

# Waikato District Council

## Playground Strategy 2017



May 2017

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# Executive Summary

Over-time, 51 playgrounds, 12 skate parks and 8 outdoor basketball hoops/courts have been established to provide play opportunities for the young residents of the district and for families visiting the Waikato District.

Providing play opportunities is important in creating healthy lifestyles, and giving opportunities for children and caregivers to enjoy the Waikato District's public spaces.

Overall the population of the district's young people is growing slowly with 15,204 people aged between 0 and 14 residing in the District on census night in 2013, a 9% increase since 2001. The resident population of children is expected to reach just over 17,000 by 2031<sup>1</sup>.

Some parts of the district have a relatively low provision of playgrounds given the largely rural nature of many wards. Other more urban parts of the district have a moderate number of playgrounds relative to the number of children. Overall the Waikato District has 3.4 playgrounds for every 1000 children residing in the District, which is slightly below the national median of 3.9<sup>2</sup>. As the population grows, additional playgrounds will be required to maintain the same level of service.

There are opportunities to provide improved play opportunities in a more effective and efficient manner by building new playgrounds in areas of need and rationalising the number of playgrounds where there are overlaps with playgrounds, or where the number and location of playgrounds is in excess of the service levels that can reasonably be provided. The Strategy recommends the construction of 12 new playgrounds over time as residential subdivision occurs. It is proposed to disestablish five playgrounds over the lifetime of this strategy to create a more efficient network of playgrounds.

The quality of play opportunities can also be increased. In particular improving the general appearance and nature of the parks will make play more interesting and create attractive meeting places for local children and caregivers. The strategy proposes upgrading most playgrounds to provide improved play experiences.

Playgrounds can also be important stimulators of local revitalisation efforts, and the further development of destination playgrounds in Ngaruawahia, Tuakau, Pokeno, Huntly, Te Kauwhata and Raglan will support these efforts.

Adoption of this Strategy will enable the Waikato District to provide safe, friendly and unique playgrounds for children and caregivers whether they are residents or visitors to our District.

Tim Harty,  
General Manager Service Delivery

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<sup>1</sup> NZ Statistics Medium 2006 Base Growth Projection

<sup>2</sup> Yardstick Parkcheck, Management Measures Report 2013 (based on 2006 Census Data)

# 1.0 Introduction

Play is a fundamental human right. The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of The Child states that every child *“shall have full opportunity for play and recreation, which should be directed to the same purposes as education; society and the public authorities shall endeavor to promote the enjoyment of this right.”*<sup>3</sup>

Local government can support this right by providing playgrounds and other recreation facilities that enable children to develop, learn, grow and have fun. The Waikato District is fortunate to have some outstanding parks and a large number of playgrounds distributed throughout the community.

This Strategy has been prepared for the Waikato District Council to provide a long-term plan that identifies the requirements for the provision of playgrounds and proposes delivery of playgrounds across the district in a cost effective and efficient manner.

This Strategy was first adopted by Council in 2014 to inform the 2105-2025 LTP and this document updates the Strategy to inform the 2018-2028 LTP

## 2.0 Objectives

The objectives of this Waikato District Council wide strategy are to:

- Identify the long-term requirements for the provision and delivery of playgrounds;
- Produce a 20-year programme and budget identifying both capital (new and renewal) and planned maintenance requirements for all playgrounds;
- Analyse current utilisation and forecast changes in demographics to identify future demand requirements;
- Analyse current distribution of playgrounds, their age, quality and play values and identify any gaps or over provision of facilities;
- Provide a strategic framework for the Council to deliver and manage its playgrounds in a sustainable manner;
- Prepare levels of service and play value objectives;
- Provide a planning framework for the provision of playgrounds across the district based on categories of purpose and scale;
- Provide design and construction standards for each category of playground
- Provide GIS mapping information and,
- Identify operation, safety and maintenance levels of service for each category.

While this strategy is for the facilities managed by the Waikato District Council (WDC), some

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<sup>3</sup> Adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 1386 (XIV) of 10 December 1959

consideration has been given to the provision of playgrounds at schools. Playgrounds are sometimes provided on marae but the extent and level of this provision has not been quantified.

## 3.0 Our Vision

Amendments in 2012 to the Local Government Act 2002 have defined community outcomes as “the outcomes that a local authority aims to achieve in meeting the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services and performance of regulatory functions.”

Our communities have also defined what outcomes they want throughout the district. Of particular relevance to the Playground Strategy are the following community outcomes:

### **Sustainable** Waikato

*A district where growth is managed effectively and natural resources are protected and developed for future generations*

- The council’s decisions and processes take into account affordability for the community; and
- Neighbourhoods are attractive, well designed and safe.

### **Thriving** Waikato

*A district that prides itself on economic excellence, where heritage and culture are protected and celebrated*

- The council’s processes encourage the continuity of existing businesses and the establishment of new businesses and industry;
- The benefits of tourism to the district are acknowledged and encouraged through the council’s processes and local and regional initiatives;
- The protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage sites is encouraged;
- Town and village centres are developed sustainably;
- The district encourages a wide range of sporting, cultural and community activities and events; and
- The diversity of the district’s people and culture is recognised.

### **Healthy** Waikato

*A district with services and activities that promote a healthy community*

- The community has access to quality recreation and leisure facilities; and
- The council encourages community involvement in sporting and leisure activities.

### **Safe** Waikato

*A district where people feel safe and supported within their communities*

- Residents feel safe in their community;
- Appropriate lighting is provided for parks, reserves, roads and public places;
- Infrastructure projects take account of public safety and the council works with external agencies and the community to maintain and improve safety; and

- Community education, including road safety and graffiti reduction is undertaken by the council.

Adoption of this strategy will ensure that the district provides good quality playgrounds, close to where children live and at the district’s key visitor destinations

## 4.0 Parks Strategic Framework

The Playground Strategy fits within the following overall parks strategic framework. Asset specific strategies such as the Playground Strategy enable issues to be considered in detail. Outcomes of this strategy are developed under the overarching Parks Strategy.

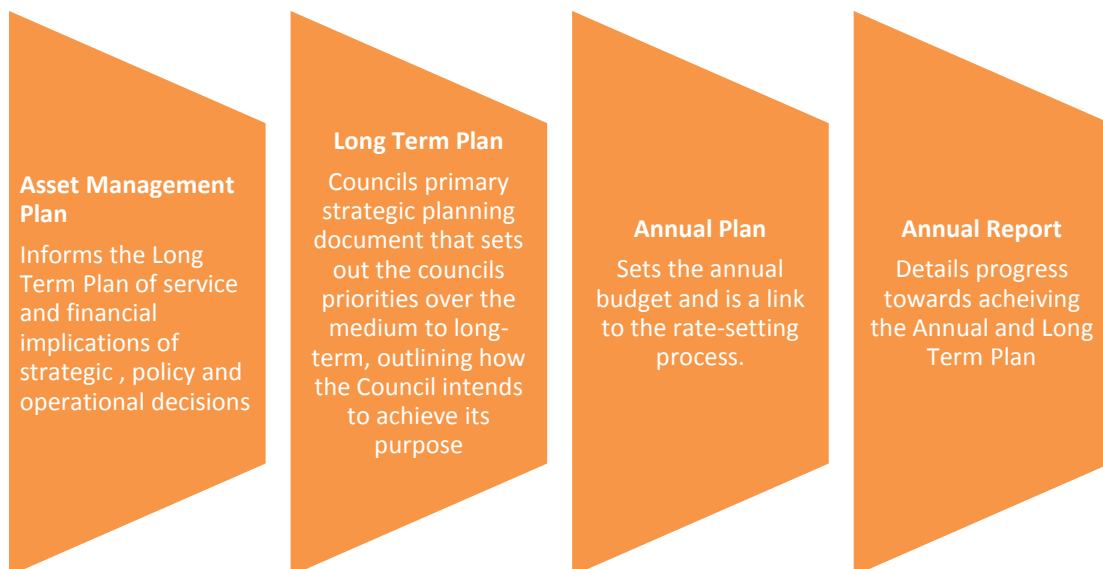
Council’s primary strategic planning document is the Long Term Plan. Initiatives approved within the parks strategy and asset specific plans are considered within the Long Term Plan along with other organisational priorities.

**Figure 1: Parks Strategy Strategic Framework**

### Analysis and Strategic Direction



### Priority Setting and Implementation





## 5.0 Relevant Policy and Planning

The Council has established policies that need to be considered with respect to Playground Strategy.

### 5.1 Draft Arts Policy

The Arts Policy aims to support new and established local artists, develop new opportunities for artistic expression, and to increase the enjoyment of and participation in the arts across all sectors of the Waikato community. It also aspires to promote the sense of Waikato as a cultural destination to the outside world. Consideration will be given in all major development projects for funding to be allocated for arts enhancement, appropriate to the project size and site. The Council will work with respective Community Boards and groups such as the Twin Rivers Arts Council to promote opportunities for local artists.

*There are opportunities within playground and play equipment design to use local artists to provide unique and stimulating equipment.*

### 5.2 Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2015

These Bylaws set out Council's response to the Dog Control Act 1996. In particular the Bylaws prohibit dogs within ten meters of children's play equipment.

*Reinforcement of this policy is required via signs located near playgrounds.*

### 5.3 Heritage Strategy 2014

The Heritage Strategy provides the council with a framework to manage heritage in the district.

*Opportunities exist in playground design to reflect and reinforce the districts heritage. A good example of how this can be achieved is Oamaru's Steam Punk playground.*

### 5.4 Waikato Economic Development Road Map

Identifies the importance of place making to create environments and experiences that build the brand as a great place to live, visit and do business. Prioritises the development of upgrade plans for key townships.

*Playgrounds can be useful in place making and creating a point of difference in township upgrades.*

### 5.5 Waikato District Development Strategy

The Waikato District Development Strategy (DDS) has been prepared to replace and update Council's two previous growth strategies. These were the Waikato District Growth Strategy (2009) and the Franklin District Growth Strategy (2008). Both of these documents are now a poor fit as neither takes into account the current realities of the district following the disestablishment of Franklin District Council in 2010 and the ensuing amalgamation of the southern part of Franklin with the Waikato district. The DDS retains the principles in both existing growth strategies of containing urban development and protecting agricultural, natural and culturally significant landscapes from inappropriate subdivision and dispersed residential development.

It is the intention of Waikato District Council to revisit the DDS in 2017 as a prelude to the next Long Term Plan. The DDS provides a high level 30 year strategic and spatial development guide for the district.

Notes that the key issues that will influence population and economic growth in the district include:

- Southward growth of Auckland
- Waikato Expressway (SH1)
- Growth of Hamilton
- Demographic trends
- Resource management of the Waikato River
- Intensification and change in agriculture
- Economic trends
- Land use change
- External change

Relevant to the Playground Strategy the Waikato District Growth Strategy will seek to:

- Grow and revitalise the district's towns by attracting and retaining the largest amount of growth (approx. 80 percent) around its existing towns.
- Strengthen towns and villages to maximise infrastructure.
- Provide for an equitable range of residential housing options.
- Ensure that growth is based on high standards of urban design and sustainability principles that will meet environmental standards and is resilient.

In particular identifies Te Kauwhata, Pokeno, Tuakau, Ngaruawahia, Te Kowhai, Gordonton and Raglan for residential growth.

*The development of additional playgrounds as growth occurs will be necessary to maintain high standards.*

## 5.6 Structure Plans

Structure Plans are prepared for Tuakau and Pokeno. One is currently being prepared for Ngaruawahia. These plans will have influence on the implementation of the playground strategy.

## 5.7 Community Plans

A number of community plans have been prepared over the years and these are currently being reviewed with communities expected to have feedback to Council March 2017. In some cases some actions may have been completed or other priorities may now exist. Nonetheless the community plans reflect the desire by parts of the community to have play and other youth facilities within their communities.

Community plans are developed by the local community and include a range of ideas that have not necessarily been adopted by Council as policy. The existing community plans have been reviewed and the following are of relevance to this strategy:

### **Matangi Community Plan**

- Develop facilities for youth and young families.

### **Eureka Community Plan**

- Investigate the potential development of a reserve, including a playground.

### **Glen Afton/Pukemiro Community Plan**

- Playground.

### **Glen Massey Community Plan**

- Recognise the needs of youth, consider the development of a park as the community grows

### **Meremere Community Plan**

- Provide facilities and activities for youth.
- Extend skate park – which has been completed

### **Ngaruawahia Community Plan**

- Build an Outward Bound style course
- Build a BMX/mountain bike track

### **Raglan**

- More recreational options for youth
- Develop new play areas for children especially in new subdivisions
- Bigger basketball court with hoop and backboard with lighting

### **Rangiriri Community Plan**

- Rangiriri Expressway focus is on the location of playgrounds, public toilets and public access areas.
- Provide a park for the community to meet and gather, with a skate park, playground, picnic tables, seating and icon or sculpture that reflects the community of Rangiriri.

### **Tamahere Community Plan**

- Provision of a playground, skate park, space for BMX track adjacent to the Community Hub.

### **Taupiri Community Plan**

- Develop the community recreation facilities including car parking.
- Upgrade Bob Byrne Park.

### **Te Kauwhata Community Plan**

- Identify recreation and leisure needs of youth beyond skate parks

### **Tuakau & Districts Community Plan**

- Port Waikato - Establish a Skate/Bike park area and create a positive and safe play area for family and youth;

- Climbing Park;
- Longer Flying Fox;
- Tuakau – BMX Track;
- Onewhero – Skate park and playground;
- River playground for water sports;
- Playground at Tuakau College; and
- Unique playground in main shopping area/crazy toilets.

#### **North Eastern Waikato**

- Public park on State Highway 2;
- Playground; and
- Skateboard ramp.

## **5.8 Reserve Management Plans**

### **Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa Reserve Management Plan**

This management plan proposes the development of a destination playground on the Huntly Domain.

