



Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy Te Rautaki mō Ngā Wāhi Honohoho

Vibrant places supporting healthy communities



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

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From the Mayor

Kia ora koutou

In Whanganui we're spoilt for choice when it comes to parks, open spaces and sports facilities.

We all have our favourite places to visit, whether it's watching the kids clamber over the iconic playground figures at Kowhai Park, cheering on the sidelines at Wembley Park or exploring nature along the winding paths at Bason Botanic Gardens.

Our shared spaces are part of our collective histories and memories. Some of us will have generations of family who have been captured in photos in Whanganui's parks over the years. Visitors are known to pull off our main highways just to stop for a quick visit to some of these incredible spaces.

As more people choose to make Whanganui home, it's important to plan how we manage, enhance and extend our open spaces and provide opportunities for sport, recreation and play. To this end, we're developing an Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy to help guide decision-making in partnership with Tangata Whenua and the whole community. We want to make sure these spaces meet the needs and aspirations of all of Whanganui, now and in years to come.

The vision of this strategy is to create 'Vibrant places supporting healthy communities'.

Included in the scope of this strategy are the more than 150 reserves that Whanganui District Council owns or administers, ranging from premier parks to neighbourhood playgrounds, sportsgrounds and nature reserves.

We want all these spaces and facilities to be safe and available to everyone to enjoy, to support people to be physically active, to play, to protect and preserve the natural environment and to enhance biodiversity.



We know open spaces play a pivotal role in supporting hauora, the physical, mental, social and spiritual health and wellbeing. During COVID-19 lockdowns, it was evident that access to these areas for exercise, or simply to relax and spend time outside, was hugely important to residents.

Open spaces bring people and whānau together, creating a sense of community and belonging and enhancing our appreciation and connections to place.

In recent years we've appreciated the role our parks and reserves play in climate change action. We can increase community resilience to climate change through actions set out in this strategy, such as more tree planting programmes and modifying lawn maintenance to create carbon sinks and enhance biodiversity.

Whanganui has an abundance of much-loved spaces and sporting facilities that contribute to our unique identity. These places belong to all of us and we want to hear from voices across Whanganui.

I encourage everyone to submit feedback so the strategy we develop reflects our community and ensures we continue to improve our quality of life, our connections to each other, as well as our sense of pride and place.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Hamish McDouall'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Hamish McDouall

Mayor of Whanganui

Our strategy – At a glance

VISION

**Vibrant places
supporting
healthy communities**

PRINCIPLES

Health and wellbeing

Te taiao

Community

Partnerships

Inclusivity

GOALS

- ✓ Our open spaces and physical activities support the health and wellbeing of all people in the community.
- ✓ We value and protect our natural environment and biodiversity.
- ✓ Our open spaces celebrate Whanganui's history, heritage and unique identity.
- ✓ Our whole community can experience and enjoy our open spaces, sport, recreation and play activities.
- ✓ Our open spaces meet the needs of local communities now and in the future.

ACTION PLAN

A detailed Action Plan with specific implementation activities will be developed after public feedback on the draft strategy.



TE WAWATA

He wāhi ora,
he hāpori ora

NGĀ MĀTĀPONO

Oranga

Te taiao

Te hāpori

Ngā hononga

Mahi tahi



NGĀ WHĀINGA

- ☑ E taunaki ana ngā wāhi honohono me ngā mahi-ā-tinana i te oranga o te hāpori.
- ☑ E whakatairanga ana, ā, e whakahaumarua ana tātau i te taiao.
- ☑ Ko te pūtake o ngā wāhi honohono, ko ngā kōrero o mua, ko ngā taonga tuku iho me te tuakiri ake o Whanganui.
- ☑ Mā te hāpori nui tonu ngā wāhi honohono, ngā mahi hākinakina, rēhia, korikori rānei.
- ☑ E hāngai pū ana ngā wāhi honohono ki ngā hiahia o te hāpori o nāianei, o āpōpō hoki.

TE ARA WHAKAMUA

Ka kohikohi i ngā whakaaro o te rautaki nei mai i ngā uiuinga tūmatanui, ā, ka whakawhanake i te ara whakamua i ēnei kohinga whakaaro.





1.0 Introduction

Why we need a strategy

Open spaces and physical activity are essential for the health and wellbeing of the community. Our many parks, nature reserves, public urban spaces, connecting pathways and walkways, lakes and coastal areas are common settings people go to rest and relax, connect with nature, and socialize with others. Engaging in sport, recreation and play activities help people to be physically active and these often take place in public open spaces. The visual beauty and amenity value of these spaces attract visitors as do the wide range of recreational opportunities that they enable. Open spaces also have important environmental and ecological benefits. Trees and forests absorb and store carbon, assist in reducing heat, provide natural sun shading and support the biodiversity and are therefore imperative in sustaining all life, human and non-human. In the context of climate change and the many factors that currently impact wellbeing, open spaces are fundamental in supporting the environmental, physical, social and economic health and wellbeing of communities.

Whanganui District Council's (the council) Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy is a high-level document that sets the long-term strategic direction for public open spaces, sport, recreation and play in the district. It supports the delivery of a leading edge district and community in line with the council's strategic direction as well as the three community outcomes: quality of life; connections to each other, our place in the world; and community pride in our unique identity.





Purpose of the strategy

The purpose of the strategy is to guide decision-making around the provision, development and management of open spaces so that they support the health and wellbeing of the environment, individuals and communities, now and in the future.

Provision

- What types of open spaces do we need now and in the future?
- What types of recreational and sporting activities do we want to enable/support?
- Where should these spaces and activities be located?
- How accessible will they be?
- How many should there be?
- How will we get them (new land acquisitions or changing use overtime)?

Development

- What should the spaces look like?
- What types of equipment and facilities should they have?
- How should they be developed?
- When should it be done?
- Who should be involved?

Management

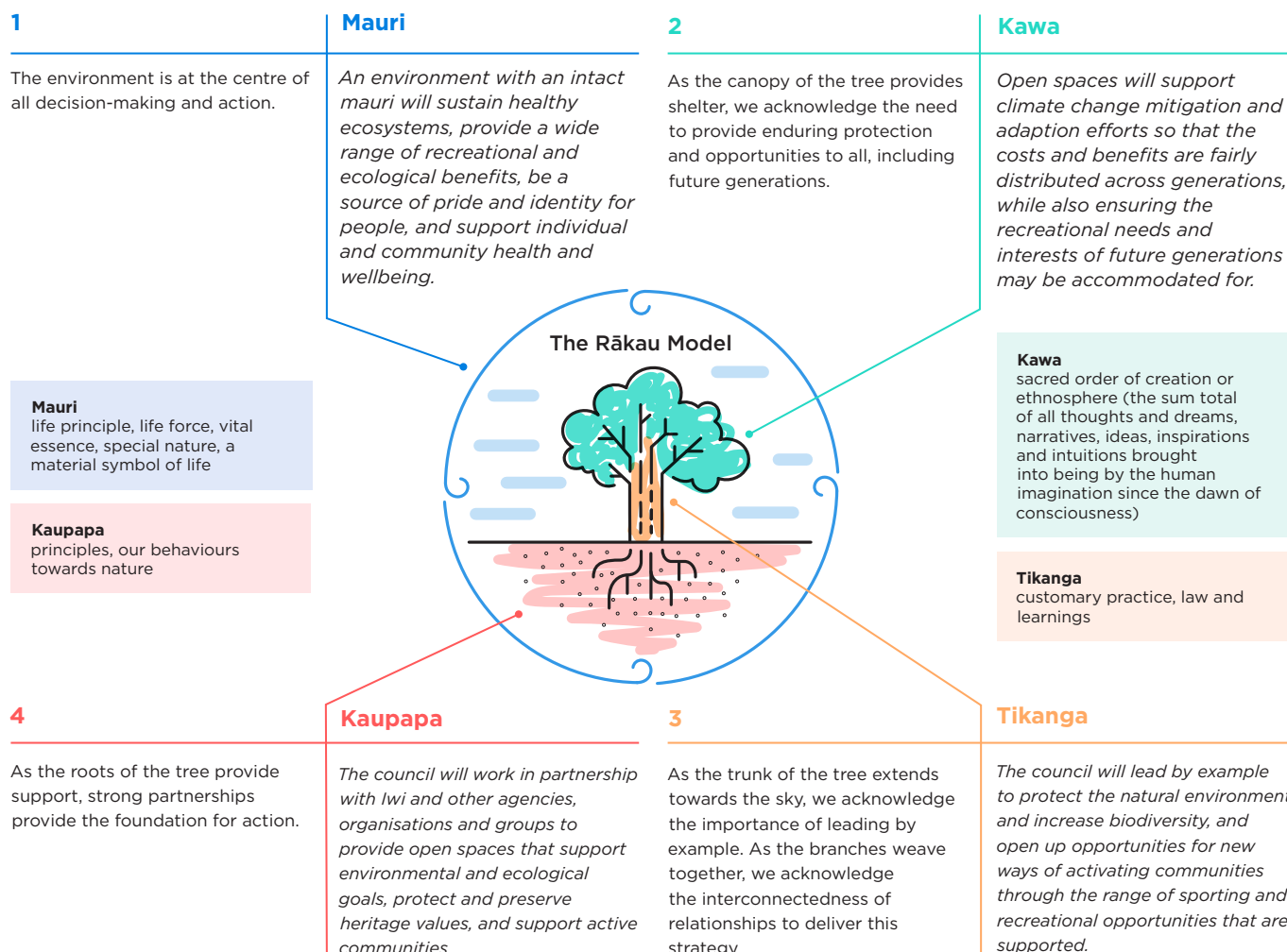
- How should we look after/maintain them?
- What are the priorities?
- Who should be responsible for maintaining what?
- How should funding be prioritised?

