

Date: Wednesday 16 April 2025
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Kumeū Meeting Room
 296 Main Road, Kumeū

Rodney Local Board

OPEN ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER

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Note: The attachments contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Councillors require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

16 Rodney Local board feedback on the Land Transport Management (Time of Use Charging) Amendment Bill

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Attachment A

Te Māhere-ā-tākaro o Rodney 2025

Rodney Play Plan 2025

April 2025

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Rodney Play Plan 2025

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April 2025

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Attachment A

Te Māhere-ā-tākaro ō Rodney 2025 / Rodney Play Plan 2025

From the Chair



We are pleased to present Te Māhere-ā-tākaro ō Rodney 2024 / the Rodney Play Plan 2024. This is the first for Rodney Local Board, celebrating and enabling play.

We will use this document to help guide our future investment into play, providing advice and support on practical and grounded opportunities to enable more activities for our growing communities.

Rodney has grown significantly faster than wider Auckland in terms of population and it is now projected that this will more than double over the next 30 years. Young people under the age of 15 make up over 19 per cent of the population and we believe young people and whānau should be a priority.

In our Rodney Local Board Plan 2023, we have committed to ensuring our young people and whānau have access to high-quality services and play spaces, we know it is vital for their development and growth. We want to explore new initiatives that can be shared across communities and nature play such as turning a fallen tree into a safe climbing opportunity.

We are also committed to supporting social cohesion by providing more opportunities, and inclusive and accessible spaces for people to connect and enjoy. Play is especially important for young people, but people of all ages should feel welcome to play and have fun in all public spaces. Play plan projects are low-cost initiatives that will collectively contribute to a more playful local board area.

Thank you to everyone who helped contribute to the creation of this document and we look forward to delivering some new and exciting play opportunities in the near future.

Brent Bailey

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Brent Bailey'.

Rodney Local Board Chairperson

Te Māhere-ā-tākaro o Rodney 2025 / Rodney Play Plan 2025

Introduction

Te Māhere-ā-tākaro o Rodney 2025 – the Rodney Play Plan 2025 – provides Rodney Local Board with guidance for future investment in play, particularly beyond playgrounds and for the wider community. It reflects the belief that play should be an ‘everywhere activity’, and gives effect to the Rodney Local Board Plan 2023. It will be refreshed as new local board plans are published¹.

The Supplementary Information document contains insights from the community, the council’s Advisory Panels and the wider play sector. These insights have helped to shape staff advice about new ways to support play in Rodney. It also contains information about the ethnicity and age of Rodney residents, and how this may influence play investment.

Rodney Local Board already invests in play, and the Rodney Play Plan 2025 complements that ongoing support. Rodney has fantastic playgrounds, several of which have accessible features, and wheeled play and skate facilities across the local board area. Its five libraries provide plenty of play, particularly for younger tamariki. There are endless opportunities to play at Rodney’s beaches, and at its network of more than 330 parks and reserves.

The local board also invests in the council’s Out and About Auckland programme of park- and beach-based activations, with delivery partners hosting events that encourage the community to have fun in local spaces. Elected members from Rodney Local Board provide leadership in regional play discussions by participating in the council’s informal Play Leadership Group.

The play plan is also complementary to previous staff advice from the Special Operations team. The advice focuses on assessing the current level of playground provision and provides specific recommendations as to how the playground network can be improved². It includes a collection of project proposals for the local board to consider when planning its annual operational expenditure (OPEX) work programme. The plan sits alongside the Special Operations staff advice to help build innovative ways of improving play for all.

Most local boards have a play provision assessment or play gap analysis, and in several cases, these documents are being updated to reflect recent play investment outcomes. Play provision assessments and gap analyses focus primarily on built capital expenditure (CAPEX) play assets. They:

- Assess play space provision at a network and individual play space scale
- Evaluate the current provision and identify any current gaps (for example, gaps in age-group provision)
- Highlight the presence or absence of specialised play experiences
- Reflect the local context of changing population patterns and forecast population growth
- Identify areas of play oversupply in the network and offer guidance for optimisation
- Recommend where further investment in play is required in specific suburbs or neighbourhoods.

Local path studies and greenways plans support local boards to assess existing local path priority routes for cycling and walking, and make recommendations for future work to improve the path network.

¹ As discussed in the Supplementary Information document, this play plan also aligns with several existing strategies

² The Supplementary Information document explains how different elements of the Auckland play ecosystem work together

Why play matters

Play is self-chosen, self-directed, intrinsically motivated and enjoyable. It's 'stuff we do mostly just for fun', and it brings joy and adds value to the lives of people of all ages. For tamariki, play is a fundamental human right³. Active play helps to develop physical literacy, social play supports the building of stronger relationships with peers and the wider community, and creative play enables tamariki to explore and stretch their imaginations.