### **Puketirini Reserve Management Plan**

This management plan notes the potential for a playground to be developed close to the museum development and Rotary garden.

## 6.0 Current Playground Mix

The Waikato District has 51 sites containing 205 individual play items installed and maintained by the Council.

This section analyses the distribution of playgrounds (the quantity over area) and then the quality of the playgrounds (the quality over area). Finally, the two aspects are considered, together, on a community-by-community basis with recommendations for new playgrounds, development and/or dis-establishment.

### 6.1 Playground Equipment Type

There is a good range of the various types of playground equipment available. Most sites provide the key play elements of climbing, swinging, sliding, balancing and rocking. There are a large number of play modules, which provide multiple elements such as slides, ramps, walls and tunnels.

Consideration should be given to increasing the number of flying foxes and space nets. While these have a higher cost of maintenance, they are very popular with children. Also adding play items with added play value<sup>4</sup> such as water play, sand play and other equipment that enables children to interact and modify the environment would be beneficial where funds and the setting permit.

Given the large size of most parks, play equipment that facilitates ball games such as soccer backboards or goal posts could also be considered. One such facility has been installed at Kopua Domain.

#### Equipment Types

Equipment Type	Items
Gliders	9
Climbers and Frames	29
Flying Fox	2
Playhouses - Shelters	4
Play Modules	39
Springer	34
Roundabout	16
Seesaw	24
Slides	15
Swings (combined baby and junior)	60
Basketball Hoop and Backboard	8
Space net	2
<b>Total</b> as May 2017	<b>242</b>

<sup>4</sup> **Play value** is the essential value of play equipment and surrounds for play. The term is frequently employed in the field of child development for the assessment of toys, games, equipment and spaces. When they are fun and engaging, playthings and spaces are said to have play value; those that are quickly discarded or are considered uninteresting do not. In short, objects of play must be compelling and encourage the child's involvement in order to have true play value. (Adapted from Wikipedia)

## 6.2 Equipment Age and Condition

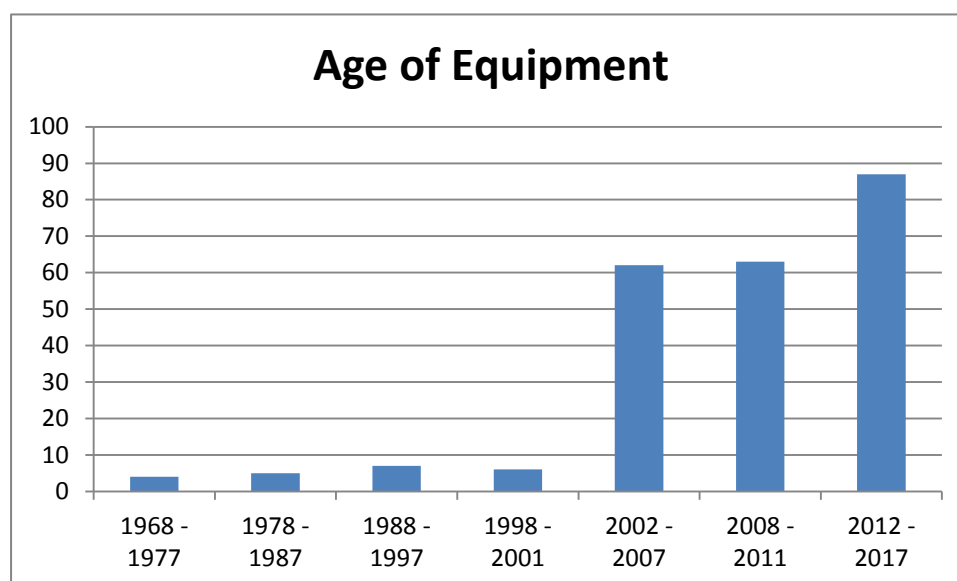
The play equipment varies in age from metal equipment installed between 1960 and 1980 to more modern equipment installed from the 1980's. Modern equipment has a higher percentage of plastic componentry and as a result it cannot be expected to last as long (due to degradation by ultra-violet light) as some of the older steel equipment has to date.

Condition is graded according to the National Asset Management System with Condition 1 being excellent and Condition 5 being poor (requiring replacement). Overall the condition of the play equipment is very good with evidence of a sound maintenance programme. There has been a large amount of play equipment installed in the period from 2000 onwards. This equipment remains in good condition and with appropriate maintenance can be expected have a life of 20 to 30 years from date of installation. This large single age class has been factored into the renewal programme that forms part of this strategy.

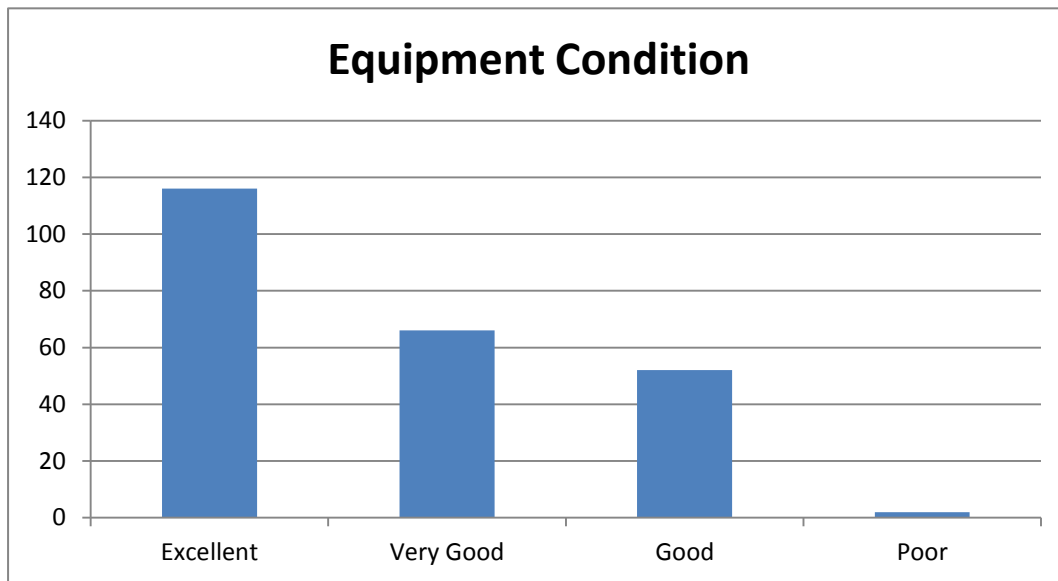
### **Number of Items of Current Play Equipment in each Age Class**

Installation Year	Number of Items <sup>5</sup>	Percentage	Average Condition
1969 - 1977	4	1%	2.4
1978 - 1987	5	2%	1.7
1988 - 1997	7	3%	2.7
1998 - 2001	6	2%	1.7
2002 - 2007	62	27%	2.4
2008 - 2011	63	27%	1.8
2012 - 2017	87	38%	1.0
	234	100%	2.0

The high number of items installed in the 2002 – 2017 period is shown graphically below.



<sup>5</sup> Free-standing modular items have been counted as one play item.



Based on the older steel equipment still having a serviceable life of 20 years, and the newer equipment having a remaining life of 30 years, there will need to be funds available for significant renewal activity in the period 2035 to 2045 when the bulk of equipment is likely to require replacement as it reaches condition grade 4 or 5.

## 6.3 Playground Quantity

Statistics New Zealand provides statistical information on the population by mesh block and census area unit (CAU). The Waikato District is divided into ten wards, which align (in most cases) to CAU boundaries. Playground demand and supply has been considered on a ward-by-ward basis.

Statistics New Zealand provides demographic data for children in the age groups of 0 – 4, 5 – 9, 10 -14 and 15 -19. Provision has been assessed in respect to the number of playgrounds provided per 1000 children aged between 0 and 14. This age group has been selected as the most likely to make use of playgrounds for play. Junior play equipment is considered to be suitable for the 0 – 4 age group, general equipment is considered suitable for the 5 – 9 age group and senior equipment is suitable for ages 10 and over. The age group 15 – 19 has also been considered with respect to skate park provision.

The assessment by per 1,000 children enables comparison with national benchmarking information collected by Yardstick.

The New Zealand median for provision of playgrounds by 38 local authorities is 3.9<sup>6</sup> playgrounds per 1,000 children under 15. When compared with local authorities with similar numbers of children, the Waikato District has, at present, a moderate number of playgrounds (3.4/1000) for each child resident within the District.

<sup>6</sup> Yardstick Parkcheck, New Zealand Management Measures Report 2015 (based on 2006 Census Data)

### Local Authority Provision of Playgrounds per 1,000 Children

Local Authority	Population of Children 14 and under (2013)	Number of Playgrounds (2016)	Number of Playgrounds/1000 Children 14 and under
Whangarei District	16,569	36	2.2
Rotorua District	15,132	74	4.9
Hastings District	16,761	35	2.1
Waikato District	15,204	51	3.4
New Plymouth District	15,111	48	3.2
Gisborne District	10,728	37	3.4
Parkcheck Average			3.9

The Waikato District has a good number of skate parks distributed across the district. Provision of youth facilities (defined in Yardstick as skate parks and basketball half courts) is above average when compared to similar local authorities.

### Local Authority Provision of Youth Facilities per 1,000 Youth (15 – 24)

Local Authority	Population of Youth 15 - 24 (2013)	Number of Youth Facilities (2016)	Number of Youth Facilities/1000 Youth
Hastings District	8,907	3	0.3
Whangarei District	8,694	7	0.8
Rotorua District	8,589	4	0.4
New Plymouth District	8,619	12	1.3
Gisborne District	5,553	8	1.4
Waikato District	7,608	18	1.4
Parkcheck Average			1.4



## 6.4 Playground Distribution

### 6.4.1 Playground Types

#### Neighbourhood Playgrounds

Neighbourhood playgrounds primarily serve children living in the immediate neighbourhood. In urban situations such as in Huntly and Ngaruawahia, the adequacy of distribution can be determined by comparing travel distance from households to the nearest playground. In this strategy we have adopted a simple 800m radius ‘as the crow flies’ for the local catchment of each playground in urban situations. This would provide most households with a playground within a ten-minute walk.

In reality the layout of the street network and barriers such as railway lines, rivers and busy main roads are major barriers for children and effect the true catchment for each playground. In making decisions on the location of new playgrounds or removal of existing ones, this aspect should be carefully considered.

#### Local Playgrounds

For rural areas, playground provision is more difficult. Local playgrounds enable children to play when visiting local facilities such as community halls or rest areas. Play is generally ancillary to the main purpose of visiting the site. Local playgrounds are likely to be desirable at major community recreation facilities such as community halls and sports facilities so that children attending such venues with caregivers can play. It is unlikely that in the rural context children can travel, independent of their caregivers, to council provided playgrounds as is possible in the urban context.

Some local playgrounds have been provided alongside State Highway 1 at roadside rest areas. The implementation of the Waikato Expressway provides the opportunity for re-consideration of these playgrounds. The New Zealand Transport Agency have requested that Council give consideration to development of off State Highway rest areas, that provide drivers opportunities to take a break in an attractive/landscaped environment with access to toilet and playground facilities.

#### Destination Playgrounds

The District has a number of scenic destinations where playgrounds have been provided such as at the Te Kopua Domain. Destination playgrounds require a higher level of service provision (typically toilets, litter bins and a broader range of equipment) to support the extended stay that is likely and the higher level of use.

#### The Role of School Playgrounds

28 out of the 55 primary schools within the district currently permit public use of their playgrounds outside of school hours. While this contributes to the play opportunities available, continued access is at the discretion of the school.

School playgrounds are often significantly larger than Council playgrounds. They often include both junior and senior playgrounds and have a wide range of equipment. School playgrounds tend to have an emphasis on climbing play and lack slides and swings which are common place in Council playgrounds. Despite that limitation consideration should be given to the role school playgrounds can play in the overall provision of play opportunities in the

District, particularly in the rural context.

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

### Current Locations and Types of Playgrounds by Ward

Area	Destination	Neighbourhood	Local	Current WDC Playgrounds
<b>Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
Tuakau	1	2	1	4
Mercer		1		1
Pokeno		2		2
<b>Eureka Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
Matangi		2	1	3
<b>Hukanui-Waerenga Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Gordonton			1	1
Orini			1	1
Whitikahu	1			1
<b>Huntly Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
Huntly East	1	4	1	6
Huntly West		4		4
<b>Newcastle Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Te Kowhai		1		1
<b>Ngaruawahia Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
Ngaruawahia	1	6		7
Taupiri Community			1	1
Horotiu			1	1
<b>Onewhero-Te Akau Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>
Naike			1	1
Onewhero			1	1
Opuatia			1	1
Port Waikato		2	1	3
Te Akau			2	2
Te Kohanga			1	1
<b>Raglan Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
Raglan	1	3		4
Whale Bay		1		1
<b>Tamahere Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Tamahere		1		1
<b>Whangamarino Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

Area	Destination	Neighbourhood	Local	Current WDC Playgrounds
Te Kauwhata	1			1
Meremere		2		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>51</b>

### Current Locations and Types of Basketball Hoops/Courts by Ward

Area	Destination	Neighbourhood	Local	Current WDC BB Hoops/Courts
<b>Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Tuakau		1		1
Mercer		1		1
<b>Eureka</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Matangi		1		1
<b>Huntly Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Huntly East		1		1
Huntly West		1		1
<b>Ngaruawahia Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Ngaruawahia	1			1
<b>Raglan Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Raglan	1			1
<b>Whangamarino Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Meremere		1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

### Current Locations and Types of Skate Parks by Ward

Area	Destination	Neighbourhood	Local	Current WDC Skate Parks
<b>Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Mercer		1		1
Tuakau		1		1
<b>Hukanui-Waerenga Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Orini			1	1
<b>Huntly Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Huntly East		1		1
Huntly West		1		1
<b>Newcastle Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Te Kowhai		1		1

<b>Ngaruawahia Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
Ngaruawahia	1			1
Taupiri Community		1		1
Horotiu			1	1
<b>Raglan Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Raglan	1			1
<b>Whangamarino Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Te Kauwhata		1		1
Meremere		1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>

## 6.5 Assessment of Playgrounds

### 6.5.1 Design for Play

Ten key design principles have been established for creating successful play spaces<sup>7</sup>.