Tangata whenua view

The council's Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy brings together New Zealand European and te ao Māori worldviews to support collective and holistic health and wellbeing.

The need for an iwi Māori perspective to be seen and heard in the political sphere is increasingly important. However, understanding this perspective can be difficult as it is often viewed through a western lens and/or through the modern conservation movement, both of which have different foundations, ethics and understandings. Iwi Māori worldview contributes to the development and practice of a unique environmental ethic that holds those areas as intensely sacred or special places and spaces for us as Whanganui. This ethic does not instruct preservation; rather, it centres on sustainable use and guardianship. Iwi Māori relate to nature in a meaningful way because they live it as Tangata Whenua on their marae, as Hapū and Iwi, and their kawa and tikanga practices are embedded in the natural environment.

With this interconnected relationship, the environment is at the centre of decision-making and action. Centering the environment helps to support and empower the community to work for the benefit of the environment as the very basis for improving collective wellbeing. A healthy environment provides vibrant open spaces for people to enjoy a wide range of sport and recreational activities, and can attract out-of-town visitors and investments. It also supports rich biodiversity which has important intrinsic value, but also direct and indirect economic, ecological and recreation benefits for people. Supporting a healthy environment and biodiversity is therefore fundamental to the holistic health and wellbeing of the community.



Scope of strategy

The Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy applies to the vast range of public open spaces that are owned and/or administered by the council as well as to the wide variety of sport, recreation and play supported in these spaces. Open spaces include 'green spaces' such as parks, reserves, and walkways, 'blue spaces' such as lakes and coastal areas, and 'grey spaces' which are public spaces in the urban built environment, including connecting pathways and civic squares. It is recognised, however, that there are also many publicly accessible spaces used by the community that are not owned/administered by the council, including school grounds and private land. The strategy does not apply to the Whanganui River, as this is covered by Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017, but it does support decision-making to uphold the objectives of this legislation.

Land settlement negotiations are important processes taking place between the Crown and Whanganui Iwi (Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust). The outcomes of these are likely to alter the governance structure of a number of reserves in the district, returning some of the decision-making and control of certain land sites to Tangata Whenua. While the negotiation process and discussions are outside the scope of this strategy, the strategy supports the objectives of the land settlement.

Definitions

For the purpose of this strategy, open space, sport, recreation and play are defined as follows:



Open Space – any site owned and/or administered by Whanganui District Council that is open and available for public use. This includes outdoor spaces such as parks, reserves, sports grounds, playgrounds, walking and hiking trails, mountain biking tracks, walkways, beaches, coast, streams and lakes, as well as public urban spaces where people gather including civic squares. It also includes council-owned and/or administered indoor sport and recreation facilities and spaces that are open to the public.



Sport – any organised, structured physical activity engaged in for competition often requiring specific equipment and where particular rules and objectives are observed. They may be played in outdoor spaces or indoor facilities, either individually, in a group or as a team.



Recreation – includes passive and active forms of recreational activities. The former are those activities undertaken for lifestyle, wellbeing and enjoyment that do not exert much energy, such as reading a book, bird watching and flying a kite, while the latter denotes any physical activity undertaken for the same purposes but is more active, including walking, biking and other types of active transport, and unstructured play. Active recreation differs from sport in that it is typically casual, non-competitive and less structured.



Play – any activity that is freely chosen and directed by tamariki for enjoyment. It takes place whenever and wherever opportunities arise, such as building huts and rolling down hills. It is fundamental for the physical, cognitive, social and spiritual development of tamariki, and provides opportunities to improve both individual and community wellbeing.

What we currently provide

Whanganui District Council currently owns and/or administers 155 reserves (open spaces) in the district, serving a wide range of purposes. This includes ecological, heritage and aesthetic as well as recreational purposes. Seventy-seven of these are currently subject to the Reserves Act.

Please refer to the Appendix (page 48) for a full list of the reserves.



Illustrative only. Reserves to be finalised.

SPORT AND RECREATION 13

Parks (often quite large areas) set aside and developed for organised sport and recreational activities, recreation facilities and buildings, often multiple use.

Some examples:

Cooks Gardens, Spriggens Park, Wembley Park



NEIGHBOURHOOD 52

Parks developed and used for informal recreation and sporting activities, play and family-based activities and social and community activities.

Some examples:

Mowhanau Beach, Wiritoa/Pauri Lake, William Birch Park



NATURE 39

Parks that offer the experience and/or protection of the natural environment, containing native bush, coastal margins, forestry, farm parks, wetlands, riparian areas and water bodies.

Some examples:

Ototoka Beach, South Beach Reserve, Peat Park



RECREATION AND ECOLOGICAL LINKAGES 33

Areas of open space that are often linear in nature that provide pedestrian and cycle linkages, wildlife corridors and access to water margins. May provide for environmental protection and access to waterways.

Some examples:

Virginia Lake, Town Walkway, Whangaehu Stream

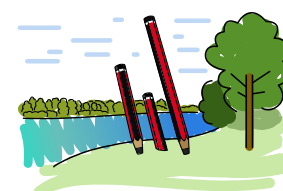


CULTURAL HERITAGE 11

Parks that protect the built cultural and historical environment, and/or provide for heritage conservation, education, commemoration, mourning and remembrance.

Some examples:

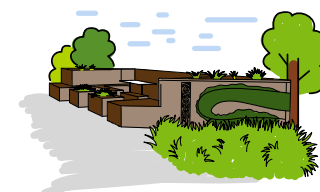
Pukenamu Queen's Park, Brunswick, Durie Hill War Memorial Tower



CIVIC 1

Areas of open space often provided within or adjacent to central business districts and developed to provide a space for social gatherings, meeting places, relaxation and enjoyment.

Our space: **Majestic Square**

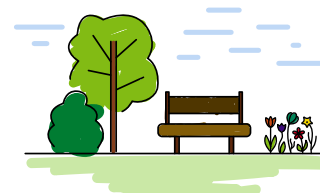


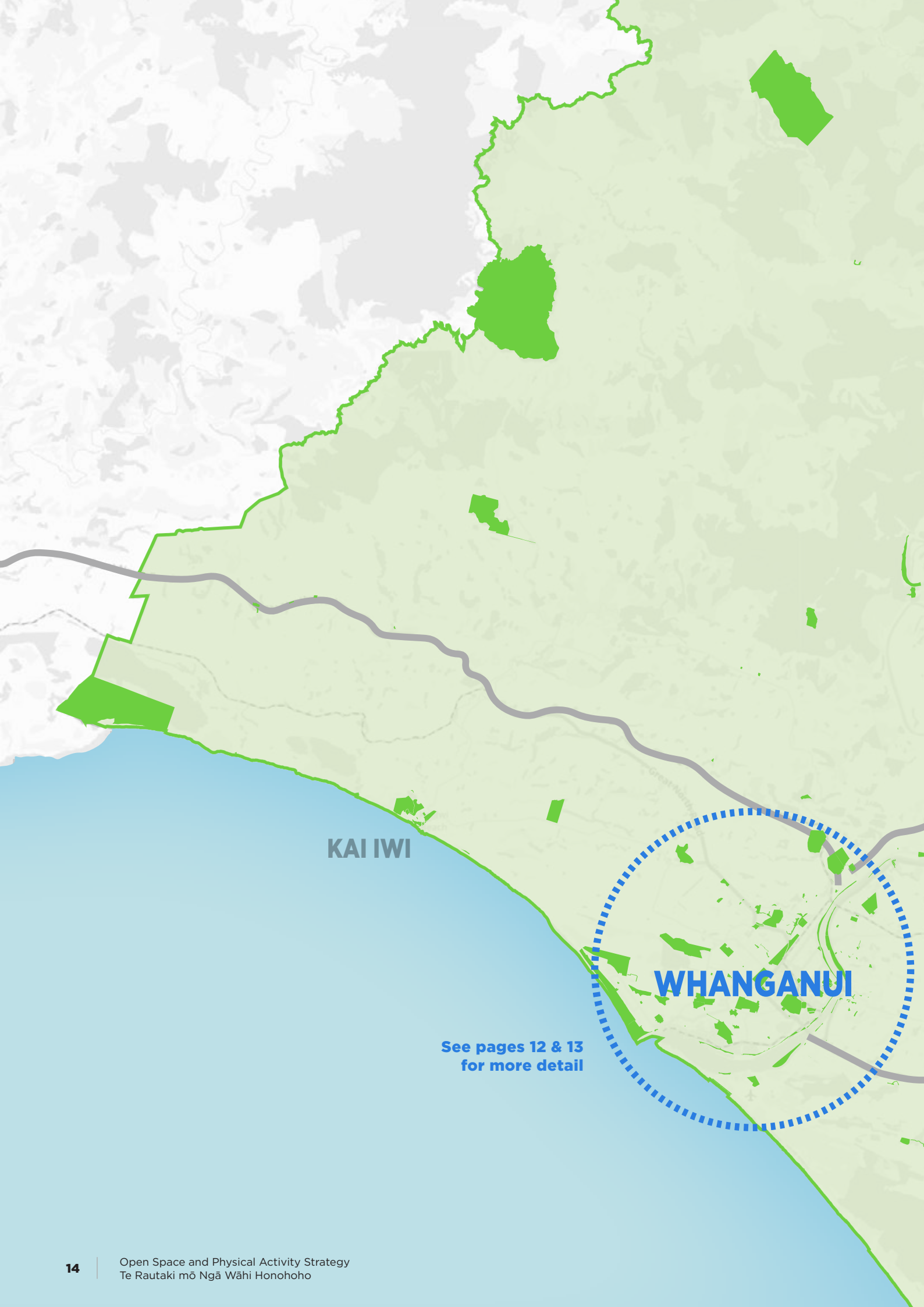
PUBLIC GARDENS 5

Parks and gardens developed to a very high horticultural standard with collections of plants and landscaping for relaxation, contemplation, appreciation, education, events, functions and amenity/intrinsic value.

