

Draft Hutt City Reserves Investment Strategy

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He Mihi – He Pao

Taku raukura rauna i te puata
Hei tomokanga i te mea ngaro e
Tākiri taku raukura haere ki runga rā
Hei kāuru mō Te Awakairangi e

Tō tātou awa ko te rangimārie

Hei puna waiora mō Te Āti Awa kuao e

E kore tātou e taea te wehewehe

Toitū te kupu o te raukura e

My raukura encircles the early dawn
As an entrance way to the spiritual realm
I cast my raukura high above
As a headwater in which Te Awakairangi
flows

Our river is likened to a tributary of peace
and goodwill

A spring that provides sustenance for the
people of Te Āti Awa

Our connection as people will never be
undone

As we uphold the principles of the raukura

These words of welcome come to you by way of this pao, a song composed for the purposes of this kaupapa. This pao acknowledges the Raukura, a symbol that for generations has been a guidepost for the people of Te Āti Awa and Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko-o-te-Ika. One of the symbols that encapsulates the Raukura is a plume of three albatross feathers, which encapsulates the relationship between celestial and terrestrial realms, and humankind's relationship within these realms.

The connection of the Raukura to this kaupapa is all encompassing. It highlights a unique spiritual relationship between mana whenua to our river, Te Awakairangi. It highlights how our river flows and nourishes the holistic wellbeing of all our communities and the environment in which we all reside. It acknowledges our responsibilities as a community to being stewards of wellbeing, to reside in balance and harmony within the environment that sustains us all. It calls our communities to action to uphold and advance the principles of the Raukura so that our environment for successive generations can be nurtured, nourished, and thrive.

Best wishes to you all as we undertake this journey together. Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou ka ora ai te whenua me te iwi – With each of our contributions the land and its people shall thrive.

Setting the Scene– Mana Whenua

The iwi of Te Āti Awa and Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko-o-te-Ika have exercised mana whenua authority throughout the Hutt Valley, Wellington and Cook Strait regions since their arrival in the 1820s to the present day. Te Āti Awa and their iwi relations, namely Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Tama, Taranaki and Ngāti Ruanui, settled these regions after a series of migrations that took place from their original homelands located throughout Taranaki. These iwi are recognised collectively under the name, Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko-o-te-Ika, because of this relationship. The relationship is not only genealogical, but connects these iwi at political, cultural, economic, and social levels.

One of the things that initially attracted the Taranaki people to these regions was the sighting of a European ship on the Cook Strait during their participation in the taūa of predominantly northern iwi who came down the west coast of the North Island and into Te Whanganui a Tara in 1818-19. This highlighted the potential strategic and political opportunities of engagements and relationships between Māori and Pākehā, and the impact of this on lands, forestry, fisheries and estates for Māori.

It was in 1839 that Te Wharepouri, a rangatira of Te Āti Awa, laid out the mana whenua boundaries to colonial settlers whilst uttering the following whakatauhākī (proverbial phrase) upon the Pito One foreshore:

“Tumutumu parea, rākau parea. Whānui te ara ki a Tāne.”

“Ward off post and weapon so that the expansive path of mankind is opened up.”

Te Wharepouri, like his counterparts, saw the benefits of building positive relationships with the colonial settlers and working together towards common goals and initiatives. Hence, Te Wharepouri's statement acknowledged the bringing together of different peoples, and the importance of overcoming obstacles and issues together to achieve outcomes of mutual interest. On 29 April 1840, Te Tiriti o Waitangi was signed upon the Ariel in the Wellington harbour by 34 rangatira, including Te Wharepouri. This re-affirmed the status of mana whenua within these regions and their authority over their environs. However, challenges to this authority persisted soon after its signing through ongoing land acquisitions of the New Zealand Company on behalf of government to support the tide of colonial settlers entering these regions. This in turn created much unrest between mana whenua, the government, and colonial settlers.

Despite these significant challenges, Te Wharepouri carried his hopes for unity to his death bed, where in 1842 it is said that his dying message was:

*“I muri nei kia pai ki aku taonga Māori, taonga Pākehā,
kia tae ake te haruru o tō reo ki ahau i Te Reinga.”*

*“After I have gone be good to my Māori people and my European people,
let the thunder of your voice reach me in the spirit land.”*

For the generations of mana whenua descendants since, these histories and statements continue to be guideposts for their aspirations, where the importance of working together to support objectives and goals of significance is as pertinent today as it was then. The term itself, Mana Whenua, acknowledges the significance of land and its environs to Māori, and the duty of kaitiakitanga to protect and nurture its natural environment, health, and wellbeing for successive generations to come. Hence, the following phrase encapsulates this principle:

"Toitū te whenua, whatungarongaro te tangata."

"When man is gone, the land remains."

This statement highlights an intimate connection which gives meaning to what it is to be mana whenua. It is a relationship which transcends arguments of ownership in a commodity sense; a relationship which reinforces a sense of belonging shared between those who have passed on, the living and those yet to be born. It is a sacred connection; represented through the dual meanings of whenua to both nourish the people, and to nurture the growing new life of the unborn child.

With this sense of identity as a foundation, it is important to understand the aspirations of mana whenua for their land, forestry, fisheries, and estates, and how these environs be retained and used to enable the appropriate passing onto future generations.

Executive Summary

Reserves support the well-being; physical and mental health of our communities and they contribute to the protection of ecosystem services and indigenous biodiversity. Our communities need access to a range of reserves that offer amenities and recreation opportunities.

The Reserves Investment Strategy (the 'Strategy') recognises the incredible opportunity Hutt City Council ('HCC' or 'Council') has to provide better quality reserves to help address the effects of growth. As the city's population grows and urban areas intensify, the role of reserves becomes even more important. The Strategy outlines why we need to grow, adapt and activate our green network to help meet the rapidly growing demand created by more residents living more densely. The Strategy also provides a needs and opportunities analysis with a provisional metric framework tailored for Hutt City Council that provides tactical direction for future provision. Council is able to collect Reserve Financial Contributions as part of the resource consent process for development (primarily residential subdivision) under the Resource Management Act and District Plan. These contributions are managed as the Reserve Purchase and Development Fund (RPDF or the 'Fund').

The Fund can be used to:

- Purchase land for reserve purposes to respond to effects from population growth and urban intensification
- Undertake reserve development, redevelopment or enhancement work on reserve land to respond to effects from growth and intensification.

Council is committed to:

- Working alongside Mana Whenua to improve outcomes for Māori and protect sites that are significant to Iwi
- Establishing a separate Reserve Land Purchase Fund to enable officers to respond quickly when property acquisition opportunities arise to close gaps in reserve provision and address equity
- Adopting a 10 year programme of projects which will be funded from the Reserves Purchase and Development Fund
- Preventing existing gaps in reserve provision from widening
- Addressing the quantity and quality of our green network, especially in urban areas to meet the anticipated needs and expectations of changing land use
- Implementing the Reserve/Open Space Provision Typology Framework and Best Practice Design Guide to inform decisions about the provision and development of reserves.

Section 1: Introduction

Our lifestyles are better when our whānau have access to quality reserves. As the population grows and we live in more densely developed residential areas, access to quality reserves becomes more critical. In our urban settings especially, the open spaces in between and around buildings are extensions of our green network and provide spaces for gathering, relaxation, or a simple place to get away from a bustling environment.

We will grow and nurture our reserve network upholding the mana of tangata whenua to better protect taonga and our urban ecosystems and support the health and well-being of our communities. The network connects communities, supports their diverse needs and abilities, and provides access to recreation opportunities. Like other cities in Aotearoa New Zealand, we are facing big challenges, a fast-growing population, rapid residential development, and climate change. This provides Hutt City with an incredible opportunity to improve and enhance the built and natural environment.

Whakakitenga: Our Vision

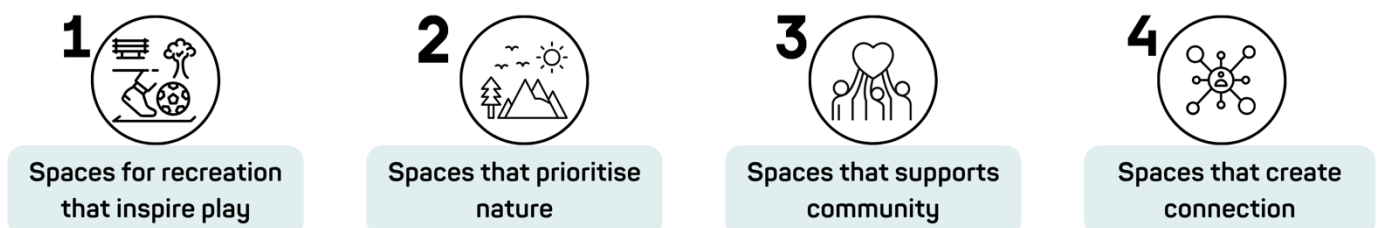
"A reserve network that connects people to place; is valued for protecting the natural environment, and its role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of the people of our city"

The Reserves Investment Strategy has four overarching goals related to community and the environment with the aim to fulfil four focus outcomes:

Ngā Whāinga: Goals



Ngā aronga: Focus Outcomes



Why this strategy is needed

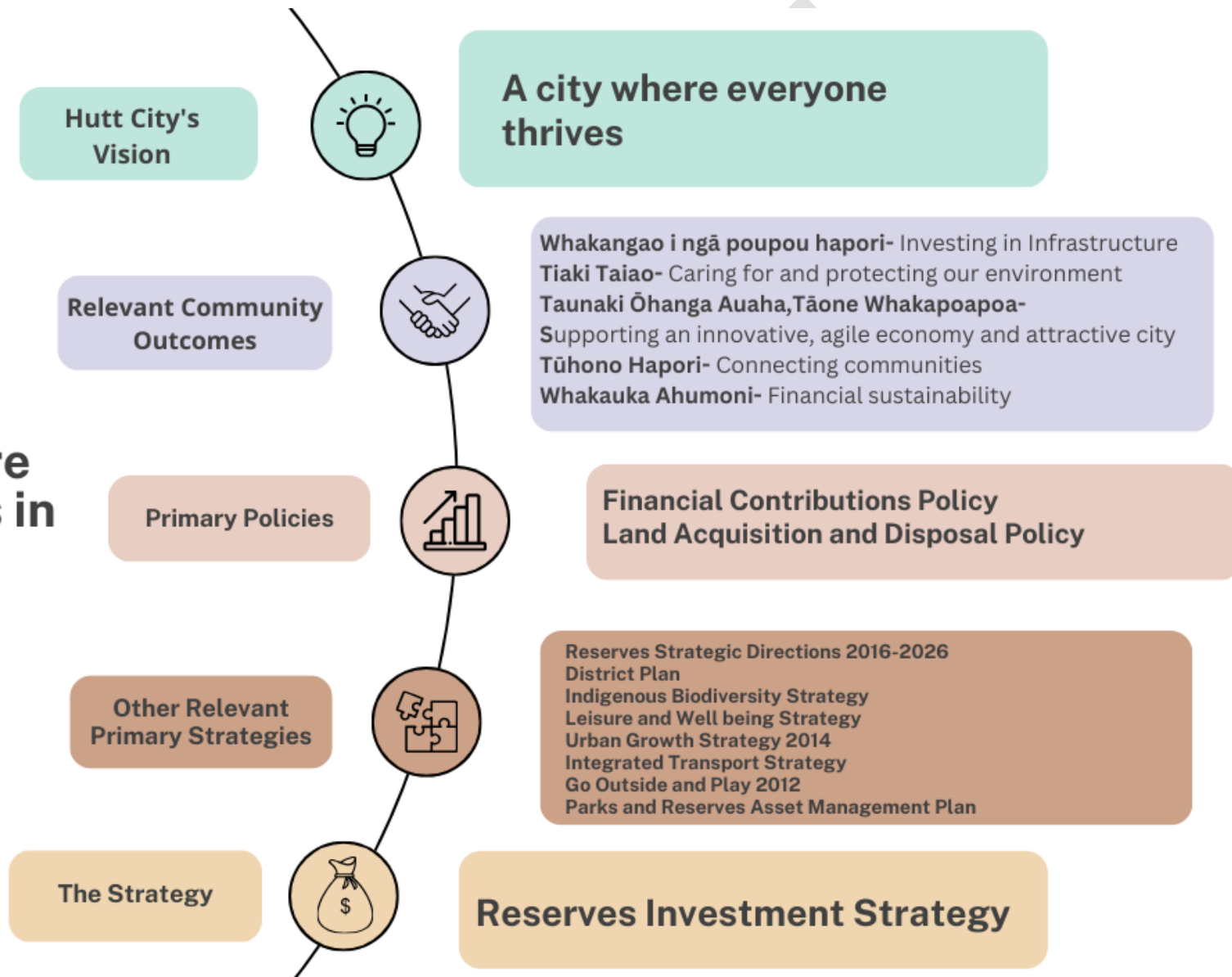
Like other cities experiencing rapid intensification due to population growth, there has been a reduction of private open space. This growth in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt is partly a response to urban development centred National Policy Statements and legislation introduced by Central Government.

Our reserves are areas that offer opportunities to support the re-indigenising of our city, as well as encouraging people to be active, and build social capital. They aid in offering accessible greenspace for a variety of recreation and leisure opportunities, bringing people together with similar interests, values, and offer preventative healthcare for communities.

The Reserves Investment Strategy outlines why we need to improve our reserve network as our city's needs change. Investment includes the monetary and legislative resources we put into development or improvement to reserves. It is also about the protection of environmental, cultural, social, and economic values that will support future generations. This Strategy acts as a comprehensive roadmap, outlining an integrated approach to deliver balanced reserve land use planning and investment within Lower Hutt. This means helping activate our community by providing open space options that are accessible to everyone, offer a variety of experiences, are safe, and encourage people to recreate and get outside to connect with nature.

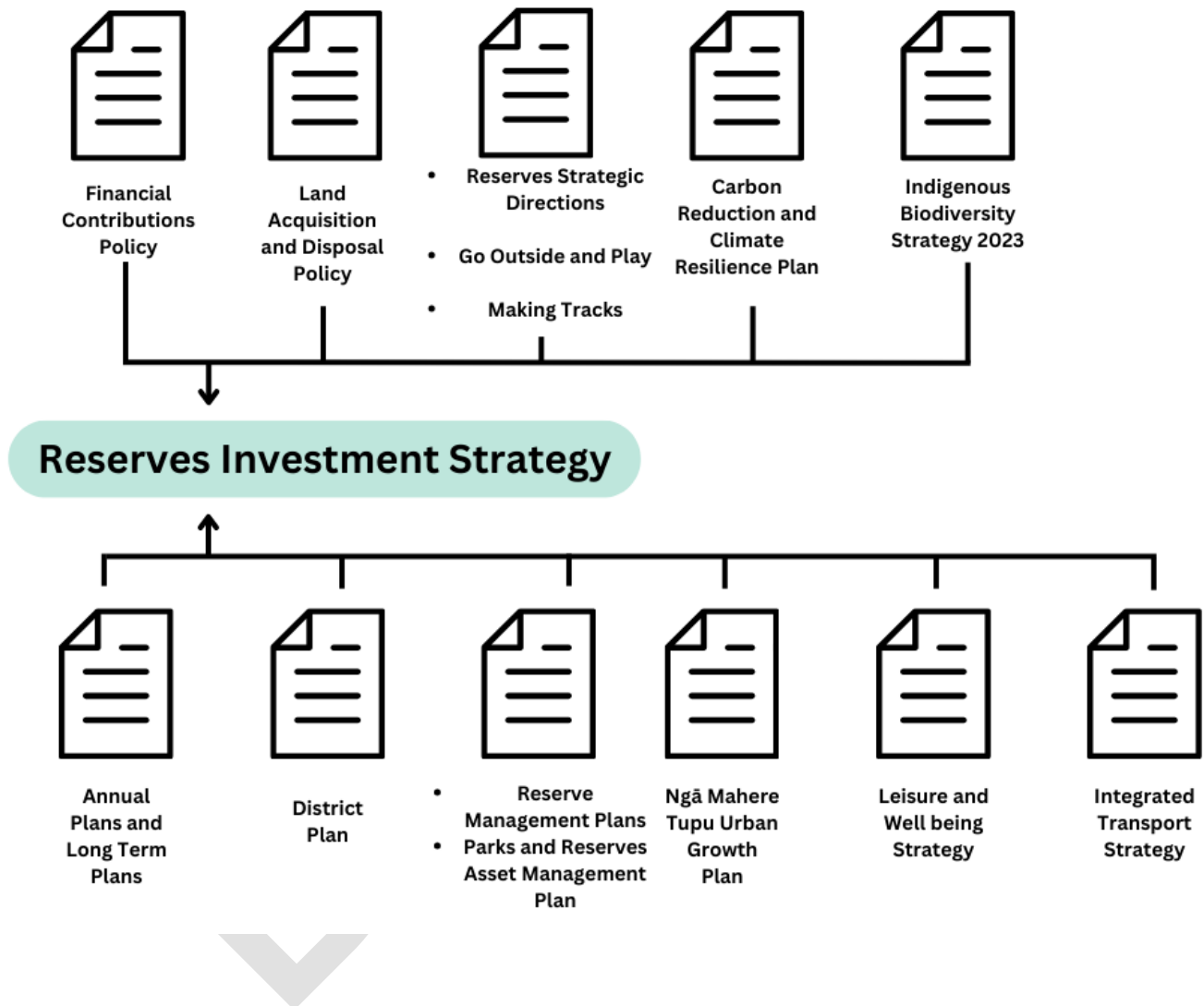
Horopaki kaupapa here o tā tātou rautaki: The Policy Context of our Strategy

Where it fits in



Anga Rautaki Strategy Framework

This Strategy sets out a vision, goals, and focus outcomes that will influence existing and future projects. It aligns with and reinforces, other documents and plans that are already in use, as outlined here.



Pou Urungi o tā tātou rautaki: The Drivers of our Strategy

There are a number of strategic challenges and issues that drive our response as we manage and improve our parks to make a more accessible open space network.

What do we mean by Equity of Access?

All of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt residents can access a reserve without social, geographical, or economic barriers. Council will work towards lifting the quantity and quality of the reserve network with a focus on areas where there are pragmatic solutions to address under provision, in comparison to the provision typology.

The presentation and maintenance of reserves will need to be delivered at a level that enables the open space network to perform the intended functionality, that include using Universally Designed amenities. Communities have varied requirements, depending on factors like age, ethnicity, local topography, local levels of development/intensification, local preferences – there isn't a recipe for the perfect reserve.

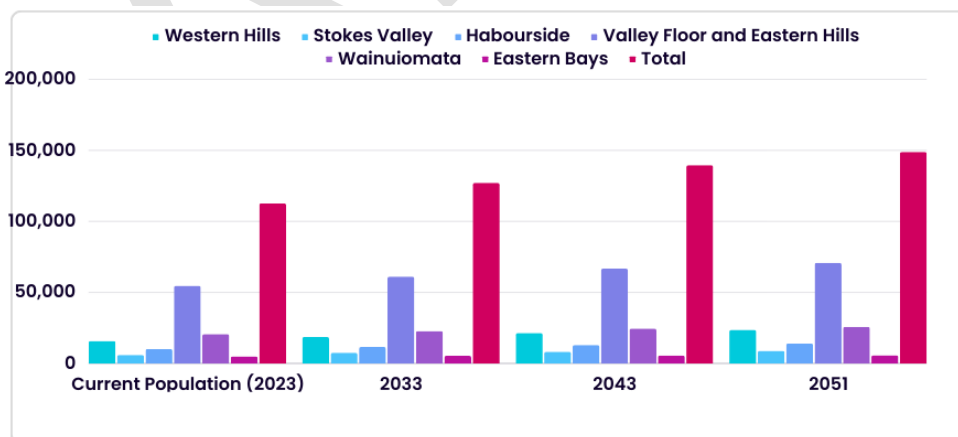
Population growth and Intensification



Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt has been experiencing strong population growth in recent years. In 2023 the resident population count of 112,683 had already surpassed earlier projections for 2030. Hutt City's population is expected to increase between 2 and 5% per

year, while the average age will also reduce (SensePartners and NZ Stats). This population growth (as shown in the graph on the right) creates carrying capacity issues across the reserve network.

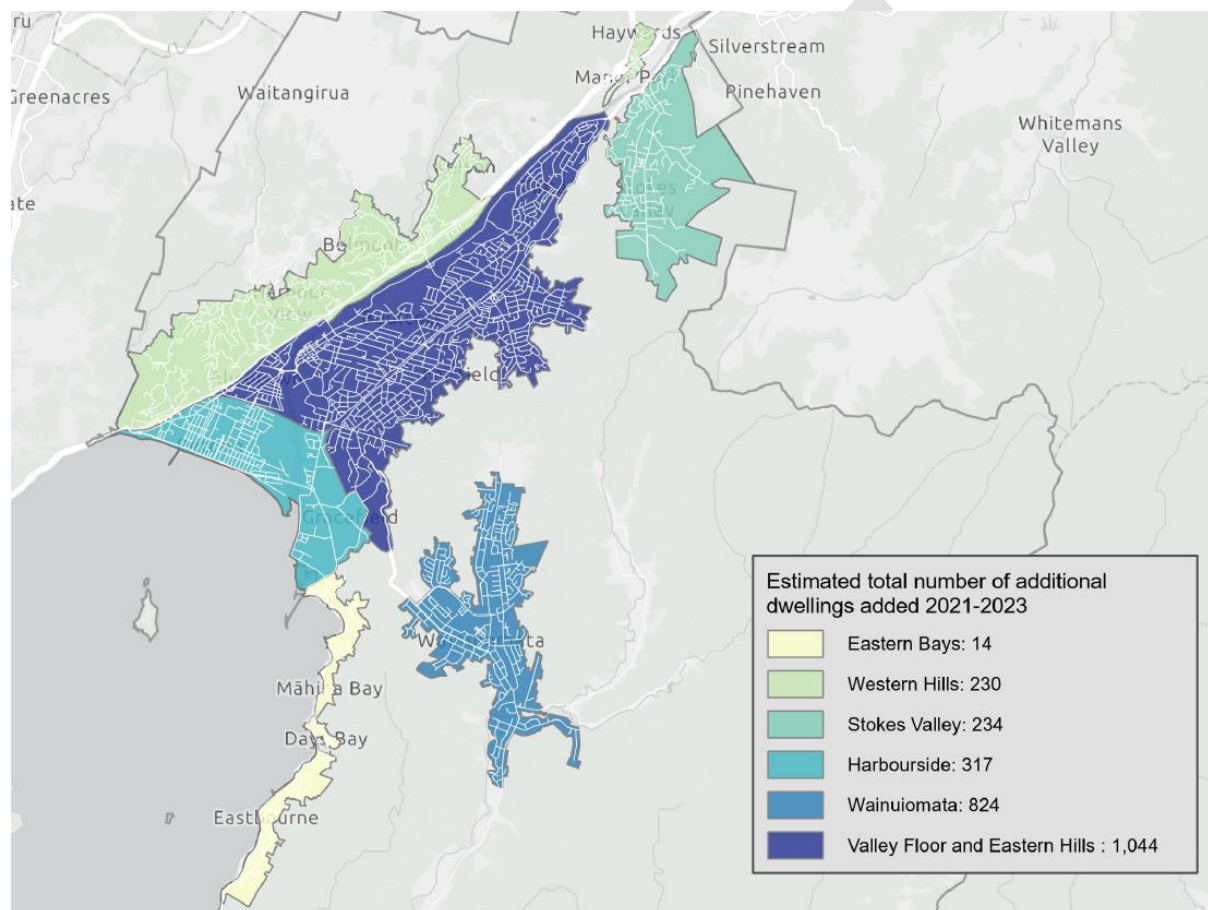
Underprovision is already a factor in some areas of Lower Hutt. Additionally, private open space is reducing in residential areas. Across the city there will be increasing pressure on our existing reserve network unless we invest in growth and the changing needs of our community.



Future development is expected to primarily consist of medium and high-density residential housing, including townhouses and multi-story apartment buildings built within already existing residential areas. In terms of future planning, the Strategy acknowledges the increasing population and diversified demographics of the region. There is a reasonable expectation of increased participation in some sports and recreation and having access to spaces and places to support this demand becomes crucial. Increasing density may also lead to a decrease in overall site permeability. Sites with less permeability can exacerbate the effects stormwater overflow and flooding. This

anticipated increase in population and intensification through infill, brownfield, and greenfield development will drive the need to increase both the quality and quantity of reserves as a response to growth. The thematic map below illustrates catchments of increased dwelling density throughout Hutt City. From 2021-2023, around 5,000 bedrooms have been added across Hutt Valley. Areas with the highest growth in dwelling numbers are the Valley Floor and Wainuiomata.

Estimated dwelling density across catchments (additional dwellings from residential subdivision development 2021-2023)



Human & Environmental Health and Wellbeing

The health and wellbeing of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt residents and the environment are at the forefront of the decision-making process. As cities grow, higher intensification translates to less outdoor space for people to actively choose to recreate, socialise and connect with. Air and water pollution, invasive exotic plant and animal species, changes in land use, and climate change have decreased ecosystem services. Reserves support human and environmental health by supporting opportunity for incorporating mātauranga Māori in relation to the whenua. Protection of traditional places for gathering and harvesting will contribute to meeting the current and future needs of nourishing our people while providing kaitiakitanga of the natural environment.

Many cultures, including indigenous peoples, recognise the importance of open space and the connection with nature for well-being. We are not running parallel with the environment, but are intertwined with Papatūānuku moving as a singular unit. Some reserves contain spaces that are spiritually significant to Māori. They are considered places of healing, reflection, and connection to the land and ancestors. These spaces provided opportunities for cultural practices, ceremonies, and the preservation of traditional knowledge.

By focusing on community-wide access to open space we improve our quality of life, helping individuals connect, thrive, and be stewards to our environment. The concept of well-being in relation to open spaces and nature goes beyond physical health. It encompasses mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects. Being in and engaging with nature has been associated with stress reduction, improved mood, increased creativity, and a sense of belonging and connectedness.



Evolving Levels of Service

Recent investigations, including the Nuku Ora Regional Sports Field Report (2023), have revealed that the existing reserve network under-provided for training and competition spaces for some clubs/codes. Current provision needs to address gaps (under provision) and meet the growing and changing needs of our community. This may be addressed by investing in new and existing assets (including choosing assets with long lifecycles or low maintenance) and infrastructure to support the growth and/or improving existing spaces to increase the carrying capacity.

Installing or improving sports field drainage will help to provide the community with grounds that can meet demand. Provision of more or better assets may require additional operational funding. In order to maintain or extend an asset's life, sufficient operational expenditure (Opex), and renewal funding (Capex) is required to realise the full value of capital investment. Theoretically a small portion of rates from each new property is directed at operational budgets for reserves, however, Council had many funding priorities and sufficient budget is not always possible. Poorly maintained reserves are less appealing and are less likely to be used by the community. In order to meet incoming Capex, Opex must be matched proportionally in order to maintain the new levels of service.



Climate Change and Resilience

In the past decade, Aotearoa New Zealand has experienced a spectrum of climate induced disasters. Intense flooding, drought, erosion, erratic and abnormal weather, and unpredictable seismic activity have placed many regions' green network under threat. Sustainability, resilience, and equity have now become a focal point for many regions and are a leading consideration for planning and design decisions. The management of wai is especially critical in protecting and improving mauri. Mana Whenua's concept is to put water first – te Mana o te Wai.

Ka ora te wai – If the water is cared for.
Ka ora te Whenua – The land will be nourished.
Ka ora te Whenua – If the land is nourished.
Ka ora te tāngata – The people will prosper.

For Hutt City, this means planning and designing a network that can withstand climate induced changes, and provide the community with the services they need, particularly flood and inundation protection. Having more permeable surfaces and sustainable stormwater management can help mitigate these risks.

Having the right trees in the right place can help to mitigate climate change effects and sequester carbon. Retaining and planting new trees can reduce the Urban Heat Island Effect. Reserves provide spaces where large native and exotic trees (7 to 15m+ height at maturity) can thrive and this helps to sequester carbon and lower greenhouse gas emission to the atmosphere. Part of adapting to climate change includes designing and encourage sustainable multimodal transportation to reduce the city's carbon footprint. Providing appealing neighbourhood reserves within a 10-minute walk of dwellings in residential areas is one way Council can support carbon reduction.



Relevant Legislation & Policy-Development and Financial Contributions Policy

The Reserve Financial Contributions system (enabled under the Resource Management Act 1991), allows Council to collect financial contributions through the application of the District Plan. This such helps fund growth related reserve improvement, provision and offset adverse environmental or other cumulative effects from residential, industrial or commercial development. The Reserve Purchase and Development Fund (RPDF) collects Reserve Financial Contributions, Hutt City Council's *Development and Financial Contributions Policy (2021-2031)* supports the District Plan, and typically undergoes review every 3 years to review how contributions are collected and invested in. Development contributions, required under the Local Government Act (LGA), fund planned and budgeted capital expenditure related to growth for activities and assets listed in the policy's schedule, and are separate from Reserve Financial Contributions.

Financial contributions, on the other hand, are enabled under the Resource Management Act (RMA) and apply to reserves and other capital expenditure not covered by development contributions. Financial contributions may be imposed as conditions of resource consents. The specific rules for Reserve Financial Contributions are set out in the District Plan. This Strategy utilises the RPDF to propose open space improvements and developments primarily during the Long Term Plan process, which undergoes review every 3 years.

Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy

The 2016 Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy was created to guide the acquisition and/or disposal of land managed as reserve when Council is contemplating sale or another use. The Council follows the Acquisition and Disposal Methodology and is used in conjunction

with Māori Design Principles and the Open Space Best Practice Design Guide. This policy helps to mitigate any issues Council may face when considering changes to the reserve network. For some acquisitions and disposals, the inclusion of advice from professionals like landscape architects and ecologists is required and in other cases consideration with Mana Whenua.

Open Space Zones (Sport and Active Recreation Zones, Natural Open Space Zone, and Open Space Zone)

Open Space Zone (OSZ): The OSZ contains many of Hutt City's smaller sized reserves. OSZ reserves are characterised by open spaces with limited infrastructure and are utilised for both passive and active recreation, conservation, and community activities, and cemeteries. The zone primarily provides for the operation and development of parks, open space reserves, gardens, and community facilities owned and/or administered by Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC)

Natural Open Space Zone (NOSZ): The NOSZ is focused on setting specific objectives, policies, and rules for natural open spaces that contain high natural, ecological, and historical values allowing for both passive and active recreation, conservation, cultural, and community activities. The zone primarily provides for the operation and development of larger greenspace owned and/or administered by Council, GWRC or the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Sport and Active Recreation Zone (SARZ): The SARZ is focused on sports fields and facilities and include those areas that are used for organised sports and that are used for information active recreational within urban areas. This zone primarily applies to public parks that are used for active recreation such as sports fields, golf courses and larger reserves with play features.



Land Use Changes

Hutt City's ability to acquire well located property of sufficient size and useful shape and terrain can be challenging, especially in parts of the city where residential, commercial and industrial uses are already established. The Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan (2023) outlines development strategies to help address the growing need for reserves. Reserve acquisition, improvement, or enhancement, funded by Reserve Financial Contributions, may include the provision of new or upgraded assets that are required to amend levels of service. These reserve financial contributions can be separated into:

- Growth – development of new assets responding to population growth, cumulative and adverse environmental effects and residential/commercial activity;
- Level of service improvement – development or upgrade required to meet specified levels of service. This may also include renewals that have been more impacted by usage due to growth.

The Strategy, coupled with the Open Space Best Practice Design Guide, aims to outline how potential land acquisition or existing reserve improvement may occur when a need for development has been identified.

He urupare Hapori–What our community has told us

Nuku Ora Report–Regional Sports Field Report

The Nuku Ora Survey was completed in September 2023 and focused on traditional turf codes/clubs and some indoor sporting facilities across the Wellington region. The study analysed the supply and demand of those sports fields in the region as a whole, rather than focusing on individual councils or codes. As the population increases and diversifies, there is an expectation for increased participation in various forms of physical activity, including sports that utilise sports fields.

This increased demand puts pressure on existing facilities and necessitates the need for planning and investment decisions to meet the growing demand. The study identified that Lower Hutt was missing a total of 88.4 hours of provision. Primarily significant deficits were identified for football and rugby league. Some of the main challenges identified with the provision of sporting fields and equitable access to sporting field infrastructure across the region included:

1. Existing grounds in Hutt City are unable to meet the demand for training and competition. Ground conditions and drainage are issues limiting carrying capacity
2. Inadequate infrastructure, such as changing rooms, toilets, and shower blocks
3. Limited access to lighting for sports training
4. Difficulty in accessing fields during non-traditional times due to conflicts between matches and development activities
5. Shared ownership of assets like lighting, fencing, and ongoing maintenance costs.

To address gaps and future plan, key recommendations were made around some potential solutions to mitigate further gaps. Shared themes include:

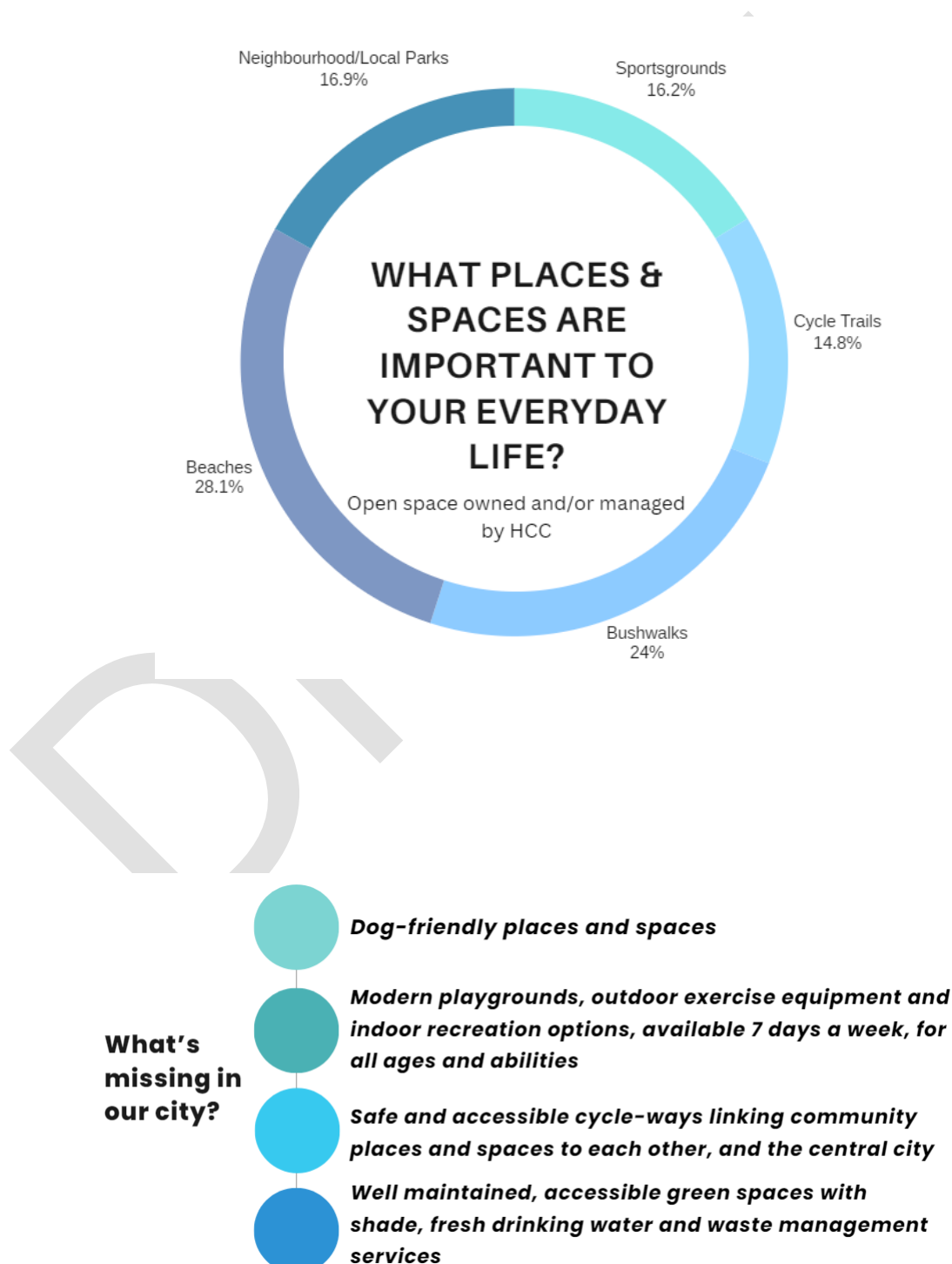
1. Maximising the use of available fields: This involves maintaining and improving the current network by reallocating existing fields and prioritising upgrades to facilities such as drainage, floodlights, amenities, and sand-carpeting;
 - a. Making more effective use of sports fields through adjusting code allocations and use schedules.
2. Repurposing spaces in the region;
 - a. Increasing the supply of sports fields by repurposing existing land or acquiring new land.
3. Develop new sports fields in areas where there is a lack of availability (this could be done through the Reserves Investment Strategy).

These implementations of these recommendations would increase the capacity of existing sports fields and optimise their use. However, it is important to consider their feasibility, cost,

and long-term sustainability in the context of population growth and development. Implementation would be required by Hutt City Council and others.

2023 Places and Spaces Engagement Survey

In March 2023, a survey was conducted to better gauge how residents interact with Hutt City's owned and/or managed assets (parks, playgrounds and features, buildings, and facilities). Many respondents indicated that Council operated reserves and the amenities within them were important features in their neighbourhood. Below are some critical highlights from the survey results.



2023 Residents Satisfaction Survey

The Residents Satisfaction Survey is an annual survey with the purpose of determining levels of satisfaction Hutt City residents have with Council services, facilities, and decision-making to identify possible future improvement opportunities. With respect to parks and open space, residents shared what aspects they valued and appreciated within the network shown in the diagram below. Overall, these factors contribute to residents' positive experiences and appreciation of parks and open spaces in Hutt City.



Wānanga Tuarua: Tūāhua onāiane-

Section 2: Take o te wā: Our current situation

Our Reserves Network

Hutt City's reserves play a key role in connecting our communities, and providing spaces for people of all ages to recreate, socialise and relax. They also present venues for community activity, celebrating local identity, increasing native biodiversity, strengthening ecosystem services, and offer alternative transportation options. It is evident that existing open space is an asset and decisions on its future need to be considered very carefully.

Using the bespoke Open Space Provision Typology Framework (The 'Framework') (Appendix A) assessing all reserves managed or owned by the Parks and Reserves Team, Hutt City Council currently has an estimated 2,996 ha of land managed as reserve. Of these 2,996 ha, approximately 337 ha are actively maintained reserves. There is an additional 16,000 ha of open green space managed primarily by Greater Wellington City Council and Department of Conservation.

Note: The assessment was primarily based on existing site access, size and existing function. Increasing amenity and overall fit of some reserves is required in order to meet the designated priorities of the framework.

The quantity of open space provided in urban areas (actively maintained) is well below similar territorial authorities in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Typology in Hutt City	Hectares (ha)
Neighbourhood	65
Suburb	121
Sports Park	111
Destination Park	19
Nature	2,391
Recreation & Ecological Linkage	66
Civic Space	2
Cultural Heritage	65
Other Reserves	155
Grand Totals	2,996



84 Neighbourhood Reserves

30 Suburb Reserves

11 Sports Reserves

3 Destination Reserves

95 Nature Reserves

53 Recreation and Ecological Linkages

12 Civic Spaces

6 Cultural Heritage Reserves

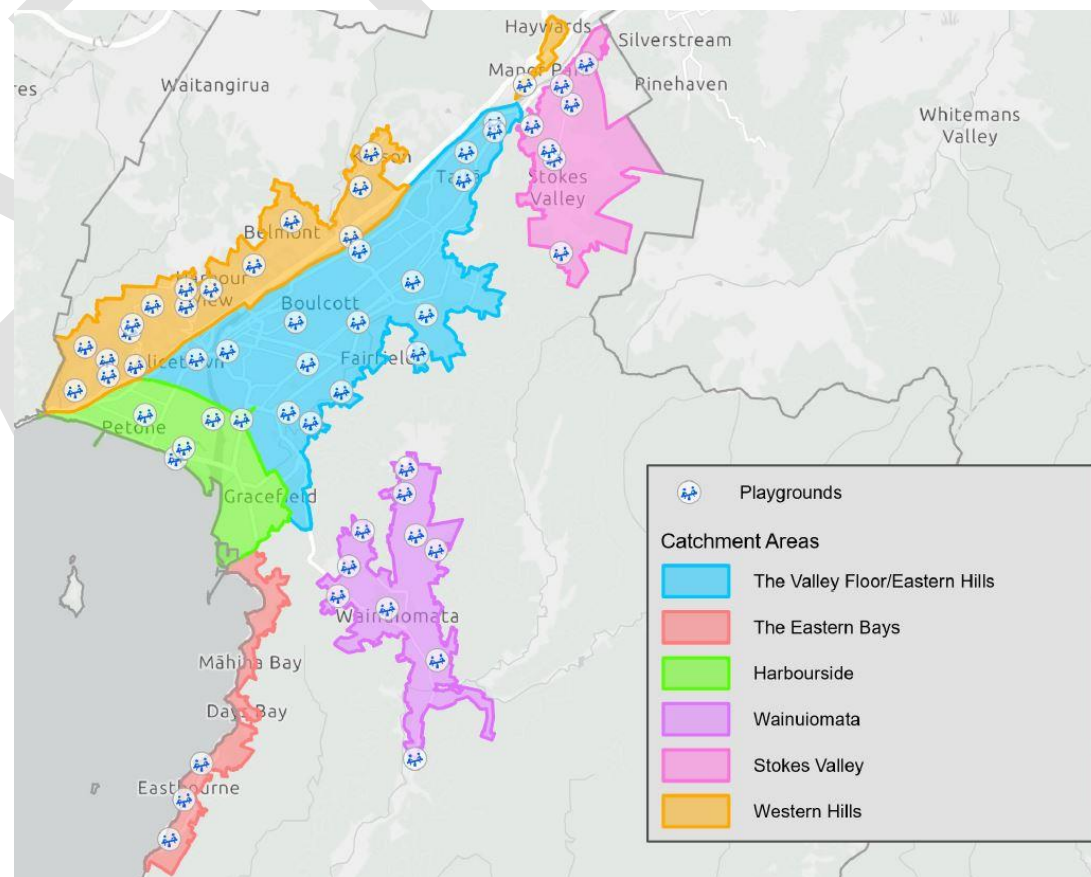
21 Other Reserves

regular renewal and maintenance, there is opportunity to improve these sites to meet increasing levels of service, and to incorporate Universal Design and non-traditional play features for all ages (including space for caretakers) w/varying abilities. Within Lower Hutt, there are noticeable gaps in playground provision across some catchments, particularly in the Valley Floor and Stokes Valley. The demographics of these catchments tend to be of growing and diverse families and young first-home buyers or renters, most suited to needing access to playgrounds or play features.

Using the Framework, Council's reserves have been assessed to categorise quantity of reserve typologies (image on the left). However, 21 outlining reserves did not fall within the category framework as their general design characteristics, size, amenities, and proximity to residential areas do not comfortably match a provision level. However, these 21 reserves provide open space that is publicly accessible, and may provide other social, cultural, or environmental values. The Strategy paired with the Open Space Best Practice Design Guide will help to guide future provision of reserves so that all reserves fit into a typology and are fit for purpose.

Existing Playground Provision

There are 57 playgrounds that currently exist across Lower Hutt (map on the right). As these playgrounds are scheduled for



How does the Open Space Provision Typology Framework help to manage reserves provision across the city?

The Open Spaces Provision Typology Framework provides Council with high level guidance around reserve provision and which investments should be funded from the Reserve Purchase and Development Fund. Applying this framework, paired with the Open Space Best Practice Design Guide (2024), and the Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy will help to close existing and anticipated gaps in reserve provision across Hutt City.

The Framework (Appendix A) outlines the eight levels of provision hierarchy: Neighbourhood Reserve, Suburb Reserve, Sports Park, Destination Park, Nature Reserve, Ecological Linkage or Corridor, Civic Space and, Cultural Heritage Reserve. The concept is an adaptation of the New Zealand Recreation Association (NZRA) Parks Categories Framework to suit Hutt City Council. The Framework is a set of metrics based on five specific criteria. These standards ensure residents have good access to a range of reserves and a variety of open space experiences. Detailed typologies are in Appendix A. The open space planning criteria include:

1. **Provision Typologies** – categorises reserves to be categorised based on their purpose, size, and location
2. **Access** – outlines how residents are expected to access the park, reserve, or open space, normally categorised by time,

distance, and mode of transport, which underpins raising levels of equity

3. **Population-ratio/Catchment Size** – refers to the ideal number of residents the space serves, based on its purpose, size, and intended access. Often the level of provision is in relation to the level of population and a typical guideline has been 4 hectares/ 1000 people in Aotearoa New Zealand
4. **Size/Area Percentage** – a specified quantity of land to be reserved for open space depending on the expected use of the reserve
5. **General Design Characteristics** – the development that makes a space fit for purpose, or what are the key design characteristics needed in a space of that size and purpose for it to be effective.

Hutt City also follows additional performance measures outlined in the Open Space Best Practice Design Guide when it is evaluating projects to determine whether they could be funded by the Reserves Purchase and Development Fund because they are growth related. These fine grain measures ensure that reserves are fit for purpose, depending on the function and anticipated use. Mana Whenua aspirations are considered. The considerations are:

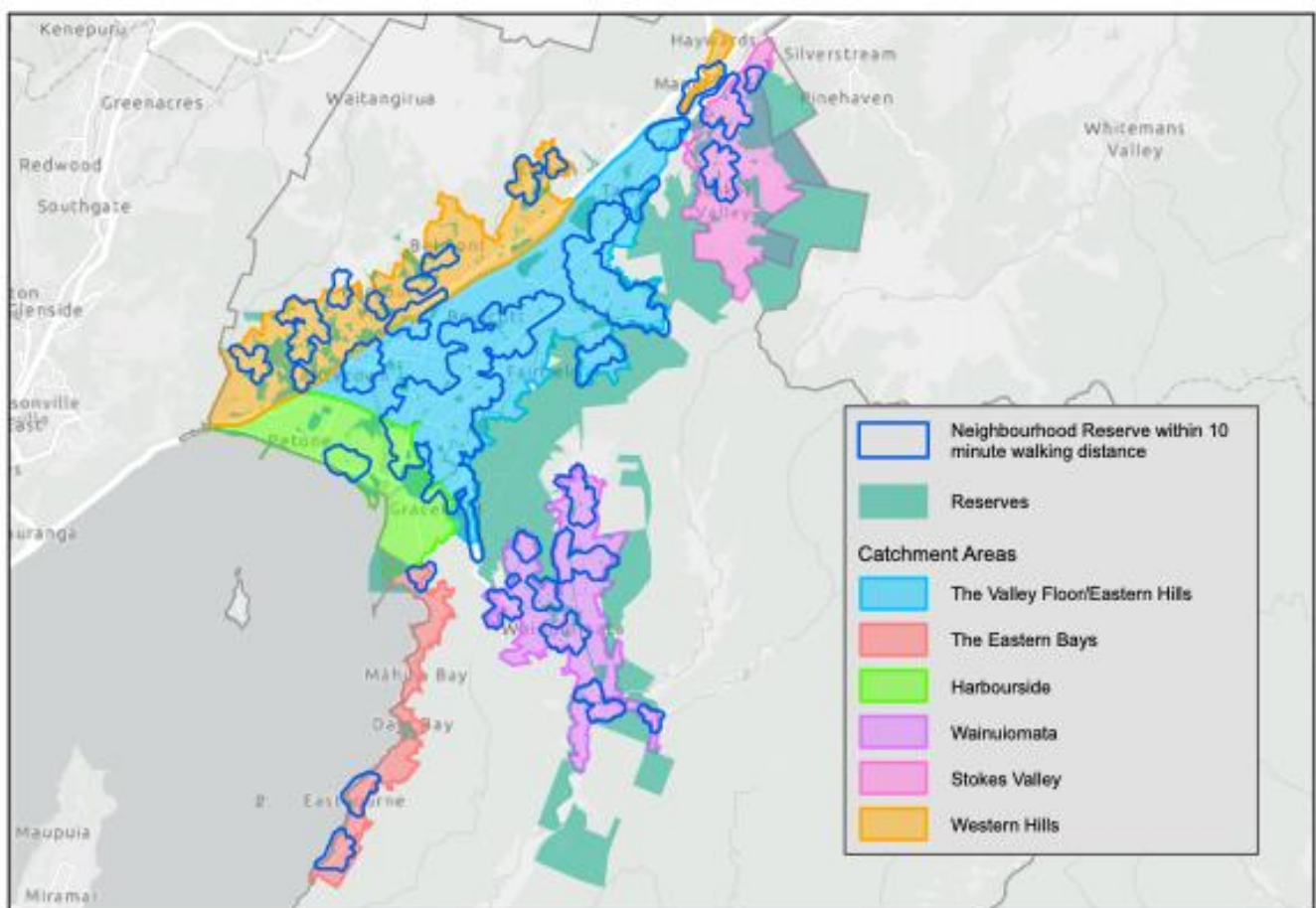
1. Quality and performance (fit for purpose)
2. Health and wellbeing
3. Environmental protection and enhancement
4. Cost effectiveness and fiscal responsibility (align with Council's Asset Management Principles).

Are we providing the right spaces? Provision trends across Lower Hutt

Hutt City has an extensive natural bush reserve lands in the surrounding mountains, but it is not evenly distributed throughout the city, and in some areas does not adequately serve the growing population. Distance (walking distance/time) and size (ha) are the main two factors when considering the provision of open space within a city. Focusing on three key types of public reserves: Neighbourhood (Study Area 1), Suburb (Study Area 2), and Sports Park (Study Area 3), we can test the network against the existing size (ha) and access (walking distance/time) within the Typology Framework to the existing reserve network.

Study Area 1: Neighbourhood Reserve Provision

Neighbourhood Reserves are appealing local spaces that meet every day needs of nearby residents. Some households may treat them as an alternative to private greenspace,



essentially and extension of their homes. Neighbourhood Reserves tend to have few buildings and simple landscapes. Areas inside the blue lines indicate the location of reserves that are within 10-minute walking distance of a neighbourhood reserve. The map illustrates clear gaps in provision, demonstrating the need for additional reserves in residential areas.

Notable gaps in neighbourhood provision are:

- ## Study Area 2: Suburb Reserve Provision

The map displays the following features:

- Suburb Reserve within 12 minute walking distance:** Indicated by a black outline.
- Reserves:** Shaded in light green.
- Catchment Areas:**
 - The Valley Floor/Eastern Hills: Shaded in light blue.
 - The Eastern Bays: Shaded in light red.
 - Harbourside: Shaded in light green.
 - Wainuiomata: Shaded in light purple.
 - Stokes Valley: Shaded in light pink.
 - Western Hills: Shaded in light orange.

Geographical labels on the map include: Kenepuru, Greenacres, Waitangirua, Redwood, Southgate, Haywards, Silverstream, Manurewa, Pinehaven, Whitemans Valley, Tonbridge, Glenside, Rosedale, Fairfield, Grange, Māhuta Bay, Orewa Bay, East Tamaki, Maupuia, and Miramira.

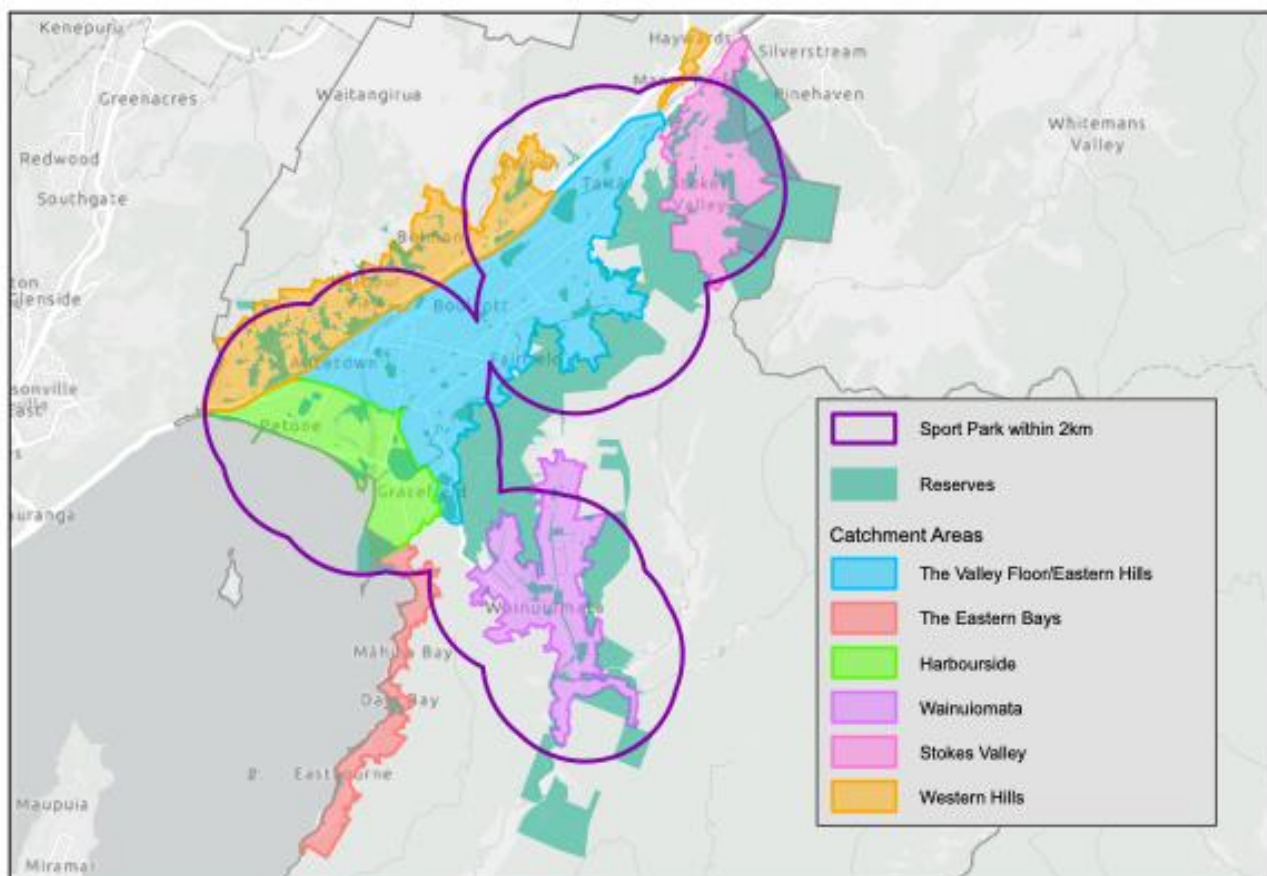
inside the green lines indicates urban areas located within a 12-minute walking distance of a suburban-sized reserve.

Notable gaps in suburb provision are:

1. Valley Floor and Eastern Hills – Limited to nil provision within the Eastern suburbs in the Valley Floor including Waterloo, Boulcott, Epuni, Fairfield, and Waiwhetu. With ongoing intensification, there will be a growth in population.
2. Harbourside – Small gaps of no provision, mainly in Grace field and Seaview (although it is noted that this area has a high concentration of industrial dwellings). However, areas growing in residential density such as Moera will be missing larger suburb reserves.
3. Western Hills – There is a large gap north of Tirohanga, between Belmont and Harbourview that has no suburb reserve provision. Residents rely on the many natural reserves surrounding the catchment, but they have limited access points and are not accessible to many residents because of the topography of the area)
4. Stokes Valley –Suburb-sized reserves appear to be more concentrated centrally, with a gap in South Stokes Valley, and the tip of the North.

Study Area 3: Sports Park Provision

Sports Parks are focused on organised sport and recreation. They cater to both local residents and citywide or regional population (for competition purposes). The purple lines indicate access to a sports park within a 2km, 15–30-minute reach, typically through private transportation. These parks are typically larger open green spaces with formal outdoor sports surfaces(natural turf, artificial turf and hard surfaces). Some sports fields host indoor sporting facilities that include court spaces, indoor training and clubrooms. Sports Parks



provide the community with benefits beyond sporting surfaces and facilities through multi-purpose functionality for exercise and informal sport competitions and practice.

Notable gaps in sports parks provision are:

1. Eastern Bays- Although there are suburb reserves that provide areas for playing and training on fields, the catchment has no larger sports parks that cater sufficiently to multiple clubs/codes.
2. Stokes Valley- There are notable gaps in turf field provision, specifically football fields. Junior football participation has increased significantly in recent years as the population grows, creating higher demand for longer performing turf and need to make sport parks more multi-purpose (such as tracks and play areas for growing families). Although a sport park is largely within 2km of residential, there is only 1 primary sport park that carries organised sport.
3. Western Hills- Low sports park provision within the areas of Belmont, Tirohanga, and Harbourview. The topography of this area doesn't easily provide for larger sporting facilities.

What kind of open space is in each catchment? Existing Reserve Provision

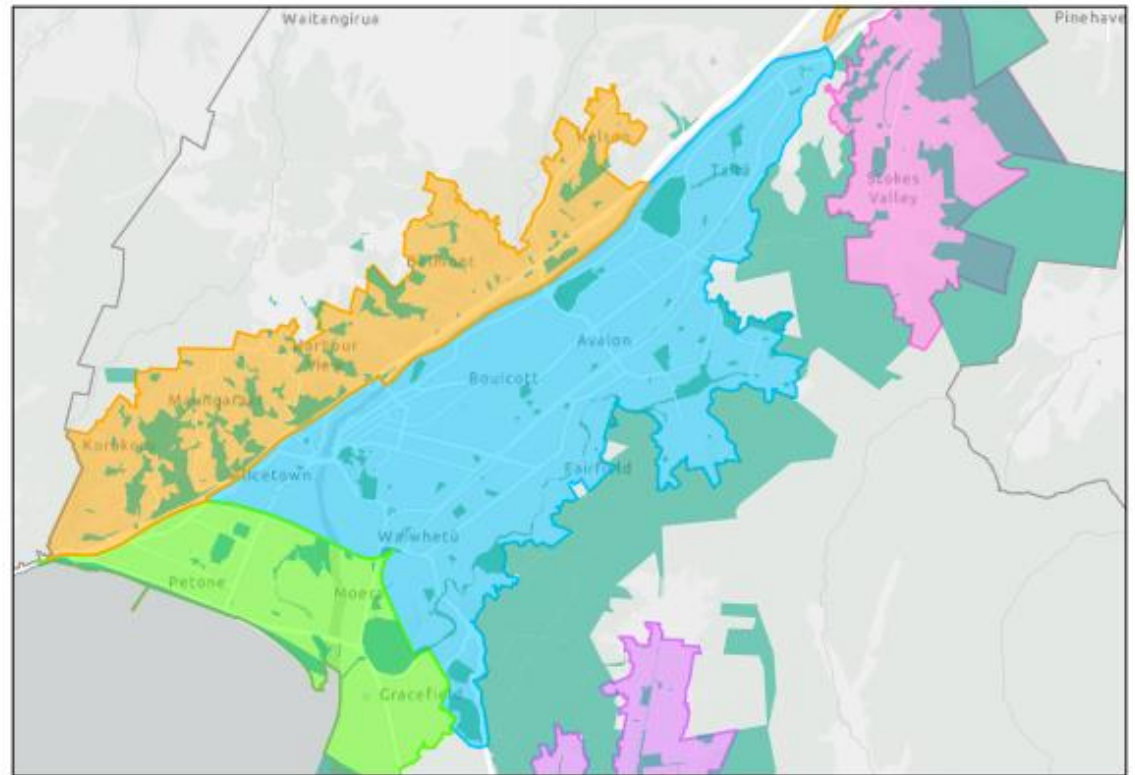
The Valley Floor and Eastern Hills

The Valley Floor and Eastern Hills (in blue) is the most heavily populated and dense catchment with a current population of 64,930 people and has a projected population growth to 75,890 by 2051 (SensePartners, 2021). Most residents live in the suburbs of Waterloo, Naenae, and Taitā. There is a total of 419 ha of both active and passive reserves to serve these communities. Te Awa Kairangi/ The Hutt River Corridor is virtually free of development and provide public open space and opportunities for recreation.

There are 39 neighbourhood reserves, 6 suburb reserves, 4 sports park reserves, 13 nature reserves, 20 recreation and ecological linkages, 3 destination parks, 7 civic spaces and 4 cultural heritage reserves. The Hutt River Corridor, which is managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) is not included in the figures used in the Strategy. This catchment also currently contains the highest levels of social and economic deprivation within Hutt City.

Suburbs within the catchment:

- Waiwhetu
- Alicetown/Melling
- Boulcott
- Avalon
- Fairfield
- Taitā
- Naenae
- Waterloo
- Woburn
- Hutt Central
- Boulcott
- Epuni



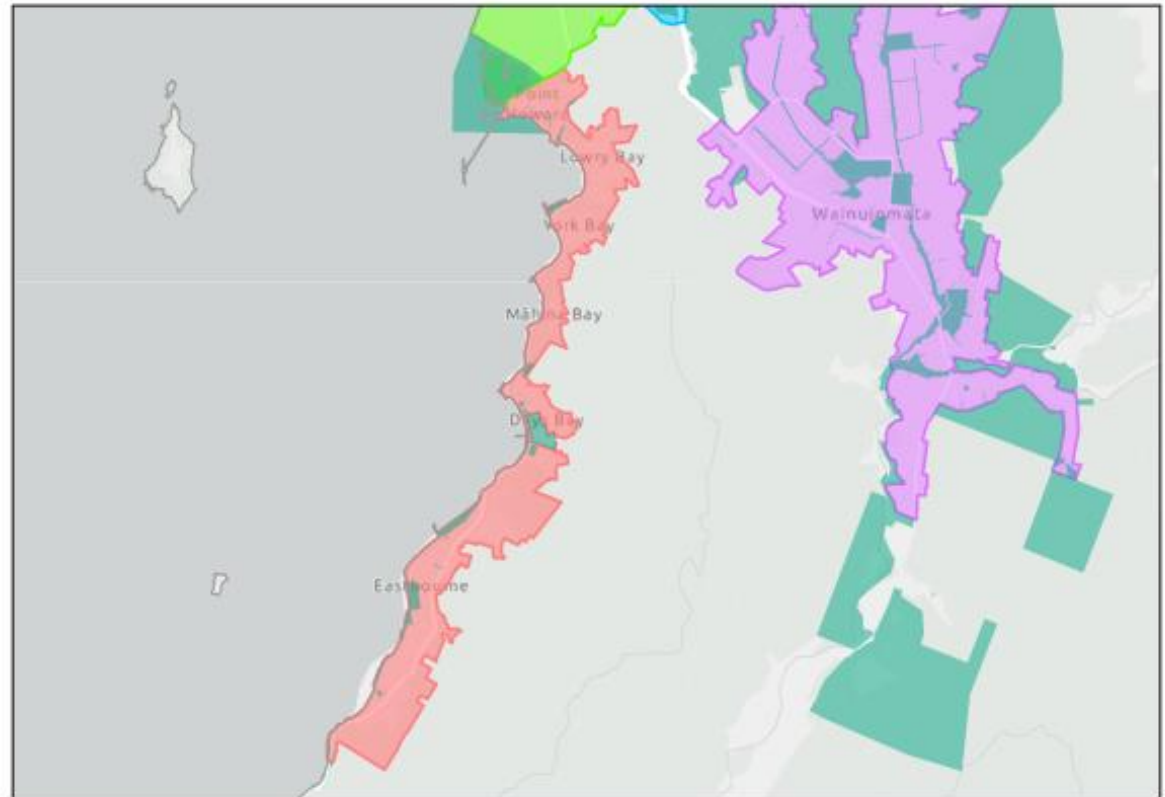
The Eastern Bays

The Eastern Bays catchment (in red) is the smallest of the catchments, with most of the population centred in Eastbourne. There is a total of 19 ha of passive and active reserves. However, East Harbour Regional Park (managed by GWRC) sits parallel to the Eastern Bays and provides large areas for walking of cycling, tramping, and other recreational activities). The area has a high reliance on native bush for reserve provision but is also home to a few neighbourhood and suburb reserves. Land within East Harbour Regional Park is not included in the 19 ha stated above.

There are some recreational and ecological connections, primarily along the coastline. The current population is 5,039 and the proportion of elderly people is going to increase to approximately 20.9 % of the total catchment population over the next 15 years. There are 4 neighbourhood reserves, 3 suburb reserves, 9 nature reserves, 4 recreation and ecological linkages and 2 civic spaces.

Suburbs within the catchment:

- Lowry Bay
- York Bay
- Mahina Bay
- Sunshine Bay
- Days Bay
- Eastbourne



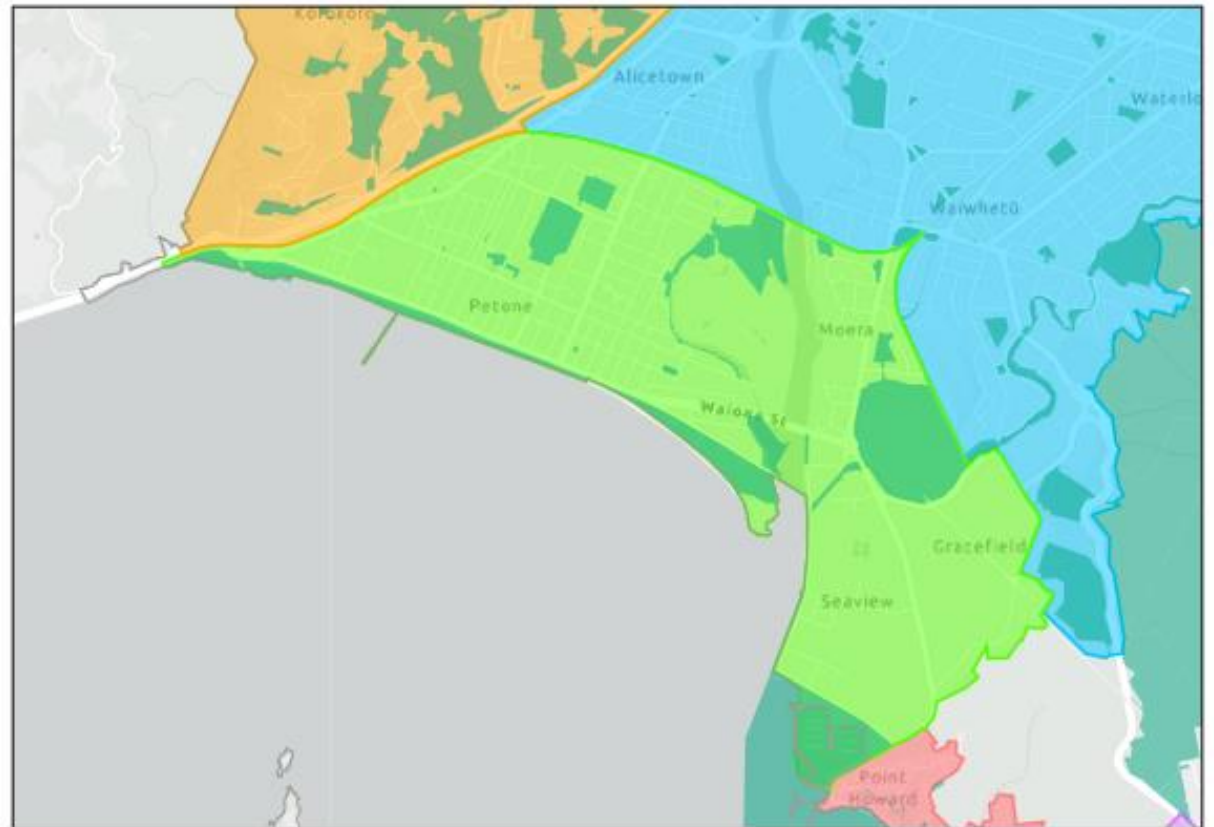
Harbourside

The Harbourside catchment (in green) hugs the northern edge of Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington Harbour. The population of Petone is expected to increase from 10,148 to 13,980 residents within the next 30 years. The average age of Petone residents will drop. There is a total of 125 ha of passive and active reserves in the Harbour Catchment.

There are 4 neighbourhood reserves, 4 sports park reserves, 1 cultural heritage reserve, 3 suburb reserves, 2 nature reserves, 2 civic spaces and 7 recreation and ecological linkages.

Suburbs within the catchment:

- Petone
- Moera
- Seaview
- Gracefield



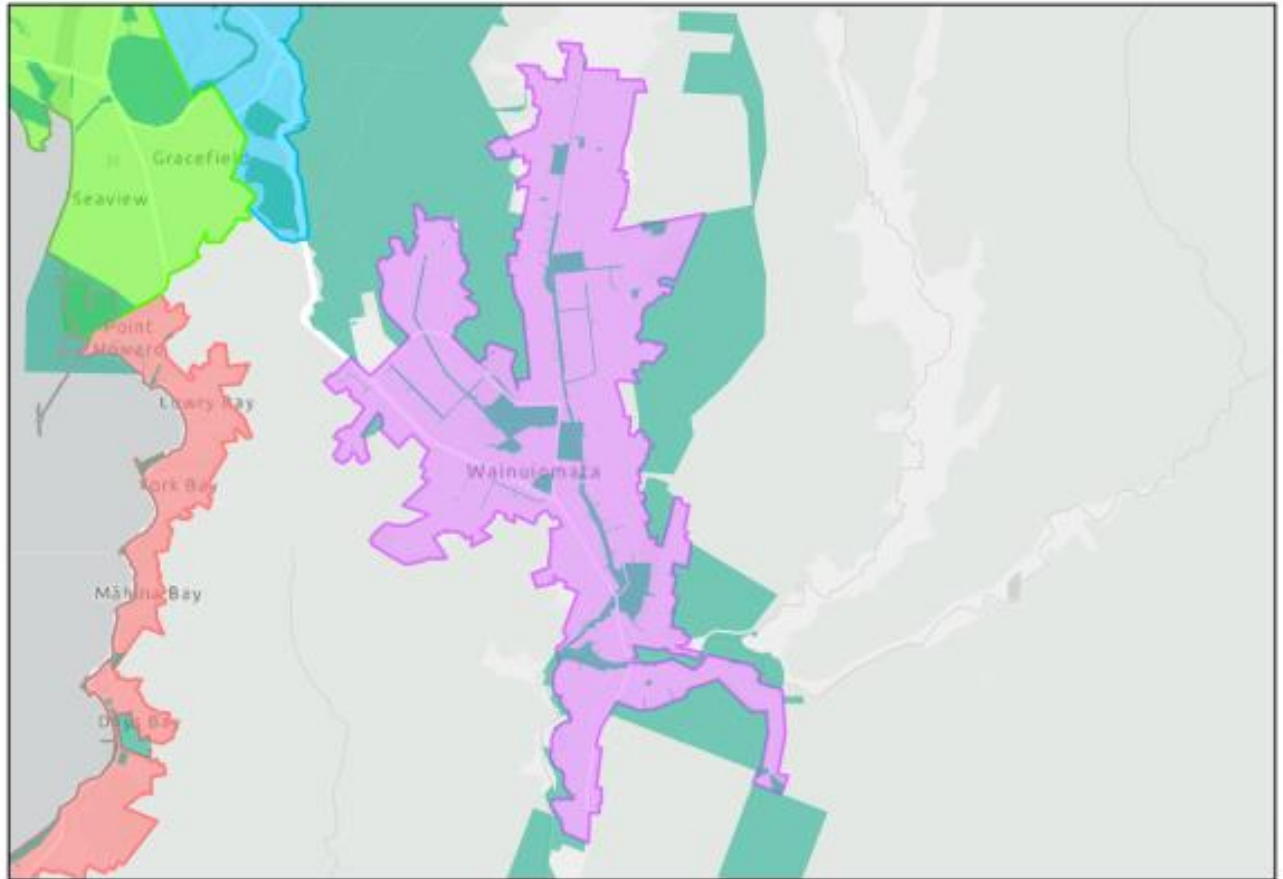
Wainuiomata

The Wainuiomata catchment (in purple) is surrounded by East Harbour Regional Park, the Eastern Hills and the Remutaka Forest Park. There is a total of 837 ha of both active and passive reserves, excluding the Regional Park and the Forest Park. The large concentration of natural areas provides users with many outdoor recreational opportunities and offers some ecological linkages.

There are 13 neighbourhood reserves, 7 suburb reserves, 2 sports park reserves, 12 nature reserves, and 19 recreation and ecological linkages. Some assets are sports parks and supporting facilities and play features. The area is currently home to approximately 20,025 residents and forecasted to increase by 4,000 people by 2051. There is a higher concentration of younger people with the average age ranging between 15–39 years old.

Suburbs within the catchment:

- Wainuiomata West
- Arakura
- Glendale
- Homedale East & West
- Wainuiomata Central
- Pencarrow & Rural



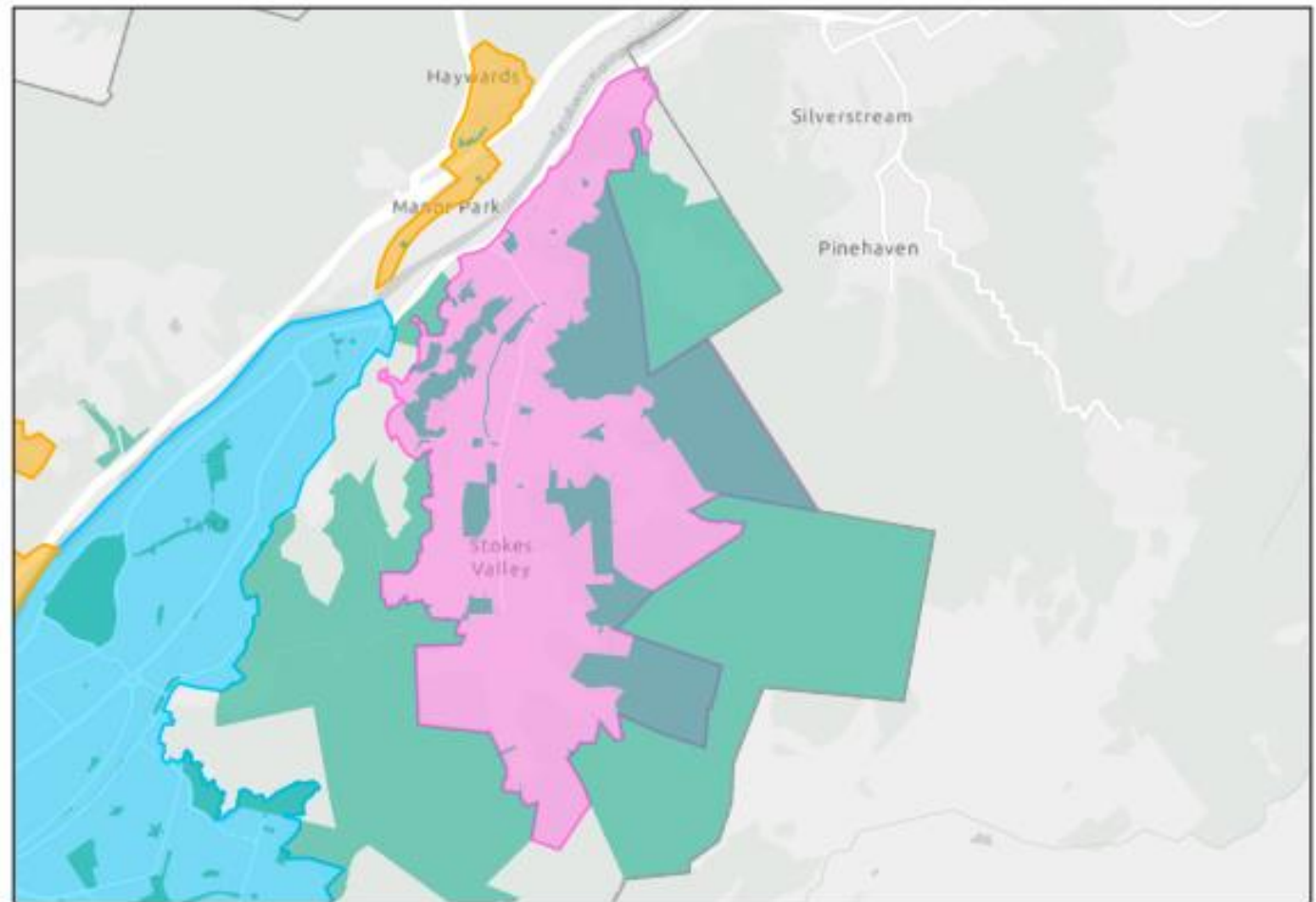
Stokes Valley

Stokes Valley is a diverse catchment that is home to around 10,618 people and contains 1,378 ha of active and passively maintained reserves (primarily large swaths of nature bush reserves) with a variety of amenities including trail networks (primarily in the hills), play features and local parks.

There are 10 neighbourhood reserves, 3 suburb reserves, 11 nature reserves, 1 civic reserve, 1 sports park reserve and 2 recreation and ecological linkage. Stokes Valley overall has less green corridor connection to move from the public open spaces, and a lack of various sport parks for both informal and formal organised sport (there is only 1 primary formal sport ground).

Suburbs within the catchment:

- Stokes Valley North & Central
- Delaney
- Manuka

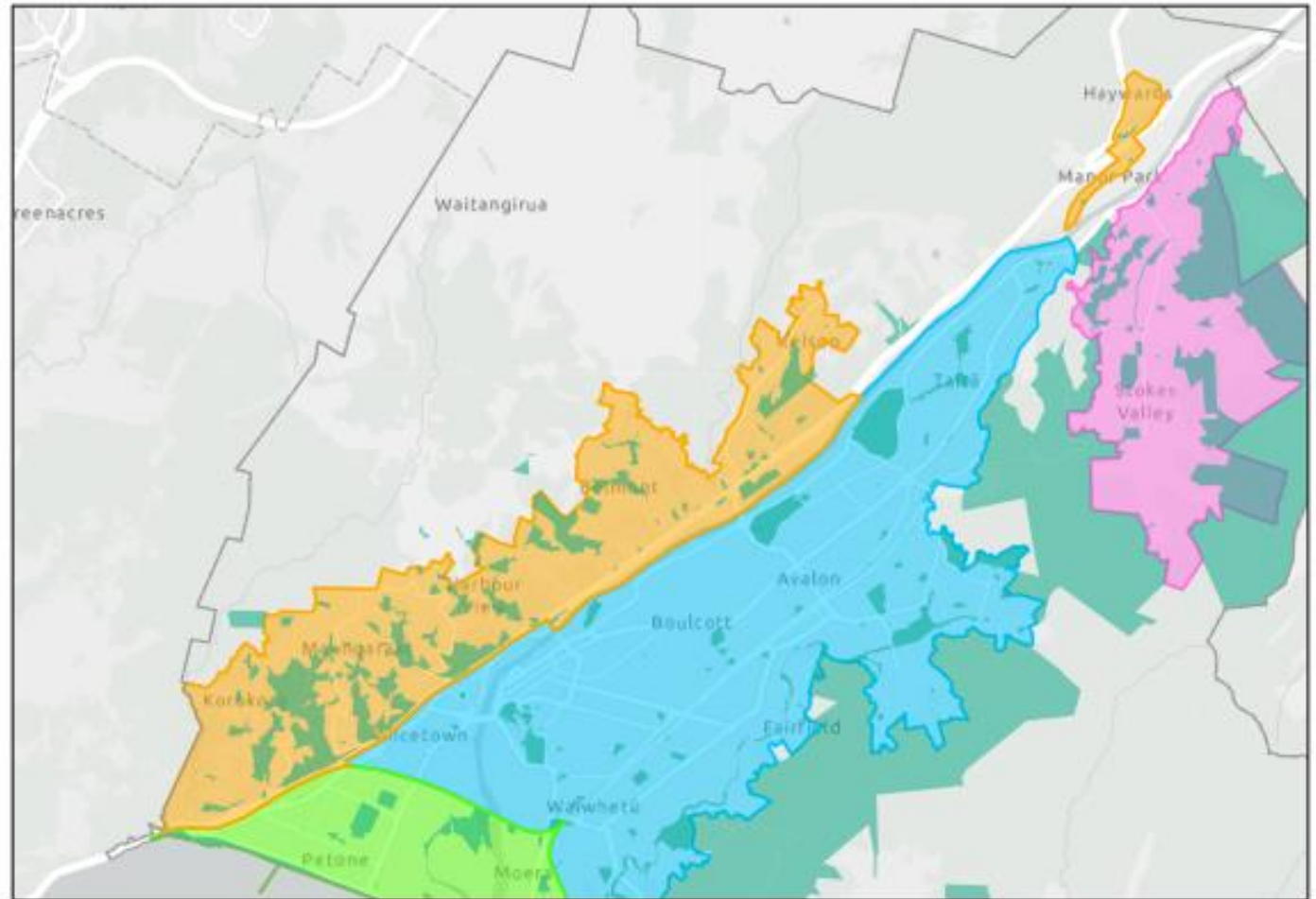


The Western Hills

The Western Hills catchment (in orange) has a current population is 14,991 and is set to increase by 5,000 by 2051 (SensePartners, 2021). There is a higher number of elderly people, which is steadily increasing. The reserve network consists of 15 neighbourhood reserves, 5 suburb reserves, 48 nature reserves, 2 recreation and ecological linkages, and 2 civic spaces. With an undulating landscape comprised of residential areas, forest, some pasture and bush gullies, the catchment is home to approximately 217 ha of active and passive reserves. The figure excludes Belmont Regional Park. Belmont Regional Park (managed by GWRC) forms the western edge of this catchment, providing significant protection of indigenous biodiversity and recreational opportunities which attracts locals and the wider community.

Suburbs within the catchment:

- Korokoro
- Tirohanga
- Belmont
- Kelson
- Maungaraki
- Normandale



Section 3: Our Future –Principles and Outcomes

In line with the Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy, the Reserves Strategic Directions, Go Outside and Play, the Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan, the Strategy will also support the activation of Council to support growth and urban intensification by providing open space (green and built) opportunities for recreation, play, physical activity, relaxation, gathering and connecting with nature.

Ngā Mātāpono: Guiding principles

The vision, principles, and focus outcomes of this strategy will underpin future decisions to fund projects from the Reserves Purchase and Development Fund. Hutt City has a fiscal responsibility to provide a reserve network that:

- a. Provides the community with sufficient and quality spaces and services; and
- b. Is funded and operated in a sustainable way at standards that meet the expectations of the community

To achieve this, we have adopted six principles to guide planning, design, and management of the reserves;

1. Community Driven
2. Being Proactive
3. Connectedness-Supporting our Communities
4. Quality at the Core
5. Environmental Stewardship: Te Taiao-Protecting and Enhancing the Health of our Environment
6. Partnership Approach

These principles require Council to make conscious and targeted decisions when planning, working alongside Mana Whenua, the community, and individuals involved in property development for the reserves network.

Guiding Principles- what do these mean for Hutt City?

Community Driven	Be Proactive	Supporting our Communities
<p>Council supports a community led approach. This incorporates community preferences and priorities for reserves. This, alongside understanding the known gaps in provision being filled, will increase equity of access. At a design level, we will provide opportunities for communities to participate in the decision-making process, including tamariki, rangatahi.</p>	<p>We will improve the network so that it can cope with growth and urban intensification and be more resilient to climate change. Being proactive in the design and development of our reserves will lead to a more resilient network that meets the needs of communities. Evidence based decision-making and best practice will underpin decisions about reserve development and documents such as the Nuku Ora Sports Field Strategy will influence provision decisions.</p>	<p>Communities are at the heart of our reserve network. The design and allocation of current and future reserve assets must be strategic to connect diverse communities that may include medium to high residential areas. Our spaces should promote kaitiakitanga and foster connectedness among users. Ultimately, the network will be designed to support accessibility, considering all mobilities and abilities and cater to all ages and stages as the site and resources allow.</p>
Quality at the Core	Environmental Stewardship: Te Taiao-Protecting and Enhancing the Health of our Environment	Partnership Approach
<p>Council is continually challenged to resource ordinary ongoing operational maintenance and renewals. Capital investment may create assets which need ongoing operational budget to deliver the intended benefits to the community. Sustainability and equity are also key to providing quality spaces. Hutt City sets out the resourcing requirements in the Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan and this informs the budget set in the Long-Term Plan.</p>	<p>Urban and peri-urban reserves and open spaces are becoming more important in addressing climate induced challenges. Reserves provide a variety of spaces for indigenous biodiversity to flourish and will help to deliver some outcomes outlined in the 2023 Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy. Identifying, protecting, and managing indigenous biodiversity requires active tangata whenua relationship, engagement, and sufficient resourcing. Utilising mātauranga Māori to help make evidence-based decisions for planning and protecting green space. Connection with nature in outdoor can help encourage people to take stewardship of the space.</p>	<p>Implementation will be ongoing and progress will largely depend on projects approved in the Long Term Plan process. Some projects will best be coordinated with other agencies, community groups, Codes, Mana Whenua or internal Council teams. Actions will be taken to recognise the importance of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi to ensure Māori values and perspectives are reflected within the design and implementation of the reserve network and partnership with Mana Whenua is maintained to achieve this.</p>

Focus Outcomes

The project list (Appendix B) contains many opportunities for collaborative partnerships, and this requires developing relationships with Mana Whenua, neighbourhoods, schools, codes, community and interest groups.



Focus Outcome One: Spaces for recreation that inspire play

Goal: A reserve network that offers an accessible spectrum of traditional and alternative play and recreation experiences for all people, including space for tamariki and rangatahi to have meaningful play *Te ao taiohi- with young people we explore wisdom.*

There are physical and mental benefits of recreation and play. Regular participation in recreation, play and leisure pursuits helps to reduce stress and alleviate mental health issues by providing an outlet for relaxation and enjoyment. This is not limited to young people, but to people of all ages and abilities.

The focus is to create a diverse network of appealing spaces where people can have fun and express themselves, exercise, gather to help support strong and healthy neighbourhoods. There is also an need to address gaps for people with disabilities to use traditional and natural play spaces, universal design best practice will be critical. This outcome supports the Go Outside and Play Strategy, the Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy and the Reserves Strategic Directions, aiming to increase participation and inspire play by providing easily accessible opportunities for organised and informal play and recreation for all people.



Focus Outcome Two: Spaces that prioritise nature

Goal: A reserve network that contains a resilient and thriving range of ecosystems that supports species and habitat protection, maintains, and restores indigenous biodiversity and enables communities to connect with nature. *Kaitiakitanga – stewardship of the natural environment is an integral part of history and describes the inherent responsibility of care of the land, the land needs to be treasured, protected, and nurtured for current and future generations to enjoy.*

The best opportunities to connect with native biodiversity are typically beyond the edges of urban areas, however, urban reserves will offer nearby residents' outdoor settings that have natural qualities. Our reserves need to be appropriately developed and well-managed to provide opportunities for people to connect with nature in places close to their home. Enhancement of the natural values in our reserves will maintain a balance between public use and protection of ecological and landscape values, and natural character.



Focus Outcome Three: Spaces that support community

Goal: A reserve network that is people-focused, connecting people to their communities, are easily accessible and provide landscapes and experiences that encourage people to stay and enjoy the spaces. *Manaakitanga- care of our whānau and community at the centre.*

Creating an accessible and inclusive network involves reducing barriers to reserve access and increasing participation in activities, ultimately creating 'something for everyone'. Developing a reserves network inclusive of diverse spaces for the community requires an emphasis on providing active and passive spaces that cater to all needs and abilities, focusing on the functionality of our reserves and the amenities (both built and natural) offered. Reserve development and enhancement projects will also need to be cognisant of the Council's Micro Mobility Programme and consider how reserves benefit from and support active transport routes, moving people safely through our city. This is beneficial from a social and climate change perspective.

Our reserves also support community by providing spaces and opportunity for mahinga kai. Public spaces for growing and cooking kai help to address food equity, healthy diet and physical activity along with social and natural connection. It also provides opportunity for incorporating mātauranga Māori in relation to the whenua. Protection of suitable places and spaces for food production will contribute to meeting the current and future needs of nourishing our people while providing kaitiakitanga of the natural environment.



Focus Outcome Four: Spaces that create connection

Goal: A reserve network that provides spaces for people to connect with nature, connect with culture, heritage or city, whenua history inspiring a sense of belonging, and connecting the wider community.

In line with a Mana Whenua and te ao Māori worldview, reserves play a pivotal role in fostering connections between people, place, and the environment, both in physical and theoretical dimensions. Physically, these green spaces offer a tangible link between individuals and nature, providing opportunities for outdoor activities, exploration, and appreciation of biodiversity. The shared experience of enjoying reserves promotes a sense of community and shared ownership of the environment, creating a collective bond among users.

Reserves also serve as symbolic representations of our commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable living. They embody the idea that humans are an integral part of the ecosystem, emphasizing the interconnectedness between individuals and their surroundings. The presence of these protected spaces encourages environmental awareness and a sense of responsibility, fostering a connection between people and the need for ecological preservation. Ultimately, reserves act as dynamic settings where both physical interactions and community understanding converge, promoting a harmonious relationship between people, place, and the environment.

Project List

Projects are organised by Focus Outcome. Hutt City Council will primarily oversee each proposed project. This List of Projects (Appendix B) is arranged over a 10-year programme. Projects could be approved outside of the Long-Term Plan if they appropriately comply with the Strategy and supplementary documents.

Project Term Start/ LTP 2024–2027, 2024 through to 2034
Immediate start (previously approved by Council in March 2023)
Year 1–3+/Short
Year 2–3+/ Medium
Year 3+/ Long

Budget

The budgets provided against each project are estimates only and are not fully costed or based on design. There is a degree of data uncertainty, and budgets are subject to change upon further investigation and stakeholder engagement.

Long Term Plan (LTP)

The current LTP iteration concerns the 2024–2027 review cycle. During each 3 yearly LTP review, there is opportunity to propose new projects for the next 10 years. The projects below have been ordered in terms of which year they can feasibly fit into the current iteration. Projects may overlap, be staged, or extend into multiple years. Projects have been based on predicted feasibility, demand, and previous public engagement. Projects outlined in the Reserves Investment Strategy will be fully or partially funded from the Reserves Purchase and Development Fund, of which the Reserve Land Purchase Fund is a subset.

Most projects will require further investigation, design, costing, and public consultation. Additional resourcing for project management (from the Parks and Reserves team and externally) will be required and this could be funded from capital project budgets. Additional assets will typically require additional operational and renewal funding. The first few years of additional operational maintenance could be potentially handled as a project cost and funded from the Reserves Purchase and Development Fund. However, it is important to note that Opex must proportionally meet the Capex.

Reserve Land Purchase Fund

A Reserve Land Purchase Fund (a subset of the Reserve Purchase and Development Fund) will be established to purchase qualifying land for reserves as it comes onto the market. The fund (with a preliminary proposal of \$10m) will enable officers to purchase suitable property as acquisition opportunities arise. Delegations will be amended to allow officers to act on prudent opportunities to take advantage of opportunities presented by willing sellers or the real estate market. Establishing delegations will be reported on in mid-2025.

Wāhanga Tuawhā: Whiria te Muka Tangata: Section 4: Coordinating our approach

Whārikihia te Kaupapa: Implementing the Strategy

Encouraging people to rethink what an open space network looks like, including understanding;

- the differences in how people may participate in recreation
- the importance of the habitats that support indigenous biodiversity and provide ecosystem services
- the requirement for additional reserve land that is well distributed
- reserves need to be activated for multi-uses and multi-users

Partnership with Mana Whenua

It is imperative to partner collaboratively with Mana Whenua. Part of this coordinated approach is in joint kaitiakitanga, supporting aspirations and providing guidance. This will align with Council's Te Tira Māori team who work with Mana Whenua for best Kaupapa and tikanga practice. The alignment of Council and iwi aspirations is reflected in Council's Tākai Here (Memoranda of Partnership) and The Strategy's Guiding Principles, to weave them throughout. Protecting te taiao, wai quality, and the provision of open space to

improve outcomes for Māori and the whole community is a key strand of The Strategy plus the supplementary Framework and the Guidelines.

What can we do about it

The Reserves Investment Strategy enables Mana Whenua to establish priorities for reserve improvement, and recommend projects and programmes of interest to Māori and Iwi that aid in the overall wellbeing of the open space network. Collaborative projects may include:

1. Actions to protect spaces that support māhinga kai and customary practices like gathering and foraging that are connected to traditional forms of active recreation, art, and leisure.
2. Work that improves the vitality of Te Awa Kairangi and other waterways and aquatic ecosystems, as recommended in the Strategy *Te Mahere Wai o Te Kāhui Taiao*, for the Greater Wellington Region.
3. Acquiring additional reserve land that encompasses Māori sites of significance
4. Through relevant regulatory mechanisms, create contemporary rules and policies to reflect Mana Whenua priorities for protecting, conserving, and enhancing overall open space network
5. Create places to engage in traditional Māori games and recreation practices.

Ngā Uara Māori: Māori values

As an aspect of the partnership Mana Whenua have assisted with the development of The Strategy. They have with the development of the statement below.

Te Ōhākī o Te Wharepōuri

“I muri nei kia pai ki aku taonga Māori, taonga Pākehā, kia tae ake te haruru o to reo ki ahau i Te Reinga”

“After I have gone be good to my Māori people and my European people, let the thunder of your voice reach me in the spirit land”

This Ohaki provides us with our guiding principles as mana whenua in this takiwa. Bequeathed to us by our tupuna Te Wharepouri, it serves as the foundation for our deliberative processes within ētehi o nga iwi o Taranaki ki te upoko o te ika.

These principles bestow upon us the responsibility of being kaitiaki or guardians, compelling us to not only safeguard and manaaki our own people but also extend our care to those who have chosen this whenua as their home. The stewardship of te taiao, the natural environment, in implementing the knowledge's and tikanga developed over generations regarding the health of the environment and its connection to the health of living beings is integral to breathing vitality into perpetuating the legacy of

kaitiakitanga. With our unwavering commitment to these overarching objectives shaping our decision-making, as mana whenua, we are committed to engaging in collaborative endeavors with the Hutt City Council.

This collaboration seeks to ensure that the outcomes derived benefit the broader community and the environment while remaining aligned with the core values inherent in the Ohaki. Facilitating co-decision making will fortify this partnership, fostering an environment of mutual advantage for mana whenua, HCC, the wider community, the whenua, awa and te taiao.

Section 5: Monitoring & Governance Planning

Monitoring is important for evaluating the progress of each project. A range of measures can be used to gauge if projects have implemented the vision of the plan, including user levels and satisfaction, well-being measures biodiversity indicators, improved access, resident satisfaction, and human and environmental health related indices. A supporting Best Practice Open Space Design Guide will be utilised for monitoring. The Parks and Reserves team, alongside other appropriate and relevant council teams will be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of work undertaken to implement the strategy using the Reserves Purchase and Development Fund.

Review

This document will be reviewed every three years, prior to the preparation of each draft Long-Term Plan. Proposals to alter the Strategy, which will all have been discussed with Mana Whenua, require approval from the relevant Committee of Council. A partial review may be triggered earlier. Due to supporting documents having more flexibility for review and amendments, these could be reviewed more frequently whereas this Strategy will be more enduring.

Monitoring and Evaluation

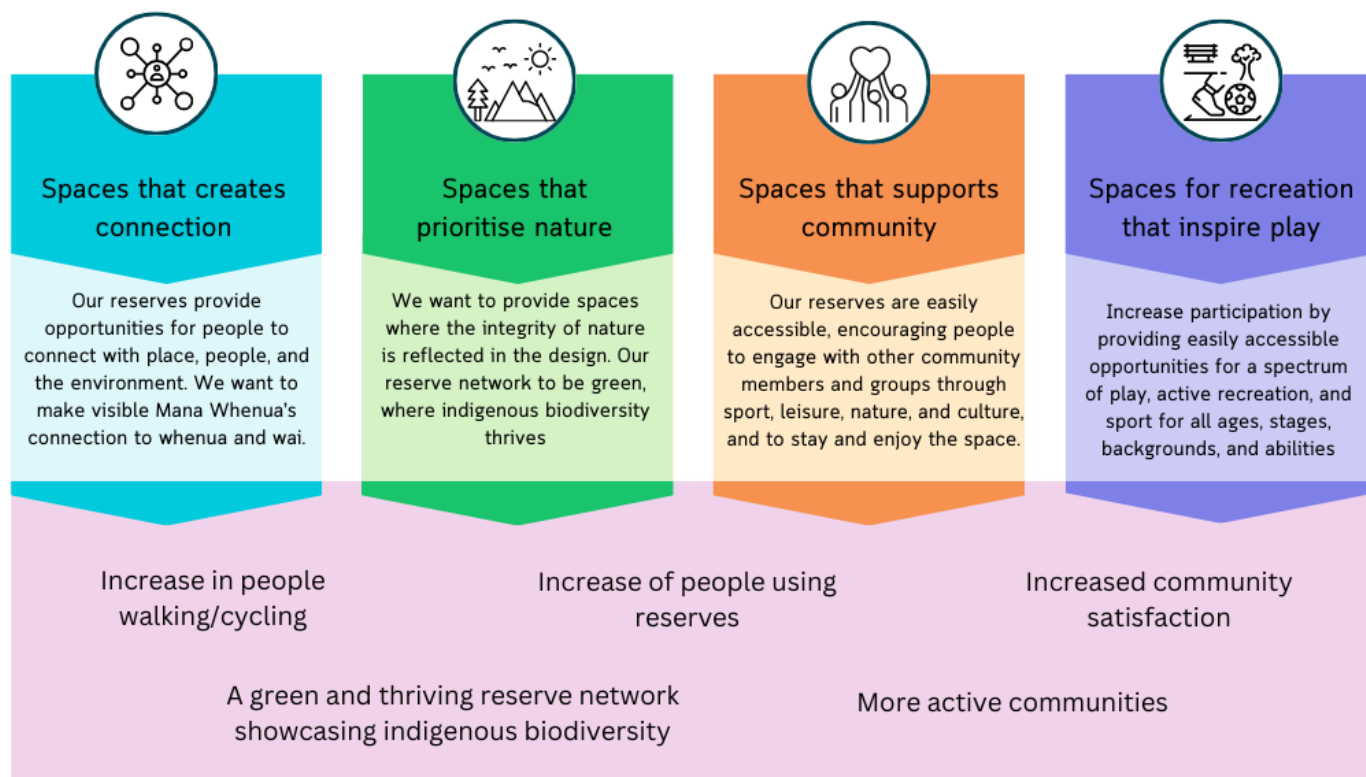
Tracking measures of success lets us know how we are doing on meeting our goals while utilising the Reserve Purchase and Development Fund. A mix of qualitative and quantitative reporting will be used when measuring indicators of success (shown below) utilising surveys, community consultation, and management. Some specific examples items that may be measured are:

1. The reduction of provision gaps identified in the catchments
2. Compliance with metrics set out in Provision Framework (Appendix A)
3. Application of the Open Space Best Practice Design Guide critical success elements to projects
4. The rate of delivering of the Project List
5. Cessation of capping system for Reserve Financial Contributions and revenue into the Reserves Purchase and Development Fund
6. The level (increase of decrease) of protection of sites of significance, landscapes, and trees
7. Increased Levels of Service and retained Operational Expenditure allocation

Monitoring progress and reporting will be done annually, with the first 2 years being used to establish a baseline.

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS



Risk of Inaction

The main risks in not implementing the outcomes:

Degradation of Green Spaces: Without a clear investment plan, parks and reserves might suffer from decreased safety, poor visitor experience, and potential loss of biodiversity. Limited amenity provision will deter user numbers and reduce community satisfaction with reserves.

Economic Risk: Open space and social infrastructure support economic and other commercial activity. Appropriate provision of reserves is associated with prevention benefits i.e., crime prevention, and preventable disease which the benefits of are well documented internationally. Not activating the Strategy properly could also result in increased stress on Council budget to meet overdue or outdated levels of service, which in affects rate payers. It is also well documented that businesses are attracted to well-functioning and inviting locations for relocation and sustaining businesses and their staff, and other financial resources.

Lack of Further Funding/Resourcing for Growth: Absence of an investment strategy may result in a reduction or further loss of resourcing (financial and/or staffing) to maintain public open space. Without a strategy, the District Plan will not have a formal strategic

position which justifies taking Reserve Financial Contributions. This could jeopardise revenue for Fund and hinder the development of the reserves network and challenge Council's ability to provide reserves that are sufficient to meet the needs of a growing population living in more intensively developed urban areas.

Missed Opportunities: Not being proactive within the development phase (there is an assumption that Council has to be reactive), which will lead to a failure to act on opportunity. Reserve land acquisition is constrained by funding, policy, and legislative barriers. Upgrading facilities, introducing new amenities (including the gap of Operational Expenditure for maintenance) and acquiring new reserve land might be delayed or overlooked, impacting the overall quality and utility of these spaces which theoretically should serve more people.

Environmental Impact: Reserve investment could reduce some negative effects of development. Neglecting investment in parks and reserves can mean missing opportunities to prevent habitat loss, decreased biodiversity, reduced ecosystem services and increased severe flooding risk.

Inability to Meet Future Needs: Without a strategy for investment, Council may fail to have the right response to growth. Reserves may not adapt to changing community needs, technological advancements, or environmental challenges. This could render these spaces less relevant and less functional in the long term.

Reputational Risk (Council): The reputational risk associated with the failure to implement the Strategy could be substantial. Failure to follow through on planned initiatives may lead to public scepticism, erode trust, and damage Hutt City Council's brand. Residents and stakeholders may perceive the Council as ineffective, raising concerns about its ability to address community reserve needs. Additionally, a lack of strategic implementation can hinder progress on crucial issues, resulting in dissatisfaction among constituents who expected positive outcomes. Such reputational damage can impact Council's relationships with the community, Mana Whenua, other governing bodies, and potential collaborators, potentially diminishing its influence and ability to garner support for future initiatives. Therefore, implementing and delivering on strategies is not only crucial for achieving intended goals but also for safeguarding Council's reputation and maintaining public trust.

Papikupu Whāiti-Te reo Māori

Glossary Te reo Māori

Term	Defintion
Iwi	A Māori community or people.
Kaitiaki	A guardian or trustee, typically of an environmental area or resource
Kaitiakitanga	Is the obligation to nurture and care for the mouri of a taonga, or the ethic of guardianship or protection.
Kātao	Water.
Kaupapa	Means principles and ideas which act as a base or foundation for action. A kaupapa is a set of values, principles, and plans which people have agreed on as a foundation for their actions.
Mana Whenua	Mana Whenua are the people with the rights, authority, or jurisdiction over an area of traditional lands. Council recognises Mana Whenua have a special relationship with the land and resources of the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.
Mātauranga Māori	Is the body of knowledge originating from Māori ancestors. This includes the Māori world view and perspectives, Māori creativity, and cultural practices.
Mouri	The mouri of Te Ara Tupua, the living relationship between the ngahere, the cliffs, the water ways, hinemoana and everything that lives within that environment have their own individual and interdependent vitality
Taonga	Refers to a treasure or something that is prized. The term can be applied to anything that is of value, including socially or culturally valuable objects, resources, phenomena, ideas, and techniques.
Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai	Māori names describe their location within the valley. Lower Hutt is Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai (next to the sea) Upper Hutt is Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta (inland).
Te Taiao	Is the environment that contains and surrounds us.
Tikanga	Customs and traditional values, especially in a Māori context.
Wai	Water.
Wai Tai, Wai Māori	The connection between the springs, streams, aquifers, rivers, and all waterways that bring with them their life, mouri and mana which eventually mingles together with Hinemoana.
Wānanga	A wānanga is characterised by teaching and research that maintains, advances, and disseminates knowledge and develops direction

Whenua	Land.
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Papakupu Whāiti Te reo Pākehā

Glossary English

Term	Definition
Asset Management Plan (AMP)	A plan for managing an Council parks and reserves assets to deliver an agreed standard of service. An Asset Management Plan sets out the level and timing of funding required to deliver services that the community needs.
Brownfield	Brownfield development <i>occurs on land that has already been developed and therefore has.</i>
Catchment	The area in which a certain grouping of people live. Can include specific mesh blocks and suburbs.
Carrying capacity	The amount of people that can use an allocated amount of space and can be sustained by the provided environment (park) without any level of service standard (such as enjoyment) being minimised.
Codes	Clubs of organised sport or other organised community activity
Development Contribution	Contributions can be required under the LGA to help fund planned and budgeted capital expenditure related to growth for the activities and assets listed in the development contributions schedule as outlined in Hutt City Council's Development and Financial Contributions Policy 2021–2031.
District Plan (DP)	A main document that sets the framework for managing land use and development within Lower Hutt territory.
Ecosystem Services	Natural creation of services; 'provisioning', like food and freshwater; 'regulating', such as air and water quality, 'cultural' such as recreation and sense of belonging; and 'supporting', such as soil quality and natural Habitat (Dymond 2013)
Edge Effects	Changes in flora and fauna population or community structures that occur at the boundary of two or more Habitats (e.g. parks, reserves, and open spaces)
Greenfield	Greenfield development is <i>a property development project that utilises this bare, undeveloped land to build.</i>
Green space	Any area of grass, trees, or other <u>vegetation</u> set apart for recreational or aesthetic purposes in an otherwise urban environment.
Housing density	The number of developed units in a specific area of land.
Intensification	Locales that Have an increased land use, usually regarding development of a site at a higher density than currently exists. This may occur through development, redevelopment, infill, expansion or conversion of existing buildings or property.
Infill	The insertion of additional housing units into an already-approved subdivision or neighbourhood.
Key Native Ecosystem (KNE)	The Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) programme (GRWC) aims to protect some of the best examples of native ecosystems in the Wellington region. It is working to achieve this by managing, reducing, or removing threats to their values.

Level of Service (LoS)	Specific parameters to meet minimum requirements for service performance quality.
Local Government Act 2002 (LGA)	An Act from central government that directs local governments (councils) to provide for democratic and effective governance to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities.
Long Term Plan (LTP)	A Council's LTP provides focus and directions for decisions and activities regarding a city's infrastructure, finances, and programmes outlining the activities a Council does and how these activities fit together. The plan is set over a 10-year cycle which is reviewed every 3 years. The LTP also provides accountability to the community – Having considered their feedback during the LTP consultation period.
Open Space Network	An interconnected system of public open space within Lower Hutt territory. This open space may include natural and modified areas, patches, or corridors.
Population density	The number of individuals inhabiting an area in relation to the geographical size of that location.
Provision	The supply of services or space, or a combination of both
Reserve	A property which is owned or managed by the Council to provide for the public's use and enjoyment or to protect ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity. Sites described as Reserve, include parks, urban reserves, bush reserves, coastal areas and cemeteries. Open Space is a similar term and refers to land that is not intensively developed.
Residential Density Standards	A collective term in accordance with the Housing Supply Act 2021 that directs requirements and rules for housing.
Reserve Financial Contribution	Contributions can be required under the RMA in line with the provisions set in the District Plan. These contributions are required for reserves and where development may impact capital expenditure that is not planned or recovered from Development Contributions.
Reserves Purchase and Development Fund (RPDF)	The purpose of the fund is to provide both an audit trail and a holding account that allows for a specific code/line item to enable Council to transact revenue and expenditure as a result of the Development and Financial Contributions Policy. This also allows for Council to operationally carry out land transaction work where it is maximising the benefit of land use and revenue for the community from a variety of sources.
Resource Consent	A written decision from Hutt City Council about an activity that may affect the environment or community. A resource consent is typically needed for subdividing land or undertaking site activities that may not fully comply with rules and standards of the District Plan.
Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)	The Act sets direction and rules to manage natural and physical resources sustainably.
Reserves Act 1977 (RA)	The Act sets direction to acquire, preserve and manage areas for environmental, public recreational, educational, or cultural values.

Territorial Authority (TA)	A city council or a district council as scheduled in the Local Government Act 2002
Urban Heat Island Effect	A by-product of a built environment, heat emitted from the sun becomes trapped and amplified in less permeable spaces.
Universal Design	A philosophy that aspires to deliver services, spaces and facilities that can be used by people with a spectrum of abilities, including people of all ages, with physical and mental disabilities or sensitivities. This includes spaces designed to be barrier-free and safe.

Appendix A–Open Space Provision Typology Framework

This framework should be utilised parallel to the Open Space Best Practice Design Guide (2024) to help further determine suitable functionality of the typology.

Parks and Open Space Provision Framework	Access	Population Ratio (conceptual)	Size/Area Percentage	General Design Characteristics
	Time to Access Method to Access Distance to Access	ha per 1000 Residents	Minimum Size (Ideal)	Character – Park aesthetic and its physical attributes Purpose – What the spaces intended use is Level of Service – Standard of Provision
Neighbourhood Reserves Provision is focused on the immediate local community, covering multiple mesh blocks set within residential areas. <i>Note: Neighbourhood level provision encompasses all spaces that may be classified under the following typology and include neighbourhood parks, local parks, public gardens, city/district reserve, and amenity parks.</i>	8.5min–10min Majority is through walking or alternative active transport modes such as scooter or cycling or powerchair 400m (high–medium density residential) – 600m (all other residential)	1ha per 1000 residents	Minimum size 0.04 ha Average Between 0.1 ha to 2 ha	Priority provision may Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal recreation, sporting, play and leisure activities for a few small groups of visitors at a time Play features and family–based activities with Universal Design elements Multi–user functionality (site fit for multiple purposes e.g., kick–a ball, outdoor yoga and relaxing with a book) Multiple access points with at least 1 street frontage Thriving specimen trees (native or exotic) that provide 7m+ quality specimens at maturity Canopy cover– natural (tree coverage) or artificial (pergola) Examples of amenities that could be provided include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Furniture (e.g., benches, picnic tables) Landscaping and gardening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe and universally accessible pathways Small to medium sized lawn areas (ability to host small community events) Proximity to commercial or other economic activity. <i>Neighbourhood Reserves are expected to have lower ongoing operational costs</i>
Suburb Reserves Provision is focused on the wider community (which includes several neighbourhoods) and	17min–25min Majority is through walking or alternative modes such as scooter	2ha per 1000 residents	Minimum size 2 ha	Suburb provision will need to have low operational costs to meet growing capex demand. Priority provision may contain some of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi–purpose functionality Informal and formal sporting activities Play opportunities and whānau activities with Universal Design elements

<p>their needs. They cater to both high and medium density residential areas. They may be in prominent locations helping to identify specific areas</p> <p><i>Note: Suburb level provision encompasses all spaces that may be classified under the following typology and includes suburb park, community parks, and district parks.</i></p>	<p>or cycling or powerchair 800m (high-medium density residential) - 1200m (all other residential)</p>		<p>Average Between 2 ha to 8 ha</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family and community gatherings Structures to support small events Safe and universally accessible pathways and seating Open street frontage Public toilet block Available water source <p>High-level amenity examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities Possibly indoor space provided by Council or others Car parking on site or on street Proximity to commercial or other economic activity. <p>Larger informal recreation attractions may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playful features for multiple age and user groups Landscaping , including multiple specimen trees Hardcourts Skateparks Public art. <p>Suburban spaces may also be connected through active modes such as walking and cycling tracks.</p>
<p>Sports Park Reserves</p> <p>Provision is focused on the community's formal and informal sport and recreation needs. Sports parks are located within groupings of suburbs, catering to a designated catchment of residents and the citywide population.</p> <p><i>Note: Sports Park level provision encompasses all spaces that may be classified under the following typology and include sport and recreation park, district sport precinct, sportsground parks (community), sportsground parks (premier), and citywide sport precinct.</i></p>	<p>15min-30min Multimodal transport (Public Transport and/or private passenger cars travelling) 2km</p>	<p>4 ha per 1000 residents</p>	<p>Ideal: size 8 ha Unless for a specific sport or activity (i.e., Walter Nash Centre, tennis codes/club, bowling codes/club)</p> <p>Average in HCC 1-10ha</p>	<p>Usually, large precincts and are formal spaces developed and designed with priority to provide at :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-sport playing surfaces for turf and court sports (competition and recreation size) Built sporting facilities with supporting infrastructure. Spaces designed for informal, casual use for sports or other activities Open street frontage w/multiple access points. <p>Other amenities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public toilets Changing facilities Clubhouses Car parking Lighting owned or managed by HCC Hospitality or other concessions

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor spaces and facilities provided by council or others High-grade Natural Turf <p>Buildings HCC owned and managed or leased (or a combination of either).</p>
<p>Destination Park</p> <p>Provision is focused on a citywide and visiting population. They usually provide recreation spaces for visitors to enjoy high amenity and green infrastructure. Visitors to destination parks often travel by private vehicle from further away or outside Hutt City. The carbon emissions associated with destination parks can be large compared to non-destination parks.</p> <p><i>Note: Destination Park level provision encompasses all spaces that may be classified under the following typology and include destination park, civic park, public garden, and outdoor adventure park.</i></p>	Multimodal transport, typically within a 10–30-minute timeframe	N/A	Minimum size of 1 ha	<p>Utilise the natural and modified environments with priority to provide some the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of ecological values Natural or modified waterways, coastal edges or bodies of water Provide wildlife corridors and/or fish passage Specialist landscapes and/or designed water features All abilities and ages play features, with Universal Design features <p>Small hospitality or retail or other commercial services may be provided. Built or modified infrastructure for multi-purpose that may be included are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destination or special built play features (water play) Sport infrastructure (e.g., frisbee golf), Heritage and or cultural features Active modes; Cycle and walking tracks Short tramping tracks. <p>Larger amenity spaces for larger events or social gatherings including BBQ and picnic facilities, car parking, and toilets.</p>
<p>Nature Reserves</p> <p>This level of provision is focused on a citywide and visiting population. Nature Reserves provide recreation and leisurely spaces for large numbers of visitors. They offer diverse recreation opportunities such as biking, walking, water activities and providing connections with natural features and the bush.</p> <p>Regional parks are considered to be Nature Reserve, although they are primarily owned and managed by the Regional Council and the Department of Conservation.</p> <p><i>Note: Nature Reserve level provision encompasses all spaces that may be classified</i></p>	Multimodal transport, typically within a 10–30-minute timeframe	N/A	No minimum size	<p>Utilising the natural environment with priority to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural features such as indigenous biodiversity Protection or enhancement of ecological values or services Natural waterways, coastal edges, bodies of water with riparian planting and/or pathways Wildlife corridors and/or fish passage Infrastructure built for multi-purpose recreation activities (i.e., mountain bike trails, tramping tracks). Proximity to Key Native Ecosystems (KNEs). <p>These areas can include recreational facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat launch Campgrounds or huts Distinct natural heritage and or cultural features Networks of active modes; cycle and walking tracks

under the following typology and include nature, scenic, esplanade, bush, and natural reserve				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tramping and backpacking tracks. <p>Link to larger amenities blocks for larger events or social gatherings including BBQ and picnic facilities, car parking, public toilets.</p>
<p>Recreation and Ecological Linkages</p> <p>This provision is focused on providing contiguous networks of (natural or modified) open space that establish recreational, walking, cycling and ecological connections integrated within an urban/residential area.</p> <p><i>Note: Recreation and Ecological Linkage provision encompasses all spaces that may be classified under the following typology and include track linkage, wildlife corridor (habitat and traversing), eco corridor.</i></p>	No Quantity Guidance Dependent on the functional needs of an area	N/A	Minimum 20m width	<p>The primary focus is to support linkage between two locations, usually separated by residential or commercial buildings or a natural feature such as a waterway. They activate active multimodal transport and can be a part of the pedestrian and cycle networks.</p> <p>Utilise the natural and modified environment with priority to include at following: include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of ecological values and services Waterways and riparian planting and/or pathways wildlife corridors and/or fish passage Proximity to Key Native Ecosystems Animal habitat support (weta hotels) Safe and universally accessible pathways. <p>Can include areas for minor recreation and low-level amenities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benches or seats Viewing platforms Paths or tracks and associated structures like bridges and boardwalks Educational signage and/or displays.
<p>Civic Space</p> <p>This provision is focused on the immediate community and caters to a more concentrated population density, providing spaces for people to meet and connect, covering multiple mesh blocks set within medium to high density residential areas.</p> <p><i>Note: Civic space provision encompasses all spaces that may be classified under the following typology and include community hall, town hall, clubhouse, public gardens, city/district reserve, and amenity parks.</i></p>	No Quantity Guidance Dependent on the area and its needs	N/A	No minimum size	<p>Areas of open space often provided within or adjacent to central business districts. Built infrastructure may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community or town halls Civic buildings Squares and ceremonial places Hubs Accessible amenities Public Gardens (primarily managed by Parks and Reserves Team) Memorials and public art Proximity to commercial or other economic activity. <p>They are developed to provide a space for social gatherings, meeting places, relaxation, and enjoyment. However, some spaces may require user fees. Management of these facilities does not fall under Parks and Reserves Team (Directorate of Neighbourhood and Communities). Educational signage and/or displays may be provided to enhance understanding of site or features.</p>

<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Primarily targeting natural, archaeological, indigenous and contemporary history and is focused on the immediate community but is not limited to a concentrated population.</p> <p><i>Note: Cultural Heritage provision encompasses all spaces that may be classified under the following typology and include: cemetery(s), marae, historical landmark, cultural landmarks, culturally significant areas (CSA), and places of remembrance.</i></p>	<p>No Quantity Guidance Dependent on the area and its needs</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No minimum size</p>	<p>Areas that protect and enable us to experience built cultural and historical sites, and/ or provide for heritage conservation, education, commemoration, mourning and remembrance. May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemeteries (primarily managed by Parks and Reserves Team) • Historic Heritage Areas (per the District Plan) • Commemorative items that communicate special historic local events • Hubs and museums • Sites of Remembrance (Memorials, public art etc) • Culturally Significant Areas (CSA). <p>Primary management of these facilities does not fall under Parks and Reserves Team (Director of Neighbourhood and Communities). Educational signage and/or displays may be provided to enhance understanding of site or features.</p>
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Appendix B-Project List

Focus Area One: Spaces for recreation that inspire play

Project	Description	Reasoning	Proposed Timeframes	Indicative Cost
High Street Reserve Development (Taita)	To improve the presentation and range of recreation opportunities available for the local neighbourhood.	Previous public engagement has strongly indicated that the neighbourhood is interested in modest improvements to improve the functionality of the site as a playscape and a place to meet and gather. Locals have also expressed interest in a loop walking track.	Immediate	\$200K Funded 23/24 \$300k 2027/2028
Delaney Park Drainage (Stokes Valley)	Drainage to be improved for ground conditions and enhance year-round playability of the field.	This will directly address the growth in junior football in Stokes Valley. Previous engagement with local clubs/codes and field users Have indicated high urgency for remediation.	Immediate	\$400K Funded 23/24
Hugh Sinclair Park(Wainuiomata) re-development	Enhancement to meet the appropriate level of service for the neighbourhood. To meet demand, the reserve will improve pathways,	The immediate vicinity has experienced recent commercial and residential growth and has an impending population influx with a predicted trend of families and young professionals. Current	Short Term	\$600K

	play areas, drainage, aesthetic, connection and recreation function.	population trends of the area indicate and aging population and changing diversity.		
Moera Hub Landscaping	Landscaping design around hub in Moera includes decking, paving and levelling.	The current library is being replaced by a sustainable building which will act as a neighbourhood hub. Moera has seen considerable residential growth.	Short Term	\$800k
Mitchell Park (Epuni)	The predominant profile would alter from a traditional amenity horticulture display to a site reworked to include recreational and social experience while maintaining a soft landscape dominated by mature specimen trees.	The 2013 "Review of the Valley Floor Reserves" states that "housing density is increasing in areas of the valley floor... the likely result is growing demand for reserves close to people's homes." This statement is still relevant in 2023, as Epuni is one of the fastest intensifying suburbs in Lower Hutt. To meet the changing demographics, there is opportunity for Mitchell Park to expand beyond its current predominant function that connects multiple user groups and the community together to enjoy green open space, play and recreate. There is an opportunity to align with Reserve Strategic Directions and Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy.	Medium Term	\$600K
'Enchanting' play areas	A series of small projects to provide 'enchanting' and playful spaces. Enchanting may look like providing spaces that cause positive emotional effect from a modified environment. Play spaces may be natural in areas to renewing playground infrastructure to meet appropriate level of service for a growing population.	Lower Hutt's increasing density highlights the need for the provision of enchanting public spaces that encourage play and recreation amongst all ages. This series will begin with further investigation and public engagement to better mark sites that needs to meet the appropriate level of service for the neighbourhood or suburb due to current and predicted growth. There is an opportunity to align with Reserve Strategic Directions and Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy. Staged development of enchanting play spaces and areas. Investigations and planning will begin in the short term, while development will be long term- around 10 years.	Long Term	\$400k
All ability play & Recreation spaces	A series of small projects to provide all abilities play. All ability may include space for children, youth, caregivers and adults. who have a mild to severe mental or physical disability.	Existing play areas in areas of high growth have a shortfall of all access designed spaces. Lower Hutt Central has impending density changes from Ch. 56 in the District Plan, as well as the Central Development Opportunity which aims to build 3,500 homes in the Central Business District. This intensification will directly affect the current demographic, including changing user groups. This series	Long Term	\$1m

		will begin with further investigation. There is an opportunity to align with Reserve Strategic Directions and Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy. Staged development of enchanting play spaces and areas. Investigations and planning will begin in the short term, while development will be long term- around 10 years.		
Streetscape Skate Features (Central)	These skate features will be considered from Ewen Bridge through the CDB to provide a skateable route through the Hutt CDB. The features will be incorporated specifically on High St, Dudley St, Andrews Ave and Margaret St and seek to coordinate, and link with the existing Riddiford Garden features. The features will all be hard landscape (concrete etc) with no to minimal ongoing maintenance costs.	Originally the Riverlink Project included a replacement skatepark within the consent designation. Due to a variety of issues the skatepark has been relocated to Avalon Park outside of the Riverlink Designation. By relocating the skatepark we can provide a better overall solution for the Hutt residents however the loss of local skate features in the CBD area needs to be addressed. It is proposed to incorporate skateable features within Riverlink Streetscapes project and associated active modes routes.	Long Term	\$1.6m

Focus Area Two: Spaces that prioritise nature

Project	Description	Reasoning	Proposed Timeframes	Indicative Cost
Specimen tree planting city-wide on existing open spaces	Plant specimen trees on existing reserves to improve character and amenity in urban areas. New trees will become large and magnificent trees once they mature.	The Urban Forest Plan sets out strategies for the city's natural areas, urban parks, and street trees. There has been a decrease in overall canopy cover throughout Lower Hutt territory. Growth, especially in the Valley Floor has caused decreased vegetation, and adding more canopy cover will also moderate the Urban Heat Island Effect.	Immediate	\$400K Funded 23/24
The Petone Esplanade Masterplan	Further strategic development of the Esplanade to increase environmental and social value. Redevelopment to be informed by Pito-One Steering Group work. Timing would be influenced by cycleway and Cross Valley Link Plans. Budget could be Increased when scope of project is confirmed.	Due to intensification and already existing density, this project will respond to growth and its impact on the Petone Esplanade. To further protect the dune ecosystem from increased usage from visitors and animals, there is a need to create other inviting and interesting spaces for visitors to enjoy the beach space whilst minimizing Harm to the environment. There is also an opportunity to partner with Mana Whenua and create a real presence on the Esplanade consistent with the work being done at Honiana Te	Medium Term	\$300K

		<p>Puni Reserve. Work may be split into 2 pieces of work; the first on the north side of the seawall, coordinating with the cycleway and Cross Valley Link work. The second, on the south side of the seawall with an urban ecology focus.</p> <p>Year 2-3 would be allocated for planning, engagement, and infrastructure investigations- to create a Masterplan framework</p>		
Waiwhetu Stream Master Plan creation and implementation	<p>Waiwhetu stream stems from a large catchment, from Eastern Hutt hills, above Wingate and Naenae suburbs. Providing pedestrian/cycleway connections, improving water quality, stormwater mitigation, bank protection, and sediment control.</p>	<p>With an increase in subdivision, earthworks and resident population, there is greater risk to watercourses, Waiwhetu is especially culturally significant and has been in decline post contact. Although there are restoration efforts, there is an opportunity to respond to growth directly by providing a Master Plan. Project partners may include GW, WWL, Friends of Waiwhetu Stream, Mana Whenua and the local community.</p>	Medium Term	\$400K

Focus Area Three: Spaces that support community

Project	Description	Reasoning	Proposed Timeframes	Indicative Cost
Bell Park Redevelopment (Waiwhetu)	To improve the presentation, install a connecting path and create an appealing community space on the northern portion of Bell Park.	Investigation by both internal and external consultants have found that the reserve has been experiencing higher demand for a more community oriented, multi-user space to accommodate a growing and changing population.	Immediate	\$500K Funded 23/24
Wainuiomata Town Centre Streetscape Project	Thoughtfully designed landscaping, additional furniture and basketball court components on the Queen Street Reserve which forms a part of the Wainuiomata Town Centre.	Previously approved from Council for resource allocation to this project, Parks and Reserves have received a contribution to upgrade the centre.	Immediate	\$500K Funded 23/24
Drainage level of service Year 1 is for investigation and preliminary works. Drainage work will	Outside of the yearly sport budget, drainage will be installed at several sites.	This is the growing need to continue upgrading from natural drainage to in ground drainage, due to heavier use because of growth. Artificial turfs will need carpet replacement to continue function and maintain level of service. This will benefit the wider community by having improved all around drainage, instead of just field users.	Short Term	\$2 Million

continue for 10 years.				
Te Whiti Enhancement (Waiwhetu)	This enhancement will be designed through place making; cultural narratives, Mana Whenua engagement and community aspirations will be central to this. The developed project will invite people in to learn, connect and appreciate the space. Kaupapa Māori will be critical to this enhancement, working closely with the Iwi of Te Whiti for design direction.	Te Whiti lies in the Valley Floor and Eastern Hills catchment- the most rapidly growing and intensifying catchment. The area has seen a rise in residential dwellings and Te Whiti provides green open space including existing provision for organised sport. However, with the increased dwelling density and reduction of canopy cover, raising the levels of service is critical to connect residents to this area of significance.	Short Term	\$250k
Frederick Wise Ancillary services (Wainuiomata)	Toilet block, changing rooms and showers for public use, sportsground users	According to Nuku Ora report, there is inadequate infrastructure, such as changing rooms, toilets, and shower blocks. Hutt Valley is forecasted to underserve in sportsgrounds provision. Frederick Wise Park has seen a rise in users and demand for adequate facilities for both formal and informal code use, including casual play.	Short Term	\$1.5m
Naenae Park recreation, amenity and biodiversity improvements	The reserve to primarily perform as a quality casual sportsground but is accessible and accommodating to various user groups. There is opportunity to extend recreational (incorporating experience like enchanting and playful spaces) and ecological linkages including connection to nearby suburban parks and Waddington Drive.	Naenae has been experiencing a changing demographic with increased intensification. Historically, the neighbourhood has lacked quality open space that meets an appropriate level of service for residents.	Medium Term	\$680K
Avalon Park re-development (Avalon)	Expanding the functionality of the reserve to accommodate and respond to growth directly. Improved functionality will better suit various user groups and provide quality recreational and social experience to emphasise the space is for community.	This is a direct response to intensification and provides opportunity to align with Council wide infrastructure projects like Riverland and the Central Development Opportunity. Trends show an increasing demand for recreational space that provides social value for the community. Aligns with Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy and Reserves Strategic Direction and would provide opportunity to further implement actions from reserve management plan.	Medium Term	\$600K
Queen Street Toilet Block addition (Wainuiomata)	Installation of a new toilet block. Community Use - A well-maintained and accessible public toilet facility is not only essential for tourists but is	The community of Wainuiomata has recently experienced significant increase in housing development, including a major upgrade to the main street and adjacent reserve.	Medium	\$800k

	also crucial for the local community. Residents who frequent the reserve for recreational activities, exercise, or community events will greatly benefit from the convenience of Having clean and modern toilet facilities on site.	This development reflects a commitment to improving the infrastructure and amenities of the area, promoting economic growth, and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. The next logical step in this process is the installation of a new public toilet in the town centre.		
Hall Crescent Reserve Development (Epuni)	Development to lift amenity and experience. Detailed design to stem from public consultation. Consultation may begin in Year 1 provided there is capacity.	Lack of developed reserves in Epuni 'do not invite use' per Review of Valley Floor (2013). Current trends indicate that there is an even more urgent need to address growth and lack of quality space for residents. Historically, Epuni has marked deprivation and requires a level of greater equity.	Medium	\$400K
Phil Evans Reserve enhancement with acquisition of street frontage (Waterloo)	Phill Evans provides opportunity for either disposal pending criteria fit and security of obtaining a superior space to develop a reserve. This should be part of the conversation around the Waterloo CDO project. If retained, there is still suitability to improve street frontage and enhanced value. This improvement would require professional and detailed landscape design. Possibly acquisition of a property facing Oxford Terrace or Waterloo Road is a solution.	The "Review of Valley Floor Reserves Eastern Suburbs" in 2013 states that Fairfield and Waterloo have a reserve shortfall within a proposed zone of intensification, around the intersection of Waiwhetu and Waterloo roads. Currently, this shortfall has not improved, and existing reserve space lacks inviting quality to create a sense of community, social or environmental value. Alongside this shortfall, Waterloo has seen an unprecedented level of resource consent applications. Impending District Plan changes will also see a population increase and subsequent demand for accessible green open space.	Medium	\$3 million
Purchase property or properties for new reserve land (Waterloo/Epuni, Taita)	Development of new neighbourhood reserve between Brunswick Street and Waterloo Road, or obtaining frontage off of Farmer's Crescent, in close proximity to the train station.	The Valley Floor has the highest increase of subdivision and resource consents. With limited space, it is imperative to provide quality green open space.	Medium	\$5 million

Focus Area Four: Spaces that create connection

Project	Description	Reasoning	Proposed Timeframes	Indicative Cost
Black Creek all-weather path (Wainuiomata)	Construction of an all-weather path along Black Creek to link streets, bridged and cul-de-sacs and establish a convenient off road route to schools,	Drainage reserves with wide grassed verges, Black Creek and Wainuiomata River provide a unique opportunity to develop safe pathways for walking and cycling. These routes are flat and	Immediate	\$1.02m Funded 23/24

	reserves and the town centre for bicycles, push chairs, wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pedestrians. This will be a staged project.	suitable for people wanting a short walk or bike ride as well as those wanting a longer trail. Wainuiomata has experienced high intensification, leading to urgent demand for more connected spaces.		
James Grove Reserve track link (Stokes Valley)	Development of to provide a community space and nature benefit. Walking track connection to Horoeke Street Reserve	Stoke's Valley demographics have been changing, reflecting intensification and the need for growth response. Providing residents connection to natural space aligns with The Urban Forest Plan and Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy. With a decrease in provided outdoor space for new residents, there is an opportunity to provide track connections	Medium Term	\$300k
Riddiford Garden landscape re-development (Central)	Upgrading existing pathways and bridges to meet current levels of service from increased usage and to address lack of accessibility for people with limited mobility. To maintain perception that Riddiford Gardens provides a quality setting, safety and amenity features will be addressed.	High intensification area, with a changing population, including a growing number of rangatahi. With increased usage, assets are becoming more impacted and subject to heavier wear. There is an opportunity to respond to growth through detailed design and community engagement. Year 2 is set up for public engagement, consultation, and investigation. Works are predicted to fall between Year 2 and 3.	Medium Term	\$600K
Colson Street Reserve re-development (Avalon)	Extent of development will be contingent upon practicality of land purchase for reserve expansion to create more inviting street frontage OR; upon engagement and further consultation, Colson Street may be best suited for increased enhancement to fit current and predicted level of service.	Immediate vicinity has existing shortfall of quality and accessible open space. Avalon has been experiencing high intensification, including changing demographic trends. Urban Plus is continuing to provide social housing directly adjacent to the reserve with a predicted influx of working-class families, singles, and aging seniors. There is opportunity to better align with the Go Outside and Play, Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy and Reserves Strategic Directions.	Medium Term	\$400K
Wainuiomata Village Linear Recreation	Staged project to create safe pedestrian and cycling connections along Hine Road, Harry Todd Reserve, Rotary Park, Richard Prouse, Main Road, Leonard, and Wood Reserves. Project will provide an accessible link for school children and their caregivers. Land acquisition would secure long, legal route.	Wainuiomata is experiencing the highest rate of subdivision, and there is a trending need to respond to this growth through outdoor recreational provision. This provision will also need to meet environmental and social values and provides the opportunity to align with Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy, Reserves Strategic Directions, and past reviews from consultants highlighting the need to meet the appropriate level of service. Providing better and safer connection through Wainuiomata will also be well situated	Long Term	\$700K

		for increasing native biodiversity. Year 3 may be actual works while Years 1-2 are for planning and engagement		
Taita Track–Old Farm Track re-development	The trail could have a distinctive identity, use pedestrian and raised crossing points in the few locations where roads need to be crossed, and activities and points of interest in reserves. This track would cross into Raukawa Street in Stokes Valley.	Demand for more connections from Naenae to outer suburbs. A trail linking reserves and along streams would encourage physical and social activity. The looped routes could be different lengths for variety.	Long Term	\$300K
Naenae Riser Track up to ECNZ Track	Similar to proposed Taita track, the trail could Have a distinctive identity, use pedestrian and raised crossing points in the few locations where roads need to be crossed, and activities and points of interest in reserves.	Demand for more connections from Naenae to outer suburbs. A trail linking reserves and along streams would encourage physical and social activity. The looped routes could be different lengths for variety	Long Term	\$400k

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