

Albert-Eden Local Parks Management Plan

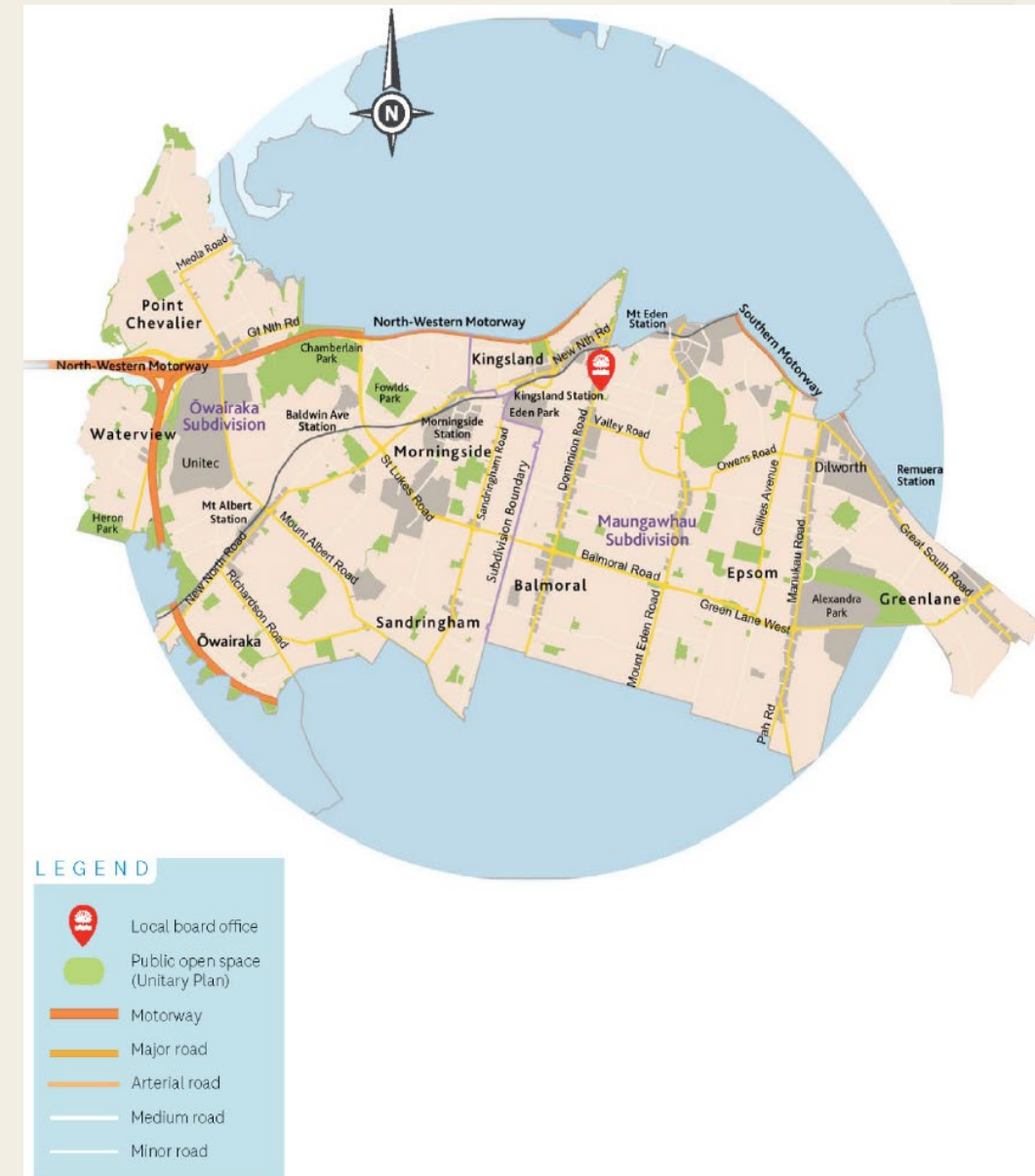
Summary of submissions from the first round of public consultation

September 2025



Summary

- The Albert-Eden Local Board area has approximately **118 local parks**.
- The local board is preparing a **Local Parks Management Plan (LPMP)** to guide how these parks are **used, managed and protected**.
- The plan is:
 - Required under the Reserves Act 1977
 - Includes parkland held under the Reserves Act 1977 and Local Government Act 2002
 - Once completed, the LPMP will replace all existing reserve management plans in the Albert-Eden Local Board area.
- To help shape the draft plan, the community was asked for feedback from **1 May to 1 June 2025**.
- **254 submissions** were received.
- This presentation provides a summary of what the community told us about how they use and experience their local parks.



Consultation process and findings



Public consultation overview

The public consultation aimed to:

- Understand how parks are used and valued
- Identify issues and aspirations
- Build community awareness and involvement
- Inform future direction to develop the LPMP

Submission methods	Count	%
Social Pinpoint – Poll questions	104	40.94%
(online) AK Have Your Say (AKHYS) feedback form	90	35.43%
Social Pinpoint – Open comments	49	19.29%
Email submissions	7	2.76%
(Paper) AK Have Your Say (AKHYS) feedback form	4	1.57%
Total	254	100%



Social Pinpoint really captured people's imagination

The tool:

- Is an interactive map with customised park markers
- Included polls and open comments
- Allowed park-specific feedback and location-based insights

Markers included:

- Use patterns (Q1–Q3)
- Favourite parks (Q4)
- Values (Q5)
- Challenges and ideas (Q6–Q7)

AK Have Your Say (AKHYS):

- Hosted the formal questionnaire and background information
- Captured structured responses and demographic data



We tried hard to reach the Albert-Eden community

- 📧 **Direct emails** to mana whenua, schools, lease holders, marae, and community groups
- 📄 **Posters, flyers and feedback forms** at libraries
- 📍 **Park signage** with QR codes at 10 local parks
- 📢 **3 social media posts** via the local board and libraries Facebook pages
- 📰 **Public notice** in the Central Leader and an OurAuckland article
- 👥 **In-person drop-in sessions** at Epsom and Mt Albert Libraries
- ✉️ **Freepost return forms** and email inbox open for written submissions



Who we heard from

Gender	Count	%
Male	49	55%
Female	39	44%
Prefer not to say	1	1%
Total	89	100%

Respondent type	Count	%
Individual	87	34.25%
Organisation	13	5.12%
N/A (unstructured feedback)	154	60.63%
Total	254	100%

Age group	Count	%
18-24	2	2%
25-34	4	4%
35-44	27	29%
45-54	28	30%
55-64	13	14%
65-74	9	10%
75+	6	7%
Prefer not to say	3	3%
Total	92	100%

Local board area	Count	%
Albert-Eden	71	78%
Devonport-Takapuna	1	1%
Don't know	4	4%
Henderson-Massey	1	1%
Ōrākei	2	2%
Puketāpapa	2	2%
Waitākere Ranges	5	5%
Waitematā	1	1%
Whau	4	4%
Total	91	100%

Ethnic groups	Count	%
Pākehā / NZ European	74	75.51%
Chinese	7	7.14%
Māori	5	5.10%
Southeast Asian	1	1.02%
Cook Islands Māori	1	1.02%
Other	2	2.04%
Prefer not to say	8	8.16%
Total	98	100%

Disclaimer - Demographic data available only through AKHYS feedback form.



How feedback was analysed

- All open-text responses were coded using a **thematic framework**
- **Up to 4 themes** were assigned per comment
- This allowed us to identify cross-cutting values and priorities

Theme intensity levels:

Intensity	Meaning	Theme count
 High	Strong presence	30+ mentions
 Medium	Moderate presence	19–30 mentions
 Low	Infrequent	<19 mentions

Themes included:

1. Sports and recreation
2. Community and social connections
3. Nature and biodiversity
4. Safety and accessibility
5. Infrastructure and park amenities
6. Planning and park development
7. Family and children's activities
8. Maintenance and upkeep
9. Dog management
10. Environmental resilience and management
11. Cultural heritage and identity



Q1. How people use parks

Question 1 asked:

“How do you currently use parks in the Albert-Eden local board area? **(Select all that apply)**”



Image: Owairaka Skate Park

Overview of park uses

Parks have a **multifunctional role** in daily life:

- **Everyday use and movement** dominate park engagement (physical activity, mental wellbeing, and passive recreation).
- **Family-oriented and community uses** are central (intergenerational bonding, community connection, and informal recreation).

Activity type	Count	%
Walking or running	115	18%
Connecting with nature	91	14%
Using playgrounds, pump tracks, or skateparks	83	13%
Socialising with friends or whānau	76	12%
Playing organised sports	59	9%
Commuting or travelling through parks	55	9%
Attending events	41	6%
Dog walking	39	6%
Picnicking or having a BBQ	39	6%
Volunteering	23	4%
Other: active transport and mobility	14	2%
Other: club activity	6	1%
Total	641	100%

Table note: **188 responses | 641 selections**



Q2. Visitor groups

Question 2 asked:

“Who do you typically visit parks in the Albert-Eden Local Board area with? **(Select all that apply)**”



Image: Eric Armishaw Reserve

Social patterns behind the data

Key social trends evident:

- **With whānau** – Young children (ages 1–5), family-oriented sports programmes (e.g. “First Kicks” football)
- **By myself** – Walkers, commuters, reflective users. Also, part of clubs or volunteering groups, indicating different modes of engagement
- **With friends** – Multi-family meetups, playdates, picnics
- **Clubs and groups** – Sport teams (Metro FC, Pt Chevalier Athletics), environmental groups (STEPS, Urban Ark), community restoration
- **Other** – Dogs, support people.

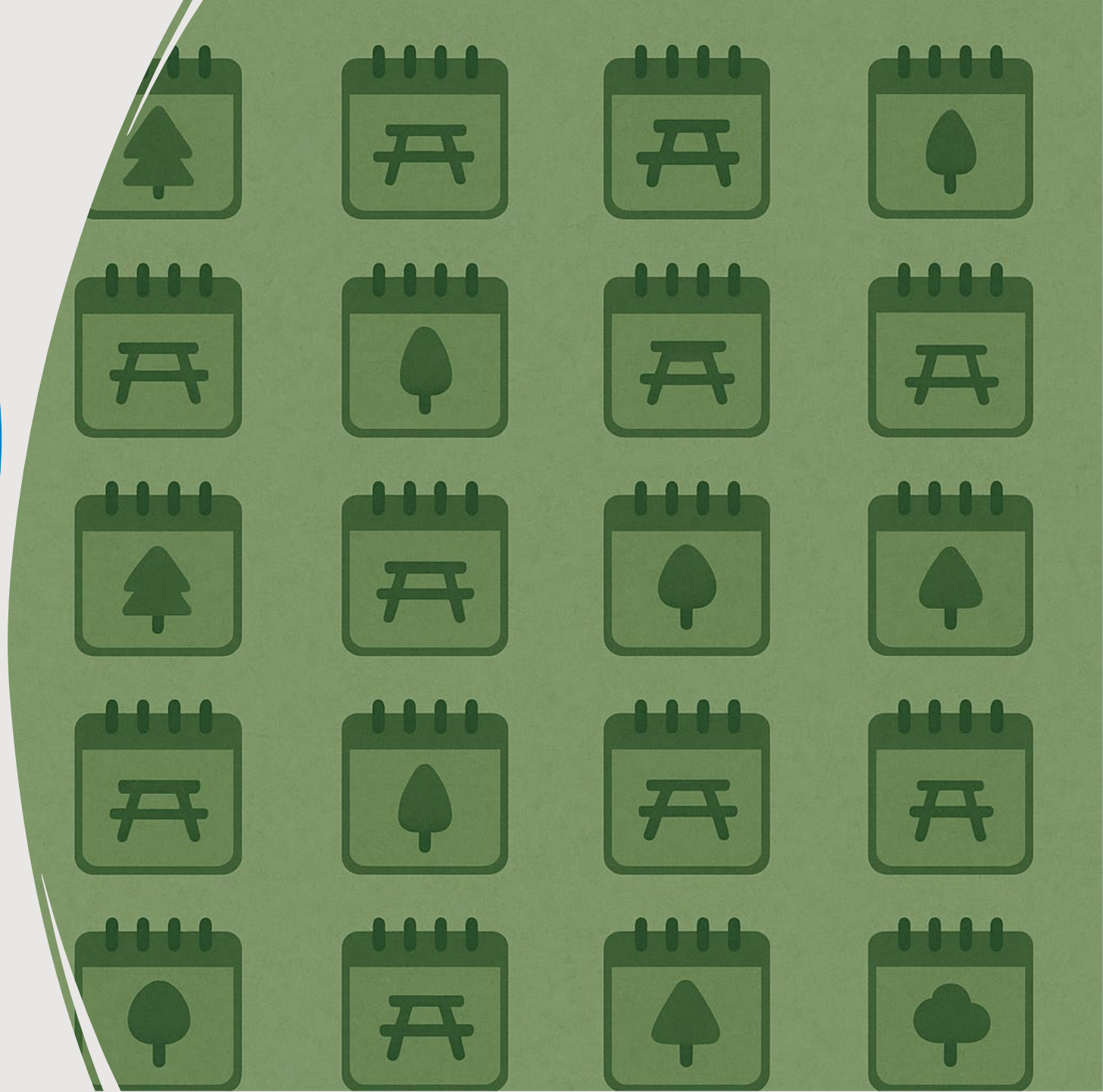
Visitation type	Count	%
With family	143	36.02%
By myself	104	26.20%
With friends	77	19.40%
As part of a group or club	72	18.14%
Other	1	0.25%
Total selections	397	100%

Table note: **190 responses | 397 selections**



Q3. Visitation frequency

Question 3 asked: “How often do you visit your local parks?”



Frequency of park use

- **66.48%** of people visit parks at least weekly
- Very few respondents said they never use parks

Frequency	Count	%
Once or twice a week	65	34.57%
Every day or most days	60	31.91%
Once or twice a month	39	20.74%
Less often	22	11.70%
Never	2	1.06%
Total	188	100%

Table note: **188 responses**

What the patterns tell us:

- **Frequent users (66%) = high engagement**
 - Daily or weekly visitors
 - Walkers, commuters, dog owners
 - Often solo or family users
 - Need durable, safe infrastructure
- **Occasional users (32%) = opportunity**
 - Monthly or event-based use
 - Linked to sports, nature walks, or festivals
 - Draw people in with biodiversity paths, signage, and events
- **Rare users (1%) = equity challenge**
 - Visit less than once a month or not at all
 - Likely face access, safety barriers





Q4. Most visited parks

Question 4 asked:

“What parks do you visit the most in the Albert-Eden Local Board area?”



Top 18 community's go-to destinations

Park name	Mentions	%
Anderson Park	26	16%
Mount Albert War Memorial Reserve (Rocket Park)	17	10%
Fowlds Park	15	9%
Ōwairaka Park	10	6%
Gribblehirst Park	9	6%
Heron Park	7	4%
Ōwairaka / Mount Albert	8	5%
Phyllis Reserve	8	5%
Potters Park	8	5%
Coyle Park	6	4%
Centennial Park	6	4%
Oakley Creek Walkway and Waterfall	7	4%
Waterview Reserve	7	4%
Western Springs Gardens	7	4%
Maungawhau / Mount Eden	7	4%
Chamberlain Park	5	3%
Kuaka Park	5	3%
Watling Reserve	5	3%
Total	163	100%

- 18 parks received 5+ mentions – together representing key destinations
- **71% of responses mentioned these top 18 parks**

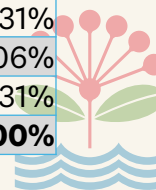
Table note: **93 responses | 229 park mentions**



List of most visited parks mentioned

Park name	Mentions	%
Alan Wood Reserve	4	1.75%
Alice Wylie Reserve	1	0.44%
Anderson Park	26	11.35%
Bannerman Reserve	2	0.87%
Bellevue Reserve	1	0.44%
Braemar Reserve	1	0.44%
Centennial Park	6	2.62%
Chamberlain Park	5	2.18%
Coyle Park	6	2.62%
Edenvale Park	1	0.44%
Eric Armishaw Park	3	1.31%
Fairlands Reserve	1	0.44%
Fowlds Park	15	6.55%
Gribblehirst Park	9	3.93%
Griffin Reserve	1	0.44%
Harbour View Reserve	1	0.44%
Harbutt Reserve	4	1.75%
Harwood Reserve	1	0.44%
Heron Park	7	3.06%
Kerr-Taylor Park	3	1.31%
Kuaka Park	5	2.18%
Marivare Reserve	1	0.44%
Maungawhau / Mount Eden	7	3.06%
Melville Park	2	0.87%
Merivale Reserve	1	0.44%
Moa Reserve	2	0.87%
Morvern Reserve	1	0.44%
Mount Albert War Memorial Reserve (Rocket park)	17	7.42%

Park name	Mentions	%
Motions Road Reserve	1	0.44%
New Bond Reserve	1	0.44%
Nicholson Park	4	1.75%
Nixon Park	4	1.75%
Norgrove Reserve	1	0.44%
Oakley Creek Walkway and Waterfall	7	3.06%
Ōwairaka / Mount Albert	8	3.49%
Ōwairaka Park	10	4.37%
Pasadena Reserve	1	0.44%
Phyllis Reserve	8	3.49%
Point Chevalier Community Centre	1	0.44%
Pollard Park	1	0.44%
Potters Park	8	3.49%
Raymond Reserve	1	0.44%
Roy Clements Treeway	3	1.31%
Sainsbury Reserve	1	0.44%
Sandringham Reserve	1	0.44%
School Reserve	2	0.87%
Taylors Park	1	0.44%
Te Kopuke / Titikopuke / Mount St John	2	0.87%
Walker Park	1	0.44%
Walmer Reserve	1	0.44%
Warren Freer Park	2	0.87%
Waterview Reserve	7	3.06%
Watling Reserve	5	2.18%
Watea Reserve	3	1.31%
Western Springs Gardens	7	3.06%
Windmill Park	3	1.31%
Total	229	100.00%





Q5. Park values

Question 5 asked: “What do you value most about parks and facilities in the Albert-Eden Local Board area?”



Most valued by the community

Theme	Mentions	%	Intensity
Nature and biodiversity	50	18.73%	● High
Community and social connections	50	18.73%	● High
Sports and recreation	46	17.23%	● High
Family and children's activities	31	11.61%	● High
Cultural heritage and identity	24	8.99%	● Medium
Infrastructure and amenities	15	5.62%	● Low
Dog management	13	4.87%	● Low
Planning and park development	11	4.12%	● Low
Environmental resilience	11	4.12%	● Low
Safety and accessibility	9	3.37%	● Low
Maintenance and upkeep	7	2.62%	● Low
Total	267	100%	

- Multiple themes per comment = values often overlap
- Parks aren't just one thing to one group — **they're simultaneously natural spaces, cultural anchors, sporting hubs, and family playgrounds.**

Table note: **105 responses | 267 coded mentions**



● Key values

Theme	Mentions	Intensity	Summary
Nature and biodiversity	50	● High	People highly value green spaces, native planting, birdlife, natural beauty and the ability to connect with nature in an urban environment. Key sites: Oakley Creek, Roy Clements Treeway, and Moa Reserve.
Community and social connections	50	● High	Parks as community hubs that foster relationships, social cohesion and community spirit.
Sports and recreation	46	● High	Parks as venues for organised sports. Football clubs, fitness and casual physical activity. Metro FC and Mt Albert Ponsonby AFC were frequently mentioned. Key sites: Anderson Park, Phyllis Reserve, and Fowlds Park.
Family and children's activities	31	● High	Essential spaces for tamariki to play, learn, socialise and promote active family life.

Quotes:

- *Oakley Creek Shared Path: "Excellent for dog walking. Great place for cycling with the family."*
- *"Gribblehirst Park (...) serves as a vital hub for community activity."*
- *"I mostly frequent Phyllis Reserve as a volunteer of the Metro Sports Club. The playing fields are an important asset for the local community"*
- *"The rocket ship playground is iconic." — Rocket Park*





Q6. Park challenges

Question 6 asked:

“Are there specific challenges you experience when using local parks in the Albert-Eden Local Board area?”



Community challenges in local parks

Theme	Mentions	%	Intensity
Infrastructure and Park Amenities	55	21.40%	High
Safety and Accessibility	37	14.40%	High
Maintenance and Upkeep	32	12.45%	High
Planning and Park Development	29	11.28%	Medium
Environmental Resilience and Management	25	9.73%	Medium
Sports and Recreation	19	7.39%	Medium
Family and Children's Activities	17	6.61%	Low
Dog Management	16	6.23%	Low
Community and Social Connection	13	5.06%	Low
Nature and Biodiversity	8	3.11%	Low
Cultural Heritage and Identity	6	2.33%	Low
Total	257	100%	

Multiple themes per comment = **challenges overlap, indicating they are systemic rather than isolated.**

Table note: **111 responses | 257 coded mentions**



● Key challenges

Theme	Mentions	Intensity	Summary
Infrastructure and Park Amenities	55	● High	Comments raised issues about lack of toilets, lighting, shade, seating, playground renewal, car parking and general amenities. These concerns often impact user experience and limit usage during peak times or for families.
Safety and Accessibility	37	● High	Frequent concerns include antisocial behaviour, poor lighting, inaccessible surfaces for mobility users, dog aggression and motorbike use.
Maintenance and Upkeep	32	● High	Common issues include litter, graffiti, broken or poorly maintained equipment and neglected vegetation. Key sites: Rocket Park, Waterview Reserve, Nicholson Park.

Quotes:

- *“Can’t walk loops with family – bridges broken.”—Oakley Creek*
- *“There is about a foot’s depth of dead leaves in this area that makes getting in and out of a vehicle very difficult for those with disabilities or in wheelchairs.”—Nicholson Park*
- *“There is some broken metal play equipment that has been taped up. Looks like maintenance issues for long time.”—Rocket Park*





Q7. and Q8. Ideas and opportunities for the future

Question 7 asked:

“What are your ideas or suggestions for how parks in the Albert-Eden area should be used, protected, or enhanced over the next 10 years?”

Question 8 asked:

“Do you have any additional feedback you want us to consider when developing the Albert-Eden Local Parks Management Plan?”



Community aspirations for parks

Theme	Mentions	%	Intensity
Planning and park development	37	16%	High
Nature and biodiversity	32	14%	High
Sports and recreation	32	14%	High
Environmental resilience	27	12%	Medium
Infrastructure and amenities	27	12%	Medium
Community and social connections	22	10%	Medium
Maintenance and upkeep	14	6%	Low
Family and children's activities	12	5%	Low
Dog management	12	5%	Low
Safety and accessibility	8	3%	Low
Cultural heritage and identity	7	3%	Low
Total	229	100%	

Multiple themes per comment = **aspirations overlap, highlighting the need for a cohesive urban network**

Table notes: **92 responses | 229 coded mentions**

Q7 and Q8 were analysed together



● Key aspirations

Theme	Mentions	Intensity	Summary
Planning and park development	37	● High	Long-term thinking to balance active/passive/ecological functions, future network connections (cycleways, greenways) and housing intensification.
Nature and biodiversity	32	● High	Strong support for native planting, pest control and ecological corridors. Key sites: Oakley Creek, Meola Creek, Roy Clements Treeway. Link to wellbeing and education.
Sports and recreation	32	● High	Strong focus on multi-use and all-weather fields, with social values for sports clubs and the community. Key sites: Anderson Park, Nixon Park.

Quotes:

- *“Mt Albert Memorial Park to have a lot more adventure and nature play space (...) especially in light of the looming intensification of Mt Albert over the next 50 years.”*
- *“Use a tohu or sign, for Waitītiko Meola Creek wherever it runs through a park – give a visual connection to people so they know that Roy Clements Treeway, Chamberlain Park and Moa Park share the same creek.”*
- *“Create multi-use areas where there are single sport courts, use astroturf to replace concrete to allow for more comfort to users. This will enable more utilisation of these areas year-round.”— Anderson Park*



Submissions from organisations



Sports and recreation focus

Mt Albert Ponsonby AFC

- Highlighted growth in junior and youth football, need for additional fields and training space.

“Getting people from all ages (3–60+yo) out and about playing football on Anderson Park, where we bring people from throughout the community to interact in a friendly club environment.”



Metro Mount Albert Sports Club Incorporated

- Raised concerns about field capacity and future demand.

“The playing fields are an important asset for the local community as a place to participate in active recreation, to develop sporting and social skills, to contribute to the community as a volunteer and to socialise.”



Eden Rugby Club

- Noted issues with turf condition, dog management, and drainage.

“Our club has been a cornerstone of the community for over 103 years, and we are committed to ensuring it remains a place for people of all ages to connect, grow, and thrive for another 103 years and beyond.”



Mt Albert Ramblers Softball Club

- Identified parking limitations during weekday work hours due to non-park users occupying spaces.



Sports and recreation focus

Tennis Auckland Incorporated

- Raised concerns about asset condition and suggested partnership approaches.

“This Local Board Area contains some terrific parks and public spaces. The work of this Local Board as well as those that came before it - as well as those people no longer involved or with us, who imagined and created these spaces, is to be remembered and applauded.”

Auckland United Softball Club Incorporated

- Noted the need for functional clubrooms, updated management plans, and fairer allocation of facilities.

Auckland Irish Club

- Emphasised community and cultural events, and occasional field access.

“We have supported the surrounding communities with our cultural family events (...) by having children’s and adults spaces together and buildings that disabilities groups use (...)”

Eden Epsom Tennis and Squash Club Incorporated

- Supported the idea of a multi-club sports/community hub.

“We have spoken before of the opportunity to create a sports/community hub ... Eden Epsom would be interested in being part of any discussion or strategy to pursue this idea.”



Environment and health focus

Open Space of Future Aucklanders Incorporated

- Stressed the value of mature trees, green open spaces, and the need for new parks.

“Open green spaces with mature trees. Fresh air. A place to get away from urban pressures and reconnect with nature.”

Epsom Remuera Croquet Club

- Raised issues with aging trees, illegal dumping, and highlighted the importance of long-term leases.

St Lukes Environmental Protection Society Incorporated (STEPS) (www.meolacreek.org.nz)

- Focused on stream restoration, ecological connectivity, and native planting.

“STEPS undertakes restoration of stream and riparian zones, native revegetation and protection and enhancement of the remaining unique and rare lava rock forest at several sites within the Waititiko-Meola Creek catchment.”

Cancer Society of New Zealand

- Recommended more shade, drinking fountains, smokefree enforcement, and alcohol-free zones.
- Research from University of Otago’s Social & Behavioural Research Unit (www.otago.ac.nz/cancer-society-research/skincancer).

“While (...) efforts in creating quality outdoor spaces for Aucklanders are notable, there are further steps (...) that could enhance the health and safety of the users of parks, playgrounds, outdoor fitness equipment, ball courts, cycle, skate and scooter parks, water play and natural areas.”