Some examples:

Bason Botanic Gardens, Glen Logie Rose Garden

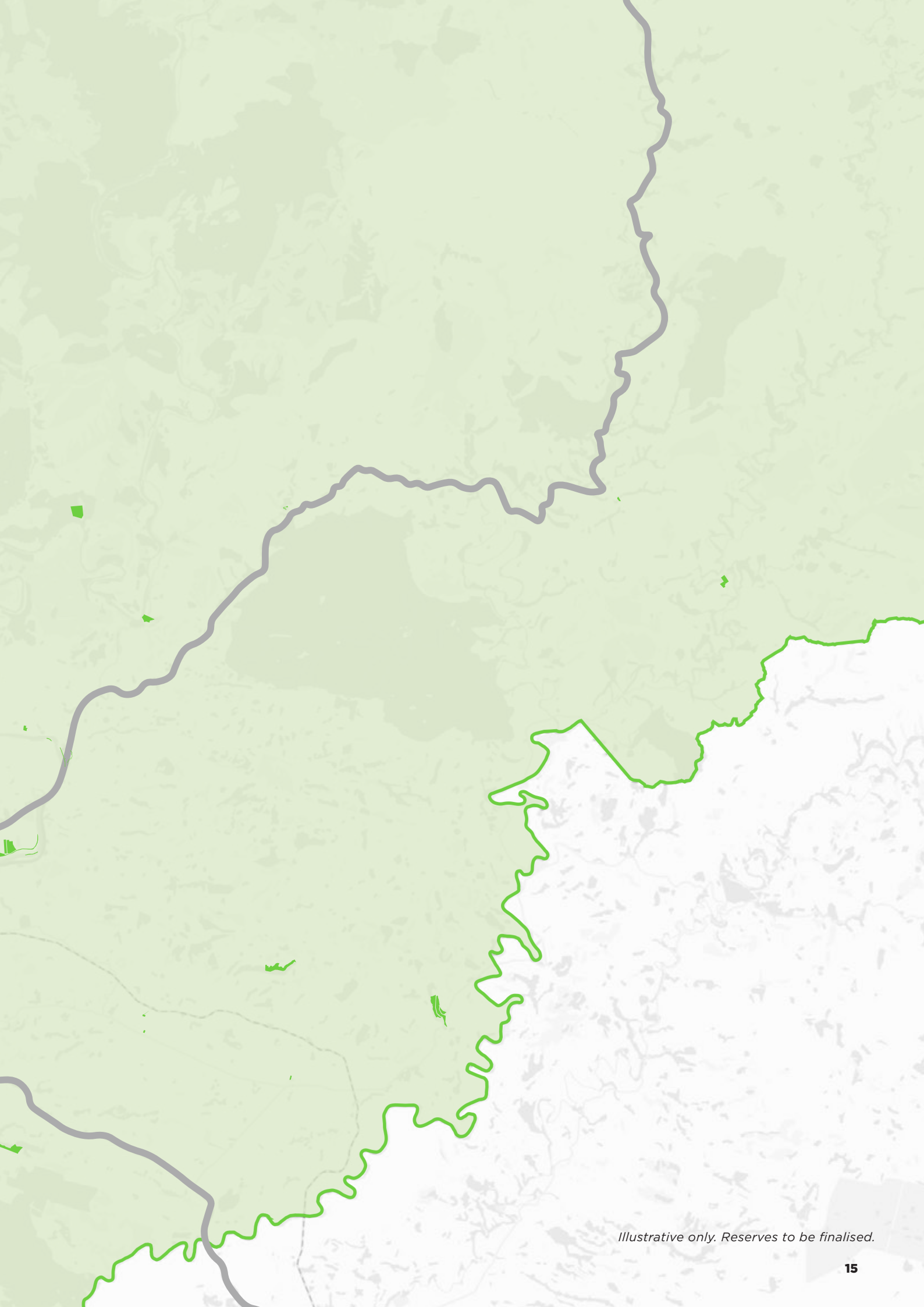




KAI IWI

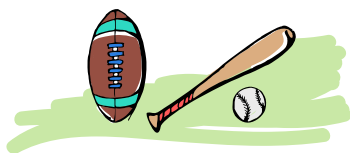
WHANGANUI

See pages 12 & 13
for more detail



Illustrative only. Reserves to be finalised.

Our network of open spaces currently support a wide range of sport, recreation and play activities.



SPORTS 13

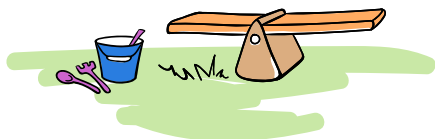
We currently own and manage thirteen (13) reserve areas as public sporting facilities offering a wide variety of traditional sports to the community. There is also the Whanganui Community Sports Centre Trust and there are also four schools with indoor and outdoor sport facilities frequently used by the public.



MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS 2

We have two (2) mountain bike trails on council land, including at Hylton Pit where the trails were developed by the Mountain Bike Club, and some more informal tracks at Matipo Park.

There is also the Ngā Ara Tūhono Mountains to Sea which is a Great Ride cycle trial.



PLAYGROUNDS 13

We have thirteen (13) playgrounds in the city located in a range of different neighbourhood parks and public gardens.



WALKING/HIKING TRACKS 2

We have the Westmere Walkway and Waitahinga Trails as two (2) main formal hiking trails in the district, along with many recreational walking tracks and paths in our parks network. Whanganui is on the Te Araroa (NZ Walk Trail) of national and international significance.



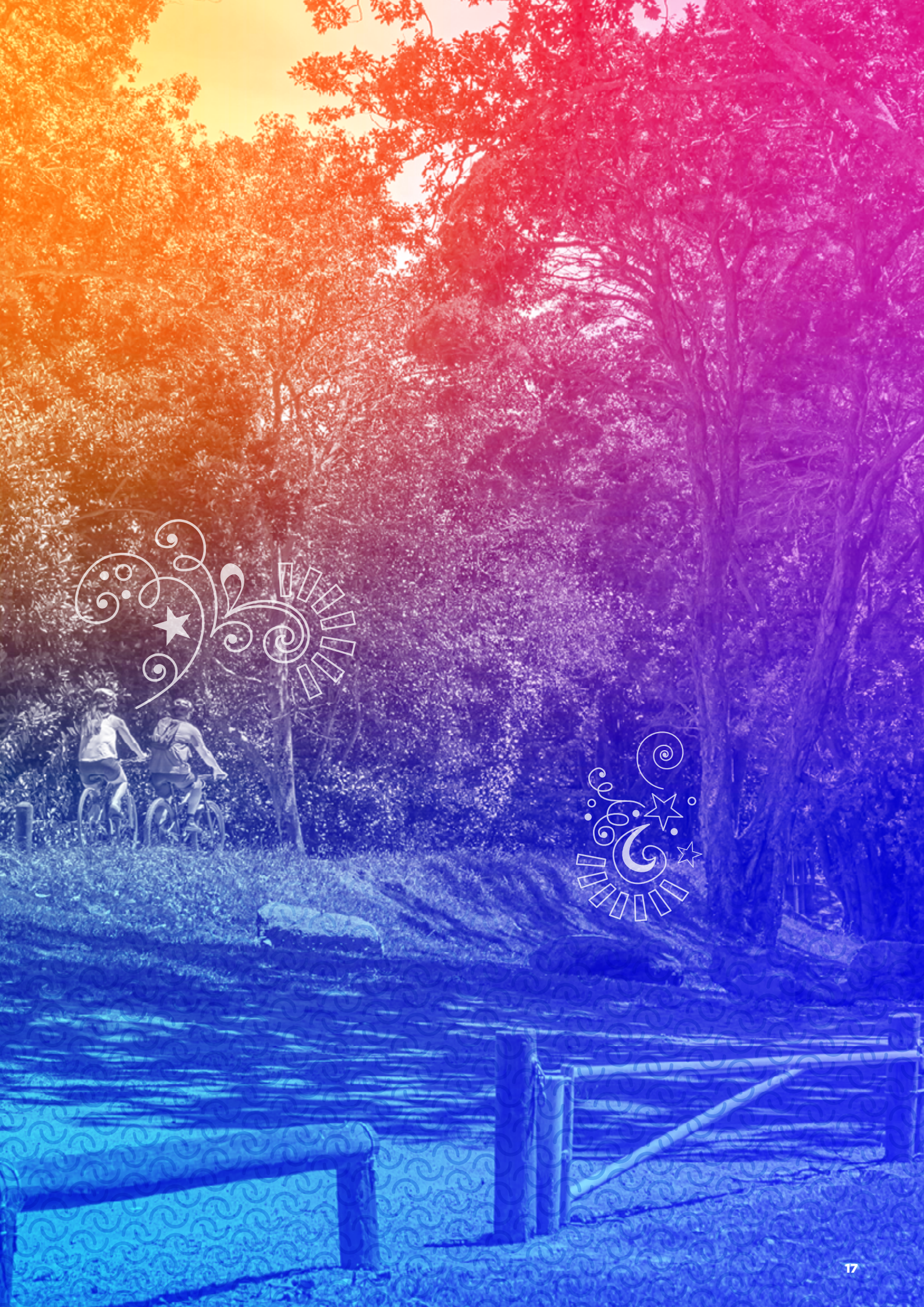
SKATE BOWLS/PARKS 2

We have two (2) skate bowls, one in Castlecliff Domain and the other in Kowhai Park, and there is also a cycle pump track located at Springvale Park.



