

AWAKERI WETLANDS *play and connections*

STAGE 4: DRAFT CONCEPT | JULY 2024



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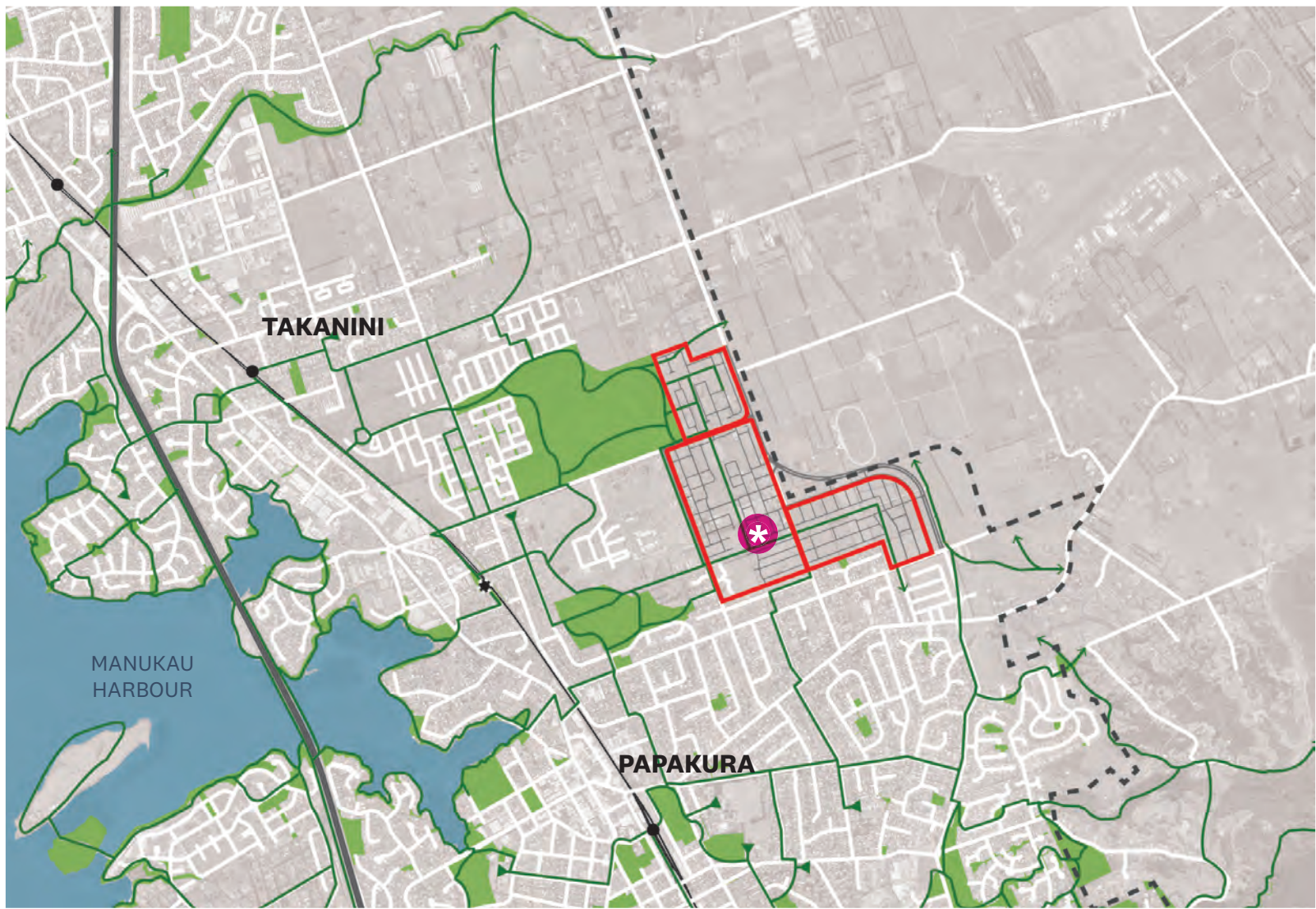
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1.0 Site Context & Design Principles

1.1 Site Context



Context Analysis - Greenway connections

LEGEND:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Site Location | Roads |
| State Highway 1 | Railway and Rail Stations |
| Proposed Greenway Routes | Proposed Rail Station |
| Open Spaces | Rural Urban Boundary |

Scale: 1:30 000

Papakura Play Network Gap Analysis 2020

Findings from the Papakura Local Board play gap analysis show that there are clear gaps in the Takanini area.

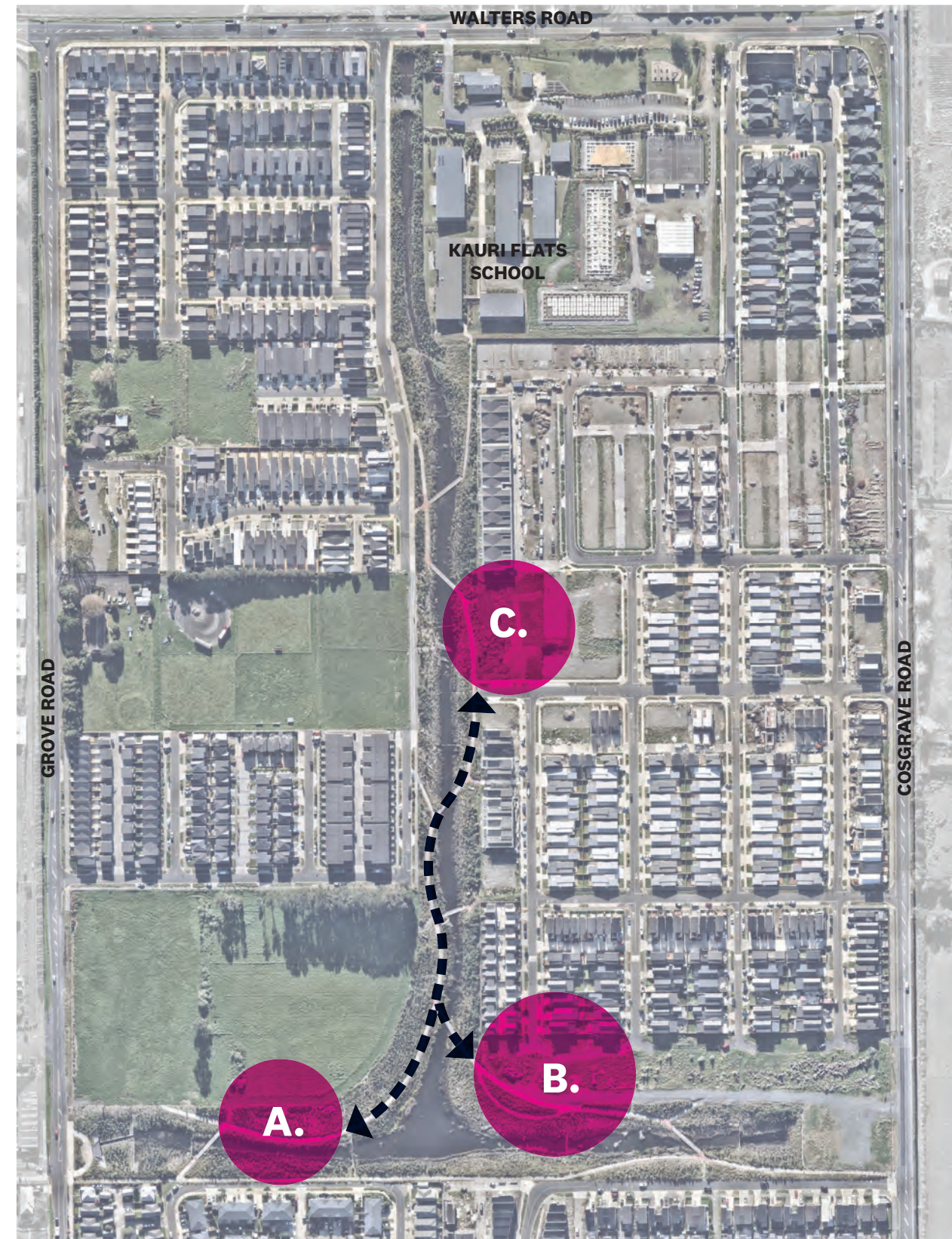
Awakeri Wetlands has been identified as a **high-medium priority** location to develop a new suburb level playspace for the area. This is to support the ongoing high density residential development occurring here.

The assessment also notes:

- Awakeri Wetlands should consider **Senior (9-12 yrs) and/or Youth (13+ yrs)** age groups to address the network age gap
- Under provision of specialised play improvements, Awakeri Wetlands has been identified as a potential location for **sound play, all abilities/accessible play, and nature play**
- **Themes** as shown in the Awakeri Landscape Plan , developed through a series of hui between 2016-2019

With more than **2000 new homes** being constructed within the immediate framework area, the waterway provides a central channel for a new community to grow around, encourage revitalisation of

1.2 Framework Plan - **play & recreation nodes**



1.3 Site History (from the Awakeri Landscape Plan)

Wider Landscape Context

Pukekoiwiriki Pā (Pā) and its environs hold considerable historical significance for Māori. The area is associated with key events and individuals and plays an integral part in the traditional stories of a number of Iwi who whakapapa to this area. The geographical location of the Pā was strategic and alone tells of its importance in the defence system associated with the wider area. The importance of the setting was due to the wide visual attributes providing views through to Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, along the inner reaches of Te Manukanuka o Hoturoa/Manukau Harbour, across the plains of Papakura and back to the hills of the Hunua Ranges. From these ranges to the east, the relationship between Papakura and over to the Wharekawa block and in particular Tikapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf is worthy of noting. . Expansive views, proximity to local kainga and easy access to Kirikiri Stream (Hays Stream) were other advantages of the site. The Pā served as a stronghold, observation post and a place of both refuge and defence for the local kainga, in particular Te Aparangi, as well as a storage site for produce, most likely kumara.

Mana Whenua

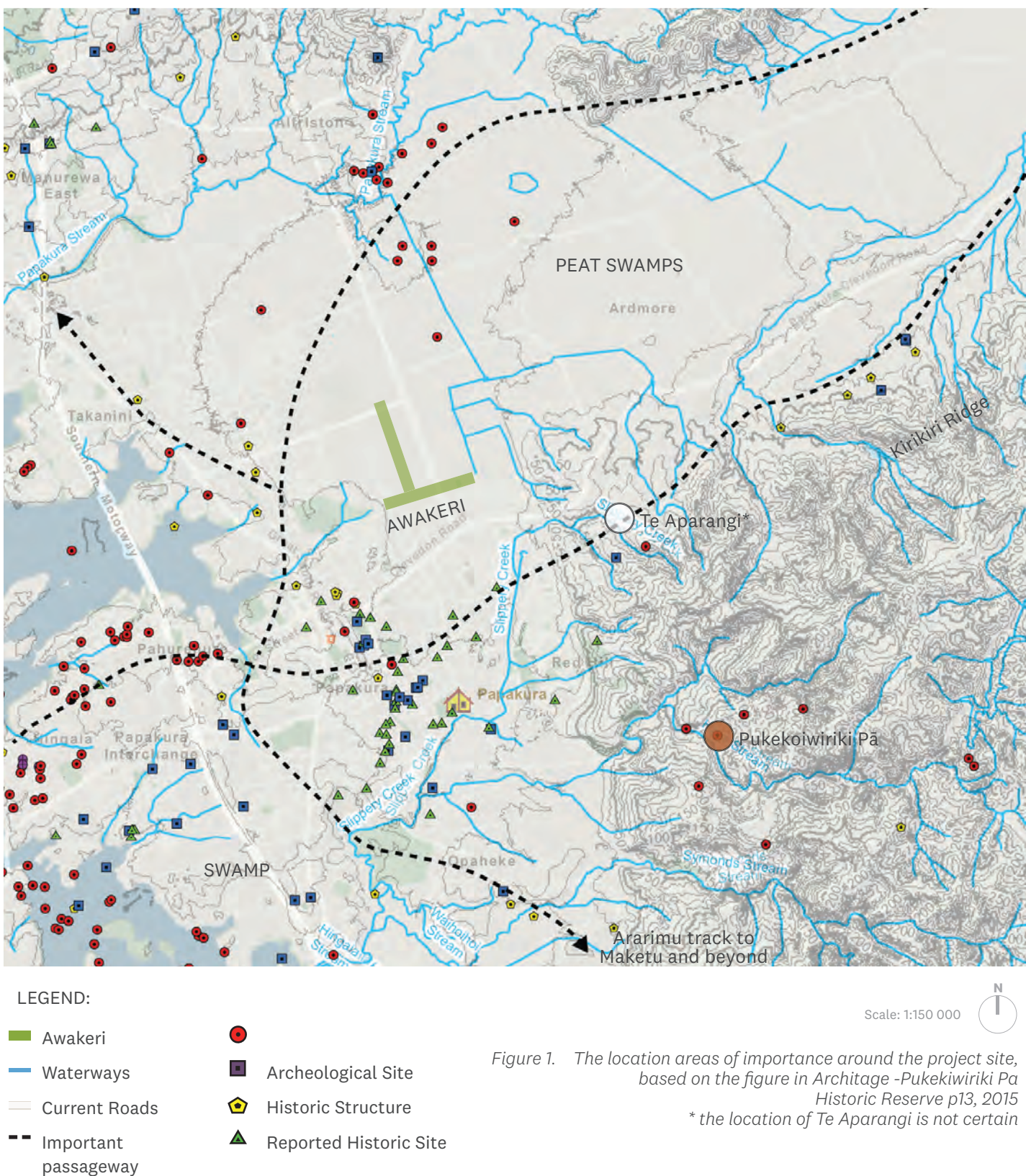
The partnership with Mana Whenua has been an important one. Robust relationships between Mana Whenua and Papakura Council (pre-amalgamation of the Auckland Council) was active at both governance and operational levels. The Awakeri project partnership has been a continuation of that collaboration, therefore partnering specifically with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Te Ata Waiohū, Te Akitai Waiohū and Ngāti Tamaoho. Those Mana Whenua who may at some time have occupied and/or traversed this area over an extended time period are acknowledged.

This area also has a deeply sensitive connection to the Land Wars of 1863 and prior to that the most well known land transaction known as the Fairburn purchase where approximately 83,000 acres of land was ‘sold’ to William Fairburn of the Church Missionary Society in 1836. Post signing of the Treaty of Waitangi of 1840, all pre-Treaty land sales were subsequently examined which only allowed William Fairburn to keep just under 3,000 acres. The remainder was retained by the Crown as ‘surplus’ lands and largely sold into private ownership. Mana Whenua have an opportunity to return to uphold the intimacy that they once shared with this land and their ancestors now passed on to re-tell those connections to the whenua.

Trails to maunga pa and beyond

The Takaanini area formed part of a key passage for Māori between the shores of the Manukau Harbour and Waioa (Clevedon) and the Hunua Ranges. It also formed part of the Ararimu Track, a highly strategic and well-utilised waka route between the Waikato and Hauraki Gulf. The track was noted as skirting the Papakura Swamp, passing through the Hunua Ranges to the headwaters of the Mangatawhiri Creek; the Papakura Swamp being the location of the proposed Awakeri Wetlands.

On the ‘Papakura side’ of the Hingaia peninsula, at Chalky Point, was a canoe landing from where a track led to Waipapa at the head of the Pahurehure Inlet. The waterways around Hingaia were frequently used to gain access to Pukekoiwiriki and the neighbouring settlement of Te Aparangi as well as the pā at Slippery Creek and the Opaheke settlement.



1.4 Design elements (from the Awakeri Landscape Plan)

TAONGA - KNOWLEDGE & COMMUNITY

ARA HIKOI - PATHWAYS

RAORAO - LOWLAND

REPO - SWAMP

WAI MĀORI - FRESHWATER

Layering of Design Elements

The wetlands are located in an area formed in layers over time. Initially layers of silt and mud, the area has been uplifted. Later a kauri forest covered the entire area. Over time, water has collected creating a giant wetland (the Papakura Swamp) and the giants of Tane have been buried in peat. The forest was also charred and burnt during the Taupō eruption, evidence of the ash layer can be seen in the peat. The project reflects these layers and the geological history of the area.

The design elements derive from the kaupapa of Awakeri, which is based on the core idea of tiwhiri - discovery. The environmental and ecological layers form the foundation of the project by recreating the wetlands which were once present in the Papakura flatlands. The name Awakeri reflects the man-made nature of the channel, although the earthworks and contouring reflect the characteristics of a natural watercourse. The channel is designed to create a mosaic of freshwater habitats, with a chain of open water bodies and wetland areas. The stormwater assets, weirs, culverts and underground infrastructure have been designed to enable the establishment of a naturalised wetland.

The lowlands and stream banks are enhanced by eco-sourced native planting, including re-introduced sedge species (*Sporadanthus ferrugineus* and *Schoenus brevifolius*), more than 500 specimen trees and shrub areas with a diverse understory of ferns and other native species. The planting will provide shelter for the self-introduction of flora and fauna in the future, restoring the mauri of the area.

The rich history of the wider project site provides an array of elements to be referenced in the built environment, forming the cultural layer of Awakeri. The pathways follow the waterway from its source out to McLennan Park and beyond this to the Pahurehure Inlet, providing a journey along Awakeri and the adjacent open spaces. The journey references the important trading routes and pathways connecting the villages and pa sites to the resource-rich swamplands of the past.

Materials used in the hard landscape also reflect the site's history, with the path materials referencing the name Papakura - meaning Red Earth. The swamp kauri stumps found on site will partially be reserved in-situ, showcasing the constant change of ecosystems present in the area. The Taupō ash layer is likely to be revealed in places during the excavation of the channel, and referenced in the hardstand.

To help pass on knowledge to generations to come, an outdoor classroom is proposed, in coordination with Kauri Flats School. Rongoa and raranga plants will be planted in specific areas and information boards will tell the stories what the channel reveals.

A social layer will be added too, building on the cultural layer and history of the site. New inhabitants will come to live in the area, forming new connections and telling new stories. Awakeri will provide open spaces where people can meet, an outdoor exercise area for recreation and outdoor classrooms for education. The channel will form a connection between past and future inhabitants of the land.



Figure 2. Kauri stumps



Figure 3. The Taupō ash layer at a



Figure 4. Banded kokopu

1.5 Cultural context (from the Awakeri Landscape Plan)

Cultural context

Awakeri is a name that has been approved and supported by the Mana Whenua closely associated to this whenua and engaged with this project, a contemporary reflection of the way in which an open waterway has been applied when previously no such construct existed either built or in nature. Awakeri reflects on the ‘carved-out’ nature of this man-made structure.

To share stories about a significant site and landscape, one must first consider the context in which it is nested. The Awakeri project footprint requires a deep understanding and enhancement of mauri or life essence, past present and future and how it will continue to evolve for the betterment of the wider environment.

Awakeri is an open water conveyance channel. In that regard it is important that the integrity of wai and its life carrying capacity is not compromised from it’s source ground to the receiving environment. With the receiving environment being the Pahurehure Inlet and in turn the Manukau Harbour, water quality needs to be of an utmost high standard with minimum sedimentation deposits to minimise environmental impact. It also requires that adjacent land based activities do not adversely impact on wai and as such wetland remediation and use of native plantings along its course is an absolute imperative. This will also assist in attracting native fauna, enhancing biodiversity.

The term “tiaki” means to guard, keep, preserve, conserve, foster or watch over, while the prefix “kai” with a verb conveys the agent of the act. Therefore, a Kaitiaki is a guardian, preserver, conservator, foster parent and protector a mantle which Mana Whenua continue to uphold and therefore act in the interest of cultural and ecological benefits.

The landscape plan has been developed in collaboration with Mana Whenua with an embracing narrative of Tīwhiri, associated to discovery and enhancement. Thematically tīwhiri provides a myriad of ways in which design attributes can be portrayed, relating to conceptual, cultural, or material principles, and referring to rediscovery, reconnection and reinscribing the past. The landscape plan aims to create a synergy between the design of Awakeri and the wider design opportunities in the area to embed meaning, imagery and storytelling, to promote shared experiences and create a layered expression of culture that speaks to the history of the area.

We acknowledge Mana Whenua; Te Akitai Waiohū, Ngāti Te Ata Waiohū, Ngāti Tamaoho and Ngai Taki Ki Tāmaki as partners in this project.

Tīwhiri

(verb) (-a,-hia) to wave about, brandish.
(noun) clue, means of discovering something lost or hidden, hint, tip, pointer.
(noun) torch, spotlight. [maoridictionary.co.nz/]

Thematically tīwhiri can be responded to in a number of ways that may relate to conceptual, cultural, or material principles.



The central channel after the opening in 2020

1.6 Design Principles (from the Awakeri Landscape Plan)

The project specific design principles were developed through various hui between the Project Team and Mana Whenua. These were refined by the Public Arts team once the kaupapa / overarching narrative of Tīwhiri was confirmed with Mana Whenua, and then finalised to form the backbone of the landscape plan. The four key Project Design Principles relate to, and are embedded within the Te Aranga Design Values and Principles.

1 SENSITIVITY	2 RESTORATION	3 MAHITAHİ	4 WELLBEING
The project is located in an area of peat with high and variable ground conditions - a highly sensitive ground. The project should be sensitive to the earth with the least number of structures in the ground. The wetlands shall reflect a close relationship with Papatuanuku.	The design should respond to restoration of the ‘Papakura Swamp’ by recreating where possible the repo and awa including the restoration of native species that originally were present in the area.	The project shall reflect on the diverse communities and the coming together of people, living and engaging with Awakeri as guardians and servants of the natural ecology that is being potentialised. Co-creation is vital.	The wellbeing of both the natural environment along with the community is a key design principle for the Awakeri Wetlands. Safety for the community and school children should be provided, both inherently in the wetlands and in the greater open space.

INCORPORATION OF THE PRINCIPLES

CONCEPTUAL

Artwork in the channel will respond conceptually to cultural themes. At the same time attention will be given to scale, spatial perception, user experience, and sensory and tactile prop-

Significant themes include:

- Journeys
- Space
- Thresholds
- Connections
- Channel (Awakeri)
- Community
- Perception
- Expression
- Utility

MATERIAL

Given the rich history of the project area – as both forest and wetland – materiality has been identified as an important element for all creative opportunities throughout the wider channel. The use of materiality will be poignant, contemporary, and honour both cultural and

Significant themes include:

- Swamp Kauri
- Peat
- Harvestable plants
- Taupō ash layer
- Red earth (Papakura)
- Oxidised Steel
- Wildlife
- **Mist**
- Other discovered or uncovered materials

CULTURAL

The kaupapa for Awakeri has been developed with local Mana Whenua and is based around Te Ao Māori values and Te Aranga Māori design principles, as well as concepts specific to the past, present and future of the Awakeri area.

Significant themes include:

- **Wai māori** (freshwater)
- Repo (swamp) and raorao (lowland)
- Kohukohunui (Hunua Ranges)
- Te Manukanuka o Hoturoa (Manukau Harbour)
- Hinepukohurangi (mist maiden)
- **Ara hīkoi** (pathway/journey)

The cultural principles of the Landscape Plan are drawn directly from the Awakeri cultural overlay (kaupapa) defined by Mana Whenua.

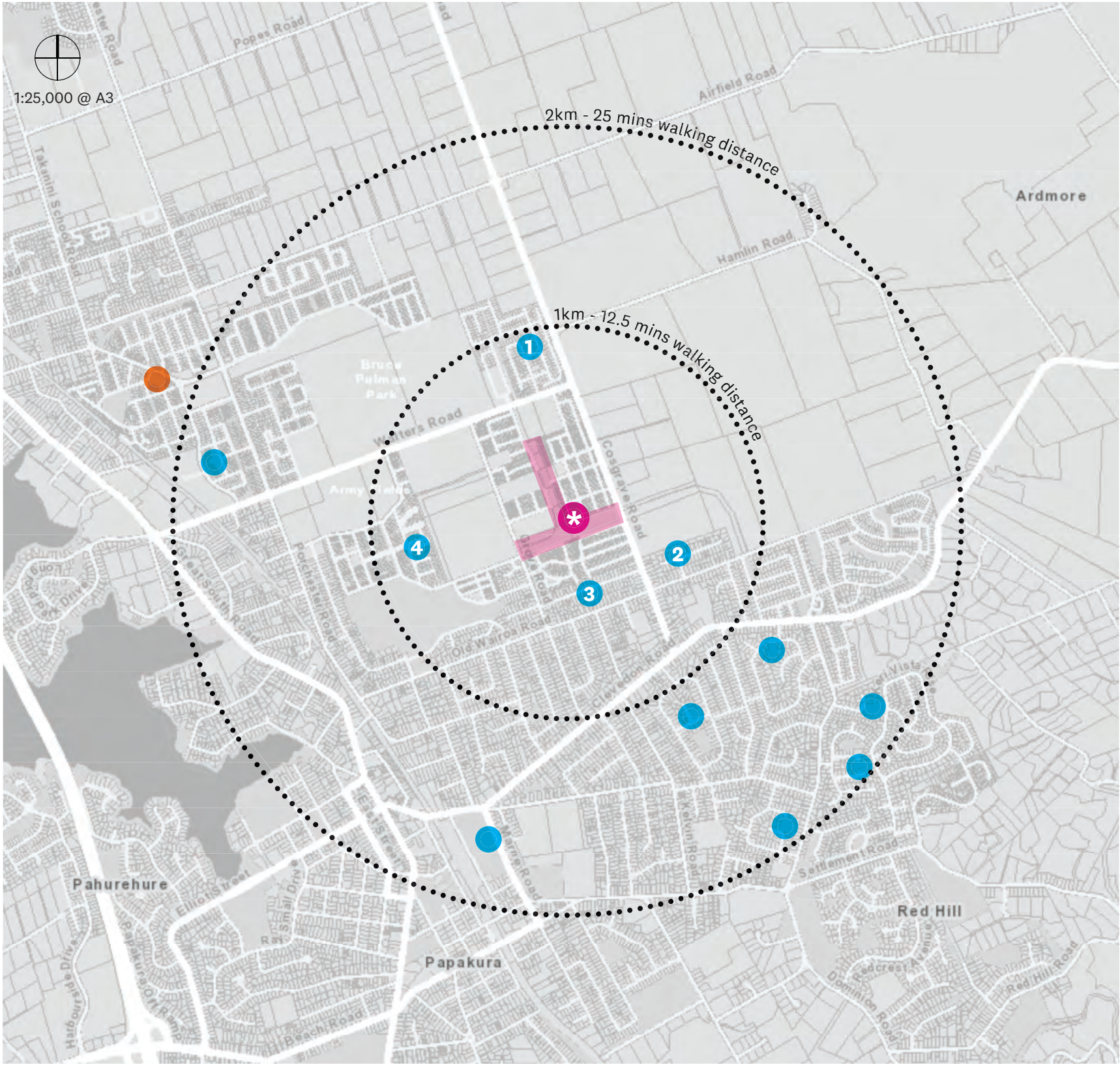
Tīwhiri, the concept of discovery and enhancement, provides the framework for Awakeri (meaning channel and/or ditch), which is Mana Whenua recognise as being located in the wide context of Papakura/Tāmaki-Makaurau/Aotearoa/Te Ao Turoa (universe).

The notion of tīwhiri refers to an awakening or heightened sense of discovery; the uncovering of layers and patterns, tangible and intangible as well as literal and metaphorical – the idea of revealing the landscape’s stories.

Significant themes include:

- Kohu (mist): referred to through the names Kohukohunui te Maunga (now known as the Hūnua Ranges) and Hinepukohurangi, the mist maiden; the mist cascading across this area in early winter mornings.
- Ara hīkoi, or pathway(s)/journey(ing): references the movement of people from one place to another; up, along and over well-trodden ridges; down and across lowlands; accessing waterways that reach into the salt marshes and estuaries; then on to the coastal edges and eventually the sea/moana.
- Wai māori (freshwater): water as a taonga is vital to the mauri of a place and its people.

1.7 Nearby Playgrounds



Legend:
● Awakeri Wetlands site ● Local-scale playgrounds ● Suburb-scale playgrounds

Local Playgrounds within 1km walk:

1. Kauri Flats Park



Nest tower (rope), module, 3-bay swings

2. Pukeroa Pl Reserve



Rope spinner, module, 2-bay swings, basketball

3. Fernaig St Reserve



Metal climber, module, swings

4. Leadership Cres Reserve



Basket swing, spinner, module

Suburb Playground (over 2km walk)

Kauri Heart Park



Rope wave structure, module with large slide, 2-bay swings, we-hopper spinner, learn-to-ride track

1.8 Existing Site Conditions

Location of proposed park with suburb scale playground:



- Located at the end of John Gray Street, above the confluence of the two arms of Awakeri
- Currently underused, uneven surface with leftover construction material and uncontrolled weed growth
- Piles of swamp kauri removed during construction of Awakeri are existing features, these to be kept in place
- Turning heads at dead end streets. Great access and

Location of proposed youth hub:



- Located on the northern bank within the Awakeri designation, above the 10 year flood level, close to the Grove Road entrance
- Existing low growing vegetation with kauri stumps. Stumps to be retained at original location
- Great access from shared path, future connections to proposed channel edge road

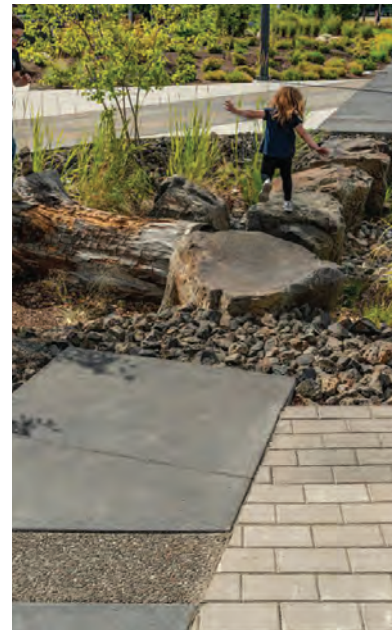
Location of proposed village green



- Located on the northern bank within the Awakeri designation, above the 10 year flood level, close to the Grove Road entrance
- Existing low growing vegetation with kauri stumps. Stumps to be retained at original location
- Great access from shared path, future connections to proposed channel edge road

2.0 Proposed park & Suburb Playground

2.1 Precedent Themes + Imagery



Precedent themes include:

Tiwhiri - discovery

Taonga - knowledge & community

Swamp Kauri - buried timber

Papakura - red earth

Awakeri

Wetland plants

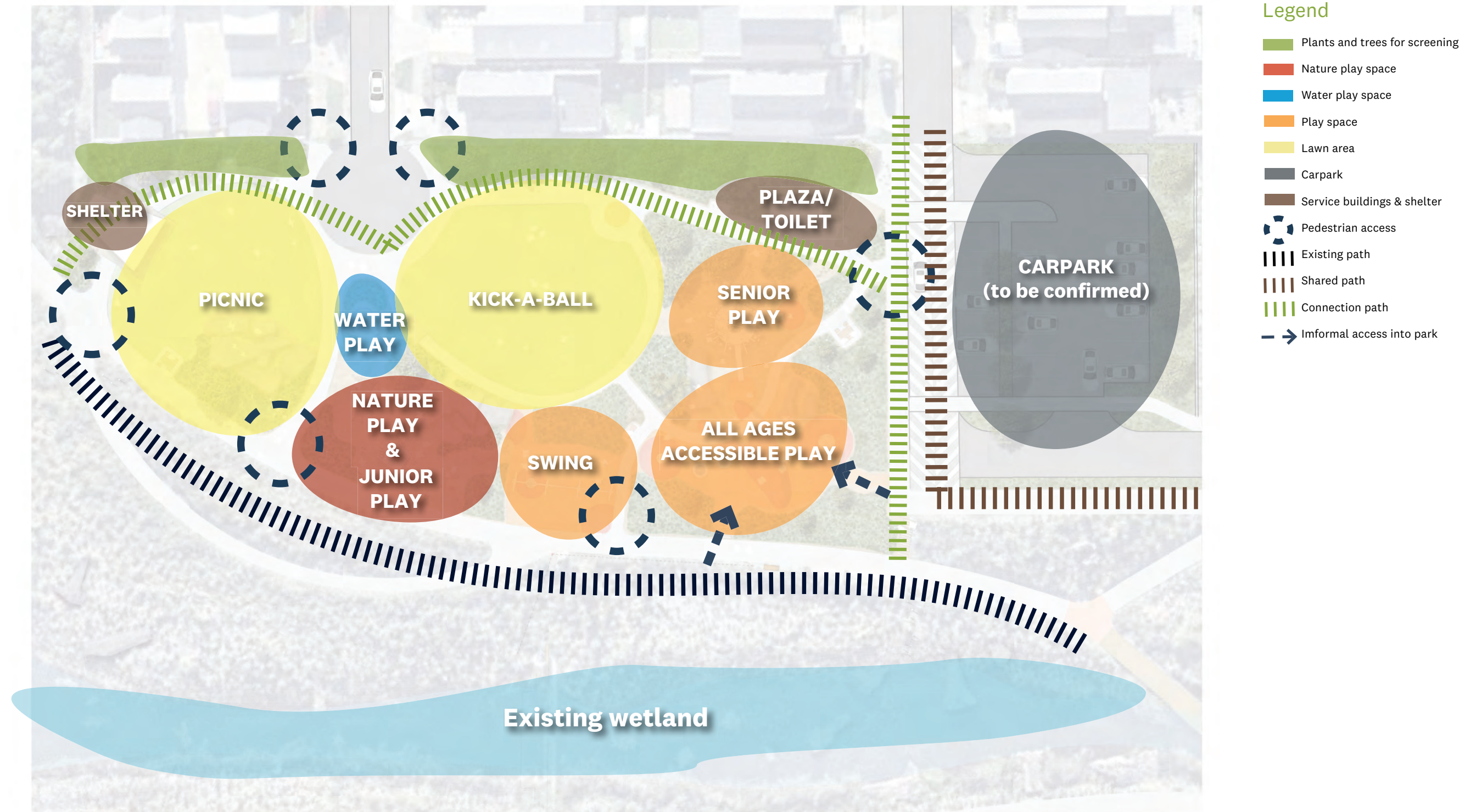
Repo resources / gathering

Kohu - mist

Taupo ash layer

The lost village of Te Aparangi

2.2 Playground and Proposed Park - Zoning



2.3 Playground Concept



Design elements

- | | |
|--|--|
| ① Proposed wheeled play | ⑫ Proposed hardwood posts, reference to past forests |
| ② Detailed timber post with interactive panels. Theme: birds | ⑬ Single rocker |
| ③ Detailed timber post with mist mechanish | ⑭ Balancing trail |
| ④ Truning head to be replaced | ⑮ Sensory play - Talking tubes, sound of the water |
| ⑤ Proposed whare roof structure for shelter and potential carving workshops | ⑯ 3 bay swing |
| ⑥ Detailed timber post with interactive panels. Theme: trees / timber | ⑰ Proposed spinner |
| ⑦ Existing pile of kauri stumps retained as nature play | ⑱ Trampolines x2 |
| ⑧ Water play - pump with carved channels theme: awakeri. wetland planting for 'sponge' soakage | ⑲ Proposed mound with tunnel |
| ⑨ Rope play climbing structure theme: eel nets | ⑳ Double rocker |
| ⑩ Detailed timber post with interactive panels. Theme: wetland / aquatic fauna | ㉑ Wheelchair carousel |
| ⑪ Junior tower including climbing, binoculars, feature panels. theme: tiwhiri / discovery, whare | ㉒ Shared zone, materials and pattern TBC |
| | ㉓ Senior tower, including climbing, 2x sliding, feature panels. Theme: tiwhiri, forest |
| | ㉔ Rope walk |
| | ㉕ Proposed plaza with seating, drinking fountain, toilet block and accessible entrance |
| | ㉖ Detailed timber post with interactive panels. Theme: wetland plants |
| | ㉗ Proposed parking TBC - P27 |

KEY:

- Bark safety surface
- Proposed amenity planting
- Lawn
- Proposed concrete path
- Proposed asphalt surfacing
- Wetpour safety surfacing
- Proposed timber decking
- Proposed tree

Scale
1:500 @A3

2.4 Proposed Play Equipment

Swinging



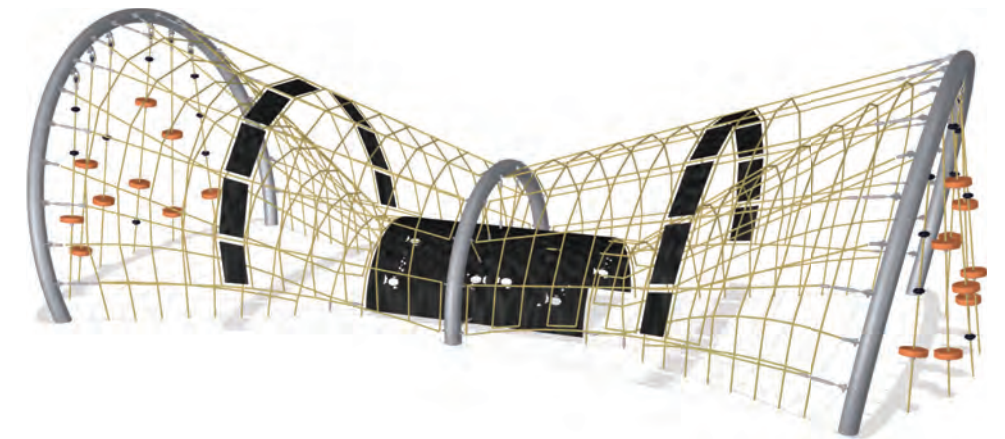
Single and double spring rocker



Spinning



Net Climbing



Nature / wobbly wood / balance

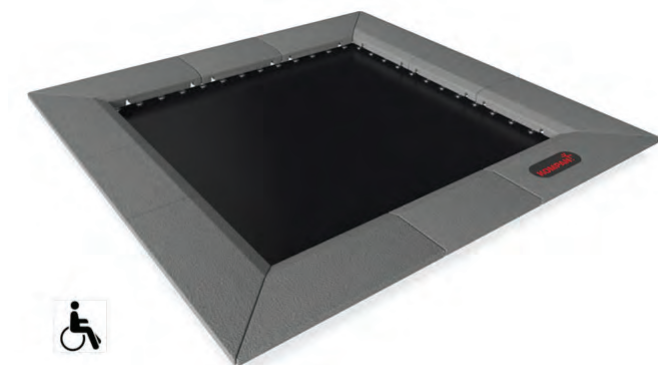


Accessible

Spinning



Trampolines

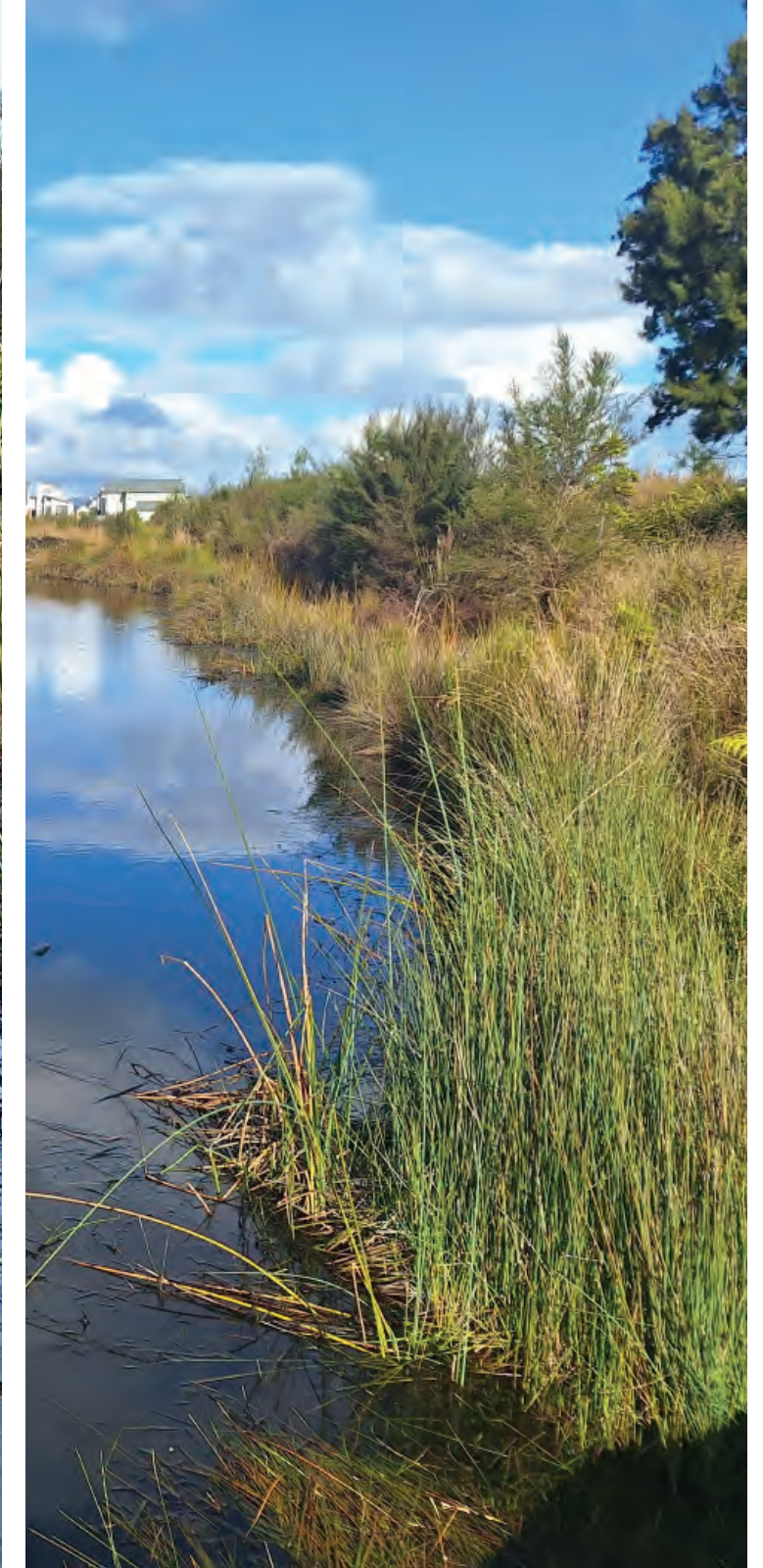


Tower / sliding



Water Play





3.0 Proposed Youth Hub

3.1 Precedent Themes + Imagery



Precedent themes include:

Active recreation

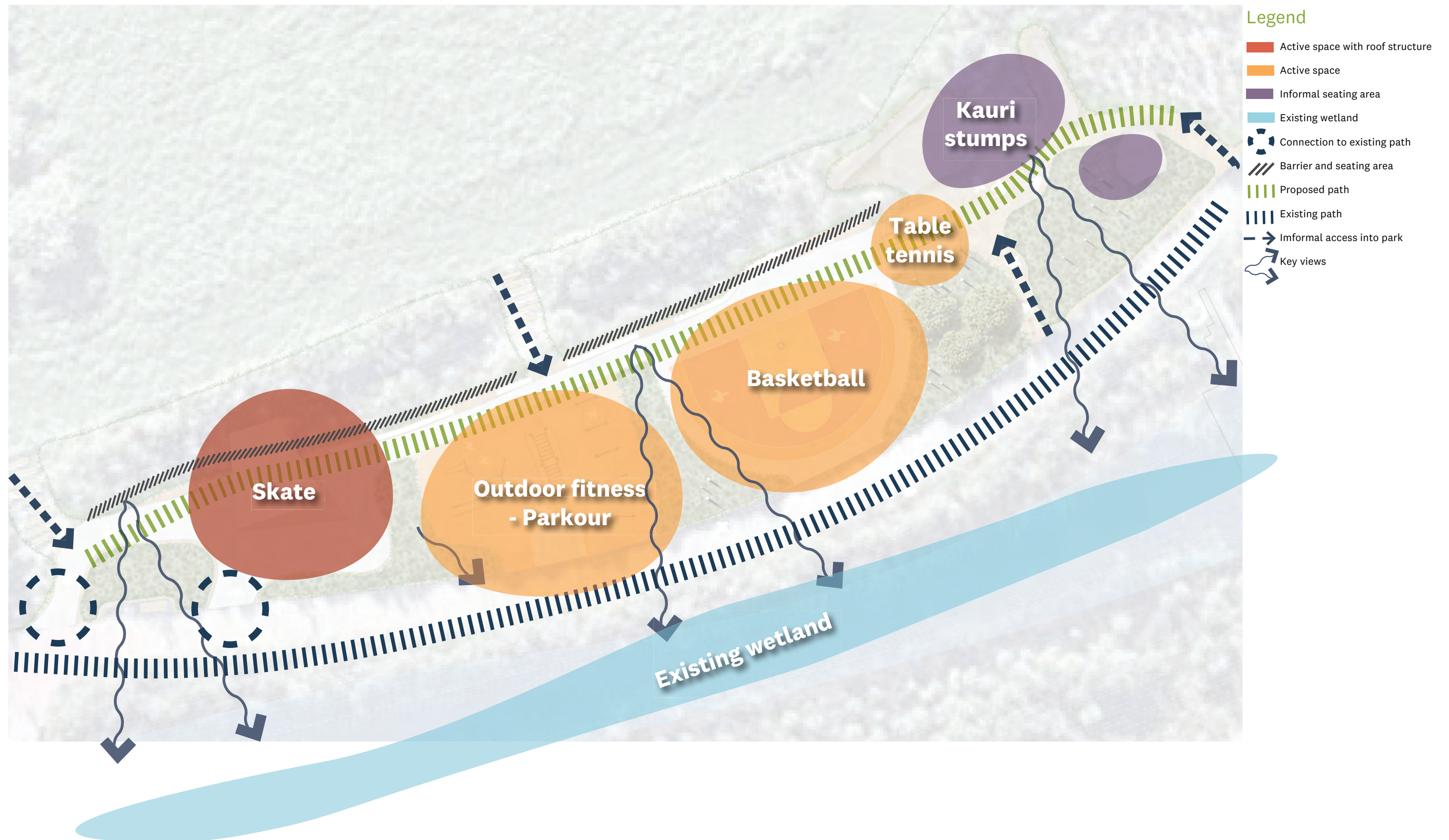
Health and wellbieng

Wai māori - freshwater

Mahi tahi - getting together

Papakura - red earth

3.2 Youth Hub - Zoning



3.3 Youth Hub Concept



4.0 Proposed Village Green

4.1 Precedent Themes + Imagery

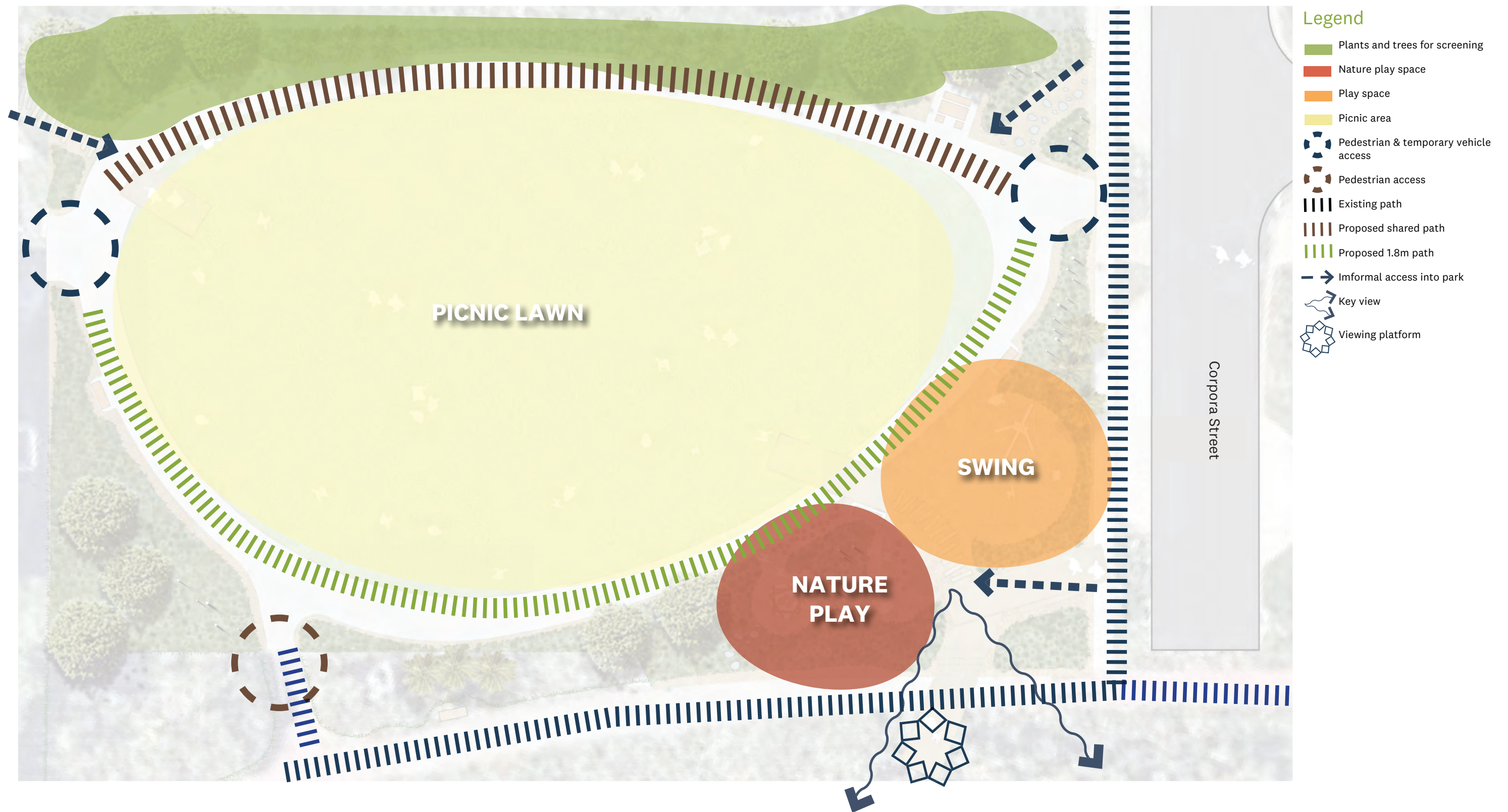


Precedent themes include:

- Manawa-civic heart
- Reconnection to nature
- Ara hikoi - pathways, journey + connection
- Creating social connections
- Social hub

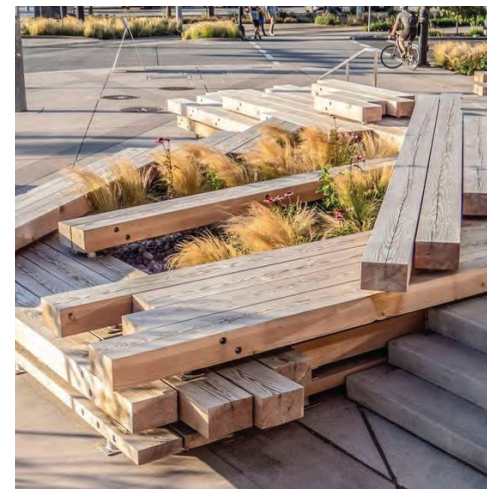
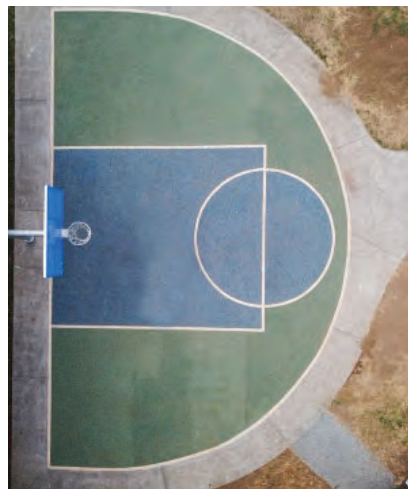


4.2 Village Green - Zoning



4.3 Village Green Concept





Active hub

Key items:

- Outdoor exercise equipment for youth and adults
- Basketball half court
- Table tennis
- Skate
- Terraced seating / hang out space with views across the water
- Connected to existing path network

Suburban play

Key items:

- Play for all ages/abilities, including older kids
- Accessible & inclusive elements
- Natural play elements
- Shade
- Seating and picnic spaces
- Connected to existing path network
- Connects existing development to channel
- Toilet block and drinking fountain
- Water play
- Interactive panels



Community green

Key items:

- Flexible open lawn space for the community to:
- Kick-a-ball
- Free play
- Gather / host events / markets
- Informal picnic
- Connects to Civic Heart
- Nature play



