

Open Spaces and Facilities

Purpose

We provide community development, libraries, a hall and pensioner housing to contribute to our social wellbeing and pride, providing natural spaces open to all and enabling our community to come together and encourage active play. We support community involvement in placemaking, outdoor activities, creating partnerships to provide recreation facilities and civic spaces that are fit for purpose. Financial contributions from developers mean we have a healthy fund that enables us to invest in increased park and open space development. A community development approach strengthens local democracy and the capacity of communities to participate actively in determining the processes and outcomes of social and economic change. Building active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect. It is about changing power structures to remove barriers that prevent people from participating in the issue that affect their lives.

Legislation associated with this service

- Local Government Act 2002;
- Local Government Amendment Act 2012;
- Resource Management Act 1991;
- Reserves Act 1977;
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
- Employment Relations Act 2000;
- Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987;
- Local Authorities Members' Interests Act 1968;
- Local Electoral Act 2001; and
- Citizenship Act 1977.

Risks and Issues

Reserves and open spaces

- There is a perception of a lack of facilities in some areas;
- We rely on community-owned and/or managed sports parks. The only Council-owned and managed facility is Memorial Park in Dargaville;
- As we develop new facilities and new land is vested through development this has the effect

of increasing operational expenditure, if this is not allowed for then maintenance of facilities may suffer causing additional costs to bring these facilities back to a useable state.;

- Community volunteers play a big role in the care and development of our parks and reserves. The new Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 may add additional cost to services done by volunteers and may affect the amount of work they can do.

Community development

- There are always more applications than funds available and this results in continued rejections, including the welfare and social services areas which do not fit our criteria. The risk is community dissatisfaction over the lack of funds and rejection, resulting in lobbying Council outside the grants system to get funds.
- Financial support to respond to the aspirations identified by communities is limited, so work needs to be prioritised against community priorities and outcomes
- Balancing the level of engagement of the community in council projects to ensure inclusion and momentum.

Libraries

- There are uneven service levels across the district with only one Council-provided library (in Dargaville) and four community run libraries. With the increasing growth in other areas this could be perceived negatively by residents.

Pensioner housing

- Inventory is aging; and
- Many councils no longer see this as core Council operations.

Northern Wairoa War Memorial Hall

- The Municipal Building, used as part of the adjacent and joined Northern Wairoa War Memorial Hall, needs earthquake strengthening.

How we fund this Group:

- General rates;
- Targeted rates;
- Fees and charges;

- Grants, subsidies and other funding sources;
- Financial contributions;
- Borrowing; and
- Asset sales.

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Open Spaces

What we do

Actively maintain and improve a network of parks and recreational areas throughout Kaipara district. We operate four cemeteries and support community run cemeteries. We provide over 30 public toilets within civic areas and reserves across Kaipara district; and oversee Community run campgrounds and Kai Iwi Lakes campgrounds. We maintain and manage council owned coastal assets/facilities, including Wharves.

Contribution to Community Outcomes

- Climate smart: Consider the effects of Climate change when future planning
- Vibrant communities: Provide adequate open spaces and support the development of attractive open spaces
- Healthy environment: Provide clean recreational spaces by keeping the parks and facilities well maintained

What we will deliver

Description	When
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review current terms of O&M Contract, tender and award new contract.▪ Pahi Toilet replacement▪ Mangawhai Coastal walkway▪ New Master plan for Mangawhai Community Park	2021/2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ancient Kauri Trail▪ Deliver a new playground.	2022/2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dargaville Toilets▪ Coastal structures: renewals▪ Park upgrades District wide▪ Playground renewals	2023/2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Renew Parks Maintenance contract▪ Playground renewals▪ Toilet renewals▪ Community Infrastructure upgrades/renewals▪ Hard surface renewals▪ Carpark sealing	2024/2031

Performance Measures

	LTP Year 1 Target 2021/2022	LTP Year 2 Target 2022/2023	LTP Year 3 Target 2023/2024	LTP Years 4-10 Target 2024/2031
Percentage of residents who are very satisfied or satisfied with their local parks and sports fields. <i>Measured by:</i> Residents Survey	85%	86%	87%	87%
Percentage of residents who are very satisfied or satisfied with the district's public toilets. <i>Measured by:</i> Residents Survey	≥70%	≥70%	≥70%	≥70%
Compliance with parks maintenance contract specifications monthly audits.	90%	90%	90%	90%
Parks maintenance contract: number of health and safety audits per month.	Contractor: 4 Council: 1	Contractor: 4 Council: 1	Contractor: 4 Council: 1	Contractor: 4 Council: 1
Compliance with Resource consent conditions. Wastewater/ water take consents.	No abatement notices received	No abatement notices received	No abatement notices received	No abatement notices received

Changes in Levels of Service

Berm mowing to be removed in new contract

Significant Negative effects

Activity	Effect	Mitigation
Working in culturally sensitive sites	Potential damage to sites	Archaeological assessments, planning and research
Chemical spraying	Impacts on soil conditions Accidental spraying of native plants due to weather conditions	Reduce spraying by more mechanical edge control Spray in appropriate weather conditions i.e. low wind.
Construction	Impacts on environment	Using appropriate materials, processes and planning of works. Resource Consent requirements

Community Development

What we do

We bring Council and community together through positive relationships. We aim to remove barriers that prevent people from participating in the issues that affect their lives by facilitating workshops and engagement events. This approach aims to strengthen local democracy and the capacity of communities to participate actively in determining the processes and outcomes of social and economic change.

We administer the Community Assistance Policy, including community grants; Community Licence to Occupy (LTO), we deliver the Mangawhai Endowment Lands Account (MELA) and Reserves Contribution, administer the Rural Travel Fund, Kai Ora Fund and Creative Communities Scheme, distribution of Community Development Fund and deliver the Citizens and Environmental Awards.

We distribute the Community Development Fund to develop and support community projects, build capacity and capability, promote and support community events across Kaipara. We advise and advocate for increased opportunities for community participation in Council projects. We support community initiatives that may have cultural elements or a focus in their programme e.g. heritage trails, Settlers Day, interpretation panels.

Contribution to Community Outcomes

- Celebrating diversity: Promoting community development and ideas throughout the District
- Vibrant communities: Ensure consultation and community input is heard
- Prosperous economy: Work with the community to develop ideas and initiatives
- **What we will deliver**

Description	When
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Administer the contestable funding programme▪ Coordinate the Citizens and Environmental Awards▪ Coordinate the Community Agreement processes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Contracts for Service○ Community Licences to Occupy○ Community Leases○ Development Agreements <p>Support community and Council-led projects by advising on, and participation in, the implementation and review of community plans such as:</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mangawhai Community Plan▪ Kaiwaka Improvement Plan▪ Ancient Kauri Trail▪ Dargaville Township Improvement Plan▪ Paparoa Connections▪ Te Kopuru Community Activation Plan	2021/2031

Performance Measures

Nil

Changes in Levels of Service

No change in the levels of service.

Significant Negative effects

There are no significant negative effects for this activity.

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Libraries

What we do

We have one public library, situated in Dargaville, that provides traditional library lending services, music, DVDs, computers, printing, WiFi, events, holiday programmes and literacy initiatives. We also assist four volunteer community libraries in Paparoa, Maungaturoto, Kaiwaka and Mangawhai. These community libraries are managed under the Community Assistance Policy;

All Kaipara district library members have online free access to ebooks, eaudio, emagazines, online Britannica, Generosity NZ funding search and their library account. The libraries share a catalogue and computer system with training and support provided by Dargaville Library and our IT Team. All libraries provide WiFi to their communities with Dargaville also loaning computers and laptops.

Contribution to Community Outcomes

- Vibrant communities: Provide the community with access to books, internet, and wifi
- Prosperous economy: Promoting life long learning through the Library facilities

What we will deliver

Description	When
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A modern library environment in Dargaville and Mangawhai is included as part of Council's Civic Building Strategy▪ Continuously work to improve library services to residents and visitors▪ Support community libraries to improve and develop their services and work to align standards between libraries▪ Investigate co-operative initiatives with other Northland libraries	2021/2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Progress towards a modern library environment in Mangawhai and Dargaville▪ Continuously work to improve library services to residents and visitors▪ Support community libraries to improve and develop their services and work to align standards between libraries▪ Investigate co-operative initiatives with other Northland libraries	2022/2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Progress towards a modern library environment in Dargaville▪ Progress towards a modern library environment in Mangawhai▪ Continuously work to improve library services to residents and visitors▪ Support community libraries to improve and develop their services and work to align standards between libraries▪ Investigate co-operative initiatives with other Northland libraries	2023/2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ New integrated Community Hub in Dargaville▪ Progress towards a modern library environment in Mangawhai▪ Radio-frequency identification (RFID) project installed in libraries▪ Continuously work to improve library services to residents and visitors▪ Support community libraries to improve and develop their services and work to align standards between libraries▪ Investigate co-operative initiatives with other Northland libraries	2024/2031

Performance Measures

	LTP Year 1 Target 2021/2022	LTP Year 2 Target 2022/2023	LTP Year 3 Target 2023/2024	LTP Years 4- 10 Target 2024/2031
Percentage of library users who are very satisfied or satisfied with the district's library services.	85%	85%	85%	85%

Changes in Levels of Service

There will be no changes to the level of service

Significant Negative effects

Activity	Effect	Mitigation
Customer Service	We rely on the goodwill of volunteers to run our Community libraries in the Kaipara	Larger library in Dargaville Branch library in Mangawhai with paid staff
Library Buildings	currently not fit for purpose	Larger library in Dargaville Branch library in Mangawhai with paid staff
Health and Safety	Dargaville library's layout	Possible new building or site to be investigated

Pensioner Housing

What we do

We own three pensioner housing villages in Dargaville, Ruawai and Mangawhai. Pensioner housing is targeted for people over the age of 55 who meet certain criteria, including the capability of living independently. The Dargaville Community Development Board manages the Dargaville and Ruawai pensioner housing and a contractor manages the Mangawhai pensioner housing.

Contribution to Community Outcomes

- Vibrant communities: Providing accommodation options for Pensioner

What we will deliver

Description	When
36 Units in Dargaville and Ruawai will be available to older community members of limited means.	2021/2031

Performance Measures

	LTP Year 1 Target 2021/2022	LTP Year 2 Target 2022/2023	LTP Year 3 Target 2023/2024	LTP Years 4- 10 Target 2024/2031
Zero net cost to ratepayers for our pensioner housing services. <i>Measured by:</i> Council annual budget	Zero cost	Zero cost	Zero cost	Zero cost
Pensioner housing annual occupancy rate. <i>Measured by:</i> Quarterly reporting from management agencies.	90%	90%	90%	90%

Changes in Levels of Service

There will be only minor changes to the level of service for the Dargaville and Ruawai units. The changes will involve upgrading the units to meet the Healthy Homes regulations. The provision of housing for elderly in Mangawhai will be transferred to a Community Housing provider.

Significant Negative effects

There are no significant negative effects

Northern Wairoa War Memorial Hall

What we do

We own and manage one hall, the Northern Wairoa War Memorial Hall (also called the Dargaville Town Hall).

Contribution to Community Outcomes

- Vibrant communities: Facilities are provided for the community across the District

What we will deliver

Description	When
Continue to mitigate mould caused by water ingress to allow for continued use of some parts of the complex.	Ongoing
Investigate options for remediation or demolition/rebuilding of the 1990's extension.	2021/22

Changes in Levels of Service

There may need to be changes to the level of service if portions of the building can no longer be used safely due to weathertightness defects.

Significant Negative effects

There are no significant negative effects.

How are we considering Climate change?

Council is still in the process of understanding how changes to Kaipara's climate will impact the diverse set of activities within Open Spaces and Facilities. Over the next three years, we aim to identify specific climate-related risks and recognise ways we can manage risk and adapt our services.

In some areas, we are already incorporating climate change responses. Climate Smart Community Outcome helps guide our Open Spaces activities and we have identified a need to consider and account for climate change in future planning. Community Development activities support and celebrate community groups in their pursuit of sustainable, environmental health initiatives. Improving cycling and footpath networks via our community plans throughout the District will encourage alternative, low emissions modes of movement.