SWIMMING POOLS 2

We have two (2) public swimming pools, one at Springvale Park and one outdoor pool in Whanganui East.



The council's role in open space and physical activity

The council plays a number of roles in relation to open spaces, sport, recreation and play activities which help promote environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing, as required of territorial authorities under the Local Government Amendment Act 2002.



Environmental wellbeing

Protection and preservation of the natural environment and landscapes, supporting biodiversity of flora and fauna, reducing pollution, mitigating climate change, and improving air quality.

Social wellbeing

Physical and mental health supported by engaging in physical activities individually or in a group, connecting with nature in outdoor settings, and social connections.

Cultural wellbeing

Protection and promotion of heritage and sites of cultural significance, storytelling and education.

Economic wellbeing

Attractive and vibrant spaces and places attracting residents, visitors, events and investments.

The council is committed to supporting community led initiatives to help make open spaces, sports and recreation fun and attractive places and activities for all. We do this by performing the wide range of roles listed on the following page.



Roles

What the council does

ACTIVATE

We help to get communities active to maximise their use and enjoyment of the facilities and open spaces. We do this by running community events, providing equipment and resources, and improving our information and promotion of what we have available on top of the other roles we play.

PARTNERSHIPS

We partner with others including Tangata Whenua, community organisations, trusts, schools and sport and recreation clubs to provide open spaces and sport and recreational opportunities and to help activate the community.

PROVISION

We provide, develop and maintain a wide range of facilities and open spaces and look to ensure they meet the needs of different community groups and that provision meets the needs of different suburbs both now and in the future.

MANAGEMENT

We manage reserves through the preparation and implementation of Reserve Management Plans (RMP) so that they are managed in accordance with the purpose under which they are classified under the Reserves Act.

PROTECTION

We protect the heritage and cultural significance of land sites and preserve the natural environment so that they may be valued and enjoyed by the community now and in the future. Under RMPs, we also look to protect areas for recreation.

FUND

We fund and/or help communities secure funding for community projects. Actions in this strategy are funded through provisions in the council's Long-Term Plan (LTP).

ADVOCACY

We advocate for open spaces, sport and active recreational activities through other strategic and planning documents to ensure they are supported across the council.

RESEARCH/ PLANNING

We undertake research and monitoring to help inform our planning so that we can continue to meet the needs of our communities now and in the future.



Key partners

The council works with several key partners to provide a wide range of open spaces as well as sporting and recreational opportunities to the community.

Tangata Whenua

Working with tangata whenua to identify and acknowledge places of historical, cultural and environmental significance.

Sports clubs

Assisting and supporting sports clubs in delivering a wide range of sporting opportunities and activities to the community.

Regional sports organisations (RSOs)

Working with RSOs who lead, promote and oversee a sport in the local region to provide opportunities for the community to play the sport. RSOs have direct relationships with sports clubs and schools to provide them leadership and support in order to create active, healthy communities.

Regional sports trust (RST)

Working with Sports Whanganui as the RST who works across the physical activity, sport and recreation and play sector and have a wide range of duties including the distribution of funding and acting as a regional voice for the community.

Environmental groups

Working with active volunteer groups to protect and maintain the natural environment including tree planting and coastal care, and to share ideas on how to enhance biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation in our open spaces.

Schools

Working with schools to support their current provision of sport and recreational facilities/fields for the local community to use and enjoy.

Whanganui District Health Board

Working with the DHB to provide open spaces that support healthy lifestyles and address public health issues as well as addressing specific accessibility needs where possible.

Community groups

Working with community groups, including youth organisations and the disability sector, to support the delivery of inclusive and accessible sport and recreational programmes and activities.

Landowners

Working with various landowners to provide access and improve connections to open spaces, or to acquire land for public open space and activities.



2.0 Strategy context

The Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy is informed by, and delivers on, numerous legislation, strategies and plans at the national and regional level, including:

Legislation:

- Local Government Act 2002
- Reserves Act 1977
- Conservation Act 1987
- Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014
- Whanganui Conservation Management Strategy 1997
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017

National initiatives:

- Biodiversity Strategy 2020 – Te Mana o te Taiao
- National Policy Statements – Biodiversity, Water Quality, National Parks Policy, Urban Development
- Every Body Active Strategic Direction 2020 – 2032

Regional initiatives:

- One Plan – the consolidated regional policy statement, regional plan and regional coastal plan for the Manawatu-Whanganui Region
- Climate Action Strategy, November 2020
- Manawatū – Whanganui Sport Facility Plan

Council initiatives:

The Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy is also influenced by, and will help give effect to, a wide range of strategies, plans and policies within council. This includes the council's overarching vision for Whanganui as '**Leading Edge**' – a district that is energised, united and thriving, offering abundant opportunities for all. While the strategy supports the delivery of the **community** and **environment** goals in particular, it also contributes to enhancing **connectivity**, **creativity** and the **economy**.

Table 1. Below outlines how the strategy gives effect to the goal of each of the leading edge strands.

GOAL	HOW
Community: working in partnership – shaping a district that celebrates and champions its cultural and social diversity as well as its community spirit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing open spaces, sport and recreational activities that meet the needs and interests of our diverse communities help support the welfare and wellbeing of our community. • Telling the stories of Tangata Whenua and acknowledging the cultural value of the land at our parks and open spaces network celebrates the diversity of our district while sharing and educating the public.
Connectivity: a dynamic, broadly connected district that is accessible, linked in and known for it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting inclusive accessibility to our open spaces, sports and recreational facilities, including pathways that enable different modes of active transport and taking a whole of journey approach to open space development. • Supporting awareness of and access to our open spaces and facilities through digital technology which also helps connect our history, stories and people nationally and internationally.
Creativity: a knowledge economy driven by innovation and humming with cultural personality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting our heritage by providing information about the history of significant parks and open spaces and through storytelling. • Taking innovative and creative design approaches to how the local history and heritage of these spaces are told.
Environment: a district that safeguards its natural resources and provides an environment with a sense of place, identity and vitality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting the natural environment and landscapes, including supporting biodiversity. • Protecting the wellbeing of the Whanganui River/the Awa.
Economy: an easy-living place of choice of all – flourishing with employment and development opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracting more sport and recreation events into the district by expanding and strengthening the activities supported in our open spaces and recreational facilities. • Attracting residents and out-of-town visitors through high quality and vibrant open spaces and recreational facilities.



Open spaces and physical activities serve a significant variety of purposes and are connected to many areas of council work and services. Table 2. Below summarises the range of other council strategies, policies and bylaws that are relevant to the strategy.

STRATEGY, POLICY, BYLAW, PLAN	RELEVANCE
Alcohol Control Bylaw 2016	This bylaw restricts the consumption of alcohol during particular times in some key public spaces to enhance public safety and enjoyment of the areas. It specifically concerns a number of parks and open spaces in the town centre area, as well as Victoria Park, Kowhai Park and Kai Iwi beach area.
Active Transport Strategy 2017	Encourages walking and cycling to promote physical activity, health and well-being and to reduce our impact on the environment. Its vision is to create a “walk and cycle-friendly district that provides healthy and sustainable travel choices for commuting to everyone”.
Arts and Culture Strategic Plan 2019-2029	Creativity is at the heart of our identity. This plan seeks to embed arts, culture and creativity within council planning and policy development.
Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw 2016	This bylaw regulates activities associated with burials and cremations in the district as well as behaviours within public cemeteries. All six cemeteries are part of the council's open space network.
Climate Change Strategy 2021	The strategy plots a course for action to both mitigate, and adapt to, climate change. Parks and reserves play a key role in climate change action as carbon sinks and there are opportunities to increase this capacity.
Digital Strategy 2019	This is about harnessing digital opportunities to empower and enrich our community. Technology and innovation can be incorporated in our planning, design and promotion of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities to enhance experiences and increase use/engagement.

STRATEGY, POLICY, BYLAW, PLAN	RELEVANCE
Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2021	<p>Dogs are a large part of family life with about 7500 registered dogs, or 1 dog to every 6 people in Whanganui. The objectives of the policy and bylaw are to minimise problems caused by dogs, provide safe environments for the community, as well as support appropriate care and ownership for dogs. Providing appropriate dog exercise areas is important while also ensuring the safety of other users of public open spaces.</p>
Drone Interim Guidelines 2015	<p>Restricts the flying of drones in any public, council-owned park or reserve within 4km of the Whanganui Airport and Whanganui Base Hospital helipad, unless formal consent has been obtained from the council and the Whanganui Airport Authority. This affects a large number of parks and reserves in the open spaces network.</p>
Dub Dee See Youth Connect Strategic Plan 2014-2024	<p>The vision is to create a community where young people love to be and supporting them to be the best they can be. This includes encouraging/enabling physical activity for health and wellbeing as well as enhancing their connection and sense of belonging to places and spaces.</p>
Economic Development Strategy 2019	<p>Attracting visitors and new residents to the district is a key goal for economic development. This includes maintaining the aesthetic appeal of our public parks and open spaces as well as ensuring our premier parks and sport and recreation facilities are able to attract and accommodate events and visitors.</p>
Freedom Camping Bylaw 2021	<p>This bylaw regulates freedom camping in the district by putting restrictions on where and how long people can freedom camp in particular public parks and spaces.</p>
He Kaupapa Here: Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho Whanganui District Heritage Strategy 2021-2031	<p>Provides a framework for protecting and recognising the rich and multi-layered historic assets in the district, which encompasses many of the parks, reserves and cemeteries in the council's parks and open space network.</p>

STRATEGY, POLICY, BYLAW, PLAN	RELEVANCE
Housing Strategy 2019	Ensuring everyone has the right housing opportunities and neighbourhoods to live in and involves the adequate provision of and access to public open spaces.
Infrastructure Strategy	Intends to create purpose-designed attenuation basins in available public open spaces (e.g. wetlands, dry-basins to Springvale Park).
Public Places, Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2016	Regulates the activities in public places, parks and reserves to ensure acceptable standards of convenience, safety, visual amenity and civic values are maintained within them. It also controls damage and manages activities within them that are likely to have adverse effects on land, assets or users of these facilities. The Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy helps inform what regulations will be in place.
Safer Whanganui Strategy	Creating a place that is safe for everyone to live, work and play in. This includes ensuring our public parks, open spaces, sport and recreation facilities are safe for people to use and enjoy, and that all people can travel to/from and between them safely.
Signage Policy	Manages signs erected permanently or temporarily on/in public places, including parks and open spaces to avoid negative impacts on safety, their visual aesthetic and amenity value.
Smokefree and Vapefree Outdoor Areas Policy 2022	Encourages people to refrain from smoking and vaping in specified outdoor public areas with the purpose of reducing smoking to help improve the health of residents.

STRATEGY, POLICY, BYLAW, PLAN	RELEVANCE
Town Centre Regeneration Strategy	<p>Aims to make Whanganui visible by making the town and its assets and qualities more prominent, which includes many public open spaces. This involves enhancing the vibrancy of the town centre by enabling more social gathering in key urban public spaces and beautifying areas through urban design, art and planting.</p>
Welcoming Communities Plan	<p>Aims to ensure all newcomers to the district feel welcome and have a sense of belonging, including in the many public open spaces and facilities. This requires ensuring that their needs and interests are accommodated in these spaces, and that they feel comfortable using them.</p>
Whanganui Age-Friendly Plan	<p>An age-friendly district is where all people can stay connected with others, stay and/or be healthy and active, and are respected and able to live with dignity regardless of their age and physical abilities. Ensuring the network of parks, open spaces and sporting and recreational facilities are inclusive contributes significantly to this.</p>



LEADING EDGE STRATEGY

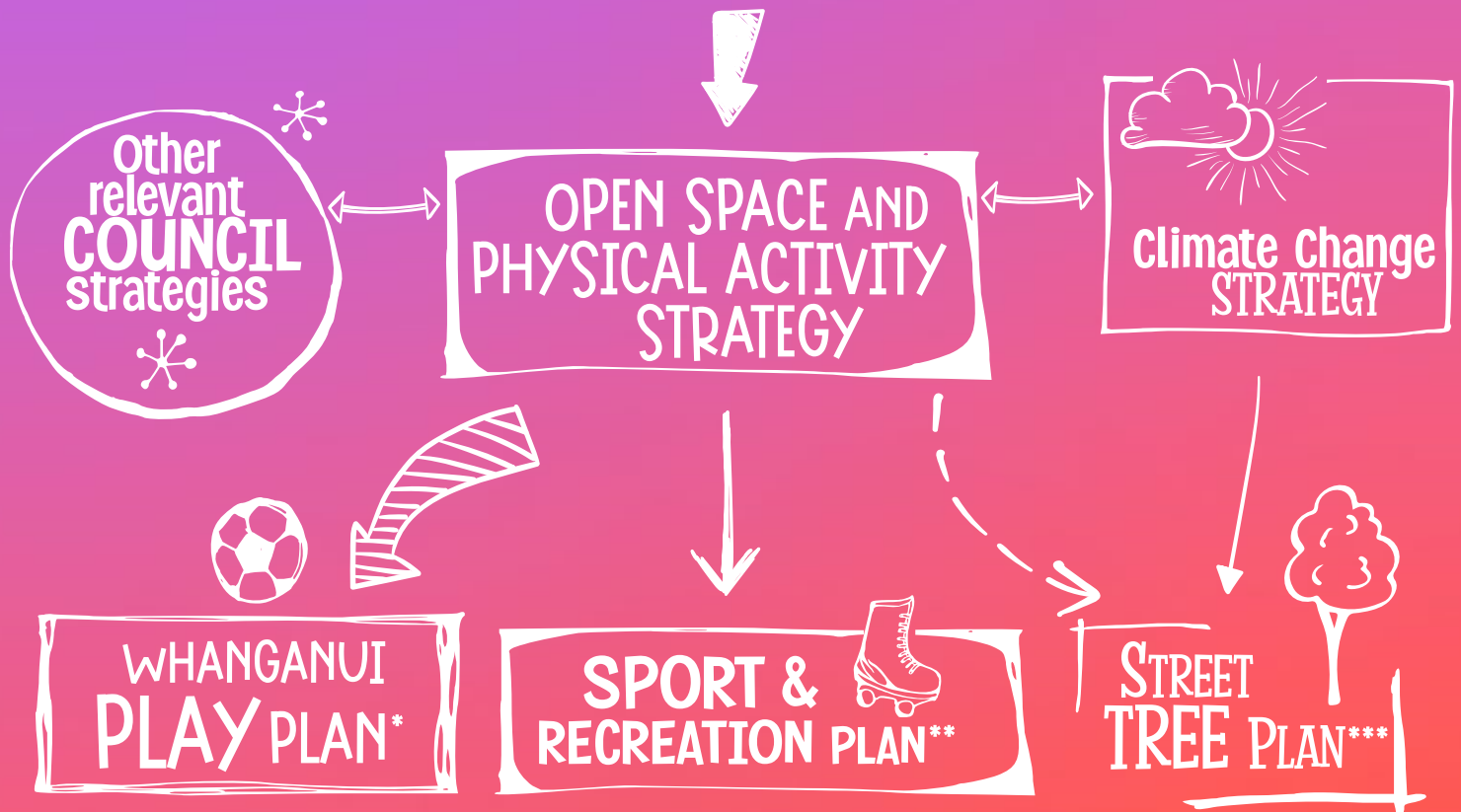


Fig. 1. Relationship and hierarchy of related strategies and plans

* A Whanganui Play Plan is currently being developed and will provide a framework to help grow play opportunities for all tamariki in the district.

** The Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy will be revised to a Sport and Recreation Plan. The Plan will include facilities funding and maintenance but will also be broader to deliver on the vision and goals set out in this Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy.

*** The Street Tree Strategy will be revised to a Street Tree Plan that delivers on the broad vision and goals set out in this Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy.

Reserve management plans

The Reserves Act 1977 requires local authorities to develop reserve management plans (RMP) for reserves under its control, management and administration that are held as reserves under the Act. The plans set out the way the council will manage, protect and, where necessary, develop reserves in accordance with the purpose under which they are classified. The plans guide the council's long-term planning and day-to-day decision-making in relation to the reserves, and provide clarity and certainty regarding the purpose/function and management of them for the community.

The council currently has 77 reserves under the Act. An omnibus Reserve Management Plan will be developed for all reserves owned and administered by the council and will replace the existing reserve management plans.



Fig 2. Illustrates how the Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy relates to some of the council's key planning and strategic documents.



Fig 2. How the strategy relates to other council plans



3.0 Background and issues

Review work on the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy began in 2018. A review was long overdue given that the social, cultural, legislative and strategic context had changed since the strategy was originally adopted in 2008.

Key contextual changes prompting the need for review:

- Increasing population and changing demographics
- Urban development
- Sport and recreation trends (including declining use of parks and participation in play/physical activities)
- New legislation, strategies, plans and policies (including a new local government focus on supporting community wellbeing)

Open spaces serve a wide variety of purposes and are commonly the places where people engage in a range of active recreational activities, including sport. The shared focus on 'activating communities'

(getting communities physically active) and supporting wellbeing informed the decision to incorporate the Physical Activity Strategy and sport and recreational activities into the review of the parks and open spaces strategy. The council's Solar Protection Policy 2005 was also incorporated into this strategy review given the importance of sun shading in heavily exposed public open spaces.

A combination of stakeholder meetings, workshops with elected members, discussions with Tangata Whenua, community engagement including public surveys, as well as secondary research into sport and recreation trends, population growth and development provided the information for this new strategy. We identified key issues and opportunities for the new Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy through analysis of the information and consideration of new relevant legislation, policies and strategies.

