

Date: Tuesday 22 April 2025
Time: 9.30am
Meeting Room: Leslie Comrie Board Room,
Venue: Level One Franklin: The Centre,
 12 Massey Ave,
 Pukekohe

Franklin Local Board

OPEN ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER

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Attachment A

Te Māhere-ā-tākaro o Franklin 2025

Franklin Play Plan 2025

April 2025

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Franklin Play Plan 2025

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April 2025

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Attachment A

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

From the Chair

Chair's message and photo to follow

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Introduction

Te Māhere-ā-tākaro o Franklin 2025 – the Franklin Play Plan 2025 – provides Franklin 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 Franklin 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 Franklin. It also contains information about the ethnicity and age of Franklin residents, and how this may influence play investment.

Franklin Local Board already invests in play, and the Franklin Play Plan 2025 complements that ongoing support. Franklin has fantastic playgrounds and the safe swimming beaches that provide great opportunities for residents and visitors to play and have fun. Local bush reserves and trails are also good sites for play and recreation for people of all ages. Franklin’s two libraries provide plenty of play, particularly for younger tamariki. An elected member from Franklin Local Board provides 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 and 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 Franklin 2025 / Franklin 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.

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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 Franklin.

Work programme planning

The table below lists the proposed projects and how they align with Franklin 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 Franklin 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	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
Tree swings	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
On-site adventurous nature spaces	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
Installed adventurous nature spaces	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
Play at local board-funded events	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
Playful street art	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
Playful installations	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
Play at libraries	2023FR1.2 – Provide improved access to community services and Council customer services across the Franklin Local Board area, including in isolated areas
Play activation programme	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
Beach activation programme	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
Loose parts play space	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
Educational loose parts play programme	2023FR3.6 – Support a local circular economy approach to waste management
Local community play budget	2023FR1.1 – Enable community groups across Franklin to lead delivery of community initiatives

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

Play project	Local Board Plan 2023 objectives
Partnership funding for rangatahi play projects	2023FR1.1 – Enable community groups across Franklin to lead delivery of community initiatives
Rangatahi fun at Franklin pools	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
Play on the way	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
StoryWalks	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities
Play advocacy general budget	2023FR4.1 – Local public places are fit for purpose and affordable, and meet the needs of growing communities

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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. 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. Appropriate sites will be identified with the Specialist Operations team.

Play at local board-funded events



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

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

Playful street art



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.

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

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. Pukekohe and Waiuku Libraries provide excellent play sessions for younger tamariki, but

staff at both 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.

Play activation programme



What is it? Funding for a play activation work programme in Franklin.

How would we deliver play activations?

The Activation team would work with its delivery partners to develop a programme of activations across Franklin, focusing on specific areas of play if required.

What value will this add? The Out and About Auckland team is skilled at developing great relationships with experienced delivery partners and scheduling activities for local boards. The programmes targeted approach meets specific local board activation needs by

providing access to specialists that support play and recreation. In Franklin, this could include facilitated adventurous nature play sessions and tailored play activities for targeted communities. 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.

Beach activation programme



What is it? Funding for a beach activation work programme in Franklin.

How would deliver beach activations?

The Activation team would work with its delivery partners to develop a programme of beach activities across Franklin. The team would promote beach activities as opportunities for rangatahi and adults to have fun.

Why run beach activations? Franklin 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.

Loose parts play space



What is it? Creating a dedicated site for loose parts play in Franklin.

How would we deliver a loose parts play space By confirming a suitable site, providing storage if required (for example, a shed for an outdoor play space, or a cupboard or similar for indoor storage), and creating a partnership agreement with a delivery partner to manage the site. Waiuku Community Recycling Centre could be the perfect location for this initiative.

Why would we support loose parts play?

This kind of play – also known as ‘junk play’ – encourages tamariki to use their imaginations and create play out of unexpected items. The materials used tend to be sourced from recycling centres and other organisations committed to diverting items from landfill and giving them a new life. At present, there isn’t a permanent site in Tāmaki Makaurau for loose parts play, although Out and About Auckland provides pop-up junk play activities.

Educational loose parts play programme



What is it? Creating a facilitated loose parts educational play programme at Waiuku Community Recycling Centre.

How would we provide this? By using the ‘Noughty Wasters’ educational play programme elsewhere in Tāmaki Makaurau as a model for a similar project at Waiuku Community Recycling Centre. A delivery partner could be recruited to operate the space and deliver play sessions for visiting tamariki. The local board could then support local schools to attend sessions at the play space, by helping with

expenses such as travel costs.

What’s the benefit of educational play spaces? The ‘Noughty Wasters’ educational play programme teaches tamariki about waste minimisation through play. It includes indoor and outdoor spaces, and works with schools to run sessions. Providing a similar programme at Waiuku Community Recycling Centre would encourage tamariki to be creative and play using objects donated to the recycling centre. Funding these sessions supports the ecological education of local tamariki and provides them with a loose parts play opportunity.

Local community play budget



What is it? A budget to support community-led play activities.

How would we manage a play budget? The local board could call for playful funding requests in its general grant-making programme. If there is an opportunity for ongoing support for an organisation (such as a school, kindergarten, community group, or cultural group) to provide community play, a partnership agreement could be developed.

Why would we fund community play? Providing time, space and permission

for play is the responsibility of the whole community, not just the council or Franklin Local Board. Supporting community groups to create and deliver play would help to meet the play needs of tamariki in the local area. For cultural groups, this could also support wider integration for newer residents. With schools, this can help to unlock these wonderful play sites for the rest of the community to also enjoy during weekends.

Partnership funding for rangatahi play projects



What is it? A funding partnership with a youth organisation, to learn from rangatahi about how they'd like to have fun.

How would we manage this engagement? By forming a partnership agreement with a youth organisation for engagement focused on rangatahi play and recreation.

Why do we need to engage with rangatahi about play? Nearly all local boards recognise that rangatahi are often overlooked in local board work programmes. In most cases, a youth council is the sole way that local boards can hear the views of rangatahi. We

need insights to better understand what rangatahi would like to do for play. This would also help Franklin Local Board to give effect to Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: that children have the right to express views freely on matters that affect them, and that their views will be given appropriate weight according to the age and maturity of the child.

Rangatahi fun at Franklin pools



What is it? Programming activities at Whiteside Pool and Jubilee Pool for older tamariki and rangatahi.

How would we create pool play? By working with the pools' management to provide space for activations and promote them effectively. If necessary, delivery partners could be used to manage activations.

What's good about pool play? The council-owned Whiteside Pool and Jubilee Pool are amazing community facilities, popular with people of all ages.

Delivering water-based activities and events for older tamariki and rangatahi – perhaps late in the afternoon or early in the evening – could provide an opportunity for this demographic to have fun with their peers.

Play on the way



What is it? Playful activities or installations to make walking and cycling more fun.

How would we deliver play on the way? By partnering with CLM Community Sport, or a community house or community group, and involving local schools in projects.

What's the point of play on the way?

The Waiuku Trails Plan 2017, the Pohutukawa Coast Trails Plan 2017 and the Pukekohe-Paerata Paths Plan 2018 identified several walking and cycling

routes. With elements like pavement stencilling or installing decorative markers, certain routes could be enhanced to encourage whānau to use them. Tamariki are always more motivated to walk or cycle if the journey is fun. An iwi-led approach to this work could also support Māori outcomes by sharing local iwi narratives. Play on the way could also link local playgrounds and other play spaces, creating play trails. This could support greater use of local playgrounds, ensuring that lesser-known spaces are also enjoyed.

