

REVIEW OF VALLEY FLOOR RESERVES

NAENAE

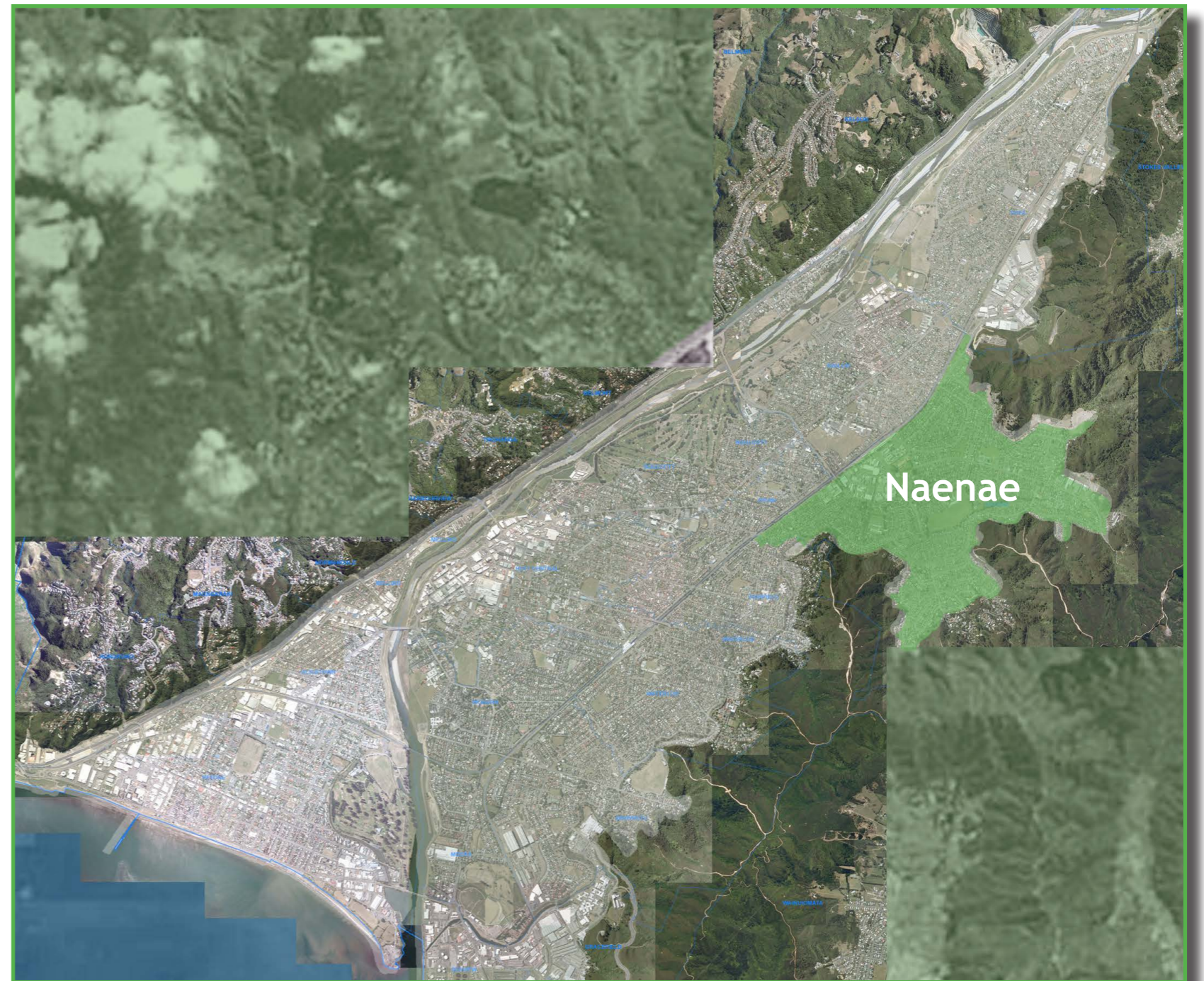




Figure 1: Naenae Park

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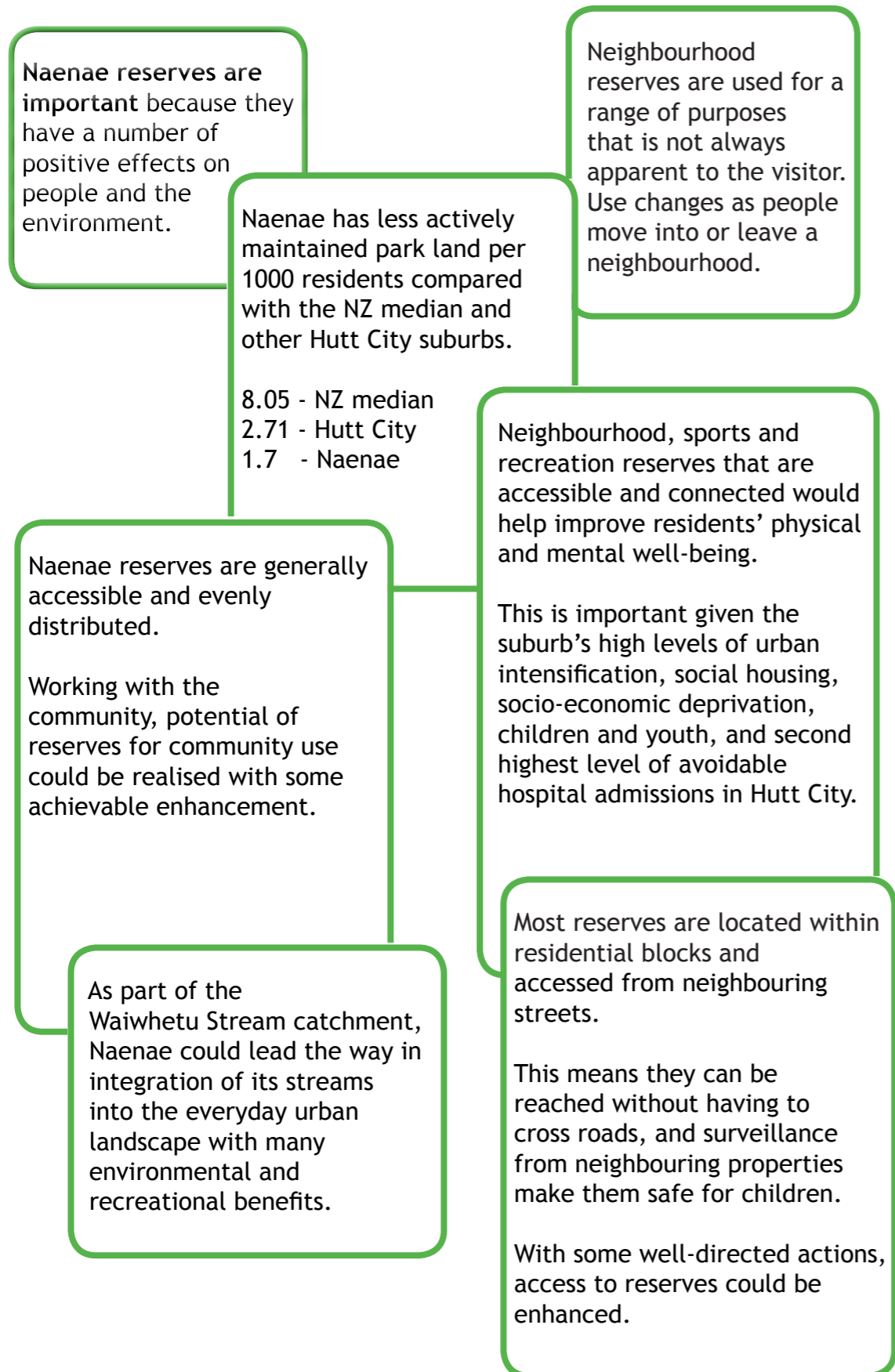
Figure 2: Cyclist using sloping concrete stream edge in Naenae Park



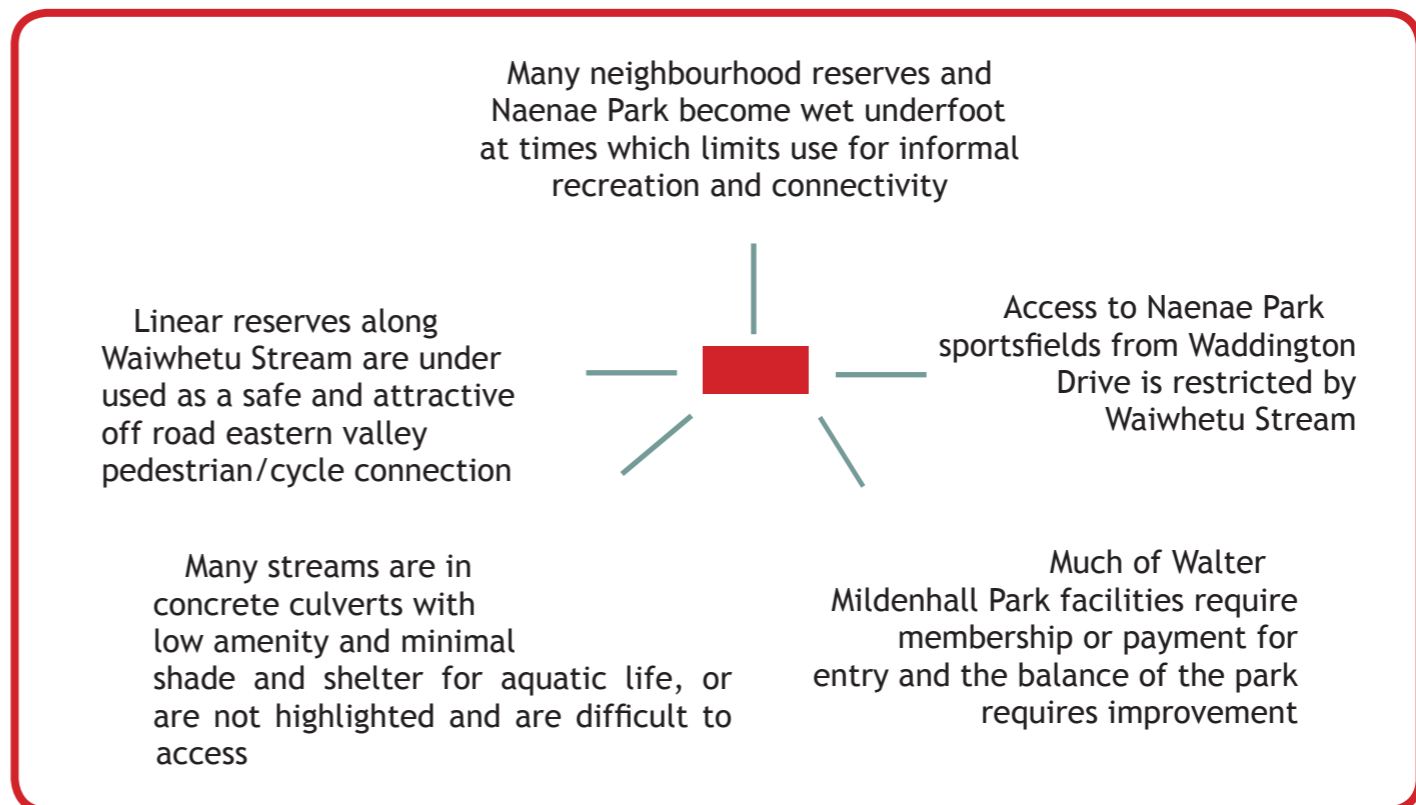
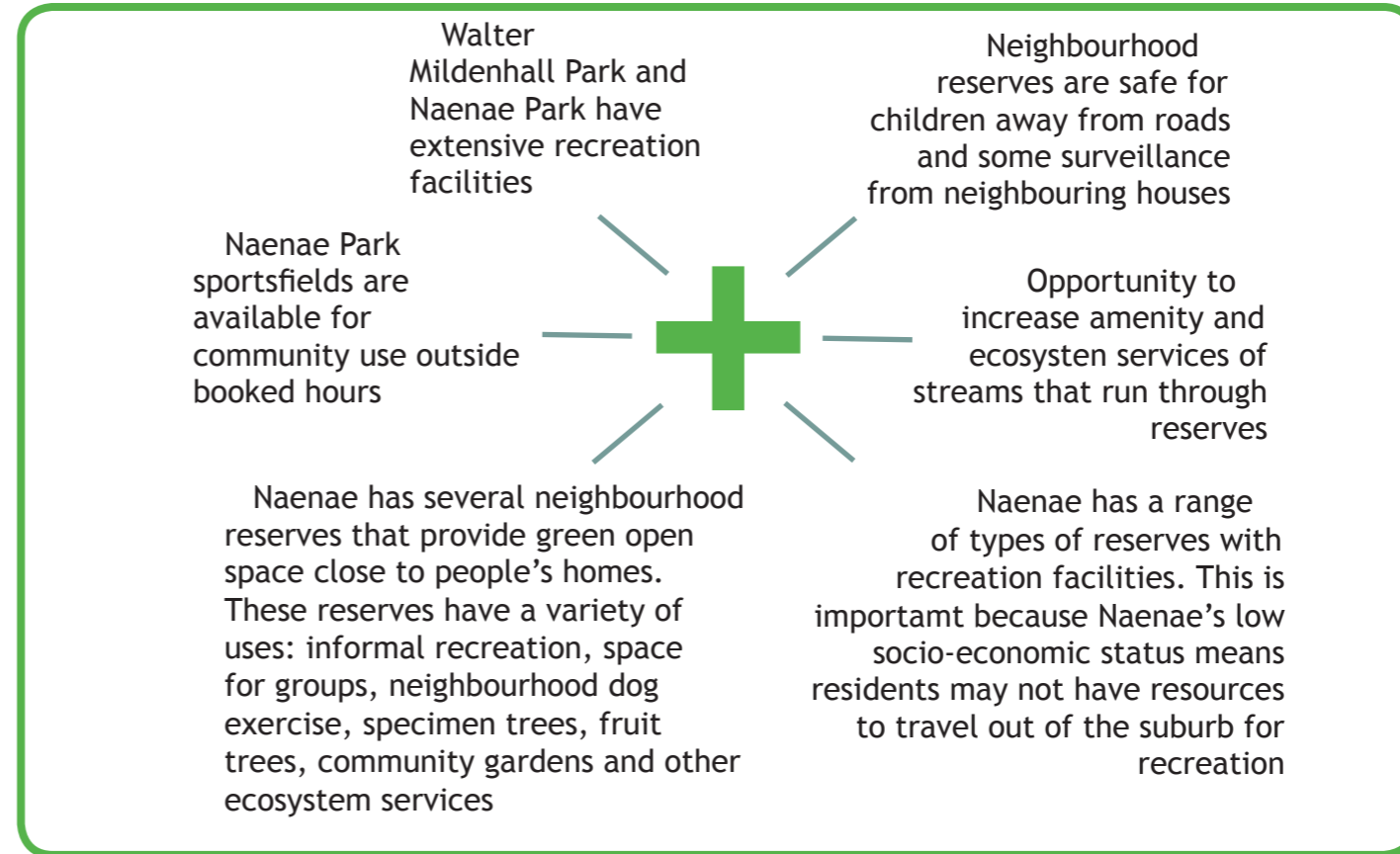
Figure 3: Entrance to Rata Street Reserve

Summary

Overview

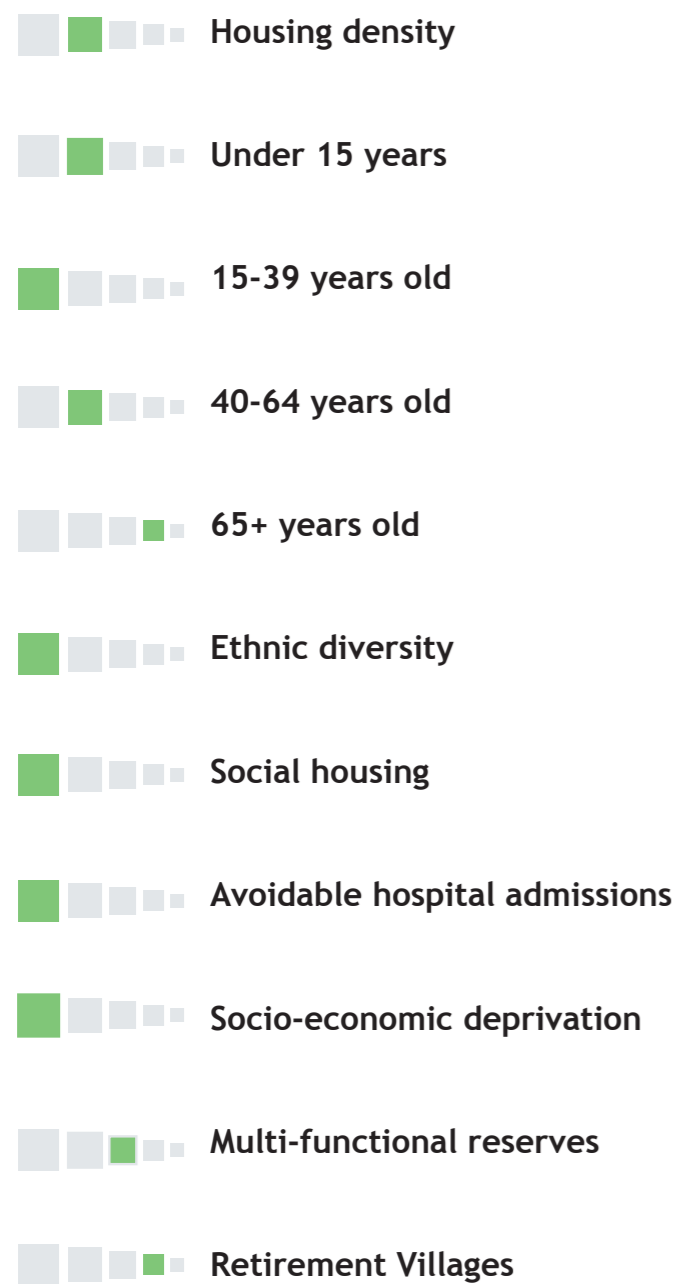


Positives and negatives



Suburb Profile²

The population in Naenae is the largest of valley floor suburbs and housing density is proposed to increase. The suburb is culturally diverse and projected to have the highest percentage of children of valley floor suburbs. Fifty-five percent of the population are projected to be 39 years or younger. The elderly are expected to increase but not to the extent of other valley floor suburbs. Naenae is an area of high socio-economic deprivation and social housing, and general health is an issue.



R e s e r v e N e e d s

Reserves with spaces for large and small groups

Activities and facilities to improve health and fitness

Pedestrian and cycle routes to encourage physical activity to and from work and school

Places for children and young people to recreate in higher density areas and areas with high levels of social housing

Multi-functional and flexible spaces for a range of year round recreation activities

Natural and undirected play opportunities

Community input into reserve design, types of facilities and activities

Community facilities for children, young people and middle-aged adults

In higher density areas, neighbourhood reserves close to people's homes to compensate for smaller areas of private open space for recreation, social interaction, edible and ornamental plants and large trees



Safe, accessible spaces for play reached without having to cross

Free things to do close to homes and which do not require membership

Sportfields and other active recreation opportunities

Areas for gatherings, picnics and activities

Quality materials, well maintained with evidence of stewardship and care

Places to experience the natural world

Community activities to do with fruit and vegetable production are often important in low socio-economic areas where people have fewer resources

A neighbourhood reserve in south Naenae should housing intensification increase

Some lighting and paths in neighbourhood reserves for safe winter evening access between streets and use e.g. for dog exercise

²See Appendices for details

Key Recommendations

Work with local and wider communities (e.g. as part of North East Magic) to broaden use, and develop accessibility, safety and the character of individual neighbourhood reserves

See 3.1 page 10

Construct all weather paths through neighbourhood reserves to improve access and link streets. Consider evening lighting

See 3.1 page 10

A new perimeter path at Naenae Park would increase casual use of the park and help encourage fitness and health. A new stream crossing to sportsfields from Waddington Drive would improve access

See 3.2 page 11

Along with planned development of facilities at Walter Mildenhall Park, provide open space for free community use with a focus on activities for children, youth and young adults; improve access, attractiveness and paths to connect recreational facilities within the park

See 3.2 page 11

In Naenae Park, improve the natural character of the stream with water. As well as widening the role of the park, the stream would enhance the setting for sports and provide natural play opportunities

See 3.2 page 11

Link the string of reserves in central and northern Naenae to form a looped pedestrian/cycle/exercise trail with a distinctive identity (signs, banners, markings and activities)

See 3.3 page 12

A pedestrian/cycle Naenae to Harbour eastern valley connector for recreation and commuters along Waiwhetu Stream

See 3.3 page 12

Engage with Capacity to 'naturalise' streams, increase habitat for aquatic life and benefits from ecosystems (managing stormwater, cleaner water, increasing urban biodiversity), natural play, education, natural character and general pleasantness

See 3.3 page 12



Figure 4: Neighbourhood park activities (Freiburg Germany)

1.0 Introduction

This review of reserves in Naenae builds on the June 2013 Review of Valley Floor Reserves. It aims to better understand reserves in the suburb, current and future use, needs of residents now and in the future and how Naenae reserves could meet these needs.

1.1 Importance of reserves

Public open space has positive effects on the lives of people:

Effects on resident health and wellbeing

Research suggests that exposure to natural environments has direct, positive effects on human health and well being. In an urban area like Naenae, reserves are settings where residents can take part in physical activity, interact with others in an outdoor setting, experience natural environments and enjoy the restorative effects of contact with the outdoors and nature.

Effects on infrastructure and ecosystems

Reserves also provide for healthy ecosystems which in turn benefit humans. These 'ecosystem services' include stormwater retention to reduce flooding, reduction in runoff, sediments and contaminants from stormwater.

Given that streams in Naenae are tributaries for Waiwhetu Stream and many run through reserves, how streams are treated in reserves will in turn impact on the overall health of Waiwhetu Stream and the harbour it eventually runs into.

Other positive effects of natural features in reserves are opportunities for pollination and species diversity. A benefit of trees on reserves is carbon sequestration.

Development of urban character

Reserves contribute to the character of urban areas and to residents' day-to-day experiences of where they live. The string of neighbourhood reserves across Naenae are pockets of green in the built environment and havens for residents. Proximity of properties to reserves have positive impacts on land values.

1.1.1 Local involvement

Recent Council hearings on reserve lands have confirmed that interest in local reserves is high and that they are used for a range of purposes that is not always immediately apparent. Development of neighbourhood reserves into appealing places that are treasured by the neighbourhood and invite a variety of use is important. One way to achieve this is to involve the neighbourhood in the use, design and development of reserves.

1.2 Reserves in Naenae

Naenae is dominated visually by the eastern hills, and Waiwhetu Stream and its tributaries are a key natural feature and connecting element. Naenae and Walter Mildenhall Parks are significant reserves due to their size and facilities.

Naenae was established in an era when the concept of the 'garden city' was prevalent. A string of neighbourhood reserves were established in the 1940s where urban planning aimed to achieve higher density. The intention was to build houses which faced onto central reserves to provide pleasant play areas that were easily supervised from surrounding houses and reached safely without having to cross roads. These communal reserves were to be locations for attractive specimen trees which were too large for small gardens.

This concept is still relevant to Naenae today where much of the suburb is zoned for more intensive residential development. Easily accessed reserves are desirable given the suburb's high levels of social housing, socio-economic deprivation and numbers of younger people who generally have fewer means to travel outside the suburb.

In northern Naenae, neighbourhood reserves are evenly distributed and many are located within residential blocks and accessed from neighbouring streets. This means they can be accessed without having to cross roads, and surveillance from neighbouring properties make them safe for children.

Reserves are less evenly distributed in other parts of Naenae. While most residents are able to reach a reserve within the recommended 8.5 minutes (the time it takes to walk 400 metres), residents who live south of Naenae School and between Cambridge Terrace and Naenae Road have to walk further than recommended to reach a reserve.

Despite general reserve accessibility, Naenae has a smaller area of actively maintained reserve land when compared to most other suburbs in Hutt City. Naenae has 1.7 hectares per 1000 residents compared to 2.71 hectares for Hutt City as a whole and the NZ median of 8.05 hectares. This is the third lowest of 33 territorial authorities in NZ.¹

When considering how much reserve land an urban area needs, ratios like this are only one aspect to consider. Critical are types of reserves, whether reserves meet residents' needs according to demographics, housing density and socio-economic aspects of the population, and to what degree reserves have positive effects on the environment and infrastructure.

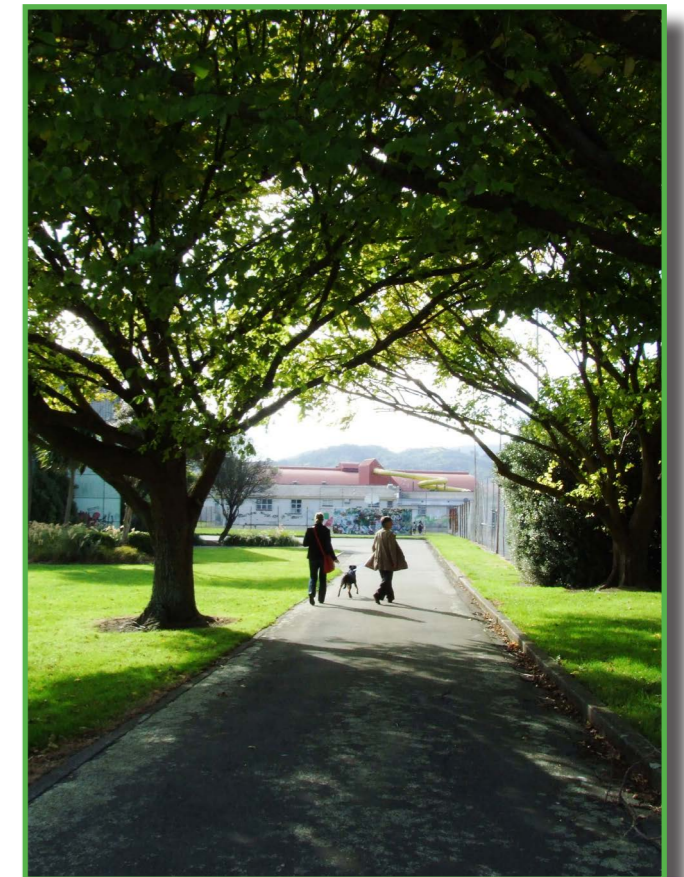


Figure 5: Walter Mildenhall Park



Figure 6: Rata Street Reserve

¹ NZRA, Yardstick Performance Analysis Report 2013, page 11.

2.0 Naenae Reserve locations and types

- 1 Naenae Library and Service Centre - Civic space with paved surfaces. Public library, children's playground, mall, car parking, seating and street trees.
- 2 Barton Grove Reserve - Neighbourhood reserve in an intensification zoned area with grassed kick-a-ball space and three entrances. Wide street frontage on Barton Grove allows views into the reserve. The reserve is used by pedestrians and cyclists as a route between neighbouring streets. Three native specimen trees (rewarewa) attract nectar loving birds. Reasonable surveillance from neighbouring houses.
- 3 Hewer Crescent Reserve - Neighbourhood reserve in an intensification zoned area with grassed kick-a-ball space. Reasonably open frontage on Hewer Street with a second entrance on Rata Street. People were observed using the reserves to access neighbouring streets. Reasonable surveillance from neighbouring houses. Three specimen trees. Hedge-like planting on some reserve boundaries.
- 4 Rimu Street Reserve - Neighbourhood reserve with kick-a-ball type grassed area with two young specimen trees and a wide street frontage. Reasonable surveillance from houses looking onto the reserve. Near Taita Cemetery and the Eastern Hills.
- 5 Wingate Overbridge - Grassed area with specimen trees and amenity planting separated from adjacent areas by roading. Potential with more tree planting to enhance valley crossing bird corridor and pedestrian/cyclist access to Taita.
- 6 Rata Street - Neighbourhood reserve with connections to two streets and a large open grassed kick-a-ball type space with boundary planting. Street frontage on Rata Street has reasonable views into the reserve. Houses on boundaries give reasonable surveillance.
- 7 Glenbrook Grove Reserve - Neighbourhood reserve with open grass area and stream with planting provides kick-a-ball space in an area with housing intensification. Wide street frontage with good surveillance.
- 8 Butler Street Reserve - Neighbourhood reserve with opened grassed space at the end of a cul-de-sac links three streets. One wide street frontage with good views into the reserve and reasonable surveillance from neighbouring properties. The other two entrances are via pathways between properties with high fences on their boundaries. No trees but a large 'borrowed' specimen tree on a neighbouring property.
- 9 Naenae Park - Large park with city and district significance. Hosts a range of sporting codes, gym, clubrooms and childrens' playground. Has entrances off multiple streets (although has small street frontages). Streams are a feature but they are treated as stormwater infrastructure with concrete culverts and little shelter and habitat for aquatic life.
- 10 Buller Grove - Neighbourhood Reserve with grassed area for casual neighbourhood recreation and stream with vegetation. Good surveillance from the end of Buller Grove. A pathway with high corrugated iron fences links Buller Grove with Swainson Street.
- 11 Judd Crescent Reserve - Neighbourhood reserve with a large kick-a-ball-space, children's play equipment, seating, planter boxes. Good surveillance from wide street frontage and from neighbouring houses.
- 12 Purser Grove Reserve - Neighbourhood playground and scout hall surrounded by kick-a-ball grassed area. Located at end of cul-de-sac and provides access between two streets. Street frontage.

- 13 Wheatley Street Reserve - grassed reserve linking two streets.
- 14 Walter Mildenhall Park and Naenae Olympic Indoor Pool - mature specimen trees, Hutt Valley Badminton Association, Maota Samoa building, Park Avenue Bowling Club, amenity planting, abandoned tennis courts, car parking and some seating.
- 15 Waiwhetu Stream links Naenae with southern suburbs. The stream is accessible in some locations but not in others. In some places it is restrained by concrete culverts with little or no sheltering vegetation. This limits habitat for aquatic life. It also reduces opportunities to slow runoff and reduce sediments and contaminants from stormwater. In some locations along the stream corridor, grassed open space is available for community use - on Waddington Drive between Hill and Judd Crescents (a), an area with large trees where McEnroe Crescent meets Waddington Drive (b), and a walkway between Hamerton Street and Riverside Drive (c) - see in Figure 7 below, .

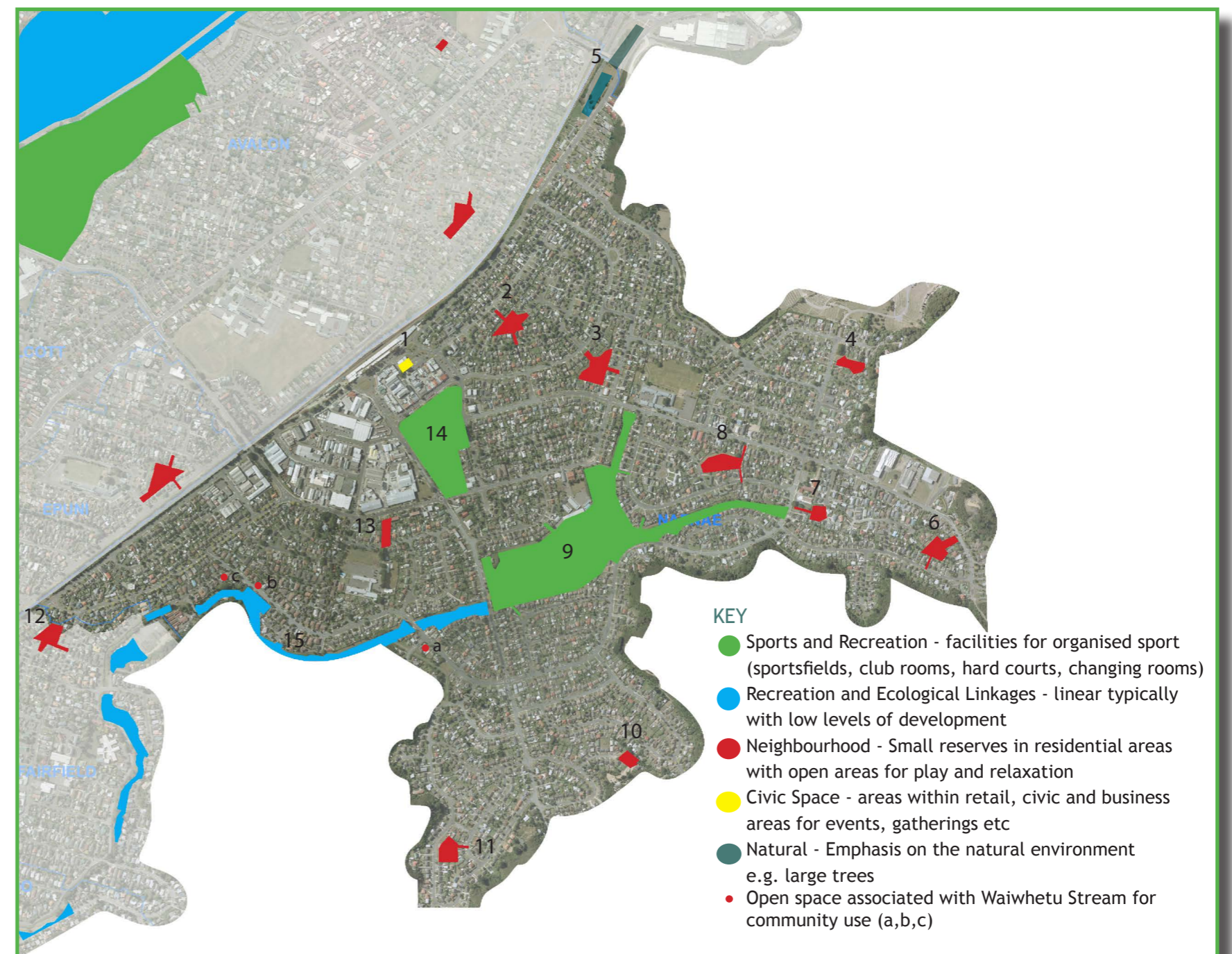


Figure 7: Locations and Types of Reserves (as defined by NZ Recreation Association)

3.0 Roles of Naenae reserves and suggestions to improve

3.1 Neighbourhood Reserves

Neighbourhood reserves are likely to be used more and their significance to grow as housing intensification increases.

3.1.1 Role

- They serve local purposes for casual recreation. Most have flexible green spaces and reasonably sized grassed kick-a-ball type spaces.

3.1.2 Access

- Street frontage varies, but reserves generally have at least one entrance and up to three entrances from different streets with views into the reserve
- Neighbouring properties generally are fenced off from the reserves and some have gates for easy access onto the reserve
- Many reserves link streets and are used by pedestrians and cyclists as routes and short cuts to bus stops and to and from shops, school and work
- Some reserves have specimen trees which bring character to reserves, shade and shelter and habitats for bird and other life.

3.1.3 Safety

- Children can play safely, often without having to cross busy streets.
- Surveillance of reserve activities from neighbouring properties varies, but generally reserves are overlooked by a number of properties and activities on the reserves can be heard by neighbours. Some boundaries have perimeter planting which may block views to and from reserves but form a pleasant backdrop as an alternative to fencing.

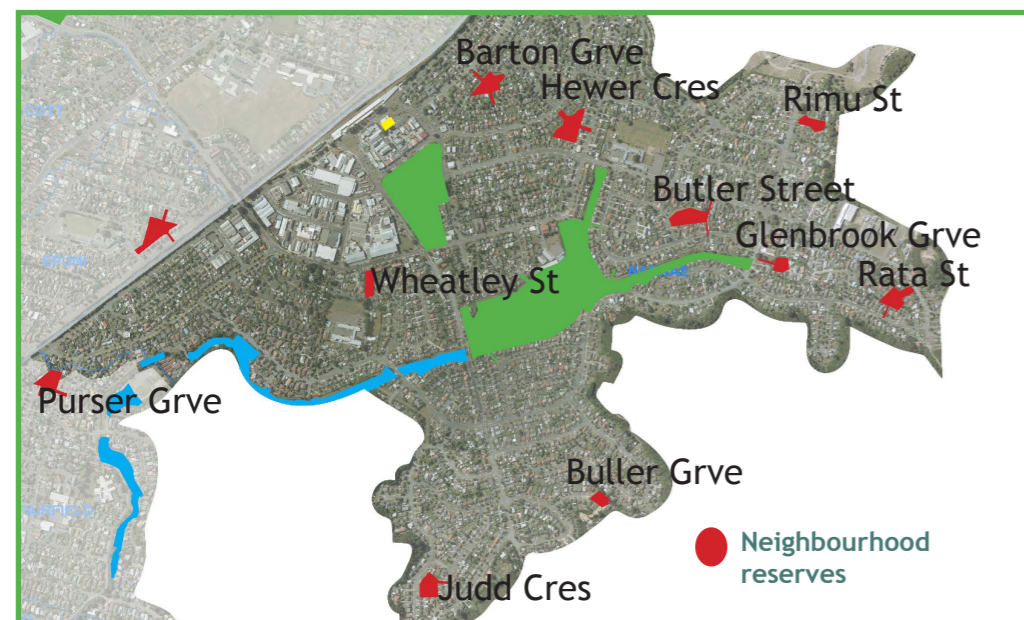


Figure 8: Neighbourhood reserves

3.1.2 Opportunities

1. Improve all weather access through reserves with paths that connect streets. Evening lighting in selected reserves would improve safety for winter evening access.
2. Keep open space in all neighbouring reserves for flexible use, but enhance reserve character to encourage use and activities.
3. Engage with Naenae residents before making decisions on individual reserves.

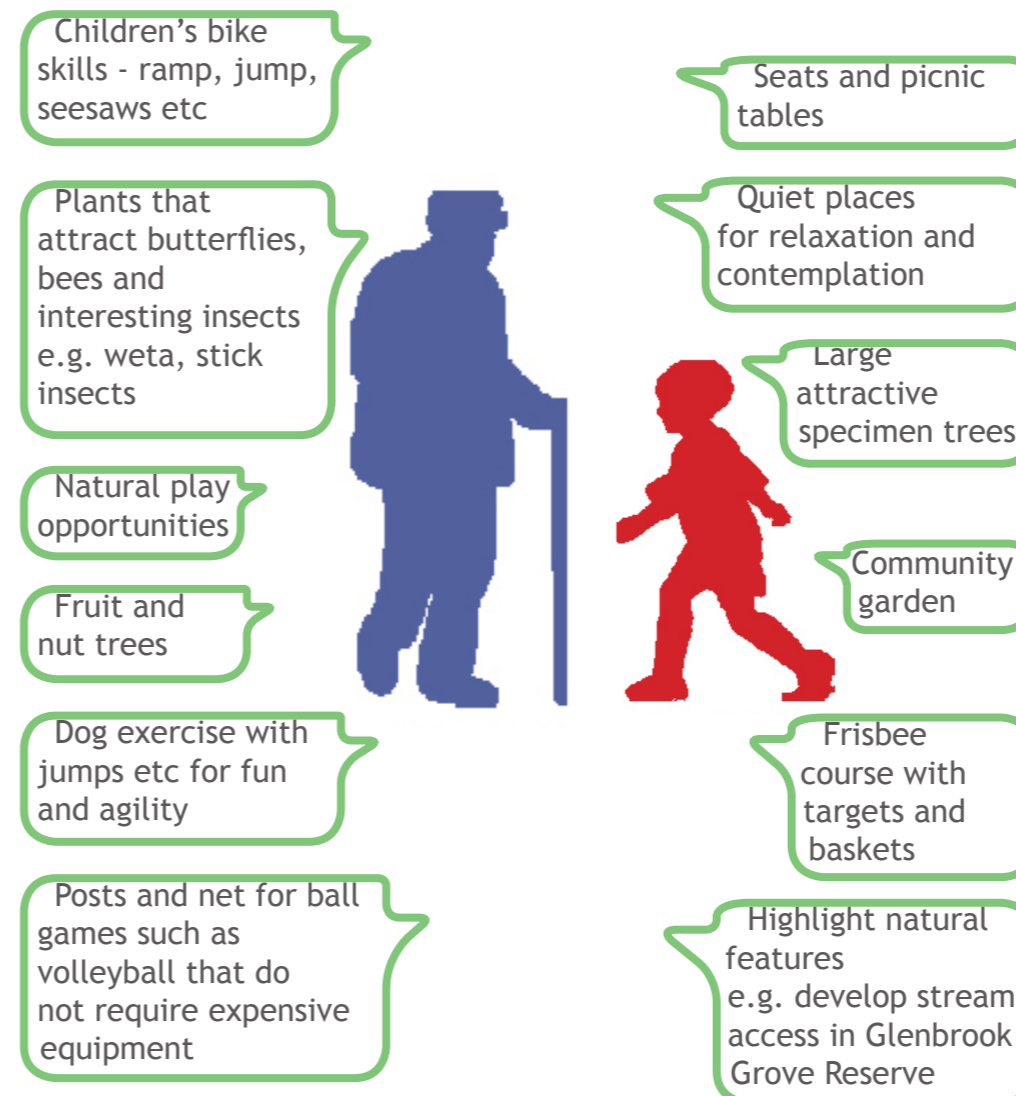


Figure 9



Figure 10



Figures 9, 10, 11: Examples of neighbourhood reserve activities

3.2 Sports and Recreation

Walter Mildenhall Park and Naenae Park are two sports venues that have city-wide significance, attracting city and regional users.

3.2.1 Role

- The two reserves have a wide range of high quality facilities for sports and recreation for a range of ages and activities
- Many facilities in the parks require membership or an entrance or playing fee (particularly Walter Mildenhall Park). Important to consider are current recreation trends for activities that do not require membership or scheduled times for activities. For young people, free things to do and safe areas and facilities are important
- Walter Mildenhall has an olympic sized indoor pool, badminton hall, bowling and petanque greens and bowling/RSA clubrooms, community hall and associated facilities and a quarter sized basketball/handball court. A regional bowls centre is being considered for the park
- Naenae Park has sportsfields, clubrooms, gym and a playground. Waiwhetu Stream runs through the park. The park has space for large specimen trees.

3.2.2 Access

- Both parks are accessible with a number of entrances, located in the centre of the suburb and near public transport and major roads. Both have some on-site parking.

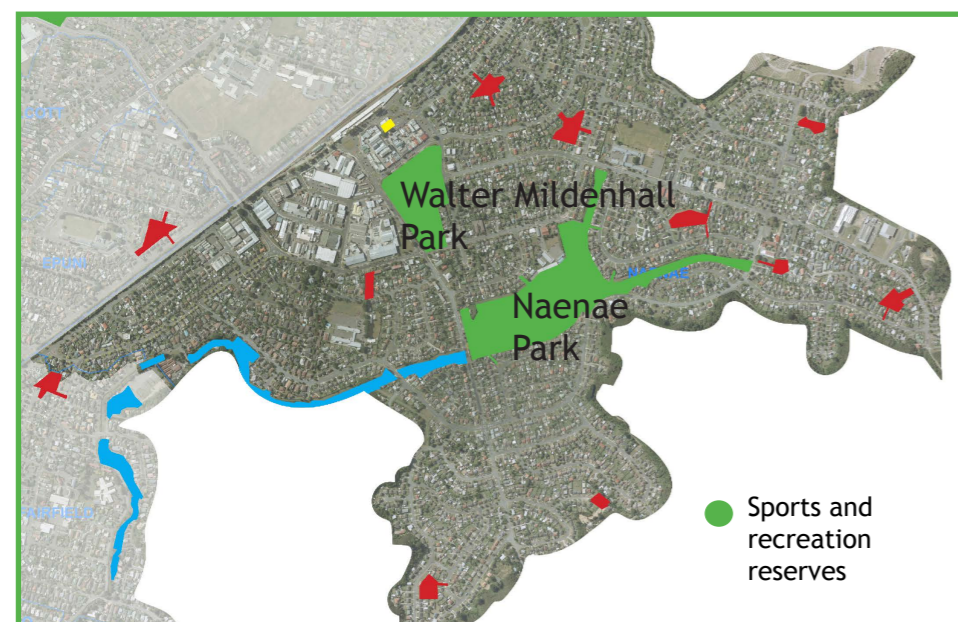


Figure 12: Sports and recreation reserves

3.2.4 Opportunities

1. Develop opportunities for informal recreation and widen park use. Walking is the most popular recreation activity among all age groups.³ An all-weather perimeter path at Naenae Park would attract use.
2. Improve the natural character and aquatic habitat of the stream that runs through Naenae Park. Streams are a feature of Naenae, but they are treated as stormwater infrastructure and generally constrained to concrete culverts with little shelter and habitat for aquatic life.
3. Develop outdoor areas that provide a quality, attractive setting for Walter Mildenhall Park recreational facilities and widen the park's use for social and recreation activities: paths linking facilities, attractive areas with seating, shelter, shade, planting and other features.⁴

An attractive naturalised stream through Naenae Park

Provide seating and places to interact with others in both parks

Attractive planting to improve the setting for recreation and add interest. widening use

Quality design and materials to entice people into the parks

An all weather surface perimeter path for Naenae Park with distance markers

Paths and seats to encourage people to enjoy and linger in the shade and shelter of large specimen trees in both parks

Paths that link Walter Mildenhall Park with neighbouring streets and link recreation facilities within the park



³ NZ Recreation Association Active NZ Survey 2007/2008 <http://www.activenzsurvey.org.nz/Results/2007-08-Active-NZ-Survey/National-Report/Participation-in-Sport-and-Recreation/>

⁴ A 2010 Hutt City Council survey with Naenae College and Naenae Intermediate School identified possible outdoor facilities for Walter Mildenhall Park such as a skate or bike park, children's playgrounds (pre-school and older children) and BBQ and picnic area.

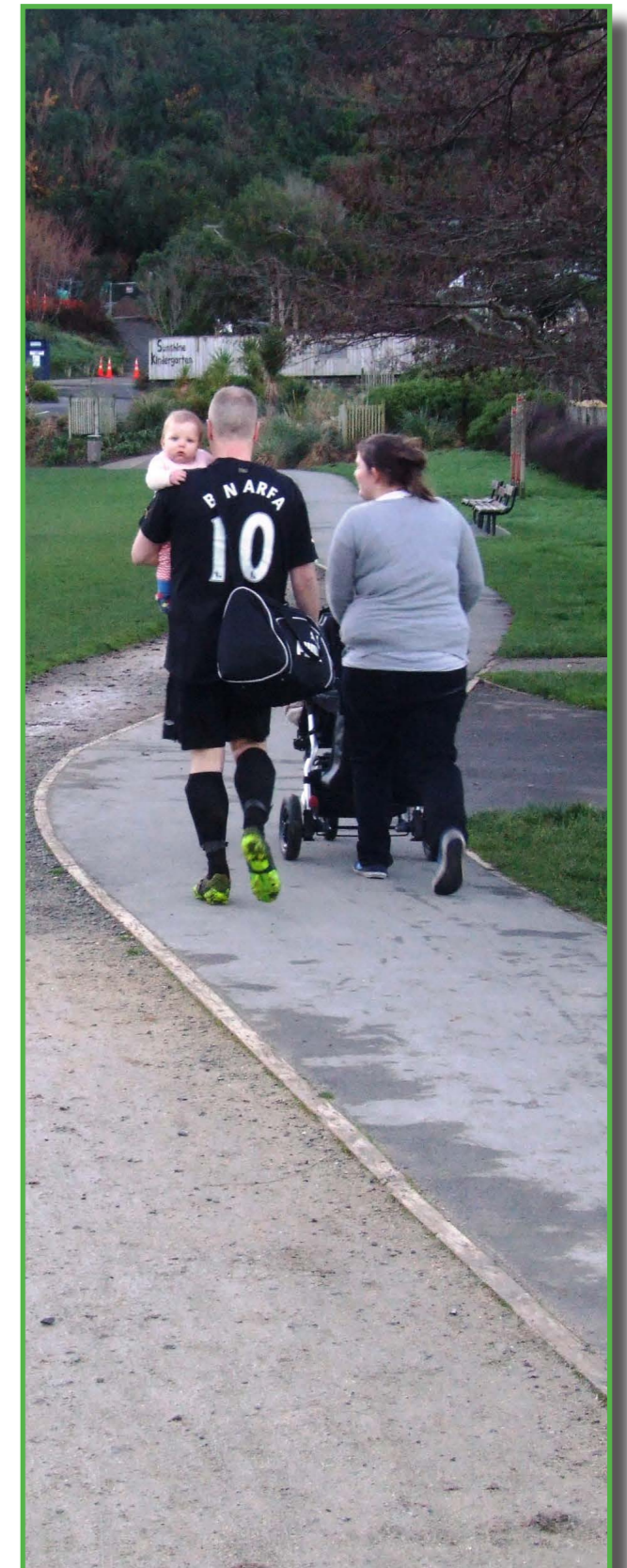


Figure 13: Karori Park perimeter path use (Wellington)

3.3 Recreational and Ecological Linkages

Role

Recreational linkages and urban connectivity:

- The string of reserves across central and northern Naenae could be linked by a looped pedestrian/cycle/fitness trail through reserves and lanes
- Waiwhetu Stream provides a unique opportunity to develop a safe off road pathway for pedestrians and cyclists linking Naenae with eastern suburbs, Seaview, Hutt Park and the harbour.

Ecological Linkages:

- Reserves with streams have a role in improving stream habitat and health, stormwater retention, decontamination and sediment reduction. Currently, many of the streams are in culverts with low amenity, difficult access and minimal shade and shelter for aquatic and streamside life.

Opportunities

1. Central/Northern Naenae Trail

A trail linking reserves and along streams would encourage physical activity. The looped routes could be different lengths for variety. The trail could have a distinctive identity, use pedestrian crossings and raised crossing points in the few locations where roads need to be crossed, and activities and points of interest such as fitness stations in reserves.

The trail could be part of North East Magic or other initiatives. The community could be involved in developing and branding the route with distinctive signs, banners, marks on pavements, distance markers and potentially attract funding from wider sources.

2. Streams

Many streams run through reserves, and improving stream environments will impact positively on aquatic and stream bank life. Streams in reserves could be naturalised to improve aquatic habitat and at the same time reserves can allow for flood events. Improvements would need to be carried out in conjunction with Capacity Infrastructure.⁵

4. Stream access

Developing stream access at selected locations for natural play and fun would also expose urban children to the natural environment.

5. Eastern Valley Connector

An eastern valley connector pedestrian and cycle route along Waiwhetu Stream from Naenae through the eastern suburbs for recreation and cycling commuters.

6. Wingate Reserve could be planted with trees as part of the eastern hills/valley crossing bird corridor.

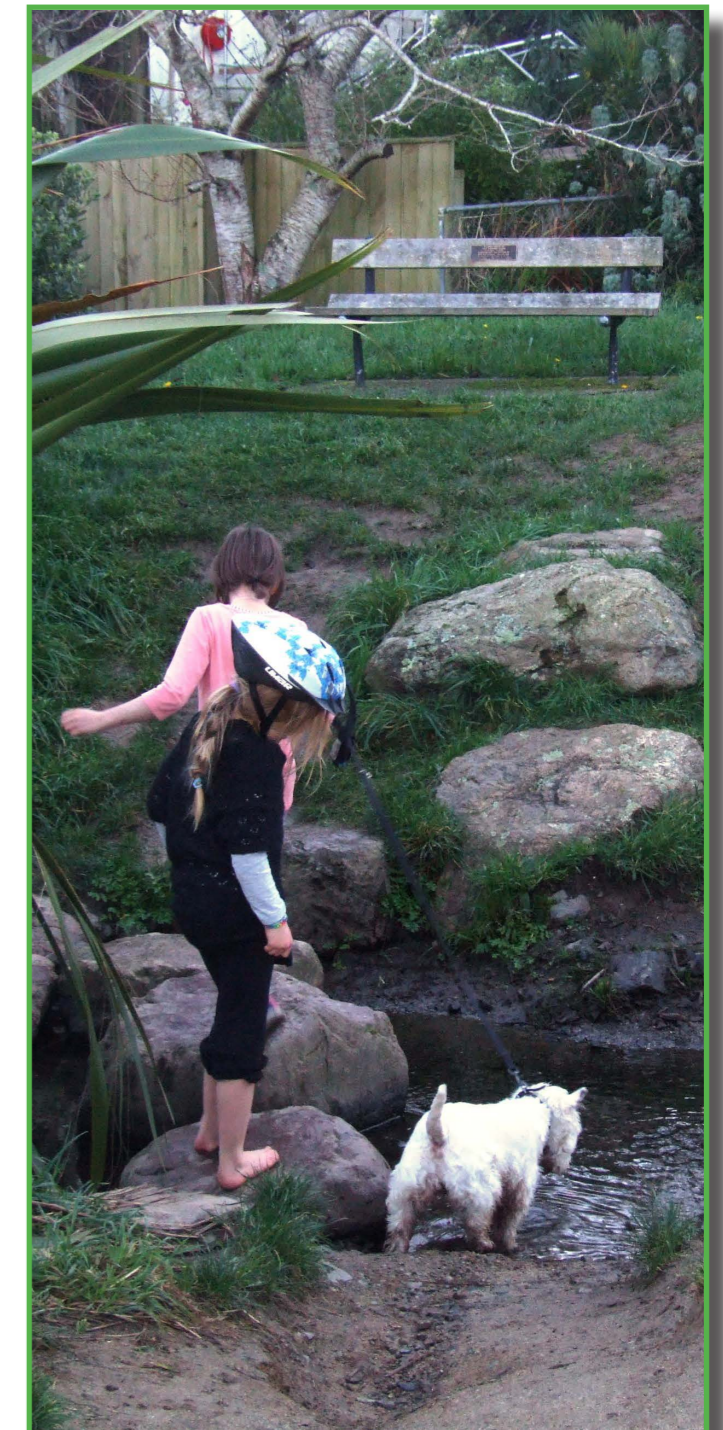
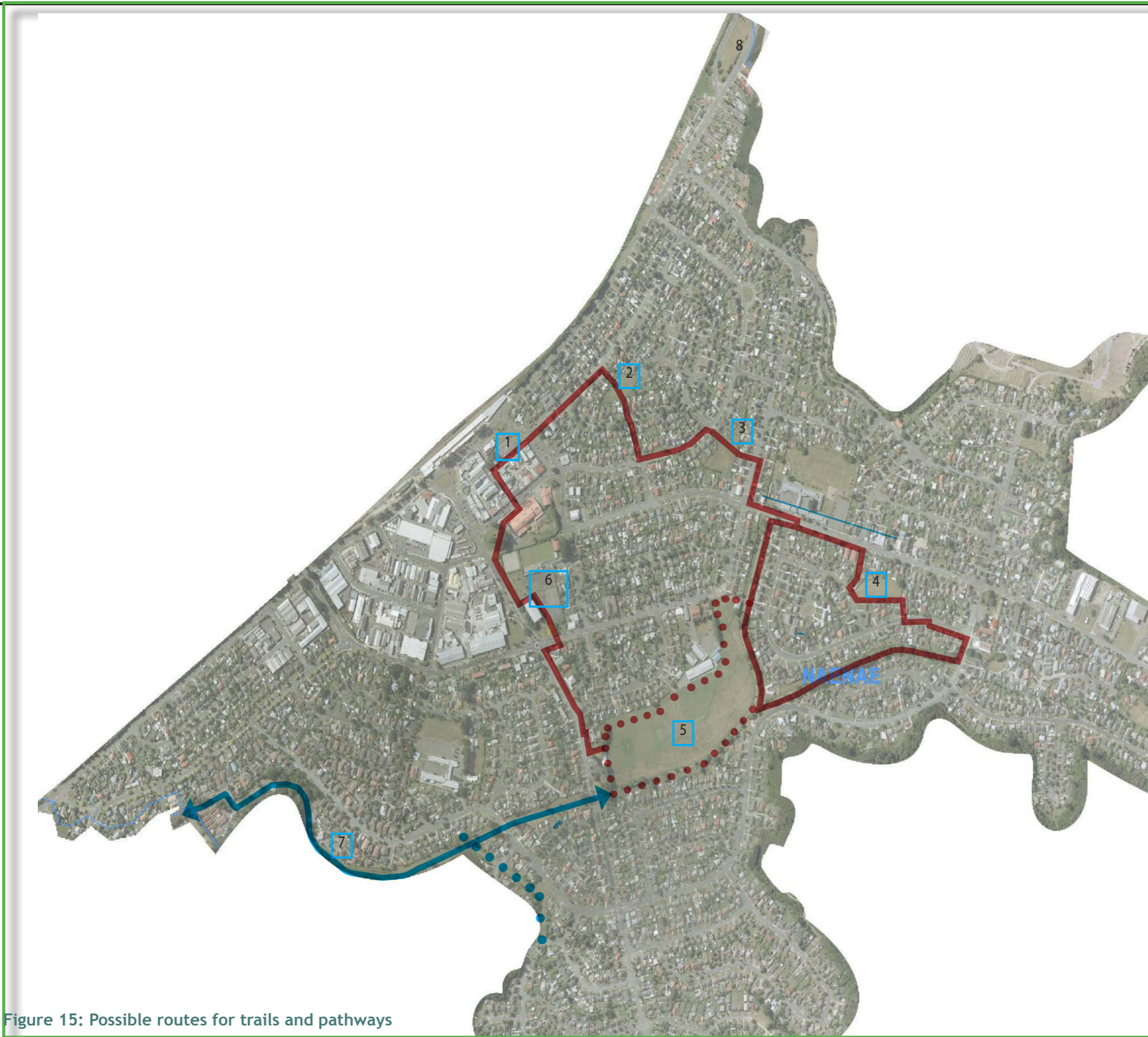


Figure 14: Adventure play, stream restoration, Karori Park

⁵Capacity Infrastructure is owned by the four Wellington councils. Improving stream environments in Naenae meets capacity objectives of developing/delivering sustainable and integrated services and healthy streams



KEY

- 1 Naenae Library and Service Centre
- 2 Barton Grove Reserve
- 3 Hewer Crescent Reserve
- 4 Butler Street Reserve
- 5 Naenae Park
- 6 Walter Mildenhall Park
- 7 Waiwhetu Stream link
- 8 Wingate Reserve

- Looped trail
- ⋯ Naenae Park perimeter path
- Eastern Valley Connector pedestrian/cycle path
- ⋯ Judd Crescent to Waiwhetu Stream link

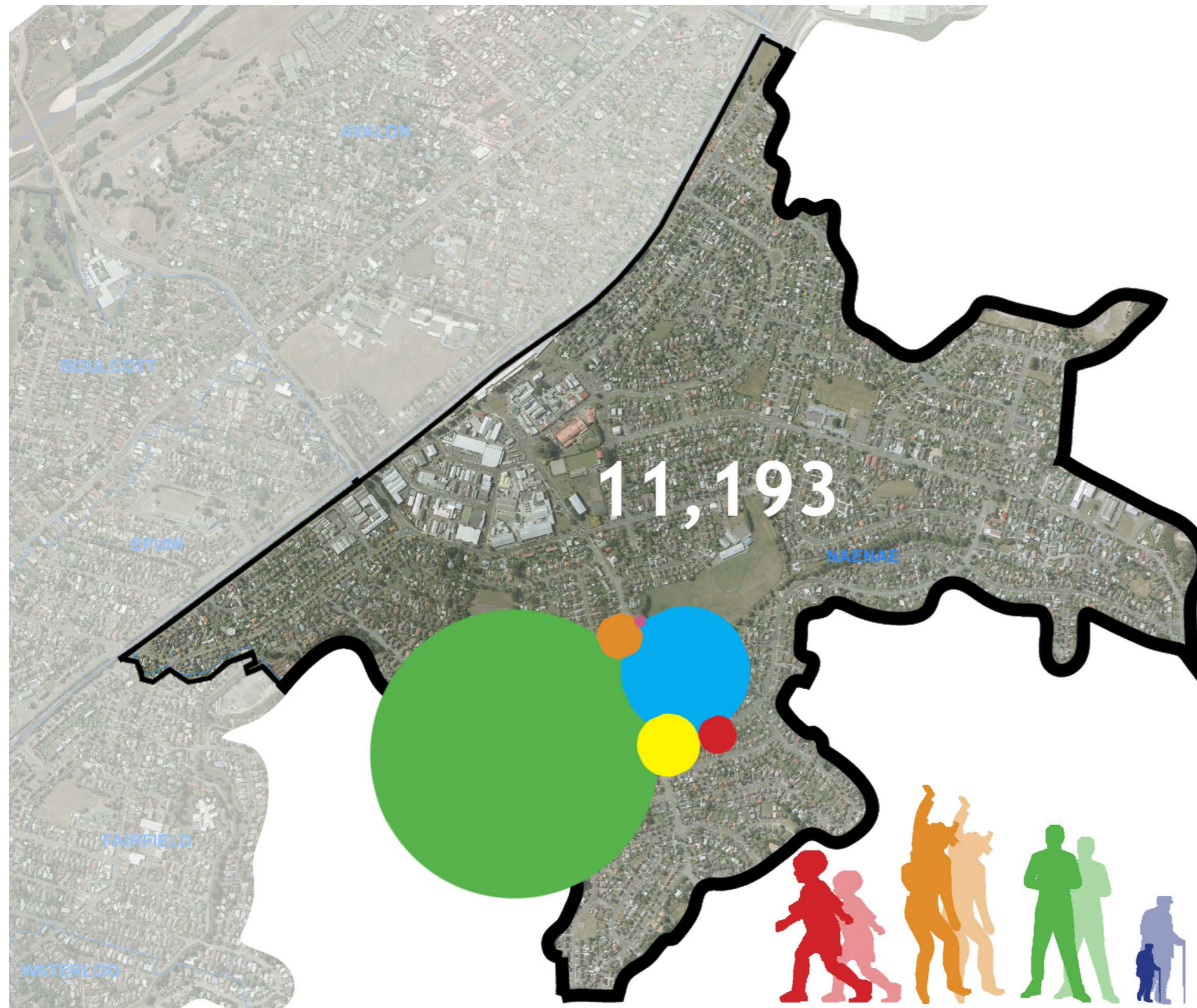
Figure 15: Possible routes for trails and pathways



Figure 16: Exercise trail (with perimeter path and restored stream) Karori Park

Appendix: Profile of Naenae

1. Population, projected demographic changes, ethnic breakdown

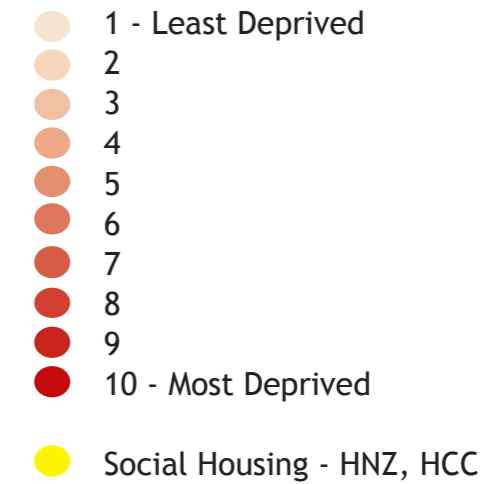
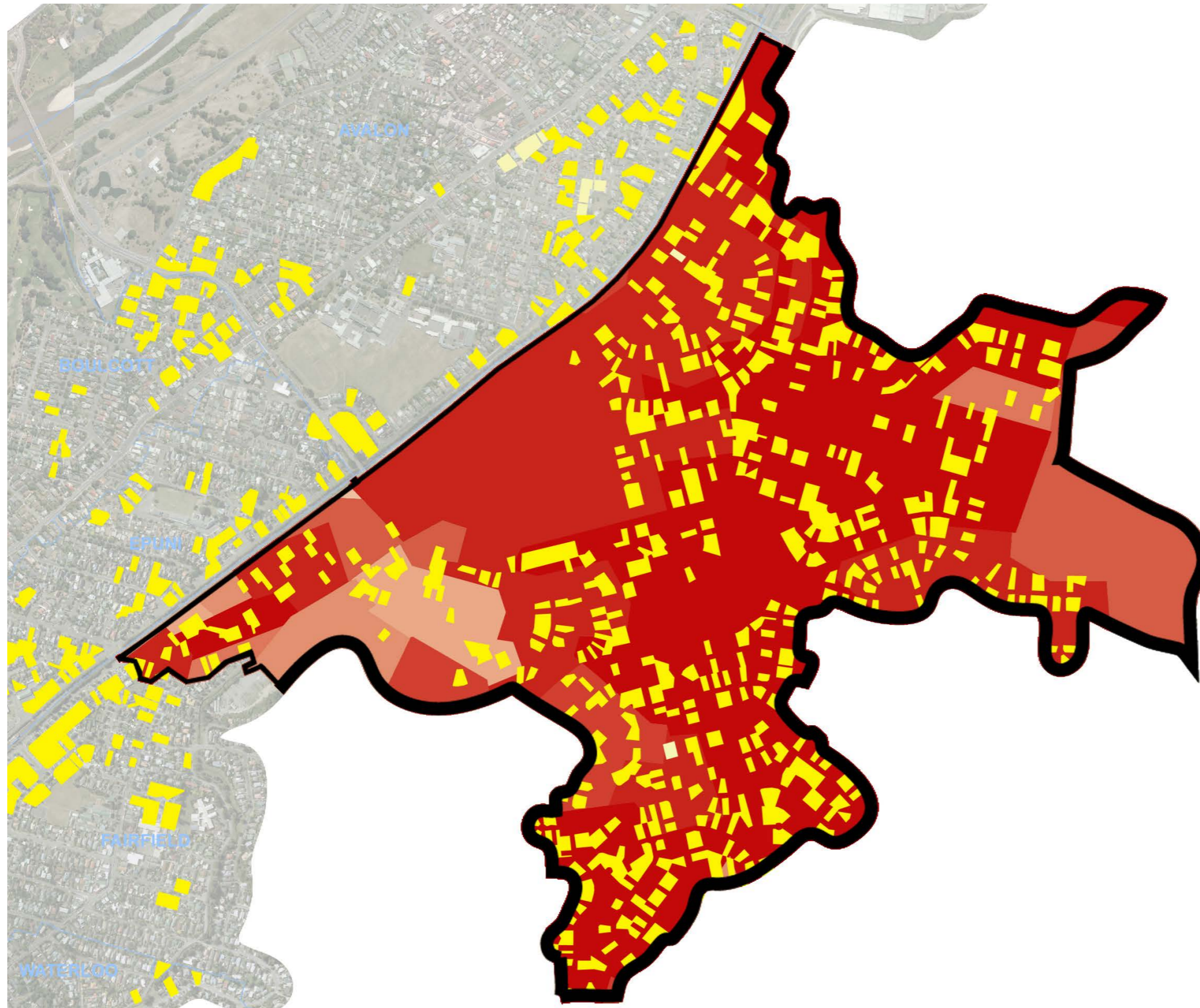


	CURRENT	PROJECTED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Maori Pacific Peoples Asian Other Middle Eastern, Latin American, African (MELAA) 	Under 15 25%	21%
	15-39 36%	34%
	40-64 29%	28%
	65 and above 10%	17%

IMPLICATIONS

- Reserves that cater for multiple ages, are multi-functional and have flexible open space
- Sportfields and other active recreation opportunities
- Places for young people to actively recreate
- Neighbourhood reserves that are easy to access and are safe e.g. children can access without crossing busy roads
- Reserves need to be easily recognised as public open space
- A variety of reserves with spaces for large and small groups and imaginative and natural play opportunities
- Areas for picnicking with picnic tables and drinking water
- Quality materials, well maintained with evidence of stewardship and care
- Opportunity for community participation in planning and design to ensure needs are met.

2. Socio-economic levels, social housing



In areas with higher social deprivation, often associated with social housing, households are generally larger with a greater number of people per property and fewer square metres per person.

Housing is often more dense with adjoining and multi-storied units.

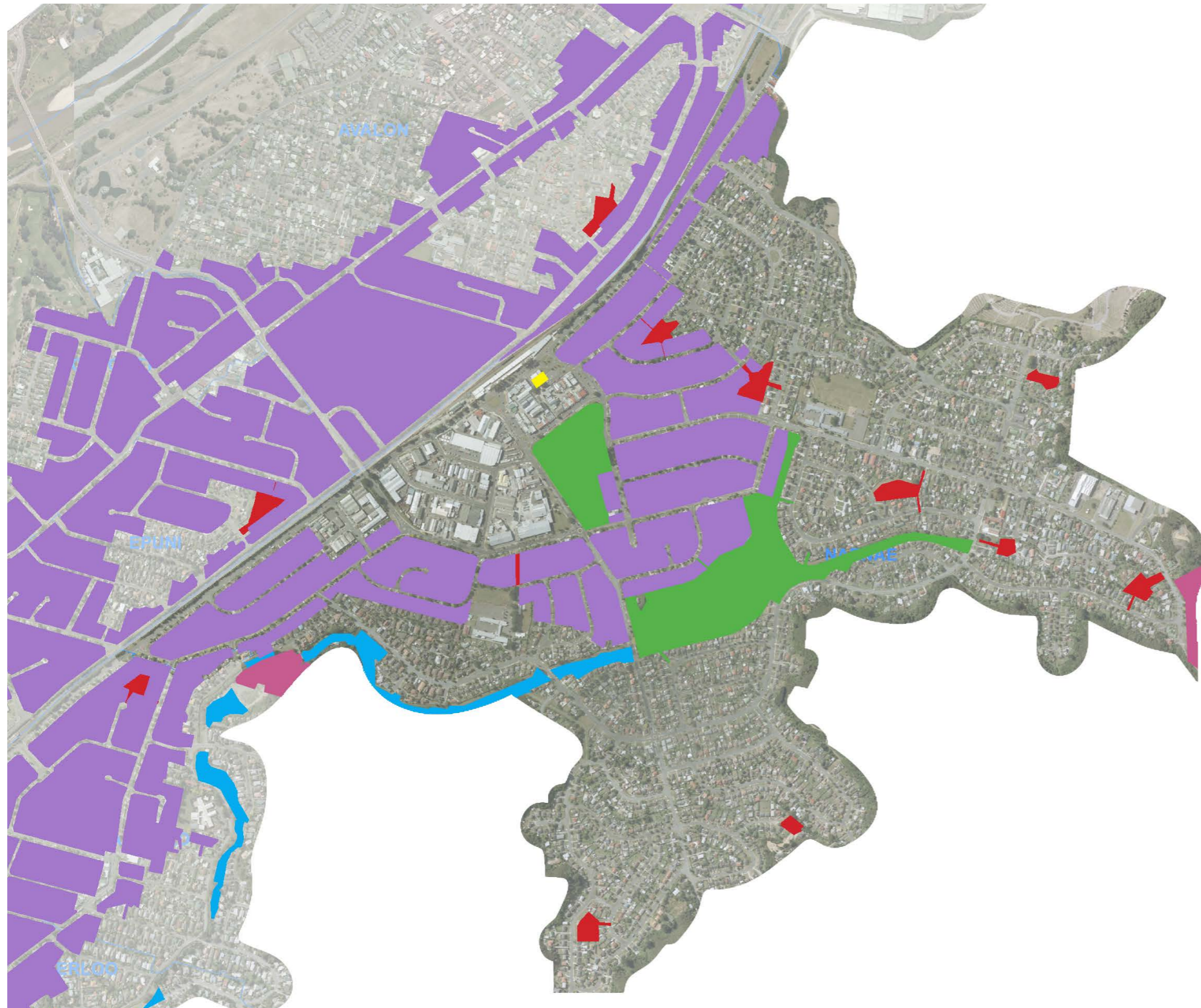
The quality of back and front yards is typically low because of changing tenancy and limited resources.

Areas of higher deprivation generally have less access to private and public transport, therefore reserves within walking distance are important.

IMPLICATIONS

- Neighbourhood reserves are important
- Quality reserves are especially important
- Opportunity for input into reserve design and types of facilities and activities in them
- Evidence of stewardship and care are important
- Free active recreation opportunities close to people's homes which do not require membership
- Community activities to do with fruit and vegetable production are often important in low socio-economic areas where people have fewer resources.

3. Housing density and retirement homes



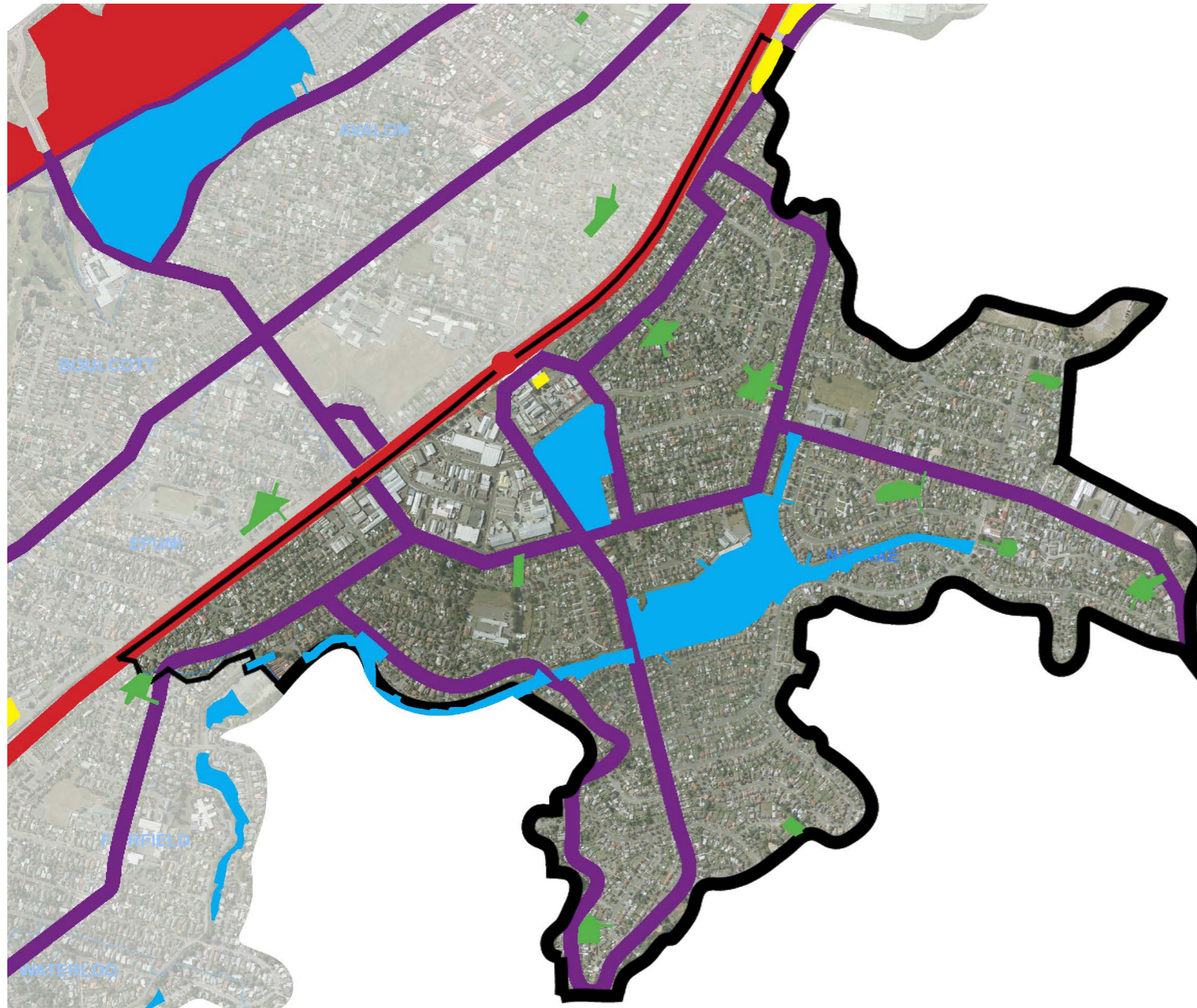
● Medium Density zoning as per the Hutt City Council District Plan - this allows smaller sites, greater site cover, multi-unit housing, low-rise apartments and infill housing.

IMPLICATIONS

In medium density housing areas, demand to access quality local reserves close to people's homes is important. This compensates for smaller areas of private open space for:

- Recreation
- Social interaction
- Edible and ornamental plants.

4. Key transport routes and significance of reserves (based on the distance people are likely to travel to a reserve)



KEY TO TRANSPORT

- Rail network
- Bus network
- Transport hub (train station, major bus route)

KEY TO RESERVE SIGNIFICANCE

- City/District - Visitors are likely to travel from throughout Hutt Valley - Naenae Park (sport), Walter Mildenhall Park (Aquatic Centre, bowling, badminton)
- Community/Suburban - Generally visited by people from the suburb or for a specific purposes, in this case the library and its immediate surroundings
- Local/Neighbourhood - Generally visited by the local neighbourhood

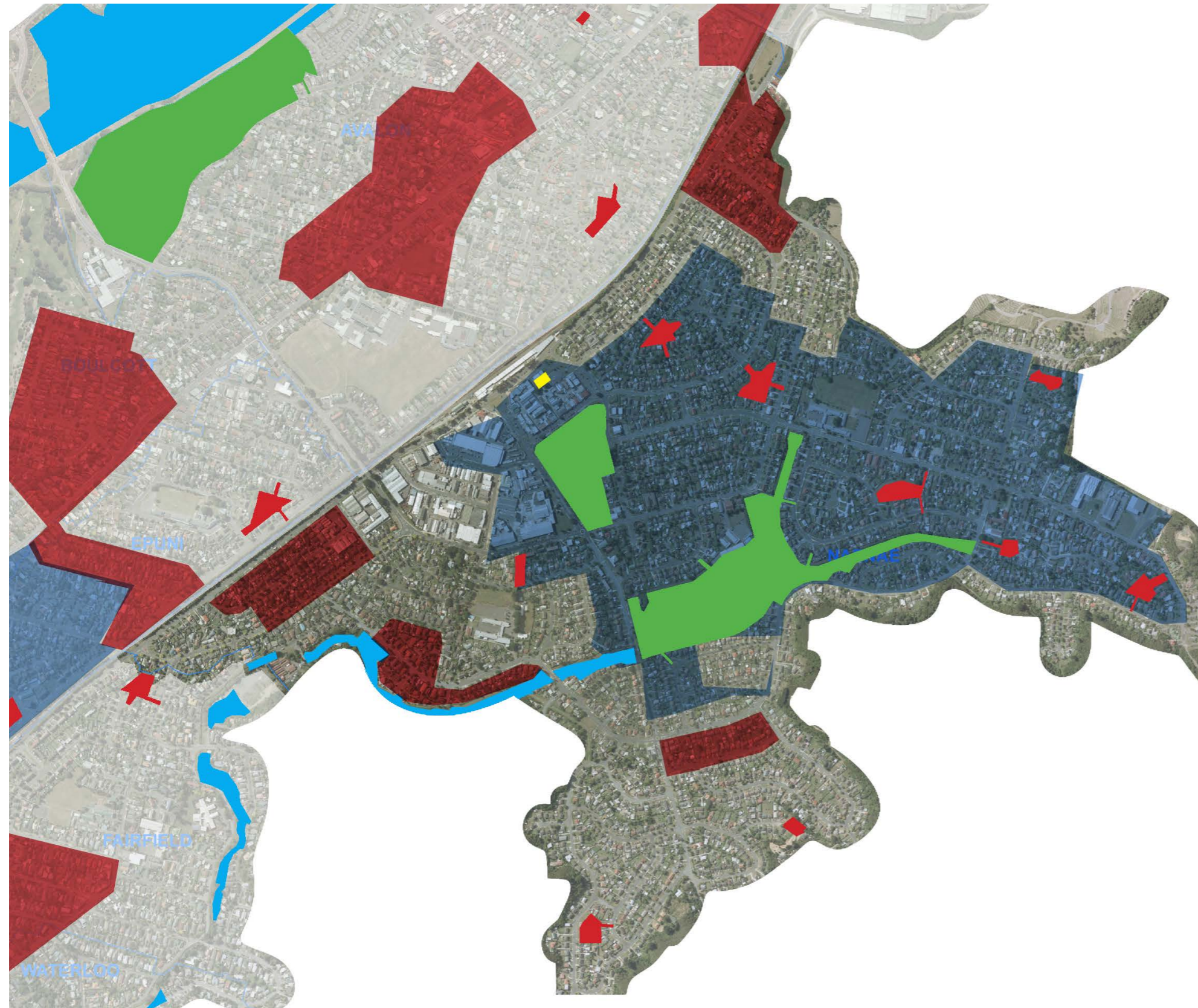
IMPLICATIONS

Naenae is on major train and bus routes and reserves are generally accessible to residents by private car or public transport. Naenae Park and Walter Mildenhall Park are accessible by train and bus from elsewhere in Hutt Valley.

Most neighbourhood reserves are on bus routes and the reserves are often shortcuts to bus stops from neighbouring streets.

Having a choice of how to get to reserves is especially important for the elderly, children and people on a low income.

5. Areas with a reserve shortfall; Areas with access to more than one reserve



- Areas with a reserve shortfall -i.e. it takes longer than an 8.5 minute walk for most residents to reach a reserve that is open to the general public for casual use
- Areas where most residents can reach a reserve on foot within 8.50 minutes. This is the target for neighbourhood reserves.

People in eastern Naenae are able to reach one or more neighbourhood reserve within 8.5 minutes, the time it takes an elderly person or child to walk 400 metres. The reserves are flat grassed areas, some with one to three specimen trees, some with playground equipment but few other facilities.

Two large multi-use sport and recreation reserves are located in the centre of the suburb and can be reached within 8.5 minutes from most houses within 400 metres of the reserves. While these are not neighbourhood reserves, they have areas which can be used by the general public when not in use for organised sport.

This level of reserve supply is justifiable. The value of public open spaces is well recognised, particularly in areas like Naenae that:

- have high levels of social housing,
- have high levels of social and economic deprivation,
- are zoned for more intensive housing.

Three areas of Naenae lack a neighbourhood reserve:

- Between Naenae Road and Cambridge Terrace
- South of Naenae School, although open space along Waiwhetu Stream provides opportunities for community use
- Between Waddington Drive and Grierson Street.