Issues and opportunities

New legislation, strategies, policies

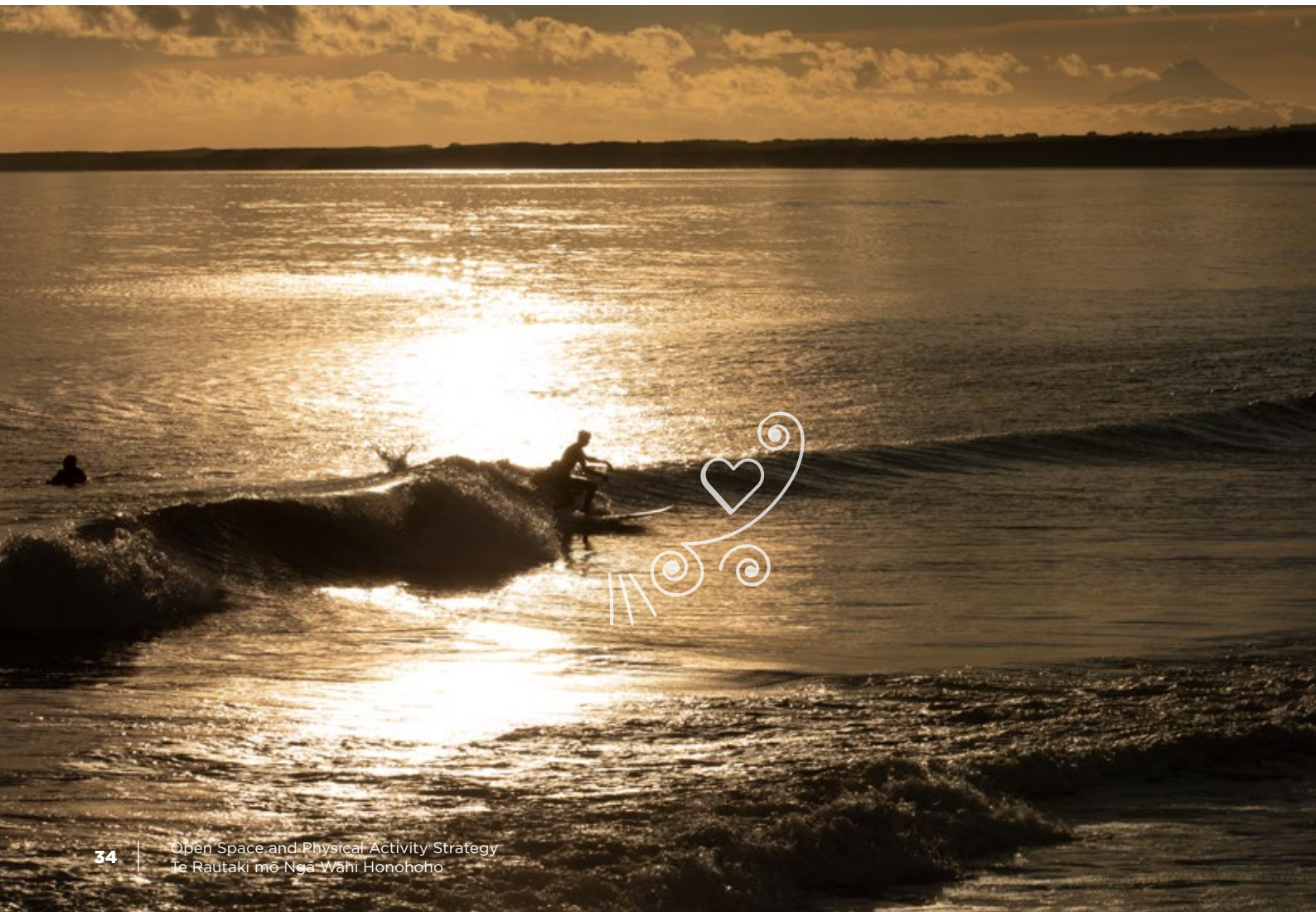


The new emphasis of local government on supporting community wellbeing as well as the council's relatively recent strategies for housing, climate change, and heritage all place different demands on the open space network. The varying objectives influence what some of the key priorities might be for parks, open spaces, and the sporting and recreational activities they support and therefore inform the levels of service within them. There are opportunities to identify and develop suitable parks, reserves and open spaces in the district that will assist the council in delivering on the different legislative and strategic objectives.

Te Awa Tupua



Te Awa Tupua legislation gives formal recognition of the Whanganui River as an indivisible whole and protects the environmental, social, cultural and economic health and wellbeing of the river. This includes the land on which the river covers, the subsoil, plants, the space occupied by the water and airspace above it. The open space network and sport and recreational activities supported in the district should uphold the objectives of Te Awa Tupua and support decision-making that protects the health and wellbeing of the Whanganui River. There are also opportunities to better support Tangata Whenua's connection with this taonga.



Population growth and development



After many years of decline, there has been a steady growth in the Whanganui population over the past eight years. Since 2013, there has been an increase of approximately 6000 residents, from 42,153 in 2013, to 45,309 in 2018¹, and to an estimated resident population of 48,100 in 2020. Current projections indicate that the population will reach 51,200 by 2031.

This growth has varied across the district with some suburbs experiencing much higher rates than others, and with a small number seeing slight population decline. Urban development on the fringes of the city in Otamatea and Springvale saw these areas increase the most between 2006 and 2018: Otamatea by 31.4% (from 1317 to 1731 residents) and Springvale North by 52.6% (from 228 to 348 residents). The area adjacent to Otamatea, St. John's Hill East, also experienced a notable growth of 23.3%. Following these, the rural areas of Kaitoke-Fordell and Brunswick-Papaiti also grew notably, by 26.6% and 20.3% respectively over the same twelve-year period. Conversely, the resident population decreased in a number of areas between 2006 and 2018, including the Upper Whanganui District (-4.9%), Wembley Park (-4.1%), Balgownie (-2.4%), Gonville South (-2.5%), Upper Aramoho (-2.1%), and Cornmarket (-1.1%).

Urban development has increased density with a greater number of housing and people located in existing suburban boundaries. This has included planned development in places such as Otamatea West which has resulted in some formal Rural Lifestyle areas being rezoned to Residential with significantly smaller section sizes, as well as the increasing number of infill housing on private sections. This increasing density puts pressure on the availability of parks and open spaces to support individual and community wellbeing.

The actual and projected growth in Whanganui is an opportunity to develop guidance for decision-making around the provision and development of open spaces so that they meet the needs and interests of current and future populations. This includes establishing minimum provision targets to ensure all new residential properties and neighbourhoods have adequate access to appropriate forms of open space. Targets would specify the type of open space, their ideal sizes based on the population they serve, and the minimum amenities and assets that would be required within them.

Sport and recreation trends



The way people use open spaces and how and whether they engage in physical activities is changing. The majority of the community still visit public parks and beaches, but participation in sports and active recreational activities is declining.² Different drivers are impacting sport, active recreation and play activities nationally and locally. This includes growing, ageing, diversifying and urbanizing populations, technology and its impact on how people spend their leisure time, climate change, the rise of eSports, and COVID-19.³ Rising inequalities also negatively impact engagement in physical activities. Forty-six percent of the Whanganui population live in the bottom two deciles for socioeconomic deprivation making affordability a pertinent issue. Funding for community sport is also under threat which has implications on the provision of sport and recreational activities. These drivers create different challenges and opportunities for the provision and development of open spaces, sporting and recreational activities.

¹ Statistics New Zealand (2018) Population counts.

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018-census-place-summaries/whanganui-district>

² Versus Research (2021) Whanganui District Council Community Views Survey May 2021 Report.

³ Sport New Zealand (2020) Ensuring the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Sector is Fit for the Future. [ensuring-the-sector-is-fit-for-the-future-200721.pdf](https://www.sportnz.org.nz/ensuring-the-sector-is-fit-for-the-future-200721.pdf) (sportnz.org.nz)

Accessibility



Accessibility is influenced by a number of factors, including access to/availability of different modes of transport, distance and proximity, level of personal mobility and feeling safe when accessing and using these spaces. These relate broadly to the ease with which public open spaces can be accessed in general and by those with mobility impairments.

Access in general is influenced by the location of these spaces relative to residential areas and how well they are connected to a variety of transport routes and other open spaces. Equal distribution of particular types of open spaces across the city enables all residential neighbourhoods to have relatively easy and safe access to a range of recreational activities via different transport modes such as walking, cycling, public transport and car. There is an opportunity to ensure a balanced distribution of open spaces across the city, taking into consideration population growth.

Access for those with mobility impairments is about providing pathways and facilities that cater for a broad range of abilities. Whanganui has a relatively high proportion of older residents with the median age 5.7 years higher than the national median. Twenty percent of the population are +65yrs (2018)⁴ and this age group is projected to increase to over 30% by 2031⁵. While it may not be possible for all open spaces to be accessible for those in wheelchairs, mobility scooters and walking frames, ensuring these are catered for in areas that are particularly problematic is important. Having smooth, level, sufficiently wide and connected pathways will also benefit other users, including parents with prams, those on bikes and scooter as well as the general population. Similarly, facilities that are inclusive are also beneficial for all users, such as more accessible toilets and within shorter distances and higher benches/seating.

Play equipment and facilities in our open spaces also need to be accessible and inclusive. A recent stocktake of public playgrounds in Whanganui⁶ highlighted the need to improve access to these spaces and the play equipment itself for a range of abilities. There are also opportunities to embed universal/inclusive design thinking into play space development to include features that cater to a diverse population and needs.

⁴ Statistics New Zealand (2018) Population counts, by age and sex.

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018-census-place-summaries/whanganui-district>

⁵ Sport New Zealand (2020) Demographic Change in Ensuring the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Sector is Fit for the Future [futures-think-piece-demographic-change.pdf \(sportnz.org.nz\)](#)

⁶ Whanganui District Council (2021) Inclusive Play Spaces Project. Stage 1: Stocktake of Whanganui Play Spaces.



Population diversity



A diversifying population is creating different needs and interests in relation to open spaces, sport and recreational activities. Community feedback and findings from recent Play Workshops in 2021⁷ highlighted opportunities to support a wider range of play and recreational activities in our open spaces network. This includes having play equipment that is suitable for multiple purposes, useable by different abilities, and interesting for different age groups. The current playgrounds are seen to be for younger children, but are not particularly enticing for older children.

Increasing ethnic diversity in the district is also an important factor. Between 2006 and 2018, the percentage of Māori has increased from 22% of the population to 26.3%, Pacific Peoples from 2.4% to 3.6%, Asian from 2.4% to 4.1%, and Middle Eastern/Latin American/African from 0.2% to 0.5%. While the European population grew significantly in the seven years between 2006 and 2013, from 74.2% to 81.8%, it declined slightly in the following national census to 79.2% in 2018.⁸ This diversity is an opportunity to work with different cultural groups in the community to explore other types of recreational activities that may be supported in open spaces.

