

Henderson-Massey Local Parks Management Plan

Summary of submissions

September 2025

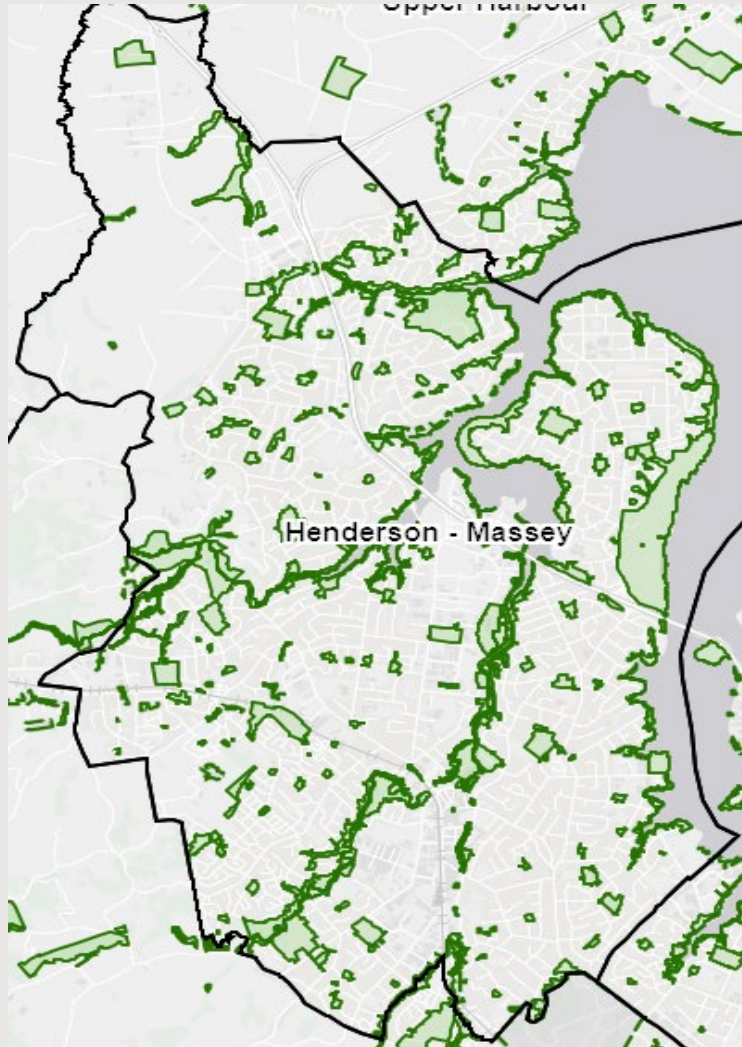


Summary

- The Henderson-Massey Local Board is preparing a management plan for over 230 local parks in the area.
- The first step is to notify of the local board's intention to prepare the plan and invite suggestions on the proposed plan.
- Public submissions were invited over one month (1 May - 1 June 2025). We received 152 submissions, including feedback from 12 groups.
- This document provides a summary of the feedback, including:
 - statistics and key themes by question
 - comments for some of the most mentioned parks
 - key points raised by groups and organisations.



Reserve management plans



Reserve management plans:

- required for most types of reserves held under the Reserves Act 1977
- purpose is to guide the use, protection and enhancement of reserve land.

Henderson-Massey Local Parks Management Plan (LPMP):

- will cover over 230 local parks (Reserves Act and Local Government Act land)
- once adopted, will replace 14 existing reserve management plans (1983-2010).





Public consultation



- Reserves Act process for developing a reserve management plan requires us to consult with the public twice:
 - when we are ready to begin drafting the plan; and
 - when we have a draft plan to be reviewed.
- On 18 March 2025, the local board approved:
 - public notification of the intention to prepare the plan; and
 - inviting written submissions on the proposed plan.
- Feedback from the first round of public consultation will help inform the development of the draft plan.



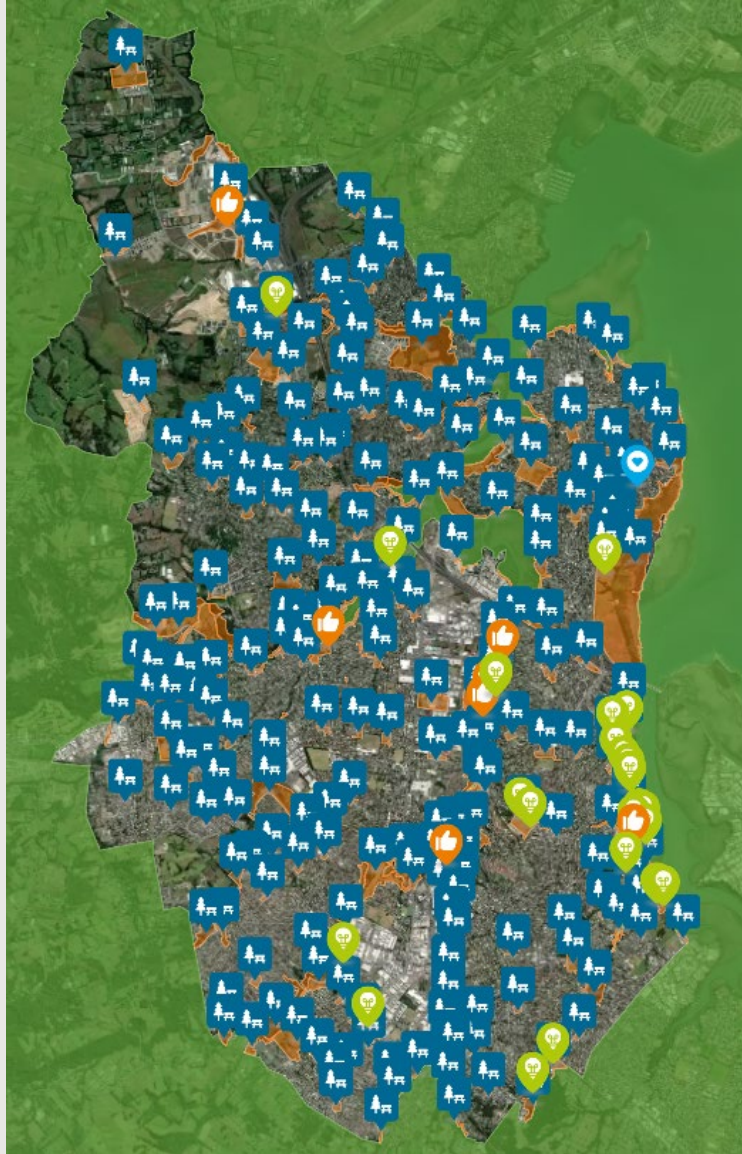
How we consulted



- On 1 May 2025, we publicly notified the local board’s intention to prepare a management plan
- Over one calendar month, 1 May – 1 June 2025, we invited submissions on the proposed plan
- Feedback options:
 - Have Your Say online feedback form
 - Social Pinpoint interactive map
 - Feedback forms and postcards at libraries
 - Email submission
- Consultation publicised via:
 - Email to leaseholders and stakeholders
 - Our Auckland article and Facebook posts
 - Signage in 11 parks
 - Posters and displays at four libraries
 - Drop-in sessions at two libraries
 - Email to the People’s Panel



Who we heard from

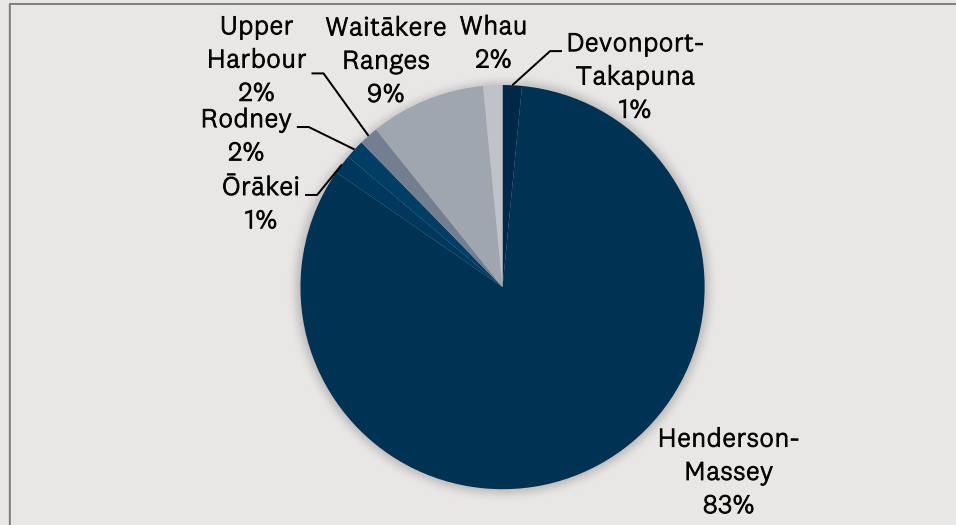


- We received a total of 152 submissions:
 - 66 online feedback form
 - 3 hard copy feedback form
 - 81 online social map
 - 2 emails
- 12 organisations or community groups were represented:
 - Cancer Society of New Zealand
 - Healthy Families Waitākere
 - East Skate Club
 - New Zealand Motor Caravan Association
 - Puppy Play and Henderson Dog Park Community
 - RiverCare Group Te Wai o Pareira
 - Sport Waitākere
 - Waitākere Bears Softball Club
 - West Auckland Historical Society
 - West Auckland Riding for the Disabled
 - West City Baseball
 - Whānau Āwhina Plunket

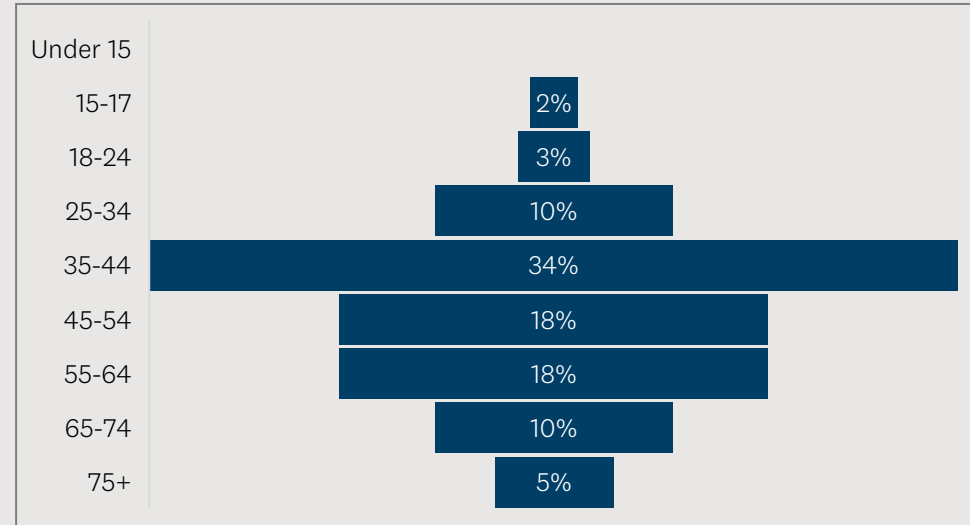


Demographics

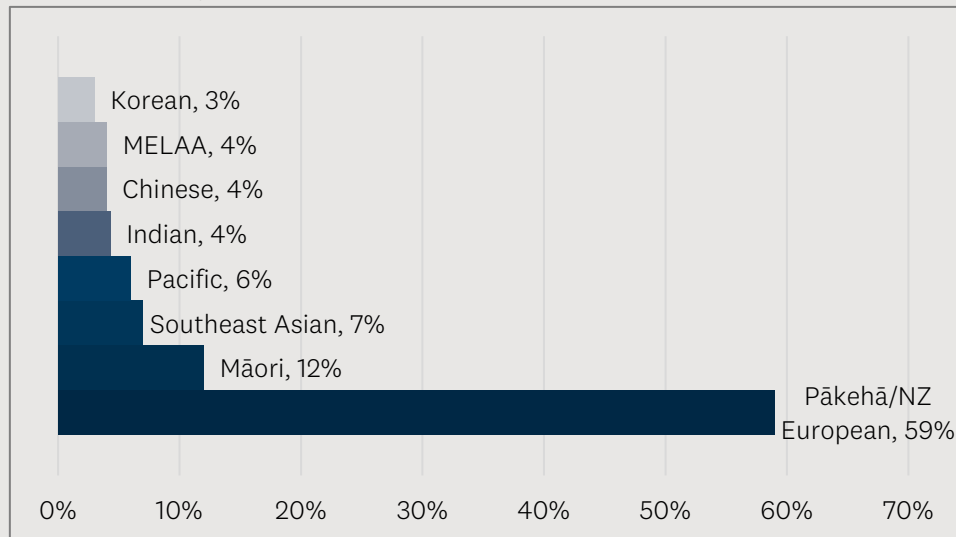
Local board area



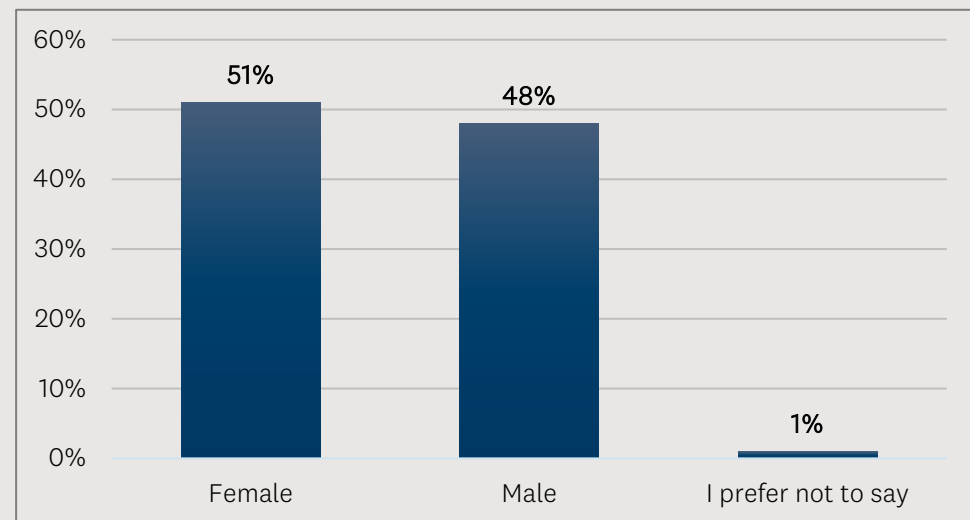
Age



Ethnicity



Gender














Feedback by question



Q1 - How do you use parks?







 <p>Walking or running 20%</p>	 <p>Playgrounds, pump tracks, skate parks 12%</p>	 <p>Connecting with nature 12%</p>
 <p>Socialising, playing with friends / whānau 9%</p>	 <p>Dog walking 9%</p>	 <p>Commuting / travelling 8%</p>
 <p>Attending events 8%</p>	 <p>Organised sports 7%</p>	 <p>Volunteering 6%</p>
 <p>Picnic / BBQ 6%</p>	 <p>Other 3%</p> <p>Cycling, roller skates, scooter, learn to ride, play group, football, basketball, scout group, boat ramps / wharfs, check on environment, collect litter</p>	









Q2 - Who do you visit parks with?

 <p>Family 36%</p>	 <p>By myself 28%</p>
 <p>Friends 21%</p>	 <p>Group / club 15%</p>

Q3 - How often do you visit?

 <p>Everyday or most days 40%</p>	 <p>Once or twice a week 39%</p>
 <p>Once or twice a month 19%</p>	 <p>Less often 2%</p>



Q4 - What parks do you visit the most?



Tui Glen Reserve (21)



Henderson Park (15)



McLeod Park (12)



Harbourview-Orangihina (10)



Royal Reserve (10)



Moire Park (9)

*Top 6 most mentioned parks out of 80 parks identified through feedback form question 4 (what parks do you visit the most?), and social map posts. The number in brackets is the number of times the park was mentioned e.g., 21 mentions for Tui Glen Reserve.



Q5 - What do you value most about parks?



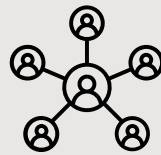
Nature and conservation

Being outdoors provides respite from urban living, space to relax and time to connect with nature. Protecting and restoring the environment is important for wellbeing.



Play and activities for kids

Parks provide safe places for kids to play and families to connect. People enjoy modern playgrounds, skateparks, pump tracks and space to kick a ball or learn how to ride.



Socialising and community connection

Parks offer space and facilities where people can meet up with friends, families, local residents and groups / clubs. Connecting with other people in the community can create a sense of belonging.



Being active

People value park facilities which support a variety of recreational activities: walking and cycling paths, organised sports (baseball, horse riding, croquet), dog walking, beach / water access and food gardens.



Q6 – Are there challenges you experience?



Environment and climate change

Concern about tree health, lack of trees for shade and Karaka trees in dog walking areas. Habitat threats include pest plants and dogs in significant wading bird areas. Some activities have negative climate impacts (e.g. vehicle dominated events).



Stormwater and coastal management

Waiting for flood damaged park assets and plantings to be repaired. Desire to prevent future flood damage by clearing streams and increasing riparian planting. Concern about water quality in artificial lakes and pollution of the harbour from sewerage overflows. Coastal parks are increasingly affected by erosion.



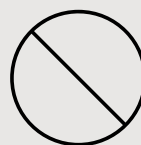
Park use and facilities

Sports at McLeod Park are impacted by winter field conditions, underutilised space to meet demand and sharing facilities. Concern about provision of amenities for all ages e.g. seating for older people, courts and skateparks for youth and playground features for toddlers. Desire for easier access to space for food gardens.



Accessibility and connectivity

Concern about walking / cycling along busy roads and navigating entry barriers to access parks. Shared paths are well used, but there can be conflict between different users. Minimal inclusion for disabled and neurodiverse people.



Prohibited activities and social issues

Concern about dogs being off-leash, not under control or roaming. Motorbikes and cars in parks are a problem in few areas including Te Atatū Peninsula. Anti-social behaviour (drinking, fighting, vandalism, burnouts) was also reported.



Maintenance

Some footpaths are overgrown, damaged by tree roots or have water pooling. Kauri dieback stations not working or insufficient. Lack of litter bins and litter in parks. Mowing wet areas instead of using low-maintenance solutions e.g. planting.



Q7 - What are your ideas and suggestions for the future?



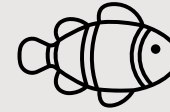
Play

Improve play spaces by using engaging features for different age groups and abilities, including nature play. Ensure adequate shade, safety measures and park amenities for families. Provide enough spaces for youth such as skateparks and basketball courts. Consider greater provision for new subdivisions / high density housing areas.



Trees and plants

Continue to restore the urban ngahere (forest). Increase tree canopy cover for shade, to help climate change and flooding, and to compensate for loss of trees due to development. Protect biodiversity through revegetation and pest control. Re-use green waste and use planting to reduce maintenance.



Water

Build flood resilience by choosing porous surfaces, enhancing wetlands, daylighting streams and using roadside swales. Clearing debris from waterways and adding riparian planting was also suggested to reduce flood damage to parks. Share with the community council's plans for making space for water and future use of acquired flood prone land.



Partnership

Incorporate mana whenua values in parks and continue to partner with mana whenua. Work with the community, clubs, groups and providers to enhance and activate parks. Includes establishing environmental volunteer groups, recreational programmes, skateparks, community gardens and a refresh of the Henderson heritage trail.



Facilities

Create more shared paths / connections through parks and away from busy roads. Incorporate bush tracks and access to esplanades, including Te Atatū coastal walkway. Expand facilities for baseball, dog exercise areas and unique activities like disc golf. Provide amenities such as storytelling signs, seating, toilets and rubbish bins.

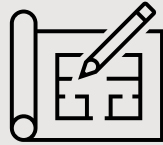


Provision

Preserve open space, acquire more and consider future use of land in flood buyouts. Incorporate open space in new subdivisions to reduce pressure on other parks. Enhance facilities in areas with high-density housing and high traffic levels to keep access local. Use design to prevent social issues such as vehicles in parks and vandalism.



Q8 - Do you have an additional feedback?



Planning, investment and design

Include organised sports, wheeled sports and water sports / access in strategic planning and invest in infrastructure to meet growing demand. Mitigate housing intensification with investment in green spaces to create more facilities, restore the environment and provide for people's wellbeing. Prioritise decades long planning for the development of Harbourview-Orangihina. Use sustainable designs for park amenities, inclusive designs for play spaces and paths and design safer connections between parks.



Wellbeing for people and environment

Recognise that activities like baseball, horse-riding, croquet, and skateboarding provide wider benefits for wellbeing and community connection. Take a holistic approach to parks which considers the interconnections with health, climate, education, transport and culture. Champion multi-generational spaces with co-located facilities for sport, play, nature and gathering. Use placemaking, co-design and Te Ao Māori to create spaces that better support the wellbeing of people and environment.



Environmental protection

Protect the environment and green spaces through planting and managing pests. Support community revegetation programmes, enable community food gardens and food forests, and plant fruit trees for people and birds. Create more bush tracks, particularly near waterways and repair the banks of Ōpanuku Stream to help with flooding risk. Consider climate action plans when approving events in parks.



Partnerships to enhance parks

Acknowledge tangata whenua. Enable sports groups to take a more active role in looking after parks, including enhancing and activating spaces. Groups such as baseball, croquet and riding for the disabled have aspirations to improve facilities and increase participation. Ensure transparency in allocating resources (e.g. fields) shared by multiple sports codes. Resource the community to help with maintenance and improvement of green spaces.

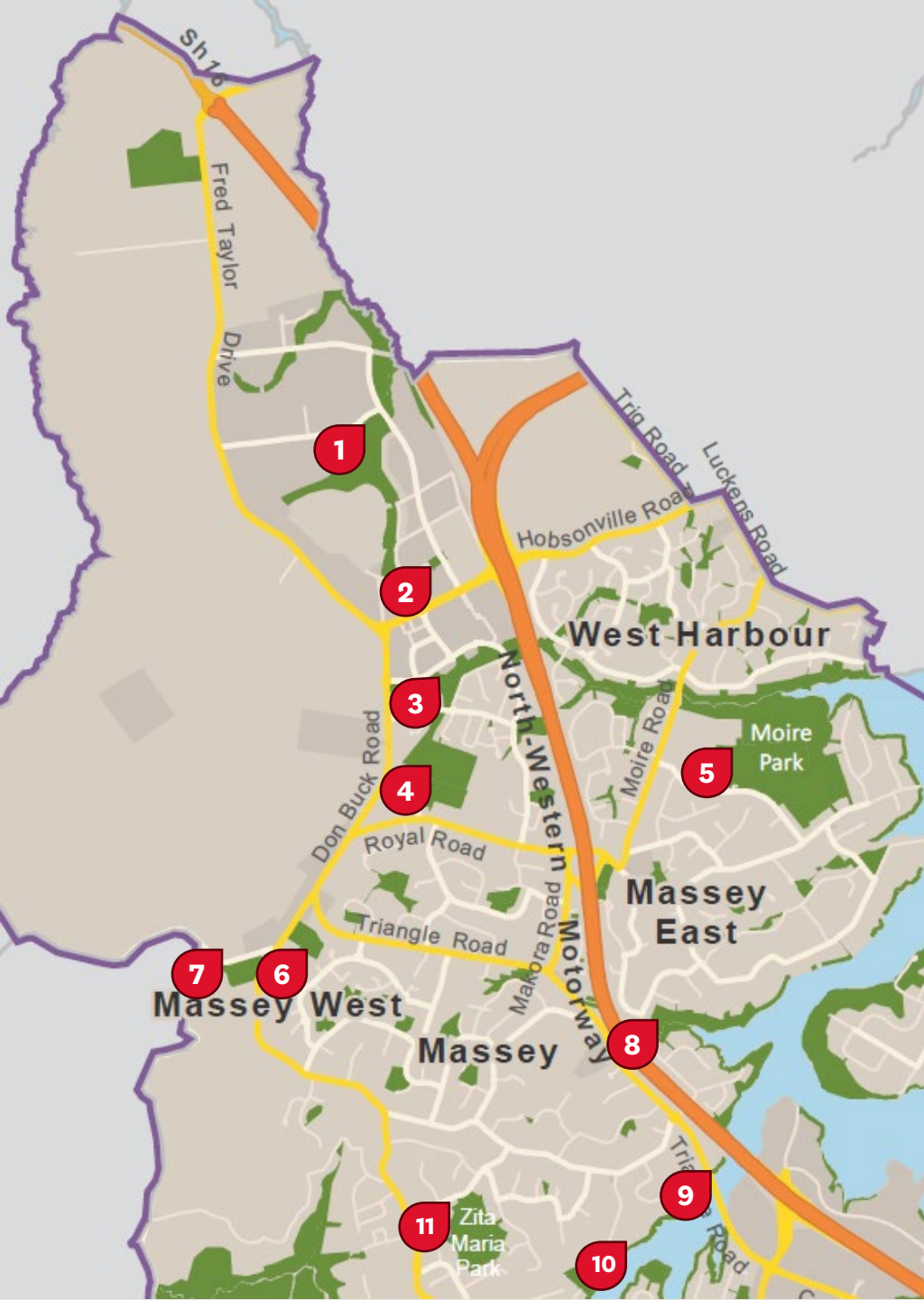


Feedback by park



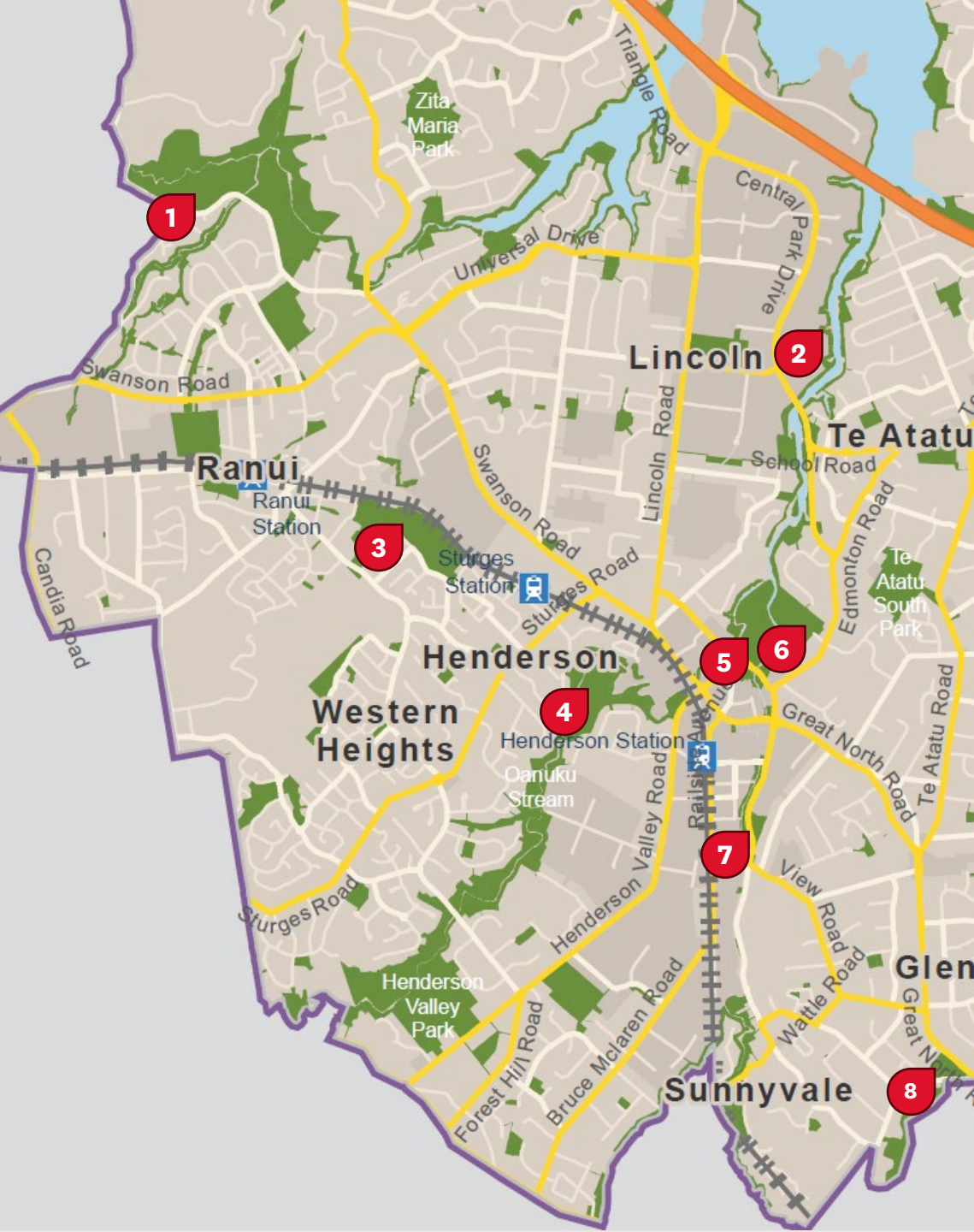
Westgate and Massey

Parks in the above suburbs with the most comments (not in order)



No.	Park	Feedback
1	Kopupaka Reserve	The playground is a great community space. It has a good mix of play features, park amenities and space for parents.
2	Te Pūmanawa Square	Limited parking for Te Manawa is an issue.
3	Pukewhakataratara / Rush Creek Reserve	Create walking / cycling paths connecting to new housing.
4	Royal Reserve	Value the modern playground and bike / scooter track. Litter, vandalism and unleashed dogs are issues. Create separate dog exercise area and add more rain shelter.
5	Moire Park	Potential to be an activated place for hauora (wellbeing). Great for sports and play. Issues with dogs off-leash / not under control, vandalism and toilets needing an upgrade.
6	Te Ara Whai / Triangle Park	Support expansion of teaching garden helping community access nutritious food. The park needs an upgrade.
7	Takitakimanu / Massey Domain	Used for scout hall. Consider installing an obstacle course.
8	Wai Huru Mānawa / Lowtherhurst Reserve	May get flooded sometimes. Add a playground.
9	Huru Mānawa Esplanade	Need walking path to the Northwestern path.
10	Makomako / Chorley Reserve	Add a walking path to the Northwestern path. Formalise a bush track from Triangle Road to Chorley Avenue.
11	Zita Maria Park	Playground needs updating and shade during summer. Reinstate toilet facilities. Invest in facilities to support increased housing density e.g. dog area, courts, bike track.

★ Top 6 parks mentioned in the Henderson-Massey Local Board area (see slide 11)

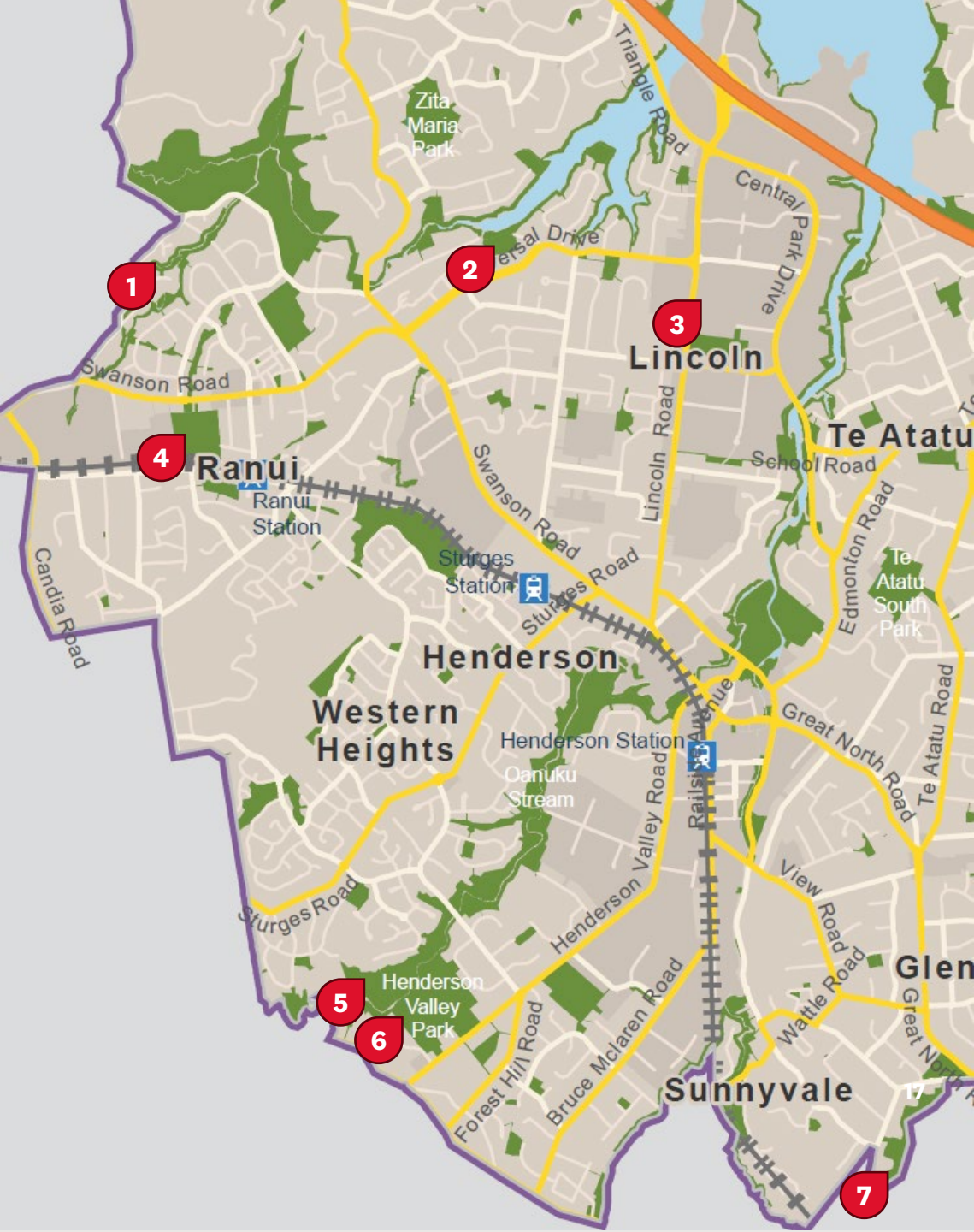


Rānui, Henderson, Sunnyvale

Parks in the above suburbs with the most comments (not in order)

No.	Park	Feedback
1	Te Rangi Hiroa / Birdwood Winery	Value flax gardens. Create path along stream. Areas that lack lighting / visibility seem unsafe. Plan for areas where houses have been removed. Lack of play for under 12 years.
2	Trusts Esplanade Reserve	The bush track is one of the few with good canopy cover in the area. The grass area is good for dog exercise.
3	Paremuka Lakeside	Used for dog walking. Formalise track along railway fence. Karaka tree risk to dogs, poor water quality, flood damage.
4	Henderson Park	Provide exercise classes. Use flood buyout land to extend recreation. Add seating and rubbish bins. Issues with dogs not under control, stream not being cleared, flood damage.
5	Cranwell Park and Esplanade	Flood damage. Maintain historic heritage features and upgrade Henderson Heritage Trail. Only venue in West Auckland for croquet – important to older age group. Improve accessibility and extend playing area.
6	Tui Glen Reserve	Value nature, open space, playground, pathways. Issues with roaming dogs, litter, debris in stream. Upgrades for safety, storytelling, family. More trees and nature play.
7	Whiore / Hart Domain	Great for meeting other local families. Play space is great for toddlers. Create meadow instead of mowing wet areas.
8	Awaroa Park	Great playground for under 5 years. Upgrade and include play options for growing kids e.g. basketball, pump track. Needs shade. Create meadow instead of mowing.

★ Top 6 parks mentioned in the Henderson-Massey Local Board area



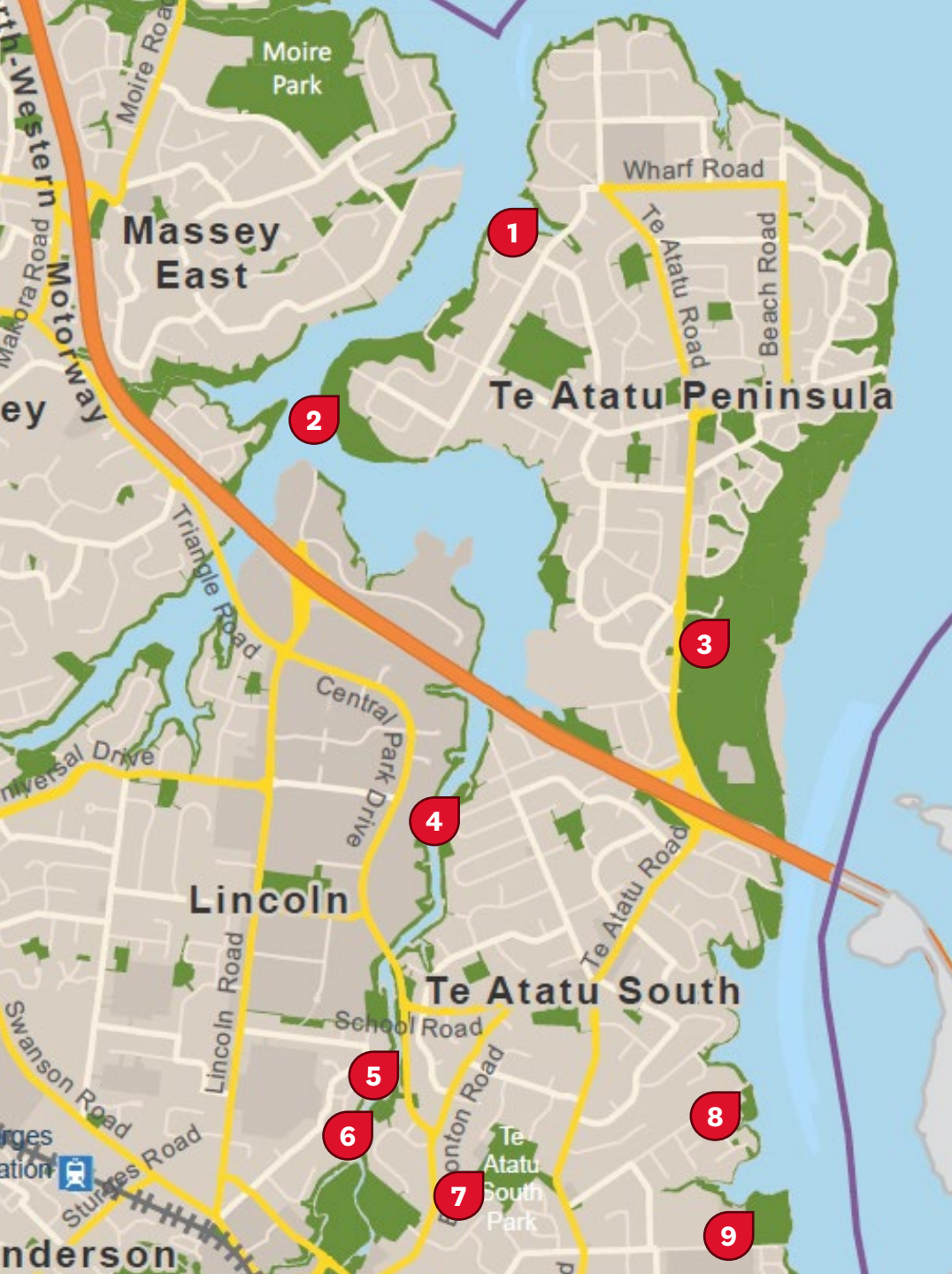
Rānui, Henderson, Sunnyvale

Parks in the above suburbs mentioned by a few submitters

No.	Park	Feedback
1	Waimoko / Urlich Esplanade Reserve	Great walking track in nature. Grow a native bush track. Plant native and fruit trees where houses removed. Issues with dumped rubbish and flooding. Add rubbish bins.
2	Taikato / Riverpark Reserve	Value space for families, play and exercise equipment. Issues with roaming dogs.
3	Te Pai Park	Use skatepark and free courts. Community hub approach and more free facilities, particularly for teenagers, should be provided at other parks.
4	Rānui Domain	Great for walking dogs and connecting with locals. Potential to be an activated place for hauora (wellbeing).
5	Palomino Esplanade	Used to commute by bike to school. Create a bush track through the esplanade to South Kensington Way.
6	Henderson Valley Park	Value the covered riding facility to support riding for the disabled. Install a sensory trail and upgrade playground to be accessible. Add play features for toddlers. Restore the stream to reduce flooding risks.
7	Sunhill Scenic Reserve	Value walking in nature. Damaged walkway needs repairs.

Te Atatū and Glendene

Parks in the above suburbs with the most comments (not in order)

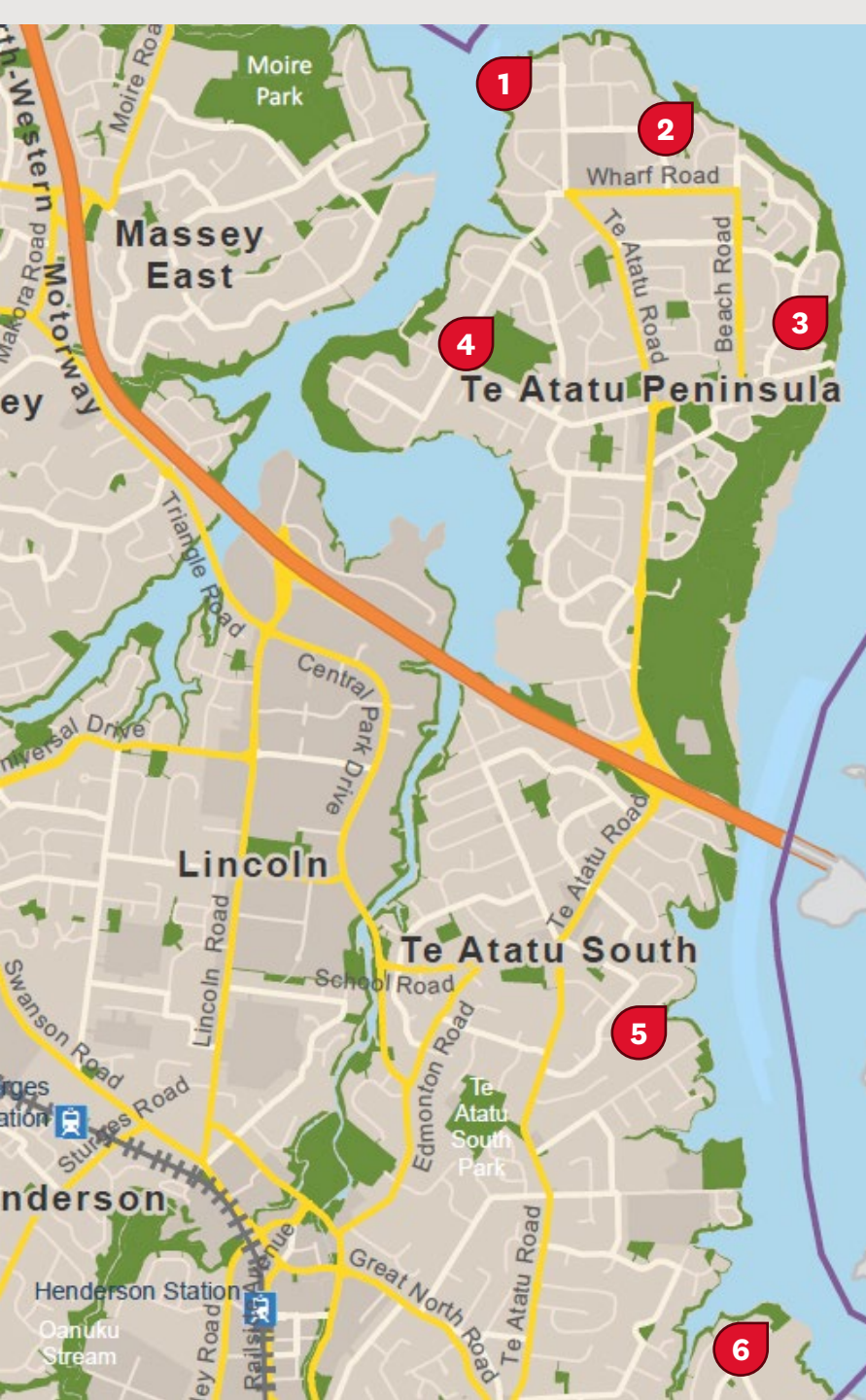


No	Park	Feedback
1	Tawa Esplanade	Valued for nature and used for ecological restoration. Issues with sewer overflow pollution, litter, pest plants. Celebrate waterway, continue planting, add walkways.
2	Taipiri Strand	Used for dog walking and water sports. Valued for water access. Maintain, add rubbish bins and cycle tracks.
3	Harbourview - Orangihina	Value magnificent views, space to socialise, pathways, pā harakeke (flax garden). Ensure events align with climate action plans. Concern about inadequate investment in park amenities and environmental protection / restoration.
4	Sherwood Park	Value walking / cycling path in nature. Issues with flood prone pathway and volume of people sharing the path.
5	Coletta Esplanade	Install an obstacle course. Concern about tree health.
6	Inanga / Chilcott Brae	Value walking / cycling paths. Concern about tree health.
7	Te Atatū ki te Tonga / Te Atatū South Park	Used for walking, dog walking, organised sports. Create a fenced dog area, more pathways / connections, add plants.
8	Horowai / Roberts Field	Include recognition of historic Māori portage along the Whau River. Acknowledge the connection created by Te Whau Pathway. Add more park amenities and nature play.
9	McLeod Park	Used for organised sports, walking. Valued as a sports and community hub by families involved in baseball. Include restoration activities. Support baseball with improved use and investment in facilities to meet demand.

★ Top 6 parks mentioned in the Henderson-Massey Local Board area

Te Atatū and Glendene

Parks in the above suburbs mentioned by a few submitters



No.	Park	Feedback
1	Chapman Strand	Complete the coastal walkway around Te Atatū Peninsula from Chapman Strand to Taipari Strand
2	Kelvin Strand	Used for walking, play, picnic tables. Needs a toilet. Issues with sewer overflow pollution, litter, pest plants.
3	Te Atatū Peninsula Park	Used for playing club football. No skate infrastructure despite being next to five schools and having flat space. Young people forced to use carparks and roads for skating.
4	Waimanu Bay Reserve	Used for exercise, socialising and connecting with nature. Concern about cars in parks, alcohol use and rubbish.
5	Hirere / Tiroroa Esplanade	Valued for dog walking and being away from busy areas. Suggest restoration activities and creating bird habitat.
6	Araara / Laurieston Park	Include recognition of historic Māori portage along the Whau River. Te Whau Pathway will create a future link with McLeod Park and other parks, bringing more people.



Feedback by organisation



Sports groups



East Skate Club	<p>Inclusion of a skatepark and BMX bowl at Te Pai Park is a good model, but there is not enough space to meet demand. Biggest challenge is a lack of dedicated, well-designed skateparks that can support the growing numbers of wheeled sports users in the area. Need for more equitable funding and ongoing investment in building and upgrading skate infrastructure across the region. Use an inclusive design process to establish new skateparks in Te Atatū and Massey, upgrade existing spaces and add park amenities.</p> <p><i>“Skateparks are some of the most-used and cost-effective public facilities when done right; they deserve parity in planning, funding and maintenance.”</i></p>
Sport Waitākere	<p>Value parks as active spaces for physical activity, community celebration and play. Some parks are underused because they feel unsafe, poorly lit, or disconnected from key walkways and destinations. Co-design upgrades using CPTED and play principles. Recommend building safe and inclusive play zones, integrating bush tracks and active transport routes, and investing in community-led activations. Continue work with Te Kawerau ā Maki, and work alongside sport and recreation groups on programming in parks.</p> <p><i>“We’ve worked in parks across West Auckland where whanau-led events and tamariki play initiatives have brought life back into underutilised spaces.”</i></p>





Sports groups continued

Waitākere Bears Softball Club	<p>Based at Te Poi / Starling Park in Rānui with over 150 players, including women’s teams. Te Poi / Starling Park is one of only three grounds in the wider Auckland area, and the only one in West Auckland, that can host regional or national softball tournaments. There is a stark imbalance in provision of sports fields in the local area which creates inequity in access to diamond sports (softball and baseball). Recommend recognising diamond sports as priority for summer season at Te Poi / Starling Park and McLeod Park, and working with stakeholders on long-term planning.</p> <p><i>“Softball is a growing, inclusive sport with deep roots in West Auckland... We urge council to protect its [Te Poi / Starling Park] use for summer diamond sports and invest in its future as a high-quality, multi-sport venue.”</i></p>
West City Baseball (personal feedback from members)	<p>Several members or families involved in baseball at McLeod Park made individual submissions. They value the baseball facilities and the opportunity for young people to be involved in club sports. Challenges include access to fields and shared resources, particularly into the summer season, and only having one junior diamond. This limits their ability to train or play consistently as the club operates almost year-round and serves a growing number of members. Recommend improvements in drainage, maintenance and layout.</p> <p><i>“Designated as a key diamond sport park in the Auckland Diamond Sports Facilities Plan, McLeod Park supports hundreds of players, coaches, families and volunteers every summer. It offers a safe, structured and positive environment for youth development, physical activity and community connection.”</i></p>



Recreation groups



Puppy Play and Henderson Dog Park Community	<p>A growing group of local dog owners that regularly meet up at Corban Reserve dog park have created a group called Puppy Play which encourages shared use of this important space. The reserve is valued as a safe space where people can form friendships and dogs are socialised. An issue affecting the park experience is a hollow in the ground that remains waterlogged. Recommend filling in the low area and adding wood chips for drainage.</p> <p><i>“Our community is passionate, supportive and willing to help, we just need a little backing to make this park safer and more enjoyable for all.”</i></p>
West Auckland Riding for the Disabled	<p>The group is grateful to hold a lease at Henderson Valley Reserve and for the support of council in building a covered riding facility. This enables year round services which benefit riders, their whānau, and volunteers. Aspirations are to restore the stream, with council help, and improve the leased area with weed removal and planting. They advocate for a sensory trail and upgrades to the play space to make it accessible.</p> <p><i>“Overall we feel the equestrian activity on the park is positive for the local community. Visitors love to see the horses and riders. It brings an appreciated rural feel/vibe to the spreading suburbs.”</i></p>
New Zealand Motor Caravan Association	<p>The association has 15,000 members in Auckland, with most using a mix of commercial or private campsites and freedom camping sites. Since 2006, they have operated a member-only motor camp at Tui Glen Reserve. Freedom camping is generally prohibited on Reserves Act land. Recommend that the proposed plan explicitly accommodates freedom camping in appropriate reserves and includes a policy to permit camping elsewhere.</p> <p><i>“A recent survey (2025) of over 1,000 NZMCA members suggests 19% prefer staying at freedom camping sites when considering accommodation options and 52% consider freedom camping at some point during their time on the road.”</i></p>





Community and health groups

Cancer Society of New Zealand	<p>Recommends that shade is considered in all play or park upgrades, and that shade is planned and budgeted for in all outdoor play areas. Prioritise shade sails, gazebos and trees at large / destination playgrounds and parks. Recommend drinking fountains are installed at the six playgrounds with toilets (water pipes) and long-term are available at all playgrounds. Consider installing smokefree signs where smoking is observed at key public places.</p> <p><i>“...the shade cover specifically available for play equipment [in Henderson-Massey] at midday during the summer months: 91% had poor or no shade, 4% had some shade and 5% had good or excellent shade.”</i></p>
Healthy Families Waitākere	<p>Value parks as spaces of connection for whānau, culture, wellbeing and whenua. Recommends using CPTED principles, cultural design and community-led programming to unlock barriers at some parks perceived as unsafe or unwelcoming. Parks like Moire Park, Rānui Domain, and Jack Colvin Park could become spaces for hauora (wellbeing), urban resilience and belonging. Continue and strengthen work with Te Kawerau ā Maki.</p> <p><i>“Embedding placemaking, co-design, and Te Ao Māori across all parks would help create spaces that are more welcoming, better reflect community needs, and support long-term wellbeing for people and the environment.”</i></p>
Whānau Āwhina Plunket	<p>Supports move to safer, active, inclusive community centres, and the co-location of community services to improve usage (e.g. inclusion of playgrounds).</p>



Environment and heritage groups



RiverCare Group Te Wai o Pareira	<p>Vision for Tawa Esplanade to become an oasis of natural heritage in a densely populated area, inviting engagement and connection with nature. A cherished community and educational resource, and a place for children to enjoy. Elements of the vision include a formed walkway, native plant identification, historical information, small play space, beautification of the stormwater retention tank and education on hydrological systems.</p> <p><i>“Since that time [2021] RiverCare has led the progressive restoration of the site by removing weed and animal pest species (with the support of council), planting native seedlings and careful ongoing maintenance and community education initiatives. Hundreds of hours of volunteer time has been devoted to this project.”</i></p>
West Auckland Historical Society	<p>Opportunity to work with council and mana whenua to enhance the Henderson Heritage Trail by upgrading heritage information signage and plaques. Suggest relocating the flood damaged replica waterwheel and gear shed away from Ōpanuku Stream and onto the Mill Cottage site with assistance from council. Vegetation on the site has been damaged by flooding, overgrowth and vandalism, including two Kauri trees planted by the society.</p> <p><i>“This is a project that the society would like to work on in conjunction with Auckland Council to make Henderson’s heritage accessible to everyone, encompassing key areas like Tui Glen, Falls Park, Cranwell Park, the Henderson’s Mill Cottage site and Corban’s Estate Arts Centre and other sites.”</i></p>