A successful play space is a place in its own right; specially designed for its location, in such a way as to provide as much play value as possible.

#### Key principles for designing successful play spaces

Successful play spaces:

- are 'bespoke' – designed to enhance their setting
- are well located – in the best possible place for children
- make use of natural elements – close to nature
- provide a wide range of play experiences – where children can play in different ways
- are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children – where they can play together
- meet community needs and are loved by the community
- allow children and young people of different ages to play together
- build in opportunities to experience risk and challenge – where children can stretch and challenge themselves in every way
- are sustainable and appropriately maintained – maintained for play value and environmental sustainability

<sup>7</sup> 1 Shackell A, Butler B, Doyle P and Ball D (2008) *Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces*. London: Department for Children, Schools and Families; Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Play England. 2 DCSF (2008) *Children's Trusts: Statutory guidance on inter-agency cooperation to improve well-being of children, young people and their families*. London: Department for Children, Schools and Families. 3 Play England (2009) *Embedding the Play Strategy*. London: NCB/Play England.

## 6.5.2 The Scoring System

A scoring system has been developed to assess playgrounds in accordance with these ten principles and all Council playgrounds in the Waikato District have been assessed using this scoring system.

### **The importance of location**

Location is perhaps the single most important factor in how well children use, not only play areas, but also open spaces. In general, children like to play locally where they can be seen, see others and meet others. Young people are able to roam further and can therefore use neighbourhood play areas, although they too like to feel safe wherever they are 'hanging out'.

Disabled children and parents or caregivers with buggies should be able to access the play areas as much as non-disabled children. Often children will play with younger siblings who may need to be taken to the area in a buggy or push chair.

### **The importance of play value**

The assessment deliberately focuses on the different, innovative and challenging ways in which children can have a wide variety of play experiences and sensations such as rocking, swinging and sliding – this is particularly important for some disabled children whose impairments mean they cannot for example, sit on traditional swings.

The natural environment offers many opportunities for this and consideration should be given to the varied and interesting ways in which children can play in these environments. Quiet, contemplative play is as important as boisterous and physical play and although children will play in their own way in any given area, their play can be enriched through creating appropriate and stimulating play environments.

Children need to take risks to learn about and understand their own capabilities. Risk does not mean creating hazardous environments, but it does mean ensuring opportunities for challenging play are available through design.

### **The importance of care and maintenance**

All areas will require that children can play free from unexpected hazards. This section aims to assess the quality of care and maintenance of play spaces and areas and also refers to other aspects of policy such as dogs, smoking and facility provision (such as seating for adults), toilets and litterbins.



**Mark Ball Drive Playground - Pokeno**

## 6.6 Waikato District Playground Assessments

Waikato District Council assessed all 51 Council maintained playgrounds, 12 skate parks and 8 basketball hoops/courts in March 2017.

### 6.6.1 2014 Playground Assessment

Each Council playground was assessed using the Playable Space Quality Assessment Tool<sup>8</sup>. This has enabled each playground to be assessed via a subjective but structured process. The assessment focuses on three major aspects to children’s outdoor play provision: the location of play areas, the play value and the care and maintenance.

In general the scores assigned to playgrounds are consistent across the three aspects of **location, play value** and **care/maintenance** such that a poor playground is likely to have scored a low score across the board. There are however some exceptions, where only one aspect has been scored low. In these cases remedial action may be more achievable.

Note: The following tables use colour to highlight the relative score for each playground. At the green end of the spectrum the score is higher than the median, whereas at the red end of the spectrum the score is lower than the median.

### Playground Scores

Each playground was scored with green being above 70%, orange being between 60 – 69% and red being below 60%

Playground	Location	Play Value	Care	Total Score
Kopua Domain	97	93	88	93
Dr John Lightbody Reserve	94	90	88	91

<sup>8</sup> Playable Space Assessment Tool, Play England 2009 adapted by Xyst for Waikato DC and Skate Park Evaluation

Huntly Domain	91	88	88	89
Fairfield Park	97	78	88	88
Warihi Park	89	85	88	87
The Point	86	80	88	85
Onewhero Domain	83	83	88	84
Mark Ball Drive Reserve	94	70	88	84
Westmuir Cres	91	73	88	84
Te Kowhai Village Green	83	80	88	84
Centennial Park	86	75	88	83
Te Kauwhata Village Green	83	78	88	83
Meremere Church	89	68	88	81
Orini Reserve	80	73	88	80
Phillips Reserve	77	75	88	80
Taupiri Domain	77	75	88	80
Te Awa Reserve	74	78	88	80
Martindale Reserve	91	75	72	79
Centennial Park	77	73	88	79
Oram Park	77	73	88	79
Te Akau Community Sports Complex	80	85	72	79
Paterson Park	74	70	88	77
Woodlands	71	73	88	77
Meremere Reserve	83	60	88	77
Matangi Recreation Reserve	74	68	88	77
Huntly West Domain	89	68	72	76
Les Batkin	60	78	88	75
Good Street Reserve	80	73	72	75
Te Wiata Reserve	80	73	72	75
Blundell Reserve	89	68	68	75
Glen Murray Reserve	74	75	72	74
Bailey Street Reserve	83	70	68	74
Riverview Road Reserve	74	73	72	73
Brownlie Reserve	80	65	72	72
Maraetai Bay Esplanade Reserve	71	58	88	72
Waipa Esplanade	71	73	72	72
Coubourne Reserve	57	68	88	71
Russell Road Reserve	77	63	72	71
Puriri Park	69	55	88	71
Kiingitanga Reserve	66	58	88	70
Naike School	66	73	72	70
Penny Crescent Reserve	83	60	60	68
Kahui Reserve	77	65	60	67
Mercer Tennis Courts	63	63	72	66
Boatie Reserve	63	45	88	65
Te Kohanga Recreation Reserve	60	45	80	62
Hukanui Reserve	54	43	88	62

<b>Opuatia Recreation Reserve</b>	57	68	56	60
<b>Rayner Road Reserve</b>	66	50	56	57
<b>Whale Bay</b>	54	53	60	56
<b>AFFCO Park</b>	51	50	52	51

### 6.6.2 Playground Key findings

There have been two playgrounds installed over the last two years by the community with second hand equipment with no consultation with Council or playground specialists. The equipment did not meet current playground standards. This not only compromises the safety of the children who use it, but maintenance has not been accounted for within current budgets. **Any play equipment being installed on Council land needs to meet current playground standards and budgets allocated before installation.**

In general, the playgrounds were well maintained with few defects apparent. Even older equipment was generally well presented and cared for.

The District has some very good playgrounds, which are well used and appreciated. The larger playgrounds at Dr John Lightbody Reserve, Te Kopua Domain (Marine Parade) and the Point are all popular sites.

There was however a number of areas where playgrounds scored poorly when assessed with the Playable Space Quality Assessment Tool.

The general areas for improvement are:

#### Access

Some parks have physical barriers between the park and adjoining road. This is generally a positive aspect to help contain children within the park and protect them from busy roads. However the design of these barriers often restricts physical access to the park and would prevent access with pushchairs in some cases. Often the entrance is also unwelcoming and an emphasis has sometimes been placed on controlling unauthorised vehicle access rather than facilitating access to the playground for children and caregivers, particularly those with push chairs.

#### Designed for the site

Some playgrounds suffer from a lack of integration into the wider park. Equipment is sometimes arranged in a linear fashion or at the rear of a site. The play space stands out and sometimes does not look attractive. In these instances no apparent attempt has been made to design the space to complement the settings or make use of the natural environment.

#### Play opportunities for disabled children

There is room for improvement when providing equipment for children with sensory or physical impairments and while children with impairments could use some equipment; access to the playground or equipment prevents such use. The almost exclusive use of wood chips as a fall surface prevents wheelchairs accessing, or at least being in proximity, to play equipment. Rubber tiles and wet-pour products enable wheelchairs to access play equipment but have a higher capital cost.

#### Ball games

Some playgrounds are sited on parks where there is inadequate space for casual ball games. In general the topography and size of the parks provides excellent opportunities for ball games. Equipment such as soccer goals or backboards could make a significant difference to



play in a cost effective manner.

### **Fixed equipment**

All play equipment was fixed. There are few opportunities for children to alter the play space in different ways to enhance their play (such as sand and water play, obstacle courses, bridges over streams and movable equipment). While providing these opportunities presents challenges for park management, the resulting play spaces will be more rewarding and interesting.

### **Access to the natural environment**

At some sites, landscaping and planting is minimal and offers limited provision for encounters with the natural environment.

### **Facilities for caregivers**

Some playgrounds lacked seating for children and adults to sit. Other facilities such as shade (either natural or built) or drinking fountains were limited. Shade should be developed naturally.

### **Added play value**

Some sites were limited to a basic combination of swings, slides and/or see-saws. Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) were simple and did not add significantly to play value: e.g. loose parts, places to hide/for reverie, good integration and use of natural environment, a range of textures, planting, use of contours, challenge, opportunities for risk taking, areas where cooperation is needed, and attention paid to all the senses.

### **Dog free zones**

A policy of dogs being prohibited from within 10 meters of playgrounds has been adopted in the General Reserves Management Plan therefore making playgrounds dog free.

### **Single age group**

Some parks focused on a single age group and swings and other equipment were either designed for babies only or for children only.

### **Smoke free playgrounds**

A policy of smokefree reserves has been adopted in the General Reserves Management Plan therefore making playgrounds a smokefree environment.

## **6.6.3 2014 Skate Park Assessment**

All skate parks were assessed using a modified version of the playground assessment tool. In particular the skate park assessment tool considers aspects important to skate parks such as the location, play value, condition of the surface and surface tolerance (the presence of any uneven surfaces that create a trip hazard for skateboards). The following tables use colour to highlight the relative score for each playground. At the green end of the spectrum the score is higher than the median, whereas at the red end of the spectrum the score is lower than the median.

### **Skate park scores**

<b>Park</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Play value</b>	<b>Care</b>	<b>Total Score</b>
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Te Kopua Domain	100	100	90	97
The Point	100	100	90	97
Te Kauwhata Village Green	93	100	90	94
Meremere Reserve	90	93	90	91
Mercer Tennis Courts	50	80	75	68
Fairfield Park	87	67	90	81
Huntly Domain	87	67	50	68
Te Kowhai Village Green	87	67	50	68
Taupiri Recreation Reserve	80	67	50	66
Orini Recreation Reserve	57	67	50	58
Dr John Lighbody	87	60	60	69
AFFCO Park	30	33	50	38

#### 6.6.4 Skate Park Key findings

In general the skate parks were less well maintained than playgrounds with a number of common defects apparent.

Three main types of park have been developed:

**Destination Skate Parks** have been developed at Huntly, Ngaruawahia and Raglan. These parks are larger and have more varied terrain including feature suitable for beginner skaters through to experts.

**Neighbourhood Skate Parks** have been developed at Te Kowhai, Huntly West, Orini, Taupiri. Meremere has been upgraded 2016 to give more varied play. Te Kauwhata is being upgraded and Mercer has had fun boxes added to the play space. These parks are gradually being upgraded where there has been community interest, to give a varied terrain for skaters, which are suitable for beginner to intermediate skaters featuring ramps and rails but lacking the bowl features found in destination parks.

**Local Skate Parks** have been developed at Taupiri and Horotiu. These feature wooden vert ramps or other surface skate features. These cater for vert ramp skating or intermediate skaters and generally make use of existing surfaces.

The general areas for improvement are:

##### Maintenance

There appears to be a lack of inspection and preventative maintenance being undertaken for skate parks. In particular a number of parks are beginning to subside leading to gaps forming at the interface of concrete sections, some of which make the surfaces unable to be used. In other places surface cracks have appeared that need to be sealed to prevent water causing further deterioration to the concrete and associated reinforcing.

Skate Parks also need regular sweeping to keep them in a skate-able condition. Sweeping should take place at the same frequency as adjoining mower operations and can be efficiently done by mower operators who generally carry air-brooms, which are suitable for this purpose.

Contract specification includes cleaning of skate parks.

##### Designed for the site

Most parks were well sited, with parks visible from the road in order to provide passive

surveillance by capable guardians<sup>9</sup>.

### **Graffiti**

There are variable amounts of graffiti on the skate parks. There is a policy of removal of offensive graffiti only as it is found.

While some consider graffiti to be part and parcel of skate culture it generally has a negative affect for other users of the parks and gives an impression of the presence of anti-social behavior and crime.

### **Fixed equipment**

In general skate equipment was fixed. There are few opportunities for users to alter the skate parks in different ways to enhance their enjoyment of the park. Providing some moveable, robust fun boxes at some parks could assist in revitalising the parks and providing more interest for users.

### **Seating**

Seating for participants and observers was generally present. Providing opportunities for participants and observers to sit helps provide capable guardians and encourages positive social activity at skate parks.

### **Dog free zones**

Dog owners are required to control dogs on a leash when in public places. Specific dog exercise areas are provided for dog owners to exercise and socialize their dogs in an appropriate environment.

### **Litter bins**

Litter bins were provided at some skate parks but not others. Opportunities exist to develop a coherent policy on the provision of bins or otherwise.

### **Smoke free skate parks**

In the absence of a policy stating otherwise, smoking is permitted at Council skate parks. Many Councils have in association with community health organisations developed a smoke free policy for skate parks and sports grounds. Consideration should be given to developing a similar policy to promote skate parks as smoke free environments.