Climate change



Whanganui has a rich natural environment with plenty of green spaces as well as the Whanganui River/Awa and coast. These natural assets can help mitigate human-induced climate change, but there are also negative effects on them due to the varying impacts of a changing, warming climate. The Climate Change Strategy 2021 charts the direction and priority areas the council will focus on to address the key issues that the district will face in relation to climate change. Whanganui is likely to experience more weather extremes, including a greater number of hot days and a general rise in temperatures, increases in rainfall and wetter conditions, as well as increased coastal erosion and flooding due to sea level rise. There are opportunities for parks and reserves to help mitigate and adapt to some of these and more general impacts by increasing community resilience through more tree planting programmes and modifying lawn maintenance to create carbon sinks. New Zealand already has a high rate of skin cancer, therefore increasing sun shading particularly around rest spots and play areas is also important for UV protection, while they also shelter users from rain. Trees also have cooling benefits, actively cooling the temperatures around them.

⁷ Innovation Unit (2021) Play in Whanganui: Perceptions and experiences of play from sector stakeholders, whanau and tamariki in Whanganui.

⁸ Statistics New Zealand (2018) Ethnicity, culture and identity.
<https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018-census-place-summaries/whanganui-district#ethnicity-culture-and-identity>



Heritage



Open spaces embody multiple forms and layers of heritage. An example is built heritage which the council has an obligation to appropriately manage and protect. Heritage also includes less tangible elements. Public open spaces contain unique heritage stories pertaining to Whanganui but there is limited public knowledge about these narratives. Many of the parks and reserves in the network, including their flora and fauna and native trees, have cultural significance that need to be preserved and protected. It is also important to recognise that many of these land sites will have intrinsic cultural values held by Tangata Whenua. There are opportunities to provide more information about the history and heritage of these open spaces to the public, including exploring different ways and/or mediums to do so. There is also the need to better support the use and occupation of these ancestral lands by Tangata Whenua and enhance their connections to these spaces.

Safety



Physical safety is an important aspect of whether, when and how people use open spaces and it was also a key concern for users in the community feedback. Safety, and a sense of safety, are influenced by a range of factors including the presence of physical danger and hazards, lighting and visibility, security and surveillance, as well as personal attributes such as gender, age and physical ability. There are opportunities to increase safety in our open space network through regular maintenance to avoid physical hazards, enforcing rules around cars and dogs, and by embedding Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles into the design/development of open spaces.

Amenity value



The quality and presentation of our open spaces and the sport and recreational activities they support are important in attracting users and out-of-town visitors. The uniqueness and beauty of some of our natural environments, including parks, reserves and lakes, are key attractions for tourists, and are also highly valued by the local community. Feedback from the community highlighted opportunities for the human-made features of these open spaces to better complement the amenity value, including through the provision of modern playgrounds and equipment, modernising signage and graphics, and through the inclusion of quality artwork and sculptures.

4.0 Vision and principles

Vision statement

Vibrant places supporting healthy communities

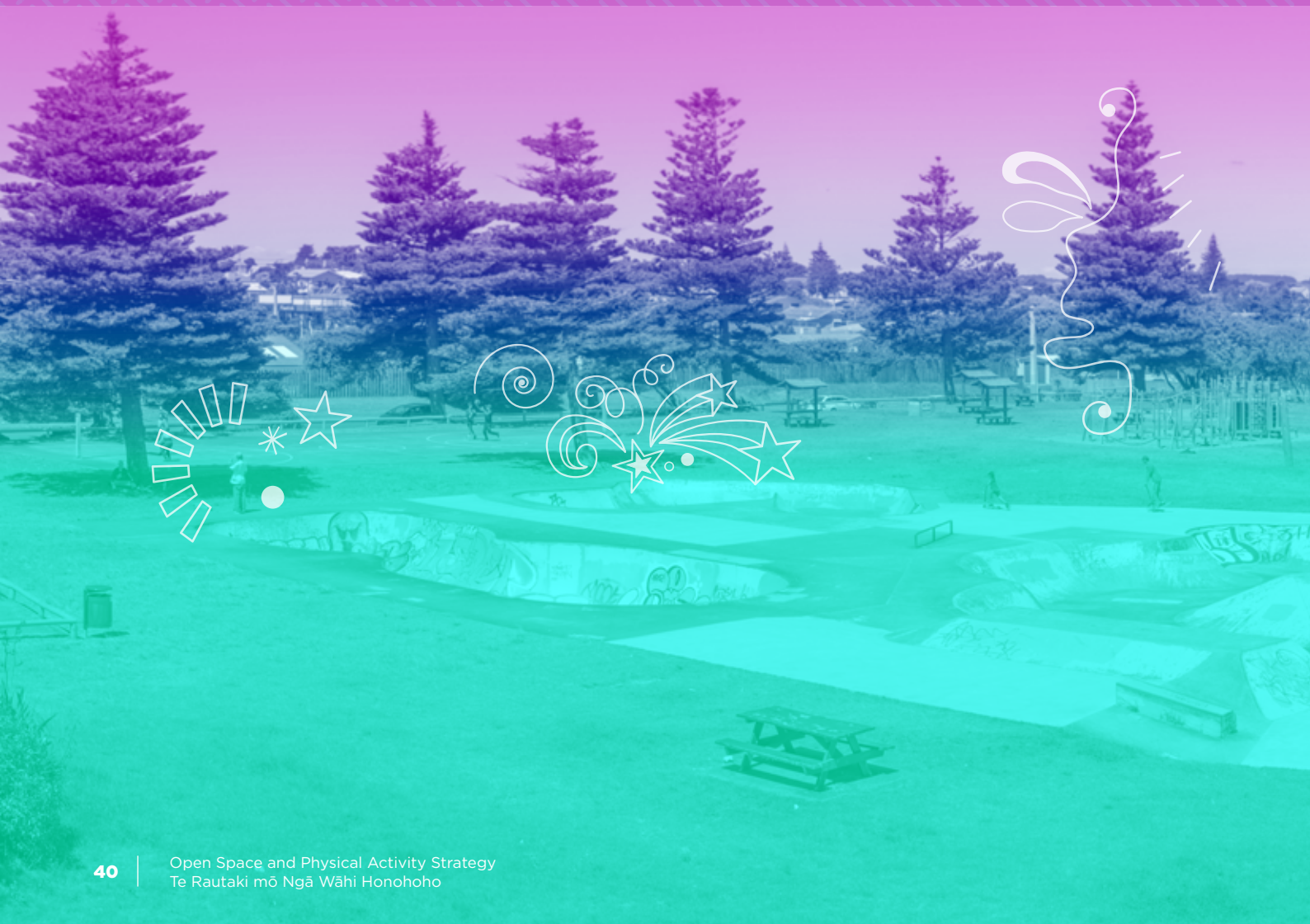
Principles

The following principles guide this strategy:

- **Health and wellbeing** – open spaces and physical activities play a pivotal role in supporting the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health and wellbeing of individuals and the community.
- **Te Taiao** – we are interconnected with the natural world and therefore invested in protecting the health and sustainability of the surrounding environment and ecosystems.
- **Community** – open spaces, sport, recreation and play bring people together, creating a sense of community and belonging and enhancing our appreciation and connections to place.
- **Partnerships** – our open spaces, sport, recreation and play activities can better meet the needs, interests and aspirations of our communities when we work in partnership with iwi/hapū and other organisations.
- **Inclusivity** – our open spaces, sport, recreation and play activities are for everyone.



5.0 Goals and strategies



GOAL:

Our open spaces and physical activities support the health and wellbeing of all people in the community

Strategy: Support and enable a wide range of physical activities and recreation interests

- Strengthen and grow current sport, recreation and play activities to increase participation.
- Provide opportunities for physical activities and recreation for groups that currently do not regularly use open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.

Strategy: Support healthy consumption in our open spaces

- Support the provision of healthy food and drink options in our open spaces.

Strategy: Partner with others for more sport, recreation and play opportunities

- Collaborate with other organisations to find new and innovative ways of activating communities.
- Encourage commercial ventures for play and recreation.



GOAL:

We value and protect our natural environment and biodiversity

Strategy: Partner with community groups to achieve climate change goals

- Work with active/engaged community groups on mitigation efforts, including implementing planting programmes.
- Plan for sea level rise and its impact on the coastal environment.

Strategy: Support biodiversity in our open spaces

- Support initiatives to enhance the biodiversity value of our open spaces.
- Provide guidance on the provision, maintenance and protection of trees – right tree, right place, right purpose.

Strategy: Support sustainable energy in our open spaces

- Explore opportunities for solar power in parks and reserves and recreational facilities.
- Provide electric power options at public events.

GOAL:

Our open spaces celebrate Whanganui's history, heritage and unique identity

Strategy: Affirm and retain heritage values in our open spaces

- Work in partnership with Tangata Whenua to identify sites of cultural significance and preferred ways of commemorating and telling their stories able to be shared in the public realm.
- Support Treaty land settlement processes.

Strategy: Promote a sense of place and local identity

- Partner with local artists to capture and communicate the unique history of the district's open spaces in ways that bolster our UNESCO City of Design status.



GOAL:

Our whole community can experience and enjoy our open spaces, sport, recreation and play activities

Strategy: Ensure safety is a key priority in our open spaces

- Apply CPTED and Health and Safety principles to the design of public open spaces.
- Encourage/facilitate appropriate dog control in public open spaces.
- Increase solar protection for users in our parks, reserves and open spaces.
- Minimise drug and alcohol-related harm in our open spaces.

Strategy: Improve inclusivity and accessibility for all types of users of our open spaces

- Remove and/or minimise barriers where possible to increase and improve access.
- Provide Universal Design guidance for amenities and facilities to ensure they are practical for all ages and abilities.
- Enhance online promotion and access to our facilities and open spaces.



GOAL:

Our open spaces meet the needs of local communities now and in the future

Strategy: Ensure all neighbourhoods have appropriate and fair access to open spaces

- Provide a (neighbourhood) reserve within 500m walking distance (or 10min walk) for all urban communities.
- Provide a (neighbourhood) reserve within 5km for all rural communities.
- Ensure access enables different types and levels of mobility.

Strategy: Plan for population growth and change

- Provide open space provision and development guidelines to inform improvements to open spaces to meet future population and needs.



6.0 Monitoring and evaluation



The council's Property and Recreation Group will lead implementation of the strategy's Action Plan, working with other relevant teams and partners where necessary. Implementation of the Action Plan will be reviewed every three years to assess progress on meeting the stated strategic goals. Table 3 below outlines some key indicators and methods that the council will use to monitor and evaluate progress.

GOAL	OUTCOME	INDICATOR	METHOD
Our open spaces and physical activities support the health and wellbeing of all people in the community.	Physical activity is a common part of people's lives.	Greater proportion of the community indicate they regularly use parks, open spaces and sport and recreational facilities in the district.	Community Views Survey.
We value and protect our natural environment and biodiversity.	We have a vibrant environment that is more resilient to climate change.	Greater number of trees planted.	Collaboration across council teams and community groups to plant trees and an ongoing tally to count them.
Our open spaces celebrate Whanganui's history, heritage and unique identity.	The cultural and historical significance of open spaces is recognised, affirmed and protected.	The number of quality plaques and interpretation boards that are appropriate and effective in telling the history and stories of open spaces increases.	Register of plaques and interpretation boards in Parks Asset Management Plans.
Our whole community can experience and enjoy our open spaces, sport, recreation and play activities.	Personal safety increases in our open space network. Accessibility to open spaces, sport and recreational activities increases for different abilities.	The percentage of the community who feel safe in our open spaces increases. Wider range of accessible options available.	Bi-Annual Park Check Survey. Record of accessible assets in Parks Asset Management Plans.
Provision of open spaces meet the needs of local communities now and in the future.	All neighbourhood communities have fair access to quality open spaces.	All residential properties have access to a neighbourhood reserve within 500m walking distance where realistically possible.	Provision analysis.

Appendix

Reserve name	NZRA Category
Majestic Square	Civic
9 Blyth Street	Cultural Heritage
Aramoho	Cultural Heritage
Brunswick	Cultural Heritage
Durie Hill Memorial Tower	Cultural Heritage
Gilfillan Reserve	Cultural Heritage
Heads Road	Cultural Heritage
Jewish/Catholic	Cultural Heritage
Matarawa	Cultural Heritage
Maxwell Cemetery	Cultural Heritage
Maxwell Cenotaph	Cultural Heritage
Pukenamu Queen's Park	Cultural Heritage
Taylors Cave	Cultural Heritage
A H Collins Park	Nature
Balgownie	Nature
Balgownie	Nature
Balgownie Wetland (Kokohuia)	Nature
Broadview Heights	Nature
Brunswick Roadmans	Nature
Castlecliff Domain	Nature
City Bridge	Nature
Ford Reserve	Nature
Fordell - Ex Scouts	Nature
Fordell Hall Parking	Nature
Handley Road	Nature
Hipango Park	Nature
Hogg Park	Nature
Hylton Park	Nature
Kai Iwi Trust	Nature
Landguard Reserve	Nature
Maiika Park	Nature
Matipo Park	Nature
Mosston Park	Nature
Mount View Farms Ltd	Nature
Mowhanau Drive	Nature
Ototoka Beach	Nature
Ototoka Beach North	Nature
Parkdale Drive 47	Nature
Pitangi Village	Nature
Plimmer Bush Reserve	Nature
Ranana Reserve	Nature
River Road 331	Nature
Seafront Road	Nature
South Beach	Nature
South Beach Reserve	Nature
Sunset Parade	Nature
Tenison Oaks Reserve	Nature
Thomas Dix Park	Nature
Thomas Waight Reserve	Nature
Waikupa Reserve	Nature
Waitahinga	Nature
Westmere Lake	Nature

Reserve name	NZRA Category
121a Great North Road	Neighbourhood
Aramoho Park	Neighbourhood
Babbage Place	Neighbourhood
Carlton	Neighbourhood
Clapham/Nile	Neighbourhood
Cornmarket Reserve	Neighbourhood
Cracroft Drive	Neighbourhood
Duncan Street	Neighbourhood
Exeter Crescent	Neighbourhood
Fergusson 31	Neighbourhood
Fergusson/Parsons Street	Neighbourhood
Great North 157 (Beachcroft)	Neighbourhood
Hammond Park	Neighbourhood
Handley Street Reserve	Neighbourhood
Harriette Vine	Neighbourhood
Hinau Street	Neighbourhood
Hussey Park	Neighbourhood
Hutton Park	Neighbourhood
Kakaho Reserve	Neighbourhood
Kotuku Street	Neighbourhood
Lorenzdale Park	Neighbourhood
Mangamahu Domain	Neighbourhood
Massey Street	Neighbourhood
Matai Street	Neighbourhood
Moana Street	Neighbourhood
Montgomery Reserve	Neighbourhood
Mowhanau Beach	Neighbourhood
Mowhanau Camp	Neighbourhood
Mowhanau Drive (1C)	Neighbourhood
Mt View	Neighbourhood
Nichol	Neighbourhood
Otamatea Park	Neighbourhood
Parkdale Drive 25 - Richmond Park	Neighbourhood
Peakes	Neighbourhood
Peat Park	Neighbourhood
Polson Park	Neighbourhood
Rda	Neighbourhood
Ridgway Park	Neighbourhood
Rogers Street Playground	Neighbourhood
Rotokawau	Neighbourhood
Somme 320	Neighbourhood
Somme 357 - Riverlands	Neighbourhood
Spurdle Street	Neighbourhood
Te Mana Park	Neighbourhood
Turere Place (Cnr with Great North Road)	Neighbourhood
Wairere	Neighbourhood
Webb Road	Neighbourhood
Webster Place	Neighbourhood
Wembley Place	Neighbourhood
William Birch Park	Neighbourhood
Windsor Park	Neighbourhood
Wiritoa/Pauri Lake	Neighbourhood

Reserve name	NZRA Category
Bason Botanic Gardens	Public Gardens
Glen Logie Rose Garden	Public Gardens
Great North 105	Public Gardens
Kowhai Park	Public Gardens
Virginia Lake	Public Gardens
467 Heads Road	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Airport	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Alexa/Hillside	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Awarua Stream	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Balgownie Avenue	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Bens Place	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Durie Hill - Durievale To Portal	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Ghost Track	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Gilberd Street	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Handley Road	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Hinekai Aruhe Reserve	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Ikitara/Mt View	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Kai Iwi Stream	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Kaitoke Lake Reserve	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Kauarapaoa Road	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Kukuta	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Matarawa	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Mowhanau Shoreline Reserve (Longacre)	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Paterson Street	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Phillpa Baker Reserve	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Putiki	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Putiki - South	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Putiki Beautification Strip	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
River - City	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Riverbank Road	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Rowan Reserve	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Sandyhook	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Somme Parade	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Taupo 251	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Town Walkway	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Upokongaro	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Upokongaro Stream 1 Makirikiri Valley Road	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Upokongaro Stream 2	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Whangaehu Stream	Recreational And Ecological Linkages
Cooks Gardens	Sport And Recreation
Fordell Baths	Sport And Recreation
Gonville Domain	Sport And Recreation
Horrocks Park	Sport And Recreation
Laird Park	Sport And Recreation
Lundon Park	Sport And Recreation
Spriggens Park	Sport And Recreation
Springvale Park	Sport And Recreation
Victoria Park	Sport And Recreation
Wembley Park	Sport And Recreation
Whanganui Ball Park	Sport And Recreation
Williams Domain	Sport And Recreation

Tell us what you think

Tēnā, tukua mai ō whakaaro We'd like to hear from you

We value your input and invite you to make a submission on our Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy.

There are many ways you can give us feedback:



make a submission online, go to:
www.whanganui.govt.nz/open-spaces



email your thoughts to
polycysubmissions@whanganui.govt.nz



Pick up a hard copy from council customer services at 101 Guyton Street or from the Davis and Gonville libraries, community libraries in Hakeke Street (Whanganui East), Rangiora Street (Castlecliff) and Mitchell Street (Aramoho), as well as from Sport Whanganui.



give us a call on **06-349 0001**
to talk with a staff member, or request a hard copy of the strategy to be sent to you.

Engagement events will be posted to Whanganui District Council's Facebook page and website.

All feedback must be received by 5.00pm on Friday, 10 June 2022.

When you submit please indicate if you would like to speak about your submission at the hearings scheduled for Thursday, 7 July 2022 or contact us at polycysubmissions@whanganui.govt.nz to secure a timeslot to speak.

Your written submission will be made available to councillors, council staff and the public as part of the consultation process. All submissions are carefully considered by elected members, but are not binding on the council's final decisions.



Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy Te Rautaki mō Ngā Wāhi Honohoho

Vibrant places supporting healthy communities



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui