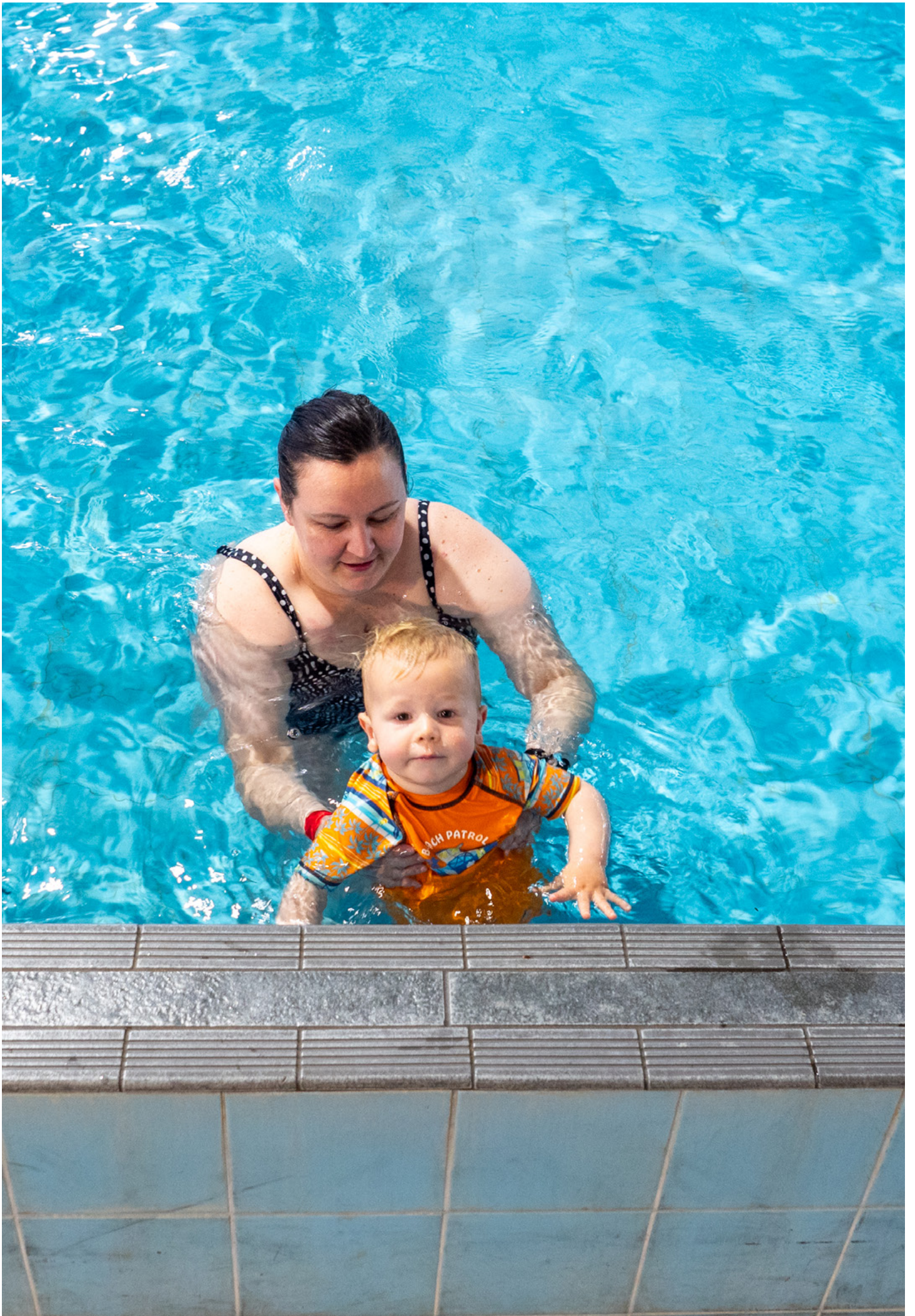




**Asset Management Plan**  
Executive Summary

# Parks and reserves







## Asset Management Plan

### Executive Summary

# Parks and reserves

**Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakamua.  
Tihei mauri ora!**

**No reira, e te haukainga Rangitāne, nei rā te mihi nui ki a koutou e pupuri nei i te mauri o te whenua me ngā wai e rere atu e rere mai.**

**Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.**

As infill housing and apartments become more prevalent in our city, and sections get smaller, the network of parks and reserves becomes even more critical by providing open green spaces where people can play, be active and connect with others in their neighbourhood.

With the effects of climate change projected to become more apparent over the next 30 years, our parks and open green spaces will help us all to adapt. We are planting more trees to provide relief from the heat for people and wildlife by providing shade and cooling the air around them. Our open green spaces help manage the impact of heavy rainfall events by providing areas for water to pond and to soak into the soil.

### Scope of this plan

This asset management plan outlines how we plan to manage and invest in our parks and reserves over the next 30 years.

The plan highlights:

- how we ensure our decisions are aligned to strategic goals and plans
- our plans for urban growth and other drivers such as changing community expectations and climate change
- how we improve our asset knowledge and monitor the delivery of levels of service
- the risks we are facing and how we plan to manage them
- our plans for investment in our parks

The plan informs our Ten-Year Plan, Financial Strategy and 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy

**This Asset Management Plan outlines how we manage parks and reserves, our challenges and how we plan to invest over the next 30 years to ensure that our parks and reserves support our community to be more active and connected, and our city more resilient**

### Parks and reserves are quite diverse

Parks and reserves is a collection of facilities managed by a single division of council. They range from high profile parks such as Victoria Esplanade and Ashhurst Domain to remnant stands of bush such as Barber's bush. They include a vast network of pathways that enable people to move around the city easily and connect with nature and our awa. Our sportsfields support a wide range of sporting events and provide spaces for teams and individuals to train and play. We provide swimming pools for people to play, grow their water confidence, train and/or compete. Our cemeteries provide park like grounds to remember and celebrate the lives of our past citizens

### Our partners

Rangitāne o Manawatū and Council work in a collaborative partnership. Rangitāne are very involved in the development of parks and reserves of cultural significance. Current parks partnership projects include Te Motu o Poutoa/Anzac Park and the Manawatū River Park. This plan makes provision for planning for future sites including Marae Tarata and Otira Park.