## **7.0 Level of Service and Design Objectives**

This section defines the level of service proposed for play facilities in the District. Level of service should also include consideration of school playgrounds that are available to the public but not managed by the Council.

This section first describes the general design and play value objectives that are common to all playgrounds. Then the specific level of service is described for each category of playground being destination, neighbourhood or local playground.

### **7.1 General Design and Play Value Objectives**

All new playgrounds and improvement/renewal efforts towards existing playgrounds should strive to meet the following objectives where practical:

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<sup>9</sup> A *capable guardian* means an onlooker who can take action in case of crime or suspicious activity.

Accessibility	Space is accessible for children and young people, who are physically impaired, have sensory impairments or other specific requirements. Site is accessible to buggies and pushchairs. Good pathways to the site offer an alternative to uneven ground and steps. Entrances and sudden changes in surfaces are easily identifiable.
Involvement of Children and Young People	Local children and young people should be consulted and participate actively in the design and development process.
Informal Oversight	Site has a good level of informal oversight by adults, for example views are unobstructed, site is in an area with people frequently passing by or through it or in view of local housing or community buildings.
Getting there	Children can get to the site easily, safely and independently without facing significant hazards. There is safe access to the site using footpaths or cycle routes.
Personal Safety and Security	Site and access routes feel safe at all times and have good exit routes. Site is located away from busy roads, adequately protected from busy roads.
Meeting other children and young people	Site located where there is a very high likelihood of other children and young people passing by and joining in play e.g. on the way to and from school or local shops.
Designed for the site	The play space is an attractive place in its own right, with a distinctive and welcoming character, and located with regard to its setting.
Enticing to children and young people to play	Space is child friendly and appealing. Signs and other messages support active play (such as ball games, etc.)
Opportunities for Disabled children and young people	Features are designed for a range of abilities and impairments including sensory and physical impairments and behaviours. Disabled and non-disabled children and young people are able to use the space together.
Movement	Children and young people can move freely in different ways including, for example, running, tumbling, wheeled activity, rock, swing, balance, climb or moving around freely using their whole bodies or on wheels
Stretching the imagination	The site is deliberately designed to provoke and engage children and young people's imagination, encourage fantasy and role-play. For example through changes in level and texture, loose parts, sculptures, natural features and imaginative signage.
Ball games	Sufficient space for casual ball games, touch, football etc., for more than one group of children and young people at one time, not too close to other play

Places for children and young people to sit.	Children and young people can sit and play or talk together, places for children and young people to sit are incorporated into the play space, and near to tables or other seated play surfaces.
Access to natural environment	Site provides a range of natural features such as trees, bushes, plants, shrubs, wild flowers and long grass, sand, water, rocks, and a variety of levels; and a range of visual and sensory stimuli. There is opportunity to use the natural environment in play.
Added play value: the site offers more than just a basic experience of sensation. It offers possibilities for children and young people to take risks without hazards, to intensify the experience or broaden it	Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are advanced in nature and add significantly to play value e.g. loose parts, places to hide/for reverie, good integration and use of natural environment, a range of textures, planting, use of contours, challenging, risk, cooperation needed, and attention paid to all the senses.
Opportunities to change the environment/space (loose parts)	Where practical, the site encourages children and young people to alter the space in different ways to enhance their enjoyment e.g. den building, obstacle courses, sand and water play.
Signs	Signs clearly show playground as dog free, smoke free and states the number to call to report incidents and maintenance, intended age range for equipment and any relevant safety or site specific information.
Seating for caregivers	Caregivers can sit and observe children and young people and interact with other caregivers.
Standards	All new playgrounds to meet SNZ 5828:2004 Playground Equipment and Surfacing.  Manufacturers label to be displayed on all new equipment.  A qualified audit shall be undertaken every three years to ensure compliance with SNZ 5828:2004.

## 7.2 Level of Service for Destination Playgrounds

Destination playgrounds will offer the most comprehensive and interesting play experiences for children. By nature they will be attractive enough to be a destination in their own right and be a significant draw card in bringing people to the park or area. Facilities supporting these playgrounds will be comprehensive and support an extended stay.

Destination playgrounds can have a role in supporting and stimulating activity and have a role in community regeneration programmes. They will strongly relate to and support the identity of the locality with appropriate theming and unique experiences.

## 7.2.1 Level of Service

Destination Playgrounds are recommended be maintained/developed at:

Destination Playgrounds	Census Area Unit
Dr John Lightbody Reserve	Tuakau
Kopua Domain (Marine Parade)	Raglan
Woodlands Homestead	Hukanui-Waerenga
Huntly Domain (North)	Huntly
Te Kauwhata Village Green	Te Kauwhata
The Point	Ngaruawahia
Pokeno Village	Pokeno

As destination playgrounds are location specific they will not be increased proportionally to increases in population, rather additional equipment/play features will be added to existing sites and new sites established for strategic purposes (such as Township Revitalisation).

The proposed level of service is 0.5 destination playgrounds per 1000 children.

## 7.2.2 Specific Design and Play Value Objectives

Location	Generally located at Premier Parks and Outdoor Adventure Parks or Urban Parks/Civic Spaces.
Access	Adequate parking and bike racks are provided in proximity to the playground.
Age Groups	Play features meet the needs of all ages including teenagers.
Litter Bins	Litter bins provided unless at a remote location where a carry-in/carry-out policy operates).
Toilets	Toilets located within proximity to playground. All toilets to have baby change facilities and be accessible to disabled.
Additional Facilities	Facilities such as barbeques, shelters and drinking fountains may be considered.
Visual Inspection	A visual inspection shall be undertaken <b>weekly</b> to ensure equipment is safe, and fall surfaces are free from hazards (such as broken bottles). Forking and raking back of soft fall to be undertaken as part of this weekly visual inspection.
Structural Inspection	A formal structural inspection shall be undertaken annually to check all fixings, finishes and surfaces and to undertake preventative maintenance.

<p>Maintenance</p>	<p>Routine ALL structures, play units and edges inspected;</p> <p>ALL splits, snags and sharp edges addressed;</p> <p>Structures and play units clean and non-slip;</p> <p>Urgent or safety-related issues reported to principal within 4 hours of inspection and repaired;</p> <p>Structure or play unit made safe;</p> <p>Broken components removed and dangerous items immobilised prior to repair;</p> <p>Operational ALL structures, play units and edges inspected to check operation and stability in accordance with the specification;</p> <p>Painting Condition report for structures submitted and approved by Principal.</p> <p>Bark/Cushionfall/Sand reinstated as a level surface;</p> <p>No Bark/Cushionfall/Sand outside playground surface area;</p> <p>All foreign objects removed;</p> <p>Minor repairs completed;</p> <p>No hard pan below surface; Bark/Cushionfall not broken up;</p> <p>Surfaces 100% weed free Synthetic Surfaces,</p> <p>Skate Park/Basketball Court surfaces clean and free of dirt, mould, debris and foreign material;</p> <p>Surface kerb and channels, grills and cesspits allow free flow of drainage water;</p> <p>Inspections completed;</p> <p>Unsafe areas cordoned off;</p> <p>Urgent safety-related issues reported within 4 hours of discovery and repairs authorised by Principal;</p> <p>Non urgent repairs priced, scheduled and reported for approval;</p> <p>No loose litter</p>
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### 7.3 Level of Service for Neighbourhood Playgrounds

Neighbourhood playgrounds will offer a variety of play experiences in well-distributed neighbourhood parks located within 800m of urban residential properties. These can be reached safely by children beginning to travel independently and with friends, without accompanying adults and for adults with younger children.

Typically, Neighbourhood playgrounds could be a grassed area, small park, local open space, designed space for play or informal recreation or school playground open out of school hours, which is attractive to children as they begin to move around their neighbourhoods without being accompanied by adults.

These spaces and facilities will ideally provide varied and interesting physical environments including, for example, natural features, sand and water, and incorporate some interesting and attractive landscape features with varying levels and contours, which test children's capabilities. There might also be features designed for specific activities such as ball games, wheeled sports or meeting places and/or several of items of play equipment offering a variety of play experiences.

Facilities and associated landscaping will support the playground as being attractive meeting places for local children and caregivers.

Neighbourhood playgrounds will ideally offer experiences related to the form and landscape of the park in which they are located but do not need to be unique to the park.

### 7.3.1 Level of Service

The requirement for neighbourhood playgrounds will be based primarily on proximity to households, such that a publically accessible playground (including accessible school playgrounds) is within 800m of each urban residential household. A secondary factor is the number of playgrounds available for each child residing within the area.

New neighbourhood playgrounds will not be provided for households within country living zones where the density of properties (and children) is relatively low; there are few sites suitable for playgrounds owned by the Council and the number of playgrounds that would need to be provided would not be financially sustainable. Play provision in these rural zones will be provided by local playgrounds sited at community gathering places.

The current level of service is 1.7 neighbourhood playgrounds per 1,000 children. It is proposed to increase this to 2.3 playgrounds per 1,000 children over time. The development of new neighbourhood playgrounds will be subject to new residential subdivision taking place.

Neighbourhood playgrounds are to be maintained at the following sites:

<b>Playground</b>	<b>Ward</b>
Centennial Park	Awaroa ki Tuakau
Mark Ball Drive Playground	Awaroa ki Tuakau
Martindale Lane Playground	Awaroa ki Tuakau
Mercer Tennis Courts	Awaroa ki Tuakau
Westmuir Cres	Awaroa ki Tuakau
Good Street Reserve	Eureka
Tauwhare Reserve	Eureka
Bailey Street Reserve	Huntly
Blundell Reserve	Huntly
Brownlie Crescent Reserve	Huntly
Fairfield Park	Huntly
Huntly West Domain	Huntly
Rayner Road Reserve	Huntly
Riverview Road Playground	Huntly



Russell Road Reserve	Huntly
Te Kowhai Village Green	Newcastle
Centennial Park	Ngaruawahia
Kiingitanga Reserve	Ngaruawahia
Paterson Park	Ngaruawahia
Penny Crescent Playground	Ngaruawahia
Te Wiata Lane	Ngaruawahia
Waipa Esplanade	Ngaruawahia
Maraetai Bay Esplanade Reserve	Onewhero-Te Akau
Phillips Reserve	Onewhero-Te Akau
Oram Park	Raglan
Puriri Park	Raglan
Warihi Park	Raglan
Whale Bay Reserve	Raglan
Te Awa Reserve	Tamahere
Meremere Church	Whangamarino
Meremere Reserve	Whangamarino

### 7.3.2 Specific Design and Play Value Objectives

Location	Generally located at neighbourhood parks but may also be located at amenity parks, esplanade parks, sports parks and other sites where location fulfills neighbourhood need.
Access	Typically accessed by foot or bicycle. Bike racks may be provided in proximity to the playground.
Meets needs of different age groups.	Play features suitable for a minimum of two (out of three) age groups.
Litter Bins	Litter bins not provided.
Toilets	Not provided specifically for the playground users.
Visual Inspection	A visual inspection shall be undertaken at least <b>monthly</b> to ensure equipment is safe, and fall surfaces are free from hazards (such as broken bottles). Forking and raking back of soft fall to be undertaken as part of this weekly visual inspection.
Structural Inspection	A formal structural inspection shall be undertaken every

	<b>twelve months</b> to check all fixings, finishes and surfaces and to undertake preventative maintenance.
Maintenance	<p>Routine ALL structures, play units and edges inspected;</p> <p>ALL splits, snags and sharp edges addressed;</p> <p>Structures and play units clean and non-slip;</p> <p>Urgent or safety-related issues reported to principal within 4 hours of inspection and repaired;</p> <p>Structure or play unit made safe;</p> <p>Broken components removed and dangerous items immobilised prior to repair;</p> <p>Operational ALL structures, play units and edges inspected to check operation and stability in accordance with the specification;</p> <p>Painting Condition report for structures submitted and approved by Principal.</p> <p>Bark/Cushionfall/Sand reinstated as a level surface;</p> <p>No Bark/Cushionfall/Sand outside playground surface area;</p> <p>All foreign objects removed;</p> <p>Minor repairs completed;</p> <p>No hard pan below surface; Bark/Cushionfall not broken up;</p> <p>Surfaces 100% weed free Synthetic Surfaces,</p> <p>Skate Park/Basketball Court surfaces clean and free of dirt, mould, debris and foreign material;</p> <p>Surface kerb and channels, grills and cesspits allow free flow of drainage water;</p> <p>Inspections completed;</p> <p>Unsafe areas cordoned off;</p> <p>Urgent safety-related issues reported within 4 hours of discovery and repairs authorised by Principal;</p> <p>Non urgent repairs priced, scheduled and reported for approval;</p> <p>No loose litter</p>

## 7.4 Level of Service for Local Playgrounds

Local playgrounds will offer a minimum of three items of play equipment and will generally support or be associated with some other form of recreational or community facility such as sports grounds, campgrounds or rural community halls. They may also be associated with some form of retail premise (such as a café/shops) where suitable public land is directly adjacent. Without such an association they would typically not be justified.

Facilities can be minimal as they are likely to be provided within the associated facility and the

main periods of activity will be when an event or activity is on at the associated facility.

#### 7.4.1 Level of Service

Local Playgrounds will be provided relative to need (driven by the associated use) and will not be increased proportionally to population growth.

The current level of service is 1.2 local playgrounds per 1,000 children and this will decrease to 1.0 local playgrounds per 1,000 children over time. This is predominately via the disestablishment of some local playgrounds and reclassification of others to neighbourhood or destination playgrounds.

Local playgrounds are to be maintained at the following sites:

Playground	Ward
Les Batkin Reserve	Awaroa ki Tuakau
Matangi Hillcrest Sports Club	Eureka
Hukanui Reserve	Hukanui-Waerenga
Orini Reserve	Hukanui-Waerenga
Boatie Reserve	Huntly
Affco Park	Ngaruawahia
Taupiri Domain	Ngaruawahia
Cobourne Reserve	Onewhero-Te Akau
Glen Murray Reserve	Onewhero-Te Akau
Naike School	Onewhero-Te Akau
Onewhero Domain	Onewhero-Te Akau
Opuatia Recreation Reserve	Onewhero-Te Akau
Te Kohanga Recreation Reserve	Onewhero-Te Akau
Te Akau Community Sports Complex	Onewhero-Te Akau

#### 7.4.2 Specific Design and Play Value Objectives

Location	Located in association with some form of recreational or community facility such as a sports grounds, camp grounds or rural community halls. They may also be associated with some form of retail premise (such as a café/shops) where suitable public land is directly adjacent.
Access	Typically accessed by vehicle, foot or bicycle. Parking will be provided in association with adjacent facility. Bike racks may be provided in proximity to the associated use.
Meets needs of different age groups.	Play features suitable for a minimum of one (out of three) age groups.

Litter Bins	Litter bins not provided specifically for playground users.
Toilets	Not provided specifically for the playground users.
Visual Inspection	A visual inspection shall be undertaken <b>three months</b> to ensure equipment is safe, and fall surfaces are free from hazards (such as broken bottles). Forking and raking back of soft fall to be undertaken as part of this weekly visual inspection.
Structural Inspection	A formal structural inspection shall be undertaken every <b>twelve months</b> to check all fixings, finishes and surfaces and to undertaken preventative maintenance.
Maintenance	<p>Routine ALL structures, play units and edges inspected;</p> <p>ALL splits, snags and sharp edges addressed;</p> <p>Structures and play units clean and non-slip;</p> <p>Urgent or safety-related issues reported to principal within 4 hours of inspection and repaired;</p> <p>Structure or play unit made safe;</p> <p>Broken components removed and dangerous items immobilised prior to repair;</p> <p>Operational ALL structures, play units and edges inspected to check operation and stability in accordance with the specification;</p> <p>Painting Condition report for structures submitted and approved by Principal.</p> <p>Bark/Cushionfall/Sand reinstated as a level surface;</p> <p>No Bark/Cushionfall/Sand outside playground surface area;</p> <p>All foreign objects removed;</p> <p>Minor repairs completed;</p> <p>No hard pan below surface; Bark/Cushionfall not broken up;</p> <p>Surfaces 100% weed free Synthetic Surfaces,</p> <p>Skate Park/Basketball Court surfaces clean and free of dirt, mould, debris and foreign material;</p> <p>Surface kerb and channels, grills and cesspits allow free flow of drainage water;</p> <p>Inspections completed;</p> <p>Unsafe areas cordoned off;</p> <p>Urgent safety-related issues reported within 4 hours of discovery and repairs authorised by Principal;</p> <p>Non urgent repairs priced, scheduled and reported for</p>

	approval; No loose litter
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## 7.5 Measures

The 2016/17 Annual Report includes one measure that relates to playgrounds which is “As per Playground Strategy, comprehensive programme to reach levels of service for provision of playgrounds.”

The 2015/16 results were 100% (target 90%). No further Annual Plan measures are proposed.

## 8.0 Proposed Distribution of Playgrounds

The following outlines the proposed distribution of playgrounds across the District (these have been split into Census Unit Areas for ease of calculating population of children in locations) including the creation of new playgrounds, upgrading of existing and disestablishment of others. Indicative budgets are included for new capital work items only. Budgets for renewal of existing items is included with in the Appendix 3 of the Strategy.

### Disestablishment

The following playgrounds are recommended for disestablishment subject to community consultation. Such consultation should include neighbours in proximity to playground and the local community board.

Playground	Type	Ward
Boatie Reserve (used mainly by travellers, with expressway being developed, usage will decline)	Local	Huntly
Blundell Reserve (another playground close by and more central to neighbourhood)	Neighbourhood	Huntly
AFFCO Park (park is leased, not close to neighbourhood)	Local	Ngaruawahia
Kiingitanga (Destination playground close by, more of a heritage reserve)	Neighbourhood	Ngaruawahia
Puriri Park (another large playground close by)	Neighbourhood	Raglan

### New Playgrounds

Growth forecasts available from Statistics New Zealand project that the population of children 14 and under will increase from 15,230 in 2013 (actual) to 17,070 in 2031, a 12% increase<sup>10</sup>.

It is recommended that provision be made for one new destination playground, ten new neighbourhood playgrounds and one new local playground subject to urban residential

<sup>10</sup> NZ Stats Medium Projection Based on 2006 Resident Population

growth. If growth occurs through rural lifestyle subdivision it will be both less necessary for the Council to supply playgrounds and more difficult for it to do so in an effective and efficient manner.

As such the recommended provision should be taken as a guide and be adjusted upwards or downwards depending on the nature of growth. Where urban residential growth takes place the Council should assess the need for additional playgrounds on the basis of:

1. Proximity to existing playgrounds being greater than 500m
2. Sufficient density of residential lots to justify the establishment of a playground (recommended to be at least 100 lots per square kilometer.)

The potential for new playgrounds is noted in the following areas based on current demand:

- Tuakau
- Mangatawhiri
- Pokeno
- Eureka
- Tamahere – Tauwhare
- Whatawhata
- Te Kauwhata

Provision has been made for new playgrounds within these areas based on predicted residential growth.

Other areas are identified in the Growth Strategy for residential growth, in particular Ngaruawahia, Whatawhata, Gordonton and Raglan. However, only Whatawhata and Gordonton have experienced growth in the numbers of children since 2001. Ngaruawahia, Huntly and Raglan have all experienced declines in the numbers of children and this is forecasted to continue by Statistics New Zealand.

If growth does occur within Ngaruawahia, Huntly and Raglan then additional provision over and above that provided for in this strategy will need to be considered.

## 8.1 General Improvements

There are a number of improvements that can be made to all playgrounds.

### Signs

A generic sign should be installed at each playground that incorporates the following messages:

- Age group playground is designed for
- Recommendation not to wear bike helmets (strangulation hazard) on playgrounds
- No Dogs
- Smoke free (if applicable)
- Contact phone number and email for Council to report accidents, damage and maintenance

### Public Information

The location and description of all playgrounds should be available on the Council website.

### Disabled Access

New installations and upgrades should be accessible where practical. In general this will require the use of more wet-pour or rubber tile safety surfaces. These have a higher capital cost but provide a more effective fall surface and have reduced maintenance costs.

## 8.2 Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward

Overall the ward has experienced strong growth in the number of children.

### 8.2.1 Tuakau

The current provision in Tuakau is 2.6 playgrounds/1,000 children. There has been a 33% increase in the number of children in Tuakau since 2001.

Tuakau has well-established playgrounds at Dr John Lightbody Reserve and Centennial Park and recent playground at Martindale Lane. Given that growth is likely to continue, provision should be made for an additional two playgrounds as new subdivision occurs and existing playgrounds should be maintained and enhanced.

### Additional Playgrounds

Works	Year	Estimate
Tuakau Neighbourhood Playground	2019/20	\$100,000
Neighbourhood Playground	2027/28	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$200,000</b>

### Centennial Park

The Centennial Park playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood park. The playground is aimed at more senior play currently. A junior swing or junior modular set would be desirable in time to increase play value across age groups.

<p><b>Centennial Park</b> Cnr Park Ave, Bollard Road, Tuakau GPS 1773017 5874540</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Playground – 2012</p>
<p>2 bay senior swing Large module with climbing frames, track glider, slide and fireman's pole Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade Gardens</p>	

Works	Year	Estimate
Junior Play Equipment	2020/21	\$25,000
Renewal	2033/34	\$56,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$81,500</b>

**Dr John Lightbody Reserve**

The Dr John Lightbody playground should be maintained as a destination playground. Consideration should be given to relocating the toilets so that the view of the playground from the street is improved.

<p><b>Dr John Lightbody Reserve</b> 85 George Street, Tuakau GPS 1772519 5874184</p>	<p>Destination Playground 2008 - 2015</p>
<p>2 bay air swing 2 bay swing 2 spring rockers Climb &amp; spin roundabout Climbing space net Climbing Wall Flying Fox Junior Swing Lilypad swing Module space hut with slide Rocker seesaw Small module hut Small module with slide Spinner Above ground edging doubles as stepping stones Cushion fall Seating Shade Gardens</p>	  



Works	Year	Estimate
Renewal	2019/20	\$35,000
Renewal	2023/24	\$160,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$195,000</b>

The existing small skate park to be upgraded by replacing the existing vert ramp, which is in need of maintenance.

<p><b>Dr John Lightbody Reserve</b> George Street, Tuakau GPS 1772457 5874159 Skate park GPS 1772508 5874268 basketball hoop</p>	
<p>Skatepark Basketball hoops</p>	

Works	Year	Estimate
Skate Park upgrade	2019/20	\$325,000
Landscaping	2019/20	\$25,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$350,000</b>

### Martindale Reserve

The Martindale Reserve playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood park. The playground is aimed at more senior play currently.

<b>Martindale Reserve</b> 9 Martindale Lane, Tuakau GPS 1772142 5874897	Neighbourhood Playground - 2012
2 bay senior swing Climbing module with slide Small roundabout Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade trees in reserve within close proximity Gardens	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewal	2034/35	\$31,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$31,500</b>

### 8.2.2 Redoubt

The current provision in Redoubt is 25.6 playgrounds/1,000 children. There has been a 15% decrease in the number of children in Redoubt since 2001. Given the low numbers of children residing in the area (39), the focus should be on maintaining the Les Batkin playground that is used in association with picnicking and recreation on the Waikato River.

#### Les Batkin Reserve

The Les Batkin Reserve playground should be maintained at this time as a local playground supporting the use of the nearby Waikato River and picnicking activity. As the adjacent town of Tuakau grows this could be reviewed as it has potential as a destination playground in time. Opportunities could be considered to integrate some elements of water play or pick up on some themes associated with the river.

<b>Les Batkin</b> River Road, Tuakau GPS 1772461 5870590	Local - 2008
3 bay swing 1 junior, 2 senior Module with slide Cushion fall Inground edging Seating Shade Gardens	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2021/22	\$34,200
LOS	2032/33	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$84,200</b>

### 8.2.3 Mangatawhiri

The current provision in Mangatawhiri is 2.7 playgrounds/1000 children. There has been an 8% increase in the number of children in Mangatawhiri since 2001.

There is one new playground recently installed at Mercer. It is located at the rear of disused tennis courts.

There is a significant roadside rest area at Mercer and there could be opportunities for providing a playground in vicinity to this in partnership with the businesses located there.


If further subdivision occurs in the area, an additional playground should be considered within proximity to the subdivision.

#### Additional Playground

Works	Year	Estimate
Neighbourhood Playground	2034/35	\$80,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$80,000</b>

#### Mercer Tennis Courts

The Mercer playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood park. Seating a basketball hoop/backboard and skateboard fun boxes have been installed taking advantage of the existing concrete surface with lighting installed.

<b>Mercer Tennis Courts</b> Koheroa Road, Mercer GPS 1781768 5872403	Local Playground - 2012
Small module with slide Inground concrete edging Cushion Fall Seating Shade trees from adjacent property Gardens	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2031/32	\$20,000

<b>Total</b>		<b>\$20,000</b>
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<p><b>Mercer Tennis Courts</b>          Koheroa Road, Mercer          GPS 1781764 5872388 fun          boxes          GPS 1781750 5872402          basketball hoop</p>	
<p>Fun box skate park          Basketball hoop</p>	

<b>Works</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>

#### 8.2.4 Otua

There are no Council playgrounds in Otua. There has been a 1% decrease in the number of children in Otua since 2001.

#### 8.2.5 Opuawhanga

There has been a 6% decrease in the number of children in Opuawhanga since 2001. A second hand playground has been built by the community at the Opuatia Recreation Reserve adjacent to the hall.

#### 8.2.6 Pukeoware

There are no Council playgrounds located in Pukeoware. There has been a 36% increase in the number of children in Pukeoware since 2001. However given the low numbers of children present (42) and the proximity to Waiuku, none are required at this time.

## 8.2.7 Pokeno

The current provision in Pokeno is 2.6 playgrounds/1,000 children. There has been a 14% increase in the number of children in Pokeno since 2001.

There are two Council playgrounds provided in the new subdivision of Pokeno, although due to developers installing playgrounds the focus has been on single age group.

Given the proximity to SH1/SH2 and projected growth in the area consideration should be given to establishing a destination playground within proximity to the town centre.

As further subdivision occurs in the area, an additional playground should be considered within proximity to the subdivision with more consideration taking for catering with more than one age group.

### Additional Playgrounds

Works	Year	Estimate
Neighbourhood Playground	2018/19	\$100,000
Destination Playground	2022/23	\$236,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$336,000</b>

### Mark Ball Drive Reserve


The Mark Ball Drive playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood park.

<b>Mark Ball Drive Reserve</b> 14 Mark Ball Drive, Pokeno GPS 1778434 5876826	Neighbourhood Playground -2011
3 bay swing 1 junior, 2 senior Climbing module with 2 slides Inground concrete edging Seesaw Cushion fall Seating & bin Shade – trees are still small Gardens	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2035/36	\$30,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$30,000</b>

### Westmuir Ave Playground

The Westmuir Ave playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood park.

<b>Westmuir Cres</b> Pokeno GPS 1778646 5877514	Neighbourhood Playground – 2016
2 bay swing 2 senior Module with slide 2m wide concrete strip Cushion fall Seating Shade (trees still very small)	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2036/37	\$48,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$48,000</b>

## 8.3 Eureka Ward

### 8.3.1 Matangi

The current provision in Matangi is 4.4 playgrounds/1000 children. There has been a 20% increase in the number of children in Matangi since 2001.

There are three playgrounds located in Matangi. Given the overall existing level of provision and availability of school playgrounds, no new playground development is recommended.

#### Good Street Reserve

This playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood park.


<b>Good Street Reserve</b> 9 Good Street, Matangi GPS 1810898 5813021	Neighbourhood Playground - 2005
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Climbing frame Module Slide Springsaw Above ground edging Cushion Fall Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2024/25	\$76,300
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$76,300</b>

### Tauwhare Reserve


This playground was installed by the community from second hand equipment and is to be maintained as a neighbourhood park.

<b>Tauwhare Reserve</b> Kahui Avenue, Matangi GPS 1813180 5815251	Neighbourhood Playground – 2015 installed	
Module Above ground edging Cushion Fall		
Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2019/20	\$44,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$44,000</b>

<b>Tauwhare Reserve</b> Kahui Avenue, Matangi GPS 1813174 5815277	Neighbourhood Playground - 2005	
Basketball hoop		

### Matangi Recreation Reserve

This playground should be maintained as a local park supporting the adjoining sports club.

<b>Matangi Recreation Reserve</b> 643 Tauwhare Road, Matangi GPS 1811944 5814835	Local Playground 2009 - 2015
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Slide Spring saw Seating Above ground edging Cushion Fall Seating	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2023/24	\$31,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$31,500</b>

### 8.3.2 Eureka

There are no Council playgrounds within Eureka. There has been a 25% increase in the number of children (now 519 children) in Eureka since 2001.

Consistent with the Eureka Community Plan, consideration should be given to the establishment of a neighbourhood playground on suitable land (to be acquired) within Eureka over time, potentially in conjunction with further subdivision if this were to occur.

#### Additional Playground

Works	Year	Estimate
Neighbourhood Playground	2025/26	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$100,000</b>

### 8.3.3 Tamahere-Tauwhare

Part of the Tamahere-Tauwhare census area unit is within the Eureka Ward. There has been a 29% increase in the number of children (now 1251 children) in Tamahere-Tauwhare since 2001.

There are no Council playgrounds within the portion of the census area unit that is within the Eureka Ward.

## 8.4 Hukanui-Waerenga Ward

### 8.4.1 Gordonton

The current provision in Gordonton is 6.1 playgrounds/1000 children. There has been a 35%



increase in the number of children (now 327 children) in Gordonton since 2001.

There are two Council playgrounds within Gordonton. One which has restricted access – whilst Woodlands is open to the public, the other at Hukanui Reserve with only a swing, both of these playgrounds require upgrading to ensure there is quality play experiences available.

### Hukanui Reserve

This playground should be maintained and developed as a local park supporting the adjoining community building. Engagement with the local children should be considered in the design of a playground.


<p><b>Hukanui Reserve</b> 1024 State Highway 1B, Gordonton 1803535 5828192</p>	<p>Neighbourhood - 2008</p>
<p>2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade</p>	

Works	Year	Estimate
Additional Equipment	2019/20	\$120,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$120,000</b>

### Woodlands Homestead

This playground should be maintained as a destination park supporting the adjoining homestead and café. There is potential to improve the playground, which may assist in bringing more people to the homestead and café. Adding equipment in keeping with the historic homestead would be desirable. There is also an opportunity to provide simple mobile play equipment here like walking stilts given the supervision present on site.

There is an opportunity to create a specific woodlands themed playground at this location using appropriately designed equipment.

<b>Woodlands</b> 42 Whitikahu Road, Gordonton GPS 1802903 5829986	Destination - 2008
Climbing frame Pipe tunnel Playhouse Seating Shade Gardens	

Works	Year	Estimate
Moveable equipment	2017/18	\$3,000
New Playground	2017/18	\$177,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$180,000</b>

#### 8.4.2 Whitikahu

The current provision in Whitikahu is 1.7 playgrounds/1000 children. There has been a 2% decrease in the number of children (now 573 children) in Whitikahu since 2001.

There is one playground and one skate park which are both located at the Orini Reserve.

Given the largely rural nature of the area, the current provision is considered adequate for current and future needs.

#### Orini Reserve

This playground should be maintained as a local park supporting the adjoining sports domain. This particular reserve hosts a regular athletics meet, drawing significant numbers of participants from Hamilton and environs.

<b>Orini Reserve</b> 1372 Orini Road, Orini GPS 1804484 5840922	Neighbourhood - 2003
Seesaw 2 springy animals Module Climbing frame 4 bay swing 1 junior, 3 senior Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2026/27	\$40,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$40,000</b>

### Orini Reserve Skate Park

This is a skate park of the standard design. It is located to the rear of the reserve and it not immediately obvious from the main road. An entrance sign to the reserve would help visitors locate the skate park.

<b>Orini Recreation Reserve</b> 1372 Orini Road, Orini GPS 1804507 5840850	
Skatepark	

Works	Year	Estimate
Upgrade surface	2018/19	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,000</b>

### 8.4.4 Waerenga

There are no Council playgrounds within Waerenga. There has been a 15% decrease in the number of children (now 417 children) in Waerenga since 2001.

Given the largely rural nature of the area, the current provision is considered adequate for current and future needs.

## 8.5 Huntly Ward

There are 10 Council playgrounds within the Huntly Ward. The population of children has decreased slightly from 2001, however, in general the quantity and distribution of the current playgrounds is appropriate given the urban nature of Huntly.

### 8.5.1 Huntly East

The current provision in Huntly East is 8.4 playgrounds/1000 children. There has been less than 1% decrease in the number of children (now 948 children) in Huntly East since 2001.

There are six Council playgrounds with the census area.

### Bailey Street Reserve


This playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood playground given its position within the north eastern part of the Huntly residential area.

<b>Bailey Street Reserve</b> Bailey Street, Huntly East GPS 1790907 5842296	Neighbourhood Playground - 1995
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Overhead seesaw Roundabout Spring rocker Spring saw Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2018/19	\$30,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$30,000</b>

### Boatie Reserve


It is recommended that this playground be disestablished after completion of the Huntly section of the Waikato Expressway as it is anticipated that there will be a significant reduction in the use of the roadside rest area and given the large number of other playgrounds in Huntly East.

<b>Boatie Reserve</b> State Highway 1, Huntly GPS 1790657 5841916	Local Playground - 2005
Playhut with junior swing Slide Above ground edging Cushion fall Shade Seating	


Works	Year	Estimate
Disestablishment	2019/20	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,000</b>

### Brownlie Crescent Reserve

This playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood playground given its position within the northeastern part of the Huntly residential area.

<b>Brownlie Reserve</b> Brownlie Crescent, Huntly East GPS 1791017 5843148	Neighbourhood Playground - 2007
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior 2x seesaw Overhead seesaw Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	


Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2020/21	\$17,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$17,500</b>

<b>Brownlie Reserve</b> Brownlie Crescent , Huntly East GPS 1791048 5843068	
Basketball hoop	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewal	2018/19	\$7,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$7,500</b>

### Huntly Domain

This playground should be maintained and developed as a destination playground given its central position within the area and as proposed in the reserve management plan.

Huntly Domain Taihua Road, Huntly East 1791131 5841380 GPS 1791022 5841669	Destination Playground – 2008, 2015
<p>School playground 2 bay senior swing 2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Climbing module Climb &amp; spin roundabout Module with slide Play vehicle Overhead seesaw Spring saw Stand on roundabout Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade Gardens</p> <p>Pool Playground 3 bay swing 1 junior, 2 senior Module with 2 slides Roundabout Spring rocker Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade Gardens</p>	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals by pools	2019/20	\$49,500
Renewals by school	2022/23	\$66,000
Equipment by school	2028/29	\$100,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$216,000</b>


### Huntly Domain Skate Park

This skate park should be maintained as a neighbourhood skate park. The facility is a variation on the standard design used throughout the district. Cracking of the concrete at the top of the vert ramp should be repaired to prevent further damage to the park.

<b>Huntly Domain</b> Taihua Road, Huntly East GPS 1791022 5841732	
Skatepark	

Works	Year	Estimate
Upgrade	2027/28	\$350,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$350,000</b>


**Rayner Road Reserve** This playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood playground given its central position within the southeastern part of the Huntly residential area. It would be appropriate to increase the amenity of the playground with landscaping and seating.

<b>Rayner Road Reserve</b> Rayner Road, Huntly East GPS 1791350 5840556	Neighbourhood Playground – 2006, 2014
2x seesaw 4 bay swing 1 junior, 3 senior Roundabout Slide Spring saw Springy rocker Track glide Above ground edging Cushion fall	

Works	Year	Estimate
Turnstyle replacement	2017/18	\$4,000
Renewals	2023/24	\$42,800
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$46,800</b>

### Russell Road Reserve

This playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood playground given its position within the northeastern part of the Huntly residential area.

<b>Russell Road Reserve</b> 17 Russell Road, Huntly East GPS 1791591 5842432	Neighbourhood Playground – 1970, 2015
2x seesaw 3 bay swing 1 junior, 2 senior Climbing module Slide Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade Gardens	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2029/2030	\$27,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$27,000</b>

### 8.5.2 Huntly West

The current provision in Huntly West is 4.4 playgrounds/1000 children. There has been a 10% decrease in the number of children (now 915 children) in Huntly East since 2001.

Four Council playgrounds and one skate park is provided by the Council.

### Blundell Place Reserve

This playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood playground given its position within the southeastern part of the Huntly residential area. Improvements to the integration of the playground into the park would be desirable.

<b>Blundell Reserve</b> Blundell Place, Huntly West GPS 1789755 5839286	Neighbourhood Playground – 2005, 2016
2 bay swing	



Overhead ladder Seesaw Slide Spring rocker Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating	
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Works	Year	Estimate
Disestablishment	2027/28	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,000</b>

### Fairfield Park

This playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood playground given its position within the northeastern part of the Huntly residential area.

<b>Fairfield Park</b> Fairfield Avenue, Huntly West GPS 1789759 5841227	Neighbourhood Playground – 2003, 2015
2 bay swing 1 senior 1 lily pad 2 bay swing 2 junior Module climbing frame Module with slide Slide Spaceship climber Spring rocker Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2017/18	\$30,000
Renewals	2030/31	\$70,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$100,000</b>

### Fairfield Park Skate Park

This skate park should be maintained as a neighbourhood skate park. This skate park is of the standard design. The park requires some maintenance as some of the concrete work is failing. Improvements to seating would be desirable.

<b>Fairfield Park</b> Fairfield Avenue, Huntly West GPS 1789770 5841272 Skate park GPS 1789759 5841247 basketball hoop	
Skatepark Basketball Hoop	

Works	Year	Estimate
Skatepark surface	2018/2019	\$5,000
Basketball hoop renewal	2021/22	\$7,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$12,000</b>

### Huntly West Domain

This playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood playground given its position within the northeastern part of the Huntly residential area.

<b>Huntly West Domain</b> Fraser Street, Huntly West GPS 1789854 5840660	Neighbourhood Playground – 2004, 2015
2 bay swing senior 2x seesaw Track glide Slide Overhead ladder Roundabout Spring rocker Stand on roundabout Above ground edging	

Cushion fall Seating Shade in close proximity	
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Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2019/20	\$36,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$36,500</b>

### Riverview Road Reserve

This playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood playground given its position within the eastern part of the Huntly residential area. Improvements to the amenity and integration of the playground into the park would be desirable.

<b>Riverview Road Reserve</b> 64 Riverview Road, Huntly West GPS 1790066 5839684	Neighbourhood Playground – 2003, 2015
3 bay swing 2 senior, 1 lily pad Climb & spin roundabout Overhead ladder Slide Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2020/21	\$36,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$36,000</b>

### 8.5.3 Waikato Western Hills

There are no Council playgrounds within Waikato Western Hills. There has been a 1% increase in the number of children (now 882 children) in Waikato Western Hills since 2001.

The Waikato Western Hills covers a very large area of rural hill country and it is not practical to provide public playgrounds other than those provided by the three schools.

## 8.6 Newcastle Ward

### 8.6.1 Te Kowhai

The current provision in Te Kowhai is 2.8 playgrounds/1000 children. There has been a 33% increase in the number of children (now 357 children) in Te Kowhai since 2001.

There is one Council playground and skate park at the Te Kowhai Village Green. The Te Kowhai School is currently seeking to expand its playground.

The current playground provision is considered appropriate however should residential subdivision take place it would be appropriate to consider additional playgrounds as part of urban intensification.

#### Te Kowhai Village Green

This playground should be maintained and developed as a neighbourhood park. There is scope to increase the size and range of equipment at this site, in particular by adding senior equipment over time.

<p><b>Te Kowhai Village Green</b> Willow Brook Lane, Te Kowhai GPS 1789744 5820616</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Playground - 2017</p>
<p>5 bay swing 2 junior, 2 senior 1 lily pad Module with slide and climbers Roundabout Spinner Cushion fall Above ground edging Seating Shade Gardens</p>	

Works	Year	Estimate
Upgrade	2032/33	\$70,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$70,500</b>

#### Te Kowhai Village Green Skate Park

This skate park should be maintained and developed as a neighbourhood skate park. The site is adequate for current needs. There is some surface cracking evident however the

tolerance is not yet affected. These cracks should be sealed to avoid further deterioration.

<b>Te Kowhai Village Green</b> Te Kowhai Village Green GPS 1789705 5820525	
Skatepark	

Works	Year	Estimate
Surface	2018/19	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,000</b>

### 8.6.2 Whatawhata

There are no Council playgrounds within Whatawhata. There has been a 26% increase in the number of children (now 570 children) in Whatawhata since 2001.

The current playground provision is considered appropriate however, should residential subdivision take place it would be appropriate to consider additional playgrounds as part of urban intensification and creation of a neighbourhood park. Provision has been made for one additional playground should this occur.

#### Additional Playgrounds

Works	Year	Estimate
Neighbourhood	2033/34	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$100,000</b>

## 8.7 Ngaruawahia Ward

There are 9 Council playgrounds in the Ngaruawahia Ward.

