

REVIEW OF VALLEY FLOOR RESERVES

Eastern Suburbs:

Fairfield
Waterloo
Waiwhetu
Moera

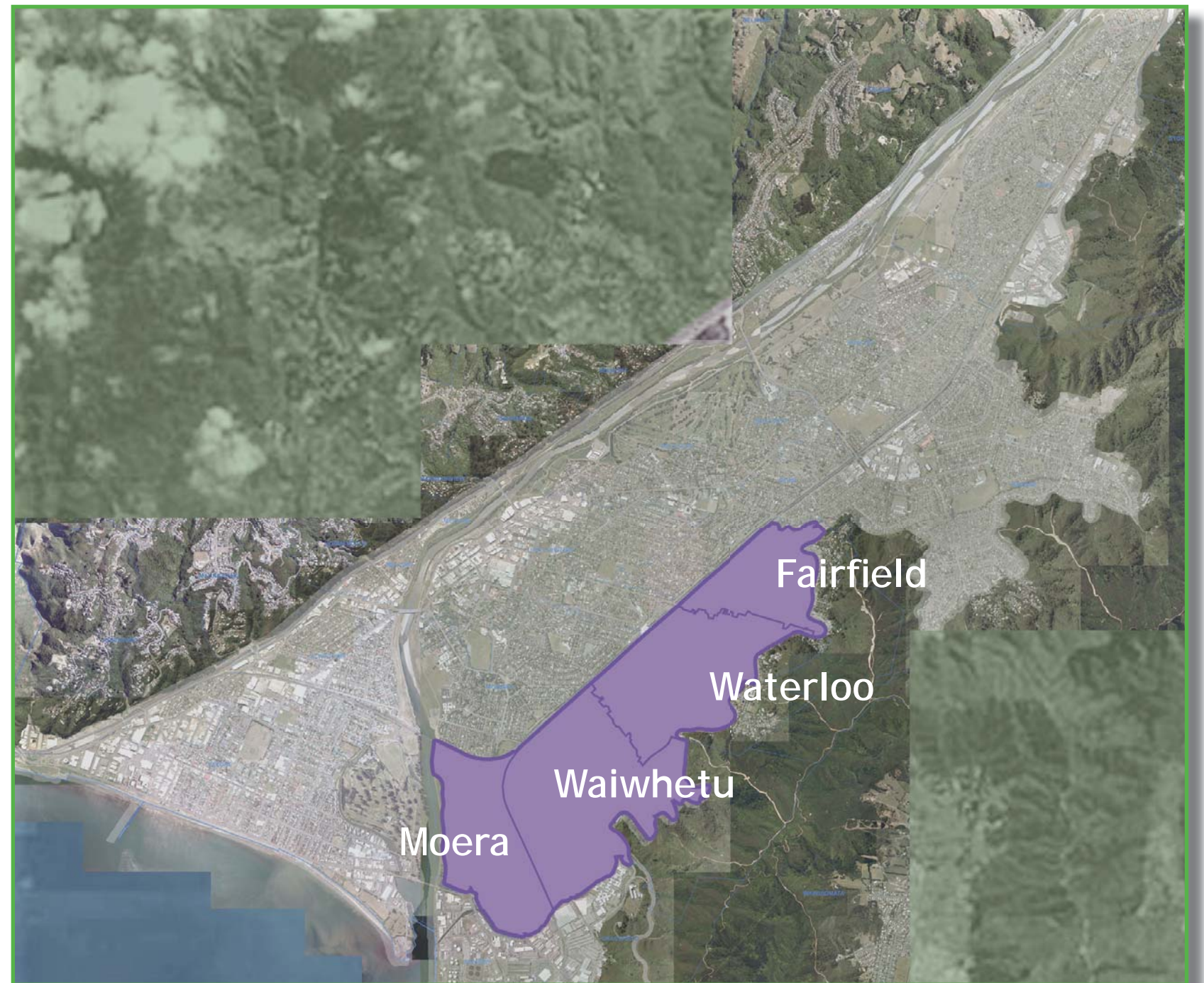




Figure 1: Moera Reserve Community Centre

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Figure 2: Awamutu Stream and York Park



Figure 3: Waiwhetu Stream

1.0 Introduction

This review of actively maintained Hutt City Council reserves in Fairfield, Waterloo, Waiwhetu and Moera aims to better understand reserves in the suburbs. In particular, it reviews neighbourhood reserves¹, their current and future use, current and future need for reserves and how reserves could better meet needs.

The goal is to have a reserve for neighbourhood use within 400 metres or an 8.5 minute walk from most homes (the time it takes a child or an elderly person to walk 400 metres).

The review introduces the reserves, outlines roles of existing reserves and identifies opportunities for local use for informal recreation. The appendices show the data that informed recommendations:

- Demographic profile
- Socio-economic levels
- General health of residents
- Location of social housing
- Location of retirement homes
- Areas identified in the District Plan for higher housing density
- Main transport routes
- Public transport routes
- Distance people are likely to travel to a reserve
- Areas within the suburbs with a reserve shortfall.

1.1 Setting

The eastern hills form the backdrop to Fairfield, Waterloo, Waiwhetu and Moera, which are separated from other valley floor suburbs by Hutt River and the rail corridor. Waiwhetu Stream flows through the area, connecting the four suburbs with Naenae to the north and the harbour to the south. Proximity to Hutt River and Waiwhetu and Awamutu Streams means that eastern parts of the suburbs fall within the flood hazard zone.

Fairfield, Waterloo and Moera are described in the Council's 'Integrated City Vision 2012 (Part 2)' as residential villages, and Waiwhetu is identified as a destination. Waiwhetu is on land set aside for Te Ati Awa in the nineteenth century and the marae Arohanui ki te Tangata is located in the suburb. Along with Moera, Waiwhetu has a significant Maori community.

¹Neighbourhood reserves range from 1000 to 3000m², generally have a flexible open area and serve the local community (based on NZ Recreation Association Parks Categories 2011)

1.2 Overview

Eastern valley floor suburbs have a reasonable supply of reserves suitable for neighbourhood use. The majority of residents can access a reserve within the 400 metre or 8.5 minute recommended walking distance from most homes.

No areas have an oversupply of reserves.

The exception to the 400 metre/8.5 minute reserve access threshold is an area earmarked for higher density residential development between Waterloo and Epuni Stations which lacks a neighbourhood reserve.

Moera residents have access to the eastern Hutt River for casual recreation. Waiwhetu residents have access to reserve areas on both side of Waiwhetu Stream.

Access to some parts of Waiwhetu Stream from Fairfield and Waterloo is more restricted because of lack of space between the stream and private property boundaries.

Moera Reserve Community Centre is a well used neighbourhood reserve with a variety of uses and facilities and is safe for users.

Other reserves require some improvements to better meet community needs.

Gracefield and Seaview are important employment hubs and reserves in Moera and Waiwhetu are settings for workforce recreation.

Hutt Park and Te Whiti Park are major sportsfields and attract regional, district or city-wide use as well as local use. Hutt Park is a recreational hub with integrated facilities.

Bell Park, Trafalgar Park and York Park also have sportsfields. The relocation of Lower Hutt City Football Club from Bell Park to Fraser Park means the park is available for other activities.

Waiwhetu and Awamutu Streams are a feature of the suburbs. Flood protection work on Waiwhetu Stream has increased its natural, ecological and amenity values.

Reserves have a role in reducing flooding, providing open space for secondary path flows, as well as opportunities for riparian planting.

Recreational connectivity is an issue in parts of the eastern suburbs.

The railways workshop area separates Waiwhetu from Hutt Park, reserves in Moera and the Hutt River Trail. Access via the pedestrian overbridge between Awamutu Grove and York Street needs improvement for safe use following CPTED principles².

Te Whiti Park, Bell Park and public open space along Waiwhetu Stream are important for reserve provision in the Waiwhetu. Without them fewer residents in Waiwhetu would be able to access a reserve within the goal of being able to walk to a reserve within 8.5 minutes or 400 metres.

In Moera, Randwick Road has heavy traffic and separates parts of the suburb from Hutt Park, York Park and the Hutt River Trail. Other parts of Moera are separated by the industrial area 'Randwick Park'.

Waiwhetu Stream has potential to be a safe, continuous walking and cycling trail linking the eastern suburbs and employment hubs in Seaview and Gracefield.

Te Whiti Park is an entrance to Eastern Hills trails for casual recreation and fitness, but needs to be highlighted.

² Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

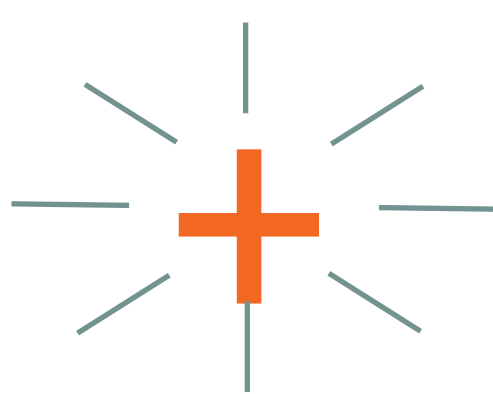
1.3 Positives and negatives of current reserves

Sportsfields for organised sport and informal recreation are especially important to the largest demographic - people aged between 15 and 39.

Potential for a trail along Waiwhetu Stream for recreation and active transport (walking/biking commuters).

Neighbourhood reserves are generally large enough for an open grassed area, trees and other programmes and activities.

Restoration and rehabilitation of Waiwhetu Stream and Awamutu Stream.



Most residents can access a reserve within 400 metres of their home or walk to a reserve in 8.5 minutes.

Links through Te Whiti Park to Eastern Hill trails.

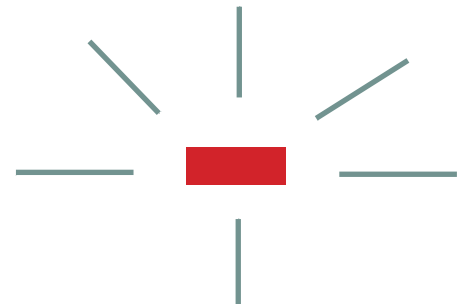
Reserves that help connect neighbourhoods by linking streets with through access and more direct and pleasant routes away from traffic between homes, schools and other destinations.

Access to the Hutt River Trail from Moera.

Lack of space in some locations between Waiwhetu Stream and neighbouring properties for a continuous streamside off road trail.

Lack of all weather paths through some reserves reduces their role of connecting neighbourhoods, short cuts between destinations and encouraging walking and cycling as an alternative to driving with health benefits.

The path and overbridge between Waiwhetu and Moera is long with little surveillance and no alternative entrances/exits for safety.



The area between Waterloo and Epuni Stations is earmarked for more intensive residential development with smaller private open space and less room for gardens and large trees, but has no reserves.

Randwick Road has heavy traffic and separates Moera. There are few safe road crossings, which reduces access to reserves and trails.

The railways workshop area and railway line reduces connectivity between suburbs and access to reserves.



Figure 4: Traflgar Square Reserve



Figure 5: Waterloo Reserve



Figure 6: Purser Grove Reserve

1.4 Summary reserve needs - Fairfield and Waterloo²

Fairfield and Waterloo have a combined population of about 9000 people, with mixed socio-economic levels. There is a scattering of social housing and concentrations near Epuni Station and on or near Waiwhetu Road. Waterloo and southern Fairfield have areas of affluence near Waiwhetu Stream and the eastern hills. Fairfield generally has lower social-economic levels.

Intensified housing is proposed between Waiwhetu Road and Cambridge Terrace along the railway line. There is a reserve shortfall area within this proposed zone of intensification, around the intersection of Waiwhetu and Waterloo Roads.

The future population is likely to be proportionally higher in young adults with fewer elderly and children. Levels of avoidable hospital admissions are lower in Waterloo than neighbouring Waiwhetu.



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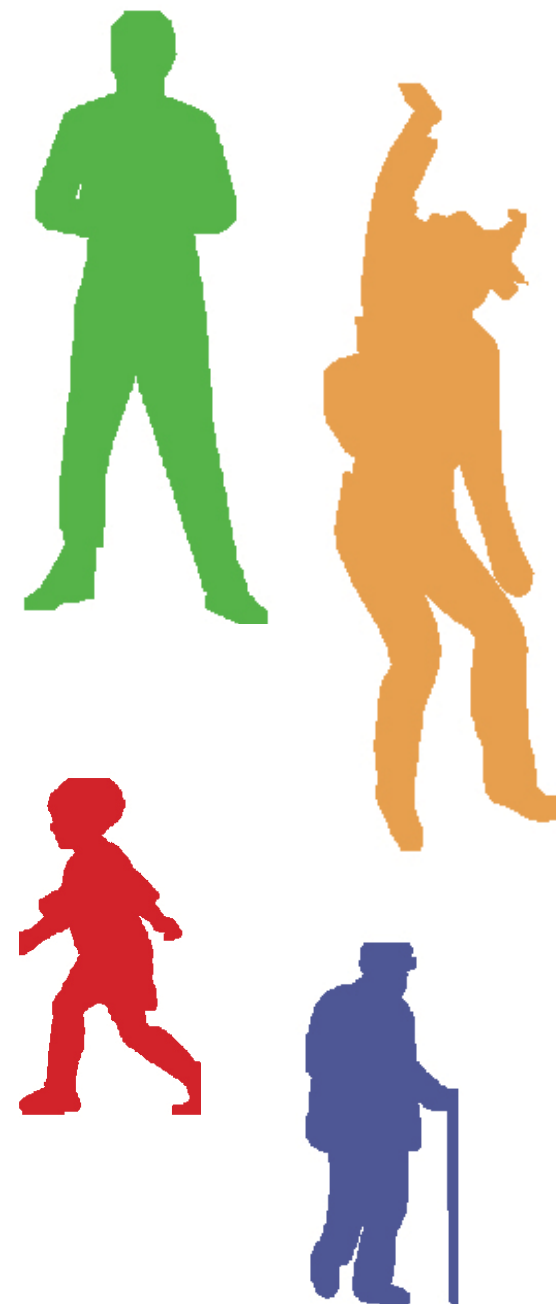
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Improved connections and access along Waiwhetu Stream. A linear trail encourages walking and cycling, commuting to and from school and work, physical activity and associated health benefits.

Opportunities for local input into reserve programmes and activities.

Neighbourhood reserves that are safely accessed by children and within sight and earshot of homes.

Quality materials, well maintained, and evidence of stewardship and care.



People in the 15 to 64 age group generally look for opportunities for casual sports and recreation as well as organised sport and recreation. They are more mobile than other demographics.

Places for young people to actively recreate that allows them to see and be seen.

Reserves in more intensive housing areas close to people's homes to compensate for limited space for private open space, edible or ornamental plants and large trees.

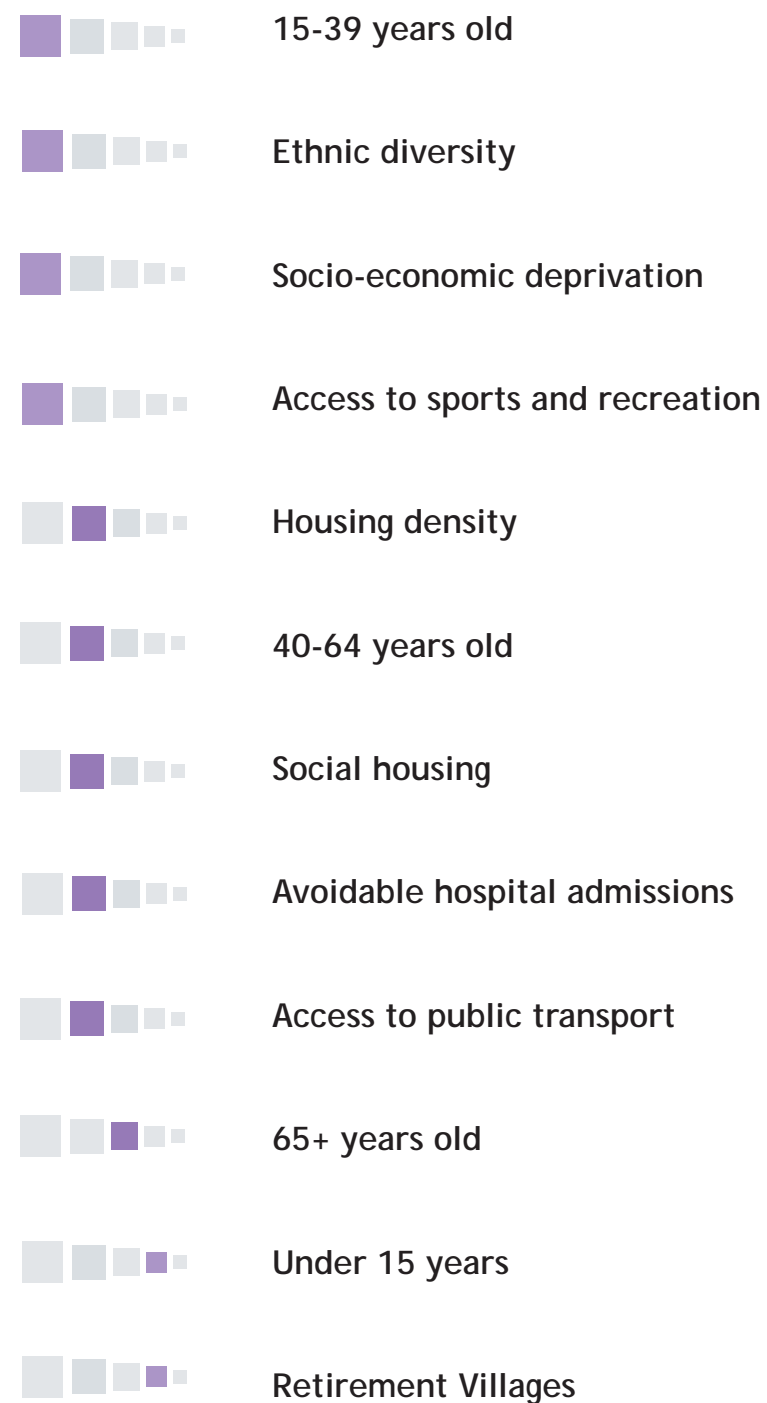
Reserves in areas with social housing where people have limited resources.

²See Appendices for details

³Avoidable hospitalisations are influenced by housing quality, access to services, opportunities for daily physical activity (improved through access to places to exercise, walkable street patterns, public transport, access to parks and reserves) - Elizabeth Lucie-Smith, Measuring the Difference - Avoidable Hospitalisations, Hutt Valley DHB, July 2012

1.5 Summary reserve needs - Moera and Waiwhetu

Moera and Waiwhetu generally have lower socio-economic levels. Moera is currently one of the most socially deprived Hutt suburