

The Whau local board

- a) provide the following feedback on the ‘Tākaro – Investing in Play’ discussion document:
- i. note that in Auckland Council’s shared governance model, local boards have governance responsibility for playgrounds in local parks including decision-making on design, oversight and renewals spending. An investment plan endorsed by the Governing Body can guide local board decisions but should not be binding. If an investment plan for play for the region is endorsed, each local board should be supported to develop their own guidelines for investment decisions, using the region-wide plan as a base
 - ii. consider that if new funds are to be made available for play, it is the governing body’s role to allocate these according to strategic priorities. However, once allocated, the local boards are the decision-makers with regards to the type of play they wish to support in their local area
- b) provide the following responses to the questions put by the working party, in the knowledge that this response will inform any Whau specific provision that might eventuate subsequent to decisions as per a) above.

Question	Whau Local Board Feedback
<p>1. Which benefits of play are the most important?</p>	<p>Inclusive, accessible play would be valued to promote equity and social cohesion between people of different ages, cultures,, ethnicities, abilities and deprivation status.</p>
<p>2. Should council investment target a particular demographic group, such as young children, or should it seek to cater to all ages, abilities and backgrounds equally?</p>	<p>Cater for all ages.</p> <p>Young children – are well catered for but the population continues to grow. Organised and free play through pre-school, school sports and school yards, private back yards, plus there is provision of 39 playgrounds in the Whau area. More need as population grows</p> <p>Older children/Young adults:</p> <p>Board receiving more feedback from the public requesting play for older children and young adults. Older children or young adults who are no longer in school may find it more difficult to access play. The “Jump” facilities are the current popular destination for older youth but these facilities are not free. The Whau board recently made significant investments in two skate parks in Velonia and Sister Rene Shadbolt Parks. Both are proving very popular with a very wide ranging age group. These can be considered reasonably high risk play spaces but to date, (apart from an overprotective parent on opening day) the board has not been made aware of any key issues arising.</p>

	<p>Older people: There have also been more enquiries about accessing covered spaces from the older people in the community either to be active (eg tai chi in the park) or for passive recreation. Overseas studies suggest that enjoyment, meeting new people and new challenges are major drawcards for older people. Yet, there is no material in council data that addresses the provision of play opportunities for older generations. An example is the Whau Neighbourhood Greenways Plan which references back to implementation priorities and directives in a number of chapters in the Auckland Plan, including: Chapter 5: Auckland's Recreation & Sport Priority 1: Encourage all Aucklanders, particularly children and young people to participate in recreation and sport. However, the board notes with interest, SPR officer comments that an intergenerational playground in Mt Roskill War Memorial Park stands mostly unused, thereby posing the question if "playgrounds" might not be the right response for adult play activation.</p> <p>General Observation Submitters to the 2017 WLB Plan were asked what they thought missing in the Whau area that they felt is extremely important for the future. Interestingly (considering they were at liberty to mention anything at all), Community services was the most common response, followed by parks, sport and recreation opportunities.</p>
<p>3. Should council prioritise investment in areas of high socio-economic deprivation over other areas?</p>	<p>"Destination" playgrounds should probably be prioritised to be located in the high deprivation areas - for ease of access to those who may not be able to afford to drive or catch public transport across the city. However, general "play" should be available in all socio-ec areas.</p>
<p>4. What is an acceptable level of risk in play?</p>	<p>The board would defer to Auckland Council's PSR guidelines - however the total elimination of risk is not or should not be an expectation when developing play spaces. CIPTED considerations should also inform the development of play spaces</p>
<p>9. What criteria should underpin Auckland's investment in play?</p>	<p>Provision of play opportunity for all ages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perhaps, maximising opportunities on existing council owned land. If we have the space, determine what play activity would be most suitable for that particular space? - The Whau Board has considered and asked for GB support to have a council policy in place that would enable the purchase of land to improve parks and open spaces and the cost would be mitigated by selling off surplus land.
<p>5. Where does the council's</p>	<p>The council should only be held accountable for</p>

<p>responsibility to manage risk end and personal responsibility begin?</p>	<p>the provision of well maintained equipment and environment for play. Clutter of signage with obvious or "common sense" messages should be avoided. Parents are or should be responsible for safety of younger children on playgrounds. Society recognises there is always risk involved in play and part of growing up is learning to identify boundaries. Supervision should not be a compulsory requirement of council.</p>
<p>6. What happens if something goes wrong? How should the council respond?</p>	<p>Assessment of risky equipment vs risky behaviour. If risky equipment is council responsibility - risky behaviour is individual's responsibility</p>
<p>7. How can council provide a play network that welcomes and accommodates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · youth? · adults? · families? · seniors? · the disabled? · culturally diverse communities? 	<p>Youth: challenging as well as not so challenging equipment and allowed to get wet or dirty and noisy. Include equipment that involves technology. Adults: organised and unorganised play opportunities in local parks or open spaces that allows involvement at all levels - concentrating on fun and interaction with others as well as exertive exercise activities. also include technology if possible Families: develop play spaces that accommodate long stays - eg inclusion of bbcue areas , toilet facilities, drinking fountains, shaded areas - allowing for time out during play. Seniors: there will be more people in older age groups over the next few decades in the Whau - in line with long term national and global trend as people live longer and fertility rates decline. In 2013, those aged 70 years of age and over constituted a greater proportion of the population in Whau (9.0%) than in Auckland as a whole (7.9%). Currently in the Whau, Seniors are not provided for in play. However, the board acknowledges that more investigation needs to be undertaken to address seniors "play" facilitation. Disabled: Would need to defer to experts as to what is needed but the board would certainly encourage inclusion - eg, the exercise equipment caters for people with disabilities. Also important to design parks with disability access in mind. Cultural diversity: Once again, should consider including ALL. Should be sensitive to cultures - eg, if organised play - do they HAVE to wear shorts or can ladies in, say, saris, take part?</p>
<p>8. What opportunities do you see for partnerships between council</p>	<p>The board welcomes the opportunity for PPP as long as the lines are very clear about risk and</p>

and private providers of play?	responsibility.
10. Should we encourage and provide for nature play?	<p>Yes. With a little imagination, the Whau River is an ideal opportunity for water play to be entwined with environmental education as well as water safety education.</p> <p>In response to the board's LPB proposal for an enhanced natural environment, submitters responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the river needs to be celebrated. Natural assets are rare and they need to be cherished and cared for. - a clean environment makes people feel better about themselves - support and encourage initiatives to improve ecology around the Whau River. <p>The board would therefore be keen to not only encourage open nature play but also to use this opportunity as a tool to advance the LBP outcomes. Bringing attention to the Whau River would enforce an improved environment. There is of course increased risk related to waterways, but mitigation could be worked in with play programmes - for example, posting a community empowered or voluntary lifeguard at water play stations.</p>
11. Where should we provide for nature play?	<p>A section of a larger park or at the river's edge or beach. Examples in the Whau - the long grasslands that boarder some of our parks eg Sister Renee Shadbolt Park; the wooded parts of Craig Avon; the as yet undeveloped woods by Eastdale Road, the easy access to the Whau River at various points including Ken Maunder and Olympic Parks. and so on.</p>
12. How accepting do you think the wider community would be to lowering maintenance standards to provide for nature play in some parks?	<p>Would need to consult with communities as the opportunities arise.</p>
13. Should we encourage and provide more opportunities for water play? If so, in what form?	<p>YES Definitely. Even if wet sponges thrown on hot summer days; or misting pipes over slide areas etc. As mentioned elsewhere in this feedback, the Whau Board would be keen to use the Whau River as key contributing play site. The New Lynn Urban Plan is a guiding document for the board's development aspirations and the document clearly outlines the need to turn our attention back to the waterway, thereby bringing a vibrant asset to the fore.</p>
14. In what situations should the council prioritise play activations:	<p>yes to all the criteria identified: seasonal; promotion; no other play ops; activation. However, play activation for individuals that might not have</p>

	an extended social network connection - eg seniors, disabled, or new immigrants.
15. What priority should be given to investment provision of temporary play experiences over permanent play assets?	Some temporary play. The board has used its own resources to utilised the services of organisations such as Sport Waitakere to provide temporary play to activate parks in the Whau. whilst the board values this service, it considers play activation in parks should be funded by a regional programme of council. <i>Having had feedback from public in various consultation fora, the board does consider it very important to have easily accessible, permanent play assets.</i>
16. Does Auckland need an adventure playground?	yes - for older kids, young adults, adults and adventurous seniors
17. Which are the most important supporting facilities which council should provide at play spaces?	<p>the Whau undertook a parks research in the summer of 2014/15. 84% of respondents considered that their local parks were valuable or very valuable to their community. Barriers to using the parks include lack of interesting activities for older children, people where short of time, poor weather conditions and a perception that the park is not safe. so facilities to counter these barriers would be valuable - eg more activities for older children/young adults; covered play areas or shaded areas; address CPTED considerations when designing parks eg efficient lighting, open sightlines etc.</p> <p>45% of respondents to the same research wanted improvements to the facilities in parks, including toilets, shade trees and seating areas.</p>