Although the importance of play to tamariki development and wellbeing is well understood, opportunities to play have declined in recent decades. Tamariki today have less time, space, and permission to play than most adults enjoyed when they were growing up. This is contributing to a rise in poor physical and mental health outcomes. Since 2022 Auckland Council has worked with Sport New Zealand and the regional sports trusts to expand its approach to play. Taking a principles-based approach to support play advocacy achieves better play outcomes for tamariki in Tāmaki Makaurau. The council is part of a thriving play sector that includes Regional Sports Trusts, Recreation Aotearoa, and membership organisations such as Play Aotearoa⁴.

This new approach can be summarised into seven key messages:

Play = 'stuff we do mostly just for fun'

Access to play is a human right for all children

Children need time, space and permission to play every day

Play is for everybody, of every age - we're never too old

Play is an everywhere activity: all places are playful

Playgrounds are the starting place for play - not the only place

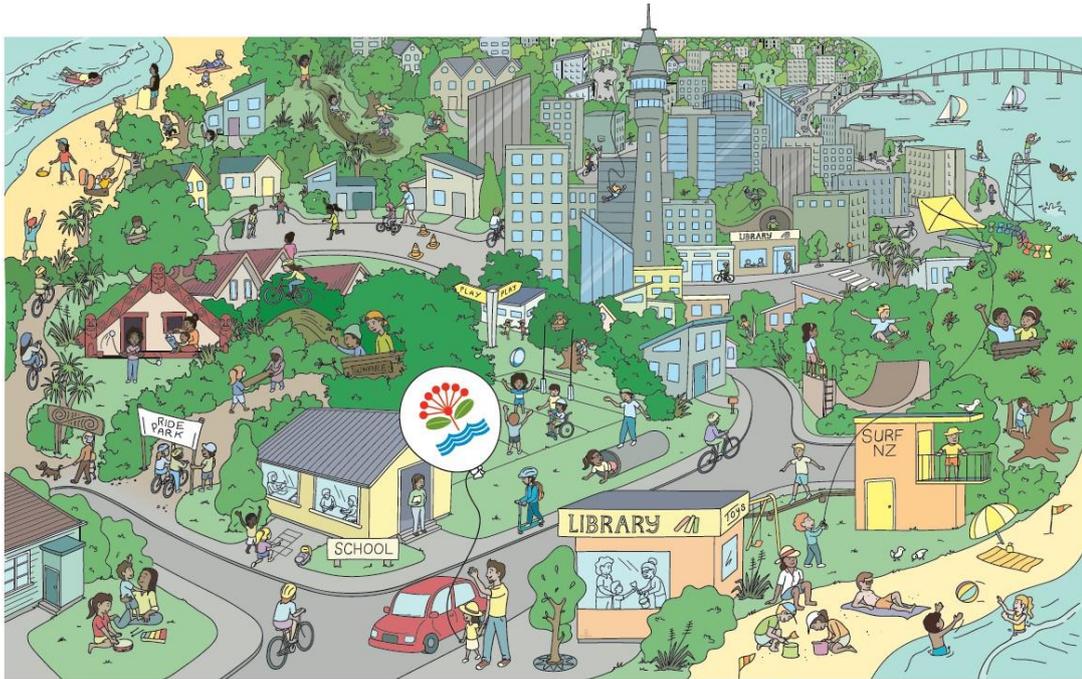
We can all make Tāmaki Makaurau a playful city

³ Refer to the Supplementary Information document to learn about play's protected status under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

⁴ The Supplementary Information document includes Sport New Zealand's Principles of Play, which serve as the guiding principles of play advocacy in New Zealand

Te Māhere-ā-tākaro o Rodney 2025 / Rodney Play Plan 2025

Through play, tamariki develop resilience, independence and decision-making skills. Playful experiences help them to manage risk and deal with unpredictable challenges. Access to play contributes to happy childhoods and prepares tamariki to be physically and mentally healthy adults. Given the importance of play in supporting tamariki wellbeing, the goal of increasing access to play fits well with the obligations of local government to support community wellbeing in all forms⁵. Nobody should feel like they're too old to play, and we should ensure that everybody is encouraged to join in, even while we keep tamariki at the centre of play conversations.



Playgrounds are hallowed places for tamariki and whānau, and we must continue to build and maintain them, but they are the starting place for play – not the only place. Our vision is for Tāmaki Makaurau to recognise and celebrate the benefits of play by encouraging playful behaviour in nature, in our urban spaces, in our community spaces, and through events, activations, and design. Play helps tamariki to love and appreciate their region as they grow. Through play, they can learn about and celebrate te ao Māori and the many cultures that make up our city and our region. Playing in Tāmaki Makaurau's parks and reserves and at its beautiful beaches also ensures that tamariki love and treasure the outdoor world. This promotes kaitiakitanga and supports future Aucklanders to continue to take care of its wild spaces.

Auckland Council's play advocacy approach empowers elected members and staff to support play as 'an everywhere activity' and to celebrate play as an activity that should be enjoyed from early childhood and beyond.

⁵ Refer to the Supplementary Information document to learn about the Local Government Act 2002 and the obligations of councils to support community wellbeing

New play opportunities

This section of the play plan identifies projects that will increase play in Rodney.

Different ways to play

The table below lists the proposed projects and how they align with Rodney Local Board Plan 2023 objectives. It is for reference only, and elected members should read the following collection of one-page project proposals to better understand what is being suggested and why.

This list of projects is not prescriptive, and including these play ideas in the play plan is not confirmation that Rodney Local Board will fund any specific project. The project list is provided to demonstrate the many ways that operational funding can support play outcomes. These play projects are all good options for the local board to consider supporting, but elected members, staff and the community will have ideas for many other possible play projects that could also be developed in due course.

Play project	Local Board Plan 2023 objective
Sidelines Play Box	2023RD3.4 – Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor play, sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities
Tree swings	2023RD3.4 – Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor play, sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities
On-site adventurous nature spaces	2023RD3.4 – Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor play, sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities
Installed adventurous nature spaces	2023RD3.4 – Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor play, sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities
Play at local board-funded events	2023RD3.3 – Communities have a range of local opportunities to experience arts, culture, heritage and events
Playful street art	2023RD4.1 – Towns and villages are well planned, attractive, vibrant and cared for. They reflect local heritage, culture and identity and complement our stunning natural environments
Playful installations	2023RD3.3 – Communities have a range of local opportunities to experience arts, culture, heritage and events
Play at libraries	2023RD3.1 – Community facilities and services are well used, inclusive and cater to the changing needs of our local communities
Expanded play activation programme	2023RD3.4 – Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor play, sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities
Expanded beach activation programme	2023RD3.4 – Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor play, sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities
Loose parts play space	2023RD3.4 – Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor play, sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities

Te Māhere-ā-tākaro o Rodney 2025 / Rodney Play Plan 2025

Play project	Local Board Plan 2023 objective
Educational loose parts play programme	2023RD3.1 – Community facilities and services are well used, inclusive and cater to the changing needs of our local communities
Local community play budget	2023RD3.2 – Children, young people and whānau are able to access services, activities and programmes locally
Partnership funding for rangatahi play projects	2023RD1.6 – People are engaged and able to have a say on issues that affect them
Wheeled play	2023RD3.5 – Parks and open spaces meet the needs of our growing town centres and diverse rural communities
Play on the way	2023RD3.4 – Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor play, sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities
StoryWalks	2023RD3.4 – Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor play, sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities
Play advocacy general budget	2023RD3.4 – Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor play, sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities

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Attachment A

Sidelines Play Box



What is it? Gifting a box of local board-branded boxes of loose parts play equipment to sports clubs, to be managed by the club and made available for tamariki to use during training sessions and games.

How will we manage Sidelines Play Boxes? A Play Box is a one-off gift from the local board. The sports club will be responsible for looking after its Play Box.

Why gift a Sidelines Play Box? Tamariki often spend time at sports fields while family members train or compete, and these spaces don't often provide much

scope for play. Providing play equipment (large-format games, blocks, etc) will give tamariki time, space and permission to have fun while sport takes place. Gifting a Sidelines Play Box to a sports club will strengthen its relationship with the local board and activate a council-owned space for play.

Tree swings



What is it? Installing council-funded swings in trees, providing a play opportunity in parks and reserves without playgrounds. Four swings were installed in trees in Devonport-Takapuna in 2024.

How will we manage tree swings? Tree swings will be inspected regularly to ensure they are safe to use. The trees in which they are installed will also be checked regularly to ensure that the swing is causing no damage.

Why install tree swings? Aucklanders often install swings into trees in council spaces, and people of all ages enjoy

them. Sometimes the community-installed swings are unsafe, or in unsuitable trees. By installing our own swings, we can ensure that they are fit-for-purpose, will not cause damage to the tree, and comply with our council benefit-risk assessment approach for non-playground play.

On-site adventurous nature spaces



What is it? Pruning or modifying a felled or fallen tree, to leave it in place as a natural play opportunity.

How will we manage an on-site adventurous nature space? By adding the space to the council maintenance schedule for the park, to be inspected regularly and modified further if required. The council will take a benefit risk assessment approach for this kind of non-playground play.

Why leave fallen trees as play spaces?

Leaving a fallen tree in place as an adventurous nature space, and using

signage to show that play is encouraged, activates a park as a location for play. Climbing fallen trees can also offer older tamariki in particular, a chance to enjoy more challenging play than is sometimes available at local playgrounds. This kind of play increases the overall play diversity for a neighbourhood.

Installed adventurous nature spaces



What is it? Bringing felled trees to a site that doesn't contain a formal playground, and using them to create a nature play opportunity.

How will we manage an installed adventurous nature space? By adding the space to the council maintenance schedule for the park, to be inspected regularly and modified further if required. The council will take a benefit risk assessment approach for this kind of non-playground play.

Why use trees to create play?

We can use this kind of play to fill gaps in play provision until a formal playground is built. Appropriate sites will be identified with the Specialist Operations team. Play like this can also sit in spaces where traditional playgrounds can't fit, such as drainage reserves. As well as providing play where there was none, adventurous nature spaces like this give scope for balancing, climbing and dynamic play like 'floor is lava' games. The natural materials provide sensory play experiences, and as the materials change over time, tamariki can learn about natural processes. Creating an adventurous nature space from raw materials enables arborists to be creative and craft a play opportunity that is unique to its site.

Play at local board-funded events



What is it? Increasing budgets for events like Movies in the Park, so the Events team can book play delivery partners to provide play activations as part of the event.

How would we deliver play at events? Funding for a play activation could be added to the Events team work programme for the event. The Events team can access play delivery partners through the register of council vendors.

Why add play to local board events? Including play at events will entertain and occupy excited tamariki, making the

event more fun for them and giving their parents and care-givers an opportunity to relax and connect with other members of the community.

Playful street art



What is it? Commissioning professional artists to design and create playful murals in urban spaces, with input from local tamariki and rangatahi.

How would we create playful street art? By funding a play advocacy work programme for playful murals. The programme would be commissioned and delivered with support from the council Public Art team, and according to the guidelines in the Murals Toolkit and the Public Art policy.

How can street art make urban spaces playful? Art can contribute to a playful

environment, particularly in urban spaces that could benefit from increased colour and design. Street art adds excitement and interest to spaces, attracting visitors and making town centres feel more inclusive.

Playful installations



What is it? Creative, playful installations to add joy to a park or an urban landscape.

How would we create playful installations? Partnering with community groups and schools, perhaps using council-run facilities such as libraries and community houses to promote the opportunity.

What's the point of playful installations? This is a low-cost way to add playfulness in parks or urban spaces. A playful installation can be community-led, with local board seed funding. Examples include creating a fairy village in

a reserve, or allocating a space for tamariki art in a public space. Installations should ideally encourage further additions by tamariki and whānau, increasing a sense of community ownership and making dynamic, ever-changing public spaces.

Play at libraries



What is it? Additional funding to library branches, so they can refresh or increase their play provision for people of all ages to play.

How would we fund play in libraries? Library staff would identify gaps in play provision and the play team would use its work programme budget to fill them.

Does play belong in libraries? Libraries aren't silent book museums anymore – increasingly, they're used by communities as important places to gather. The three five branches in Rodney already provide excellent play sessions for younger

tamariki, but staff at the branches have identified gaps in provision for older tamariki and rangatahi. Providing opportunities for older children – and adults – to stay and play reinforces the community value of libraries, and can address issues like social isolation for older residents. Libraries can also be a space where people can borrow outdoor games for an hour or two to use on nearby green spaces, as many library branches sit on or near council-owned parks.

Expanded play activation programme



What is it? Increased funding for the play activation work programme in Rodney.

How would we provide more play? The Activation team would allocate an increased budget to its delivery partners, focusing on specific areas of play if required.

Do we need more play activations? Yes! The Out and About Auckland Activation team is skilled at developing great relationships with delivery partners and scheduling activities for local boards. The programme can also respond to specific priorities for a local board. For Rodney

Local Board, this could include tailored play activities for targeted communities, such as Asian families. Out and About can also help local boards to meet Māori Outcomes with Māori play and recreation sessions. A year-round programme could be developed, using community houses for activities in the winter.

Expanded beach activation programme



What is it? Increased funding for the beach activation work programme in Rodney.

How would we increase beach activations? The Activation team would allocate an increased budget to its delivery partners, and would promote beach activities as opportunities for rangatahi and adults to have fun.

Why run beach activations? Rodney contains some of the region's best beaches. These sites can provide opportunities for fun through recreational activities like waka ama, kayaking, and

stand-up paddleboarding. Unfortunately though, not everybody has access to the equipment required or knows how to take part. Facilitated sessions delivered through Out and About Auckland remove barriers to participation, encouraging older tamariki, rangatahi and adults to enjoy themselves.

