and build a sense of belonging for participants
- participation has the potential to bring communities together, contributing to community identity and reducing antisocial behaviour

*Source: Sport New Zealand Value of Sport 2018.

VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEERS MAKE SPORT HAPPEN. THEY ARE THE HEART OF SPORT AND RECREATION

31% HAVE VOLUNTEERED IN LAST 12 MONTHS

41% CONSIDER THEY MAY VOLUNTEER IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

4.02 AVERAGE "HOURS" VOLUNTEERING IN LAST 7 DAYS

INVOLVEMENT IN VOLUNTEERING WAS MOTIVATED BY:

- 49% I currently do
- 36% I would like to
- 34% I would like to
- 13% I would like to
- 5% I would like to

OF THOSE THAT DID VOLUNTEER OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS:

- 37% Coached or instructed a team or group
- 36% Helper for a team, club or group (e.g. on car clinics, group leader, guide)
- 27% Event assistance (e.g. race marshals)
- 23% Official (e.g. referee, umpire, scorer)
- 21% Coached or instructed an individual

IMPLICATIONS FOR PROVIDERS

WHAT TO CONSIDER:

- Make it more than just sport
- Provide inclusive offers
- Cater for differences in gender, ethnicity and age
- Think beyond competitive sport
- Consider the barriers and how to overcome them
- Cater for the diverse range of motivations
- Find creative ways to re-engage the disengaged
- Make it fun!

REFERENCES: Active NZ survey replaces the previous Active NZ survey series first conducted 2013/14 and the Integrated Youth Physical Activity Survey 2015 conducted by Sport New Zealand. The survey uses a sequential mixed methodology and a continuous survey approach. The results in this report are based on data collected through the Active NZ survey between 6 June 2017 and 4 January 2018 from 1,177 young people (aged 5-17) and 2,562 adults (aged 18+) in the Waikato Region, across 10 Regional Authorities. For more information refer to the Sport New Zealand Active NZ 2017 Participation Report. Data presented is based on all respondents and includes 0% from the 12 months unless otherwise specified. *Rounding differences between Sport Waikato's individual results and Sport New Zealand's full report may mean some percentages are slightly off by 1-2%.

*Can select more than one volunteer activity - therefore percentages do not add up to 100%.

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YOUTH

MATAMATA PIAKO DISTRICT

Sport and Active Recreation

PARTICIPATION PROFILE YOUNG PEOPLE* (AGED 5-17 YEARS)

Physical activity makes a positive contribution to health and wellbeing.

WHAT WE DO

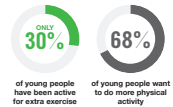
- 59% do more than 420 minutes of lifestyle activity a week - enough to positively impact their health
- 98% of young people have been physically active (especially for sport, physical education (PE), exercise and fun) over the last 7 days

WHERE WE PARTICIPATE

INDICATIVE PROFILE ONLY

TOP 5 PLACES WHERE AND HOW YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ACTIVE*

- 75% Home
- 74% School or in the school grounds
- 65% Playground, park, field, AstroTurf or outdoor pool
- 39% Gym, community hall, church, marae or indoor pool
- 37% Beach, lake, bush, footpath



HOW WE PARTICIPATE

PARTICIPATION VARIES BY GENDER, AGE AND ETHNICITY

TOP 5 ACTIVITIES OVER LAST 7 DAYS

- 54% Running, jogging or rumpus around (cross-country)
- 39% Playing (e.g. four square, climbing trees, make-believe)
- 37% Games (e.g. football, netball, table tennis, darts)
- 36% Playing on playground (e.g. jump, am)
- 28% Cycling/biking

TOP 10 SPORTS WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ACTIVE (OVER THE LAST 7 DAYS)

- 1 Athletics or track and field
- 2 Touch
- 3 Rugby or rippa rugby
- 4 Netball
- 5 Football, soccer or futsal
- 6 Cricket
- 7 Basketball or mini-ball
- 8 Hockey or floorball
- 9 Tennis
- 10 Gymnastics

ACTIVE TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL

41% young people are physically active to get to school

- 41% are driven to school
- 33% walk, 10% bike, 3% skateboard, scooter or rollerblades, <1% run

AT SCHOOL IN PE CLASSES

74% of Year 11-13s continued taking PE as a subject at school when it was no longer compulsory

CLUB/TEAM/GROUP MEMBERSHIP

54% belonging to 1 sport team, recreational club/group both at school and outside of school

- 27% belong to 2 (team) club/group, 23% belong to 3, 19% belong to 4+, 11% belong to none

EVENTS

61% have participated in events in last 12 months

TOP 5 ACTIVITIES FOR EVENTS ARE

- 1 Running/walking events (e.g. up to 5km)
- 2 Swimming events (e.g. Ocean Swim)
- 3 Triathlon/cycling events (e.g. West Bay Triathlon)
- 4 Fishing events (e.g. Lake & Aorangi)
- 5 Biking events (e.g. The Great Ride Day)

GYM OR FITNESS CENTRE

21% of young people aged 15-17 years currently belong to a gym or fitness centre

Of those that belong to a gym or fitness centre, they all visited the gym in the last 7 days

QUALITY EXPERIENCES ARE DEFINED BY:

Social change means the landscape for delivery of sport, recreation and physical activity is changing. For sport and active recreation providers it will be critical to understand these changes and what can be done to keep people engaged.

DRIVERS FOR A GOOD CLUB EXPERIENCE ARE:

- Social environment
- Fulfilling potential
- Quality of coaches
- Being friendly & welcoming
- Fair & equal opportunities
- Providing information when needed
- Professional & well managed
- Clean & well maintained facilities

COACHING AND INSTRUCTION

23% of young people have used technology over the last 7 days to measure/help physical activity

64% of young people have received group coaching over the last 7 days, 15% one-on-one, 5% online (YouTube, apps etc) or otherwise

WHY WE PARTICIPATE

AND HOW WE FEEL ABOUT IT

As young people age, participation becomes more about fitness and health than fun.

REASONS FOR BEING ACTIVE (12-17 YEARS)

- 81% of young people understand why taking part in physical activity is good for them
- 79% of young people like being physically active
- 82% of young people like or liked PE fitness classes at school
- 16% of young people would be lost without their mobile phone

66%

of young people see physical activity as an important part of their regular routine

- 71% participate for fun
- 41% participate to hang out with family or friends
- 34% to physically challenge myself or to win
- 33% for fitness or health
- 23% I have to (my parent/teacher or school make me)
- 20% to learn or practice a new skill
- 12% I'm good at it
- 6% to lose or maintain weight
- 2% to look good

WELLBEING

- 81% say people in my life encourage me to take part in activities
- 47% say they find it easier to concentrate after physical activity
- 94% of all young people (all ages) are satisfied with their life

TOP 5 BARRIERS TO WAIKATO YOUNG PEOPLE (8-17 YEAR OLDS) ARE:

- 53% too busy
- 18% too hard to get to training, games or competition
- 17% too hard to motivate myself
- 17% not fit enough
- 15% my family can't afford it

56% 8-17 year olds want to do more physical activity

SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ENABLES HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER PEOPLE AND BETTER CONNECTED COMMUNITIES*

- reduces rates of non-communicable disease (cancer, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and obesity) and improves life expectancy
- reduces rates of mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety
- participation early in life is positively associated with maintaining active and healthy behaviours later in life
- participation is positively associated with better cognitive function and academic achievement
- participation can help develop important life skills including teamwork, self-confidence and leadership
- participation has the potential to strengthen social networks and build a sense of belonging for participants
- participation has the potential to bring communities together, contributing to community identity and reducing antisocial behaviour

VOLUNTEERING 12-17 YEAR OLDS*

VOLUNTEERS MAKE SPORT HAPPEN. THEY ARE THE HEART OF SPORT AND RECREATION

60% OF 12-17 YEAR OLDS HAVE VOLUNTEERED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BEFORE PE OR CLASSES

75% CONSIDER THEY MAY VOLUNTEER IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

OF THOSE THAT DID VOLUNTEER OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

- 31% Coach or assistant coach
- 20% Team captain
- 19% Official (e.g. Referee, Lines, Score)
- 9% Helper (e.g. Mail Drop, Gift)
- 7% Club administrator
- 4% Event organiser
- 3% Activity leader (e.g. Kids, Mini, School)
- 1% Regional
- 1% Regional
- 1% Team/assistant manager

HOW OUR PARENTS ENCOURAGE US:

Parents have an important part to play in a child's level of physical activity. Parents surveyed as part of the Active NZ survey said:

- 90% I think it's important to be involved in my children's physical activities
- 79% I want to be physically active so my children will follow my example and be physical
- 72% Being physically active together is an important part of our family life
- 40% It's up to my children to decide for themselves how active they want to be
- 17% I worry my children will get hurt when they do physical activity

IMPLICATIONS FOR PROVIDERS

WHAT TO CONSIDER:

- Provide more time to develop all kids regardless of ability or age
- Cater for differences in gender, ethnicity and age
- Think beyond competitive sport
- Consider the barriers and how to overcome them
- Be inclusive
- Provide inclusive offers
- Cater for differences in gender, ethnicity and age
- Think beyond competitive sport
- Consider the barriers and how to overcome them
- Be inclusive

*Source: Sport New Zealand, Voice of participant survey 2017. *Indicative only due to small sample size.

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Due to a small sample size, all results in this profile are indicative only. *Young people defined as those aged 12-17 years unless otherwise stated. *Moderate to vigorous physical activity for sport, physical education (PE), exercise and fun. *Based on those that were active in the last 7 days ("participants").

*Source: Sport New Zealand, Voice of participant survey 2017. *Indicative only due to small sample size.

*Source: Sport New Zealand, Voice of participant survey 2017.

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