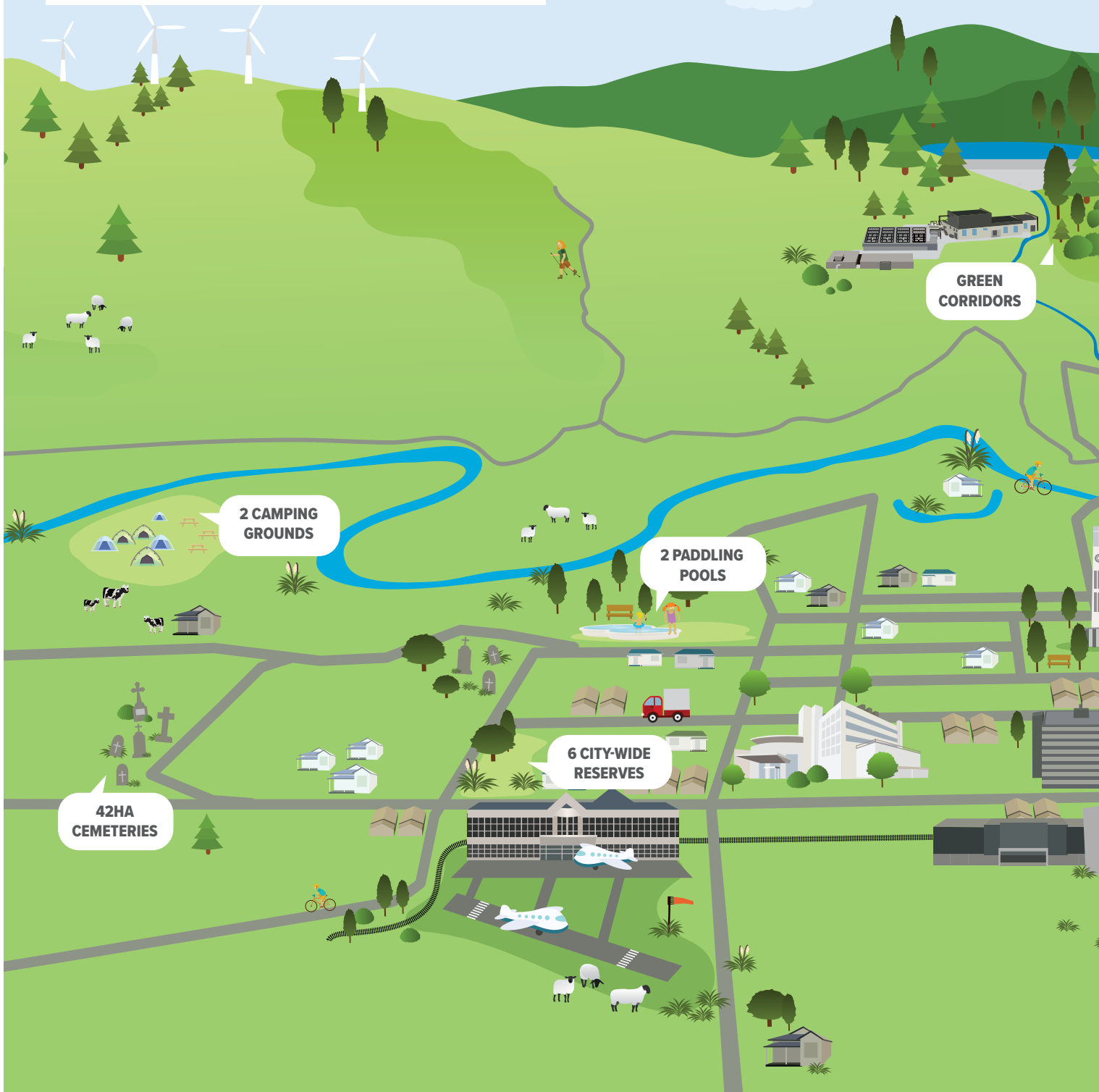
Council is working in partnership with Department of Conservation and other local councils on the development of Te Apiti, a major ecological and recreation area in our district.

# What we provide



Around 6 in 10 residents visit/use parks, reserves and walkways at least once or twice a month.

Collectively parks and reserves support our community to be playful, active and connected, and help us to protect our waterways and biodiversity.



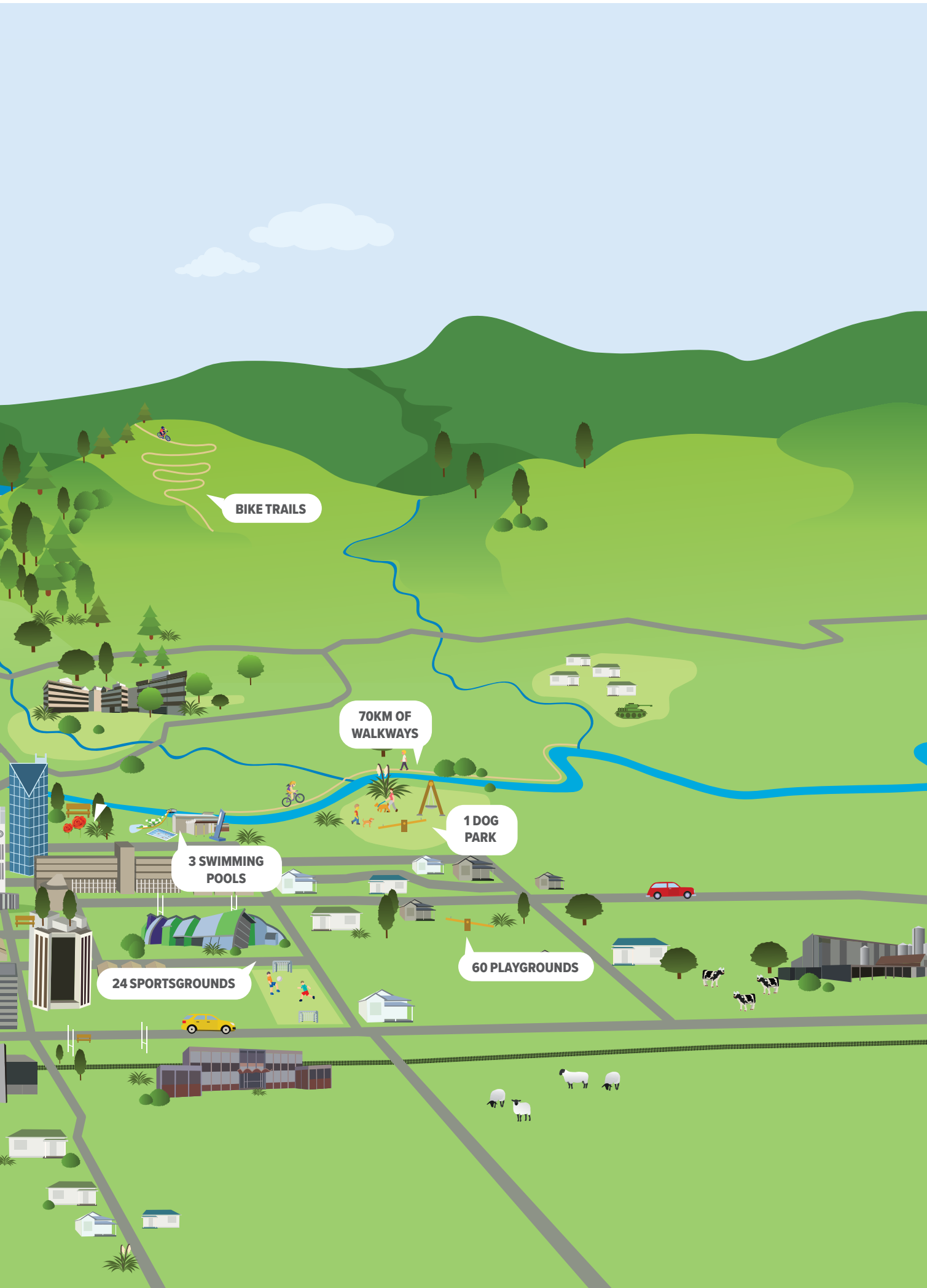
**GREEN  
CORRIDORS**

**2 CAMPING  
GROUNDS**

**2 PADDLING  
POOLS**

**42HA  
CEMETERIES**

**6 CITY-WIDE  
RESERVES**



**BIKE TRAILS**

**70KM OF WALKWAYS**

**1 DOG PARK**

**3 SWIMMING POOLS**

**24 SPORTSGROUNDS**

**60 PLAYGROUNDS**

# Everyone is a customer



**WALKERS**



**BIKERS**



**FAMILIES**



**RUNNERS**



**SWIMMERS**



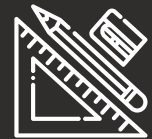
**SPORTS TEAMS**



**ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS**



**CAMPERS**



**EDUCATION**

## Our level of service

A diverse range of people enjoy our parks and reserves to undertake all kinds of activity. Most users expect our parks to provide a pleasant visitor experience, to be well maintained, safe to use, spread throughout the City and easy to access.

Parks, reserves, green spaces, walkways and shared pathways are the most frequently used/visited Council facilities.

We get great feedback from our community about the facilities we provide! Overall satisfaction with parks, reserves and public spaces is high when compared to other Council services and has been consistently high for many years.

Our assets are spread throughout the city and are generally in good to very good condition.

There are very few areas where the community inform us we are not delivering the level of service they expect. The levels of service gaps relate to specific sites, rather the parks and reserves collectively. These sites are usually where demand is high and people want to use them at the same time, e.g. lane swimmers, sports training, or where high usage leads to the asset condition deteriorating quickly.

# We have some challenges + risks

## **Climate change means we are changing the way we manage and develop parks**

Changes to rainfall patterns, with more storm events and heavy downpours, is already affecting our walkways. Slips and fallen trees are blocking our pathways more often than ever before. The risk of path loss due to sections of river and stream banks falling away is increasing. We are realigning paths, laying more durable path surfaces and upgrading culverts to help mitigate these effects. Heavy downpours threaten our ability to reliably provide sports fields for regular play and events. We are investing in more drainage to help drain water from our fields more quickly.

Long hot dry periods are also a threat to our parks. These weather patterns put a strain on trees and plants, restricting their growth or even causing them to die. We are mitigating this by using plants that are more resilient in hotter climates and increasing our use of mulch.

## **Residential sections are shrinking**

Infill housing and apartments have limited outdoor recreation space. Residents are becoming more reliant on the network of parks and reserves to provide open green spaces where they can play, be active and connect with others in their neighbourhood. With more new homes being built very close to our park boundaries, we anticipate the number of neighbour complaints about our trees blocking sunlight and disturbance from park activities to continue to rise.

Going forward we will need to carefully balance requests from residents for more facilities in local parks against the benefits of retaining open green spaces and planting more shade trees to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

## **Meeting the changing needs of sport is challenging**

There is disparity in the level of Council investment in facilities for different sports in the city. Some sports are well catered for, whereas others must compete for space with each other or the public, particularly for swimming lanes and indoor courts. As our community grows and new sports emerge, demand for our existing facilities will continue to increase. It is not practical or affordable for us to provide new sports facilities that will only be used for a small proportion of the week. Partnering with others will be key to addressing current and future demand.

## **Managing community expectations is hard**

As new families move into the city, and our community becomes more diverse, there is an increased expectation that the Council will upgrade facilities at local parks. This has led to inequity of provision across the city, with an increase in the level of service in some areas of the city and a decline in others.

As part of our 2021 AMP, we introduced new local parks categories and assessed each park against the service standard for its category. With the existing level of service gaps identified we began implementing a targeted investment programme with an initial focus on suburb reserves. Focusing on a large park within each suburb has enabled us to quickly create more equity across the city. By the time the programme has been completed, the need to travel outside your local suburb for a higher level of recreation experience would have reduced.

## **Food security**

There is a need to increase the resilience of the food supply for our community. Encouraging people to grow their own food is part of the solution, but with smaller sections, not everyone has the land available to grow fruit and vegetables. We are planting fruit trees in our parks to enable the community to gather fruit in the future. There is increasing interest in the development of community gardens. The need for open green space for informal recreation and community gardens are competing demands for our limited park land. The location of these gardens needs to be carefully considered.

## **Urban growth**

Our city is spreading in many directions - considerable investment will be needed, with the pace of development hard to predict and plan for.

These new open spaces and associated assets will place further pressure on our existing operating budgets. We are continually looking at ways to improve our parks operations and maintenance practices to help reduce our carbon footprint and make our budget go further.

# What's our plan?

## **We will address inequity in park provision**

Our six City Reserves will continue to be our destination parks and provide a range of facilities and unique experiences that attract residents and visitors to travel across the city. We will continue to manage all our parks as a network to ensure that residents in each suburb have equitable access to a range of recreation experiences close to where they live.

We have identified parks in the city where facilities are below the standard we expect for that type of park. Over the past three years we have invested in Suburb Reserves with the largest service gaps. This is helping us address historical equity issues across the city and we intend to continue this programme. Once each area of the city has a Suburb Reserve that meets the service standard, we will turn our attention to neighbourhood reserves. This approach ensures that we do not inadvertently increase levels of service in one neighbourhood, at the expense of another.

## **We will help build the resilience of the City**

We will continue to manage our parks in a manner that supports sustainable levels of service and environmental outcomes. We will actively reduce our carbon footprint by maintaining our parks with machinery with alternate fuel wherever possible and choosing more sustainable materials.

We will continue to improve the resilience of our communities through our edibles and shade tree planting programmes. We will look at opportunities to incorporate community gardens into park areas, without compromising our wider climate change and recreation initiatives.

We will adapt our management practices to ensure that our parks are more resilient to climate changes, through our choice of plants and our management of stormwater. We will avoid building assets in areas prone to slips.

## **We will look after what we have got**

The assets in our parks and reserves are generally in good to very good condition. We want to keep it that way! We will maximise the life of our assets by maintaining them on a regular basis. Repairing or replacing assets that are broken or unsafe will always be our first priority.

We will continue our annual inspection of the condition and performance of our assets and prioritise our annual renewal budget on assets that are nearing the end of their life and costing us a lot to maintain each year. We will take the opportunity when replacing assets to address an identified level of service gap and improve accessibility as part of the project.

## **We will plan for growth**

Our population is growing and demand for our parks and facilities is increasing. We adjust our booking schedules to ensure we can accommodate as many needs as possible, but some assets can not meet demand at peak times. We plan to make greater use of our existing sports fields by increasing their availability through initiatives such as sports field drainage and installing floodlights. We will explore partnership opportunities with others to provide community access to their existing assets, before planning to build our own. Where need for additional assets is proven, we will ensure that the new assets are financially sustainable before we commit to funding a new facility, either by ourselves or in conjunction with others.

We'll will work closely with our city planners to ensure that as new housing areas are developed there is adequate provision for parks and other recreational facilities. We will continually review our reserve service standards to ensure we can meet the recreation needs in new more densely populated areas, without compromising our desired environmental and social outcomes.

The cost to buy and develop these new parks and assets will be shared fairly between ratepayers and owners of the new homes. The additional cost to maintain these new parks will be included in the 10 year plan.





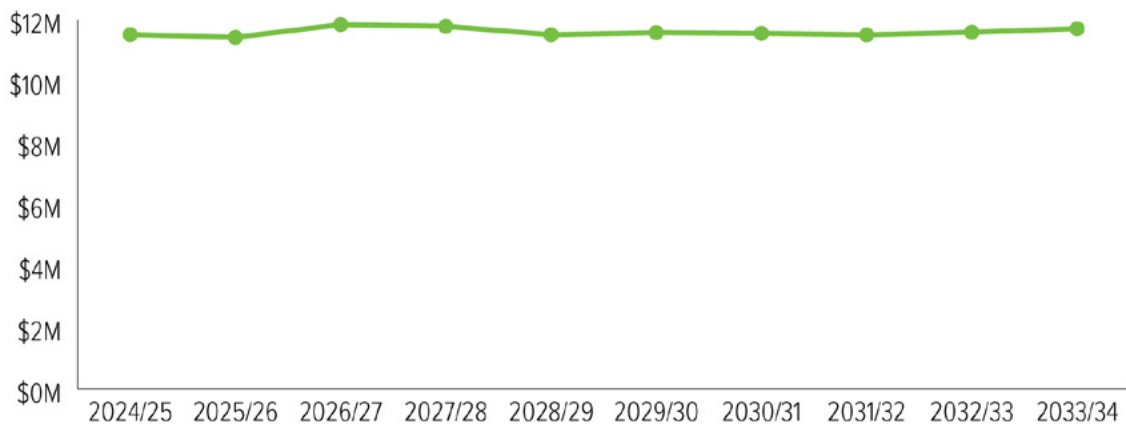
# How much will it cost?

## Operations and Maintenance

The largest portion of our operations and maintenance budget is spent operating and maintaining our existing assets.

Our largest areas of expenditure are swimming pools and city reserves.

Our expenditure on maintaining and operating our assets is forecast to be relatively steady over the period of the AMP, as we do not intend to change levels of service or deliver new services

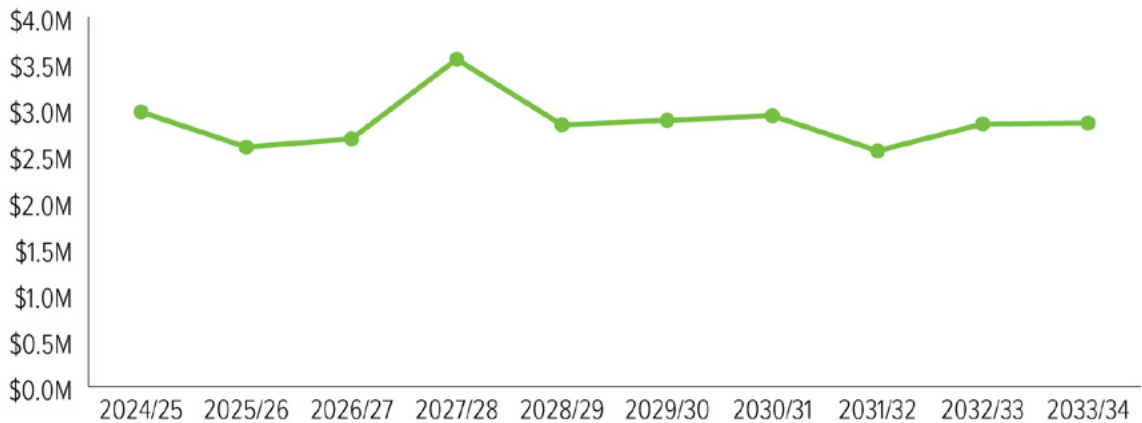


Operation and maintenance of new assets will be funded through consequential opex.

New assets such as reserves, sportsfields and walkways will require maintenance - e.g. mowing, playground and garden maintenance, weed control and spraying.



## Renewals

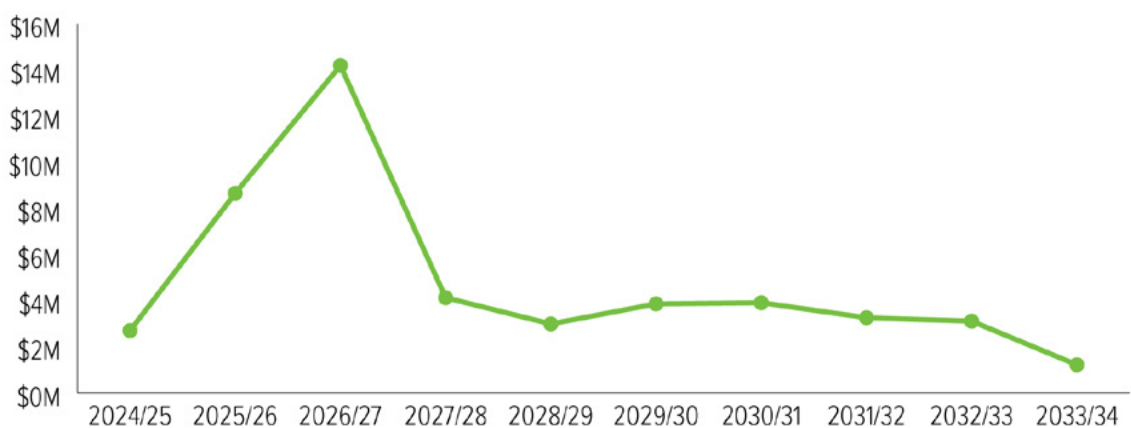


We are proposing to spend \$3m each year on average renewing Parks assets. The level of investment reflects that most of our assets are in good to very good condition, and performing as intended.

The largest renewal budget is for our collection of local reserves, within which we spend on average \$900k per annum on the renewal of playgrounds, hard surfaces, furniture, structures and fences each year.

The renewal of our three swimming pools, costs on average \$750K per annum, due to the complexity of the plant, equipment and building structures.

## Capital new



Capital development is largely focused on supporting urban growth. This includes the purchase and development of local reserves, walkway links and sportsfields. The timing of investment is highly dependent on local developers. Growth projects also relate to development of the Kelvin Grove Cemetery to meet demand for burial and ashes plots.

Major investment totally \$16m, to develop Te Motu o Poutoa/Anzac Park, is planned for Years 1 and 2. Modest investment to address identified level of service gaps is focus over the period of the AMP. These gaps largely relate to local reserves and sportsfields.