### 8.7.1 Ngaruawahia

The current provision in Ngaruawahia is 4.0 playgrounds/1000 children. There has been a 1% decrease in the number of children (now 1491 children) in Ngaruawahia since 2001.

The Ngaruawahia census area unit covers the majority of the Ngaruawahia Township and

contains six Council playgrounds and a skate park

### Additional Playgrounds

Works	Year	Estimate
Neighbourhood	2024/25	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$100,000</b>

### Centennial Park

It is recommended that this playground be maintained as a neighbourhood park.

This is a substantial playground with a range of older and newer equipment. The playground would benefit from some rationalisation of the numbers of items and consolidation within a central soft-fall area over time.

<b>Centennial Park</b> Havelock Road, Ngaruawahia GPS 1789896 5827895	Neighbourhood Playground – 2008, 2014
2x seesaw 3 bay swing 1 junior, 2 senior 3 bay swing 1 junior, 2 senior Climbing module Overhead seesaw Slide Spring rocker Track glide Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2024/25	\$35,300
Renewals	2035/36	\$52,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$87,300</b>


### Kiingitanga Reserve

Kiingitanga Reserve is a historically significant park adjacent to Turangawaewae House that includes a monument to the first Maaori king, Potatau Te Wherowhero.

The playground is close to the large playground and skate park at The Point and it is considered that concentrating play equipment at The Point would allow the maintenance and development of Kiingitanga Reserve in a way that may enhance the mana of Turangawaewae House.

While it is not proposed to remove the play equipment at this time, consideration should be

given to this when the playground requires renewal.

<b>Kiingitanga Reserve</b> Eyre Street, Ngaruawahia GPS 1789370 5829166	Neighbourhood Playground - 1969
4 bay swing 2 junior, 2 senior Overhead ladder Seesaw Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Disestablishment	2021/22	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,000</b>

#### Paterson Park

This substantial playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood park.

<b>Paterson Park</b> River Road, Ngaruawahia GPS 1790071 5829380	Neighbourhood Playground - 1997, 2001, 2015
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Climb & spin roundabout Climbing module Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2023/2024	\$58,000
<b>Total</b>		

#### Te Wiata Lane

It is recommended that this playground be maintained as a neighbourhood park.


This is a small and relatively new playground located close to a residential road.

<b>Te Wiata Reserve</b> Te Wiata Lane, Ngaruawahia GPS 1789059 5828211	Neighbourhood Playground - 2005
Module with slide Spring saw Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2021/22	\$19,300
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$19,300</b>

### The Point

It is recommended that this playground be maintained and developed as a destination park. The large size of this park together with adjacent facilities including toilets and the skate park are suitable for a destination playground. The playground is well sited however as it is placed under mature trees a regular inspection regime for the trees should be implemented to ensure falling branches do not pose a hazard to people below.

<b>The Point</b> Broadway Street, Ngaruawahia GPS 1789325 5829402	Destination Playground - 1998
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Large climbing module with 2 slides Roundabout Spring saw Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	

Additional equipment, in particular senior equipment would be desirable over time. A fitness trail is to be implemented to compliment Te Awa. The Ngaruawahia Community Plan identified the desire for an “Outward Bound” style ropes course and such a facility could be




considered as one of the options for improving senior play at an alternative location such as in the vicinity of North/ Thomas Street, which would be in proximity to the Ngaruawahia section of Te Awa.

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2017/18	\$180,000
Upgrade	2024/25	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$380,000</b>

### The Point Skate Park

The skate park is generally in good condition with an extension completed in 2014 to develop it into a destination skate park

<p><b>The Point</b>            Broadway Street,            Ngaruawahia            GPS 1789369 5829319 Skate            park            GPS 1789448 5829328            basket ball hoop</p>	
<p>Skate park            Basketball hoop</p>	

Works	Year	Estimate
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Surfacing	2028/29	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$20,000</b>

### Waipa Esplanade Reserve

This is a substantial playground with a range of predominately older equipment however is very close (250m) to the Te Wiata Lane Playground but is close to a walkway around the river and maintained as a neighbourhood playground.

<b>Waipa Esplanade</b> Waipa Esplanade, Ngaruawahia GPS 1788820 5828131	Neighbourhood Playground – 2008, 2015
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior track glide 2x Spring rocker Overhead ladder Overhead seesaw Seesaw Small module Slide Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2020/21	\$61,000
Renewals	2033/34	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$136,000</b>

### 8.7.2 Taupiri

The current provision in Taupiri is 32.3 playgrounds/1000 children. There has been a 16% decrease in the number of children (now 93 children) in Taupiri Community since 2001.

There are three Council playgrounds and a skate park within Taupiri.

#### Taupiri Recreation Reserve

This playground should be maintained as a local playground to support activity at the Taupiri Domain at this time. Discussion should take place with users of the Domain as to the overall strategy for the development and location of facilities on the Domain. In time it may be able to be phased out in favor of the new playground that has been established on the site.

<b>Taupiri Recreation Reserve</b> Murphy Lane, Taupiri GPS 1793177 5834321	Local Playground – 2004, 2014
Front of netball courts 2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Overhead ladder	

<p>Overhead seesaw Roundabout Seesaw Spring rocker Track glide Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade</p> <p>Adjacent to netball courts 2x seesaw 3 bay swing 1 junior, 2 senior Climbing module with slide Stand on roundabout Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade</p>	
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Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2027/28	\$42,900
Renewals	2034/35	\$30,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$72,900</b>

**Taupiri Domain Skate Park**

This skate park should be maintained as a neighbourhood skate park. This skate park is of the standard design common in the district. The park requires maintenance as some of the concrete work is failing at the transition of the vert ramp.

<p><b>Taupiri Recreation Reserve</b> Murphy Lane, Taupiri GPS 1793262 5834363</p>	
<p>Skatepark</p>	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2018/19	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,000</b>

### 8.7.3 Horotiu

The current provision in Horotiu is 6 playgrounds/1,000 children. There has been a 7% decrease in the number of children (now 168 children) resident in Horotiu since 2001.

There is one Council playground and one skate park (vert ramp) within Horotiu.

#### AFFCO Playground and Skate Park

Council leases AFFCO Park from AFFCO Ltd. It is recommended that this playground be dis-established over time if a better alternative site can be found. The playground and vert ramp are located in a pleasant setting however would appear to have primarily been established as a roadside rest area. With the opening of the Waikato Expressway, demand for this rest area will have reduced. The playground is physically separated from the nearby residential areas that it could potentially serve by a main road to the East and railway lines to the West.

If an opportunity exists to relocate the playground to an alternative site closer to residents or a site of activity (such as the Waikato River esplanade reserve which is the end point for the Horotiu section of the Te Awa Cycle way) this should be considered.

<b>AFFCO Park</b> Horotiu Road, Horotiu GPS 1793509 5825341	Local Playground - 2003
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior 2 spring rockers Overhead ladder Overhead seesaw Roundabout Track glide Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Disestablishment	2018/2019	\$6,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$6,000</b>

<b>AFFCO Park</b> Horotiu Road, Horotiu GPS 1793519 5825331	
Skate park	


Works	Year	Estimate
Disestablishment	2018/19	\$3,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,000</b>

#### 8.7.4 Kainui

The current provision in Kainui is 6 playgrounds/1000 children. There has been a 18% increase in the number of children (now 684 children) resident in Kainui since 2001. There is one playground within Kainui. There are playgrounds at the Horsham Downs School and TKKM o Bernard Fergusson that are available for public use outside of school hours.

##### Penny Crescent Playground

This playground should be maintained and developed as a neighbourhood playground. Improvements to the amenity of the playground and the addition of seating would be desirable.

<b>Penny Crescent Reserve</b> Penny Crescent, Hopuhopu GPS 1791357 5832541	Neighbourhood Playground - 2009
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Climbing module Overhead ladder Slide Above ground edging Cushion fall	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals & seating	2020/21	\$67,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$67,000</b>

### 8.7.5 Waikato Western Hills

There are no Council playgrounds within Waikato Western Hills. There has been a 1% increase in the number of children (now 882 children) in Waikato Western Hills since 2001.

The Glen Afton/Pukemiro Community Plan identified the desire for a playground however no suitable site has been identified for this. As the Waikato Western Hills covers a very large area of rural hill country and it is not practical to provide public playgrounds other than those provided by the two schools.

## 8.8 Onewhero-Te Akau Ward


There are eight playgrounds within the ward, which geographically is large.

### 8.8.1 Onewhero

The current provision in Onewhero is 4.6 playgrounds/1000 children. There are seven Council playgrounds within Onewhero. There has been a 12% decrease in the number of children (now 870 children) in the Onewhero CAU since 2001.

#### Cobourne Reserve

This playground should be maintained and developed as a neighbourhood playground.

<b>Cobourne Reserve</b> Tuakau Bridge – Port Waikato Road, Port Waikato GPS 1753250 5860935	Local Playground - 2008	
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Playhut with slide Cushion fall Above ground edging Seating Shade Gardens		
Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2029/30	\$21,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$21,500</b>

#### Glen Murray Reserve Playground

This playground should be maintained and developed as a local playground supporting the adjoining community hall.

<p><b>Glen Murray Reserve</b> 2400 Highway 22, Glen Murray GPS 1773921 5854156</p>	<p>Local Playground – 1998, 2013</p>
<p>3 bay swing 1 junior, 2 senior Module with slide and track glide Springsaw Cushion fall Above ground edging</p>	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2025/26	\$50,800
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$50,800</b>

### Maraetai Bay Esplanade Reserve

This playground should be maintained and developed as a neighbourhood playground. Due to community opposition playground will stay the same size although this large reserve with existing toilet and picnic facilities would be ideal for supporting the development of a larger playground.

<p><b>Maraetai Bay Esplanade Reserve</b> Maunsell Road, Port Waikato GPS 1752827 5860515</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Playground - 2008</p>
<p>Small module with slide, 1 junior &amp; 1 senior slide Cushion fall Inground edging Seating Shade</p>	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals & upgrade	2021/22	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$75,000</b>

### Onewhero Domain

A newly developed playground, this should be maintained as a neighbourhood playground.

Works	Year	Estimate
Develop Local Playground	2036/37	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>

### Opuatia Recreation Reserve

This playground is relocated play equipment installed by the community and not currently maintained by Council but should be maintained as a local playground.

<b>Opuatia Recreation Reserve</b> Highway 22 GPS 1752827 5860515	Local Playground - 2016
Small module with slide Cushion fall Inground edging	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals & upgrade	2018/19	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>

### Phillips Reserve

This playground should be maintained and developed as a neighbourhood playground. The access to the park needs minor modification to enable prams to access the site.

<b>Phillips Reserve</b> Cordylone Road, Port Waikato	Neighbourhood Playground – 2008, 2014
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GPS 1751846 5860112	
3 bay swing 1 lily pad, 2 senior swings Playhut with slide Flying fox Cushion fall Above ground edging Seating Shade Gardens	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2026/27	56,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$56,500</b>

### Te Kohanga Reserve

This playground should be maintained and developed as a local playground.

<b>Te Kohanga Recreation Reserve</b> Tuakau Bridge – Port Waikato Road, Port Waikato GPS 1763690 5868722	Local Playground - 2010
Climbing dome Cushion fall	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2025/26	\$15,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15,000</b>

### 8.8.2 Te Akau

The current provision in Te Akau is 4.9 playgrounds/1000 children. There are two Council playground within Te Akau. There has been a 19% decrease in the number of children (now 204 children) in Te Akau since 2001.

**Naike School**


This playground was originally a school playground, and should be maintained as a local playground.

<p><b>Naike School</b> 3642 Highway 22 GPS 1772740 5846131</p>	<p>Local Playground - 2008</p>
<p>Small module with slide and climbers Play cubes Play house Swing Cushion fall Above ground edging</p>	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals & upgrade	2018/19	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>

**Te Akau Community Sports Complex**

This playground has recently been upgraded and should be maintained and developed as a local playground.

<p><b>Te Akau Community Sports Complex</b> 612 Te Akau Road, Te Akau GPS 1767993 5830404</p>	<p>Local Playground - 2017</p>
<p>Module Balance beams Slide Swing Seating</p>	

Works	Year	Estimate
Relocate and develop playground		
<b>Total</b>		

## 8.9 Raglan Ward

### 8.9.1 Raglan


The current provision in Raglan is 6.8 playgrounds/1,000 children. There are five Council playgrounds and one Skate Park within Raglan. There has been a 10% decrease in the number of children (now 585 children) in Raglan since 2001.

#### Additional Playground

Works	Year	Estimate
Neighbourhood	2020/21	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$100,000</b>

#### Te Kopua Domain Playground

This playground should be maintained and developed as a destination playground. The substantial use of this playground and excellent location and amenities justifies further development of this playground.


Te Kopua Domain Marine Parade, Raglan GPS 1764185 5814608	Destination Playground – 2008,2017
<p>Large climbing module 3 bay swing 1 lily pad, 2 senior swings Spring rocker Above ground edging Cushion fall</p> <p>Space net Junior module Above ground edging Cushion fall</p>	

<p>Currently being upgraded – photos will be added when complete.</p>	
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Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2026/27	\$125,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$125,000</b>

### Te Kopua Domain Skate Park

This skate park should be maintained and further developed as a destination skate park. This is a well designed and substantial park however it is in need of preventative maintenance as surface cracking and spalling concrete is evident.

<p><b>Te Kopua Domain</b>          Marine Parade, Raglan          GPS 1764149 5814717 Skate Park          GPS 1764193 5814680          Basketball hoop</p>	
<p>Skate park          Basketball hoop          Soccer Goal          BMX Track</p>	



Further landscaping and enhancement of the park would be desirable. If there were community support and funding available, further expansion of the parks features would maintain interest and reinforce its status as a destination skate park.

Works	Year	Estimate
Features	2020/21	\$10,000
Landscaping	2020/21	\$10,000
Renewals	2020/21	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$40,000</b>

**Oram Park Playground**

This playground should be maintained and developed as a neighbourhood park.

The playground at present is somewhat uninviting and the pool fencing surrounding the playground makes access difficult, especially for children, and is of questionable benefit.


<p><b>Oram Park</b>          Taipari Avenue, Raglan          GPS 1763638 5813870</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Playground - 2007</p>
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2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Climbing module with slide Overhead ladder Slide Spring rocker Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	
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Works	Year	Estimate
Additional Equipment	2028/29	\$69,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$69,000</b>

### Puriri Park Playground

This playground should be retained at present however the proximity (200m) of this playground to the Warihi Park Playground should be noted and considered in future decision making.


<b>Puriri Park</b> Puriri Street, Raglan GPS 1764961 5815075	Neighbourhood Playground - 1990
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Roundabout – sit on Safety tiles Cushion fall Above ground edging Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Disestablishment	2020/21	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,000</b>

### Warihi Park Playground

This playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood park. The playground at present appears a little neglected from the street and improvements to the maintenance and presentation of the park could be made.


<b>Warihi Park</b> Wallis Street, Raglan	Neighbourhood Playground- 2006
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GPS 1764806 5815018	
2 bay air swing 5 bay swing 1 lily pad, 2 junior, 2 senior Climbing dome Climbing module with slide Roundabout – sit on Roundabout – stand on Seesaw Slide – tunnel Spring rocker Spring rocker Cushion fall Above ground edging Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2022/23	\$45,000
Renewals	2031/32	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$95,000</b>

### Whale Bay Reserve Playground

This playground should be maintained as a neighbourhood park.

<b>Whale Bay</b> 12 Calvert Road, Whale Bay GPS 1758690 5812233	Neighbourhood Playground - 2008	
2 bay swing set Cushion fall Above ground edging Shade Gardens		
<b>Works</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
Renewals	2035/36	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$20,000</b>

### 8.9.2 Te Uku

The current provision in Te Uku is 2.1 playgrounds/1000 children. There are no Council playgrounds within Te Uku. There has been a 25% increase in the number of children (now 477 children) in Te Uku since 2001.

## 8.10 Tamahere Ward

### 8.10.1 Tamahere-Tauwhare

The current provision in Tamahere-Tauwhare is 0.8 playgrounds/1000 children. As noted above, there has been a 29% increase in the number of children (now 1251 children) in the Tamahere-Tauwhare since 2001.

There is one Council playground. Currently the Tamahere Recreation Reserve is being developed with plans for a playground to be added

### 8.4.3 Tamahere-Tauwhare

The current provision in Tamahere-Tauwhare is 0.8 playgrounds/1,000 children. As noted above, there has been a 29% increase in the number of children (now 1251 children) in Tamahere-Tauwhare since 2001.

There are no Council playgrounds within Tamahere-Tauwhare.

Given the large number of children within Tamahere-Tauwhare there are plans for a playground and skatepark to be developed at Tamahere Recreation Reserve.

It is expected that much of the growth in the ward is a result of the expansion of lifestyle blocks and as such the need to provide playgrounds for this style of residential living needs to be taken into account. Subject to further consideration of this issue, provision for three new playgrounds has been included.

#### Additional Playgrounds

Three new playgrounds are proposed if or when residential subdivision occurs.

Works	Year	Estimate
Neighbourhood Playground	29/30	\$100,000
Neighbourhood Playground	31/32	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$200,000</b>

#### Te Awa Reserve Playground

This playground should be maintained and developed as a neighbourhood playground. Senior play equipment (such as a flying fox) should be added to the playground over time along with seating for adults. Access to the playground from the park is difficult because of the raised retaining wall. An access ramp or similar would overcome this.

<b>Te Awa Reserve</b> Te Awa Road, Tamahere GPS 1806913 5806858	Neighbourhood Playground- 2002
4 bay swing 2 junior, 2 senior Module with 2 slides Spring rocker Above ground edging Cushion fall Shade	





Works	Year	Estimate
Senior Equipment	2019/20	\$1,500
Access improvements	2019/20	\$7,500
Seating	2025/26	\$42,800
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$51,800</b>

### 8.10.2 Matangi

Part of the Matangi census area unit is within the Tamahere Ward. The current provision in Matangi is 4.4 playgrounds/1000 children. There has been a 20% increase in the number of children in Matangi since 2001.

There are no Council playgrounds within the portion of the census area unit that is within the Tamahere Ward.

Given the overall existing level of provision within Matangi (outside of the Ward), no further playground development is recommended.

## 8.11 Whangamarino Ward

### 8.11.1 Te Kauwhata

The current provision in Te Kauwhata is 6.6 playgrounds/1000 children. There are two Council playgrounds within Te Kauwhata. There has been an 18% increase in the number of children (now 303 children) in Te Kauwhata since 2001.

#### Additional Playground

A new neighbourhood playground would be desirable to service the expanding northern and eastern side of Te Kauwhata in the Blunt Road area and maintain the proposed level of service.

Works	Year	Estimate
Neighbourhood Playground	2023/24	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$100,000</b>

### Te Kauwhata Village Green Playground

This playground should be maintained and developed as a destination playground. The addition of senior play equipment such as a flying fox would complete this playground.

<b>Te Kauwhata Village Green</b> Saleyard Road, Te Kauwhata GPS 1789661 5857986	Destination Playground - 2008
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior 2x spring rockers Module with slide, track glide Seesaw Vehicle module Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Add Senior Equipment	2020/21	\$60,000
Renewals	2029/30	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$135,000</b>

### Te Kauwhata Skate Park

This skate park should be maintained and developed as a neighbourhood skate park. Improving the general amenity of the park.

<b>Te Kauwhata Village Green</b> Saleyard Road, Te Kauwhata GPS 1789619 5858066	
Skatepark- currently being upgraded  Photo will be updated when complete	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewal	2018/19	\$8,000
Amenity Improvements	2025/26	\$60,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$68,000</b>

### 8.11.2 Meremere


The current provision in Meremere is 13.9 playgrounds/1000 children. There are two Council playgrounds and one skate park within Meremere. There has been a 19% increase in the number of children (now 144 children) in Meremere since 2001.

The two Council playgrounds in Meremere are located on opposite sides of the street. The playground at the church suits a slightly older age group whereas the one at the community house is suitable for junior play only. Both sites are constrained by the available land.

Should the 'community hub' go ahead by the hall with the library relocated then a playground should be established as a neighbourhood playground.

#### Meremere Church

It is recommended to maintain this playground as a local playground.

<b>Meremere Church</b> Te Paea Ave, Meremere GPS 1783265 5867461	Neighbourhood Playground - 2015
2 bay swing 1 junior, 1 senior Climbing module Climb & spin roundabout Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating Shade	

Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2031/32	\$27,900
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$27,900</b>

#### Meremere Reserve - Ross Carr Memorial Playground

It is recommended to maintain this playground as a local playground.

<b>Meremere Reserve</b> Te Paea Avenue, Meremere GPS 17832298 5867484	Neighbourhood Playground - 2007
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Module with slide Spring rocker Above ground edging Cushion fall Seating	
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Works	Year	Estimate
Renewals	2029/30	\$18,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$18,500</b>

### Senior Playground Development

Additional senior facilities could be provided in the future at the neighbourhood park. This would be ideally suited to a flying fox or similar.

Works	Year	Estimate
Senior Equipment	2021/22	\$30,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$30,000</b>

### Meremere Skate Park

This skate park should be maintained as a neighbourhood skate park and has recently had an extension added.

<b>Meremere Reserve</b> Te Wheoro Crescent, Meremere GPS 1783406 5867531 skatepark GPS 1783413 5867585 basketball hoop	
Skatepark Basketball hoop	



Works	Year	Estimate
Surfacing & Basketball hoop	2018/19	\$12,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$12,500</b>

### 8.11.3 Mangatawhiri

There are no Council playgrounds within Mangatawhiri. There has been an 8% increase in the number of children (now 369 children) in Mangatawhiri since 2001.

Given the large rural nature of Mangatawhiri it is impractical to provide public playgrounds other than those already located at the two schools.

### 8.11.4 Maramarua

There are no Council playgrounds within Maramarua. There has been a 12% decrease in the number of children (now 219 children) in Maramarua since 2001.

Given the large rural nature of the Maramarua it is impractical (given current reserve land available) to provide public playgrounds other than that already located at Maramarua School.

### 8.11.5 Waerenga

There are no Council playgrounds within the Waerenga Census Area Unit. There has been a 15% decrease in the number of children (now 417 children) in the Waerenga CAU since 2001.

Given the generally rural nature of the Waerenga CAU, which both surrounds Te Kauwhata and includes the community of Rangiriri, it is impractical to provide public playgrounds.

## 9.0 Summary

If the above recommended actions occur, the total number of playgrounds will increase from 52 to 59 with five playgrounds disestablished (subject to consultation), 11 new playgrounds constructed and a large number upgraded. The number of playgrounds/1,000 children would slightly decrease from 3.3 in 2013 to 3.2 in 2031 at current medium growth projections. This would ensure the current national median of 3.9 playgrounds per 1,000 children would be achieved. A total of 66 playgrounds would need to be provided by 2033 to keep up with population levels with the current trends

### ***Proposed Categories and Numbers of Playgrounds by Area***

Area	Destination	Neighbourhood	Local	WDC Playgrounds	2013 Ratio/1000 Children	2031 Ratio/1000 Children
<b>Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>		
Tuakau	1	4	1	6	2.6	4.6
Redoubt			1	1	25.6	14.3
Mangatawhiri		2		2	2.7	3.4
Otaua				0	-	-
Opuawhanga				0	-	-
Buckland South				0	-	-
Pokeno	1	3		4	1.0	5.4
<b>Eureka Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>		
Matangi		2	1	3	4.4	4.1
Eureka		1		1	-	1.5
Tamahere-Tauwhare					0.8	2.2
<b>Hukanui-Waerenga</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>		
Gordonton	1	1		2	6.1	8.3
Whitikahu			1	1	1.7	1.7
Tamahere-Tauwhare				0	-	-
Waerenga				0	-	1.8
<b>Huntly Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>		
Huntly East	1	4		5	8.4	6.7
Huntly West		3		3	4.4	5.7
Waikato Western Hills				0	-	-
<b>Newcastle Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>		
Te Kowhai		1		1	2.8	2.7
Whatawhata		1		1	-	1.5
<b>Ngaruawahia Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>		
Ngaruawahia	1	4		5	4.0	3.7
Taupiri Community			1	1	32.3	22.2
Horotiu				0	6.0	-
Kainui		1		1	1.5	1.3
Western Hills				0	-	-
<b>Onewhero-Te Akau Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>		
Onewhero		2	5	7	4.6	5.2
Te Akau			2	2	4.9	3.4
<b>Raglan Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>		
Raglan	1	4		5	6.8	7.4
Te Uku			0	0	2.1	1.7
<b>Tamahere Ward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>		
Tamahere-Tauwhare		3		3	0.8	0.7

Matangi				0	-	-
<b>Whangamarino Ward</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>		
Te Kauwhata	1	1		2	6.6	5.6
Meremere		2		2	13.9	16.7
Mangatawhiri				0	-	-
Maramarua				0	-	-
Waerenga				0	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.2</b>

## 10.0 Works Programme

A 20-year programme and budget identifying both capital and planned maintenance requirements is attached, based on the works identified via the individual site assessments and analysis of proposed playground distribution.

### 10.1 Priorities

Priority is given in the following order:

1. Improving signs and access
2. Planning for destination playgrounds
3. Minor improvements (both local and neighbourhood)
4. Destination playground improvements
5. Removal of playgrounds recommended for disestablishment
6. New builds (both neighbourhood and local)

### 10.2 Renewals

It is recommended that a programme of renewals of existing equipment take place.

Based on the findings from the playground audit completed September 2016 by Park Central, Park and Playground Solutions Ltd. A programme of renewals based on condition of asset, end of life renewal priority and age has been developed using end of lifespan capital value.

The current Long Term Plan (2015 – 2025) identifies an average annual playground renewal budget of \$234,135 per annum with a total anticipated spend of \$1,873,082 over the life of the current plan (\$1,873,082 from 1 July 2018).

The projects identified within this strategy will enable a more targeted application of funding. It is proposed to reduce expenditure on general renewal works as the programme progresses and equipment is maintained to a consistent level of service. The recommended upgrading of playgrounds will be completed over the twenty year term with the years between 2018 and 2028 averaging \$259,040 and decreasing to an average of \$110,322 as the equipment reaches a good level of service.

## 10.3 Growth Funded Playgrounds

Twelve new playgrounds are identified for establishment within new residential subdivisions. It is anticipated that these will be fully funded by development contributions as growth related community infrastructure.

## 10.4 Maintenance

The budget for playground scheduled maintenance in 2016/17 is \$181,000. This amounts to just over \$3770 per playground. Complete renewals of cushion fall (digouts) budget, averaging five playgrounds per annum is currently \$65,000 ensuring cushion fall is kept at an acceptable level of service. A biannual budget of \$15,000 is required for inspection/audit of condition assessment done by a suitably qualified person. Assuming the disestablishment and proposed growth taking the number of playgrounds from 52 to 59 a steady increase in maintenance costs will occur from \$262,493 per annum to \$283,379 per annum on current costs and compliance levels

## 10.5 Summary

The total cost of the works identified in this strategy is \$10,609,033 (not adjusted for inflation) or an average of \$558,370 per annum, which is above the level of expenditure proposed in the 2015 – 2025 Long Term Plan, which is an average of \$478,429 per annum. However it is proposed that at least \$1,080,000 of this expenditure is funded from development contributions, which would reduce the rates, funded expenditure to an average of \$501,528 per annum.

The proposed budget over the 20-year term of this strategy is attached in Appendix 3.



# Appendix 1: Works Programme and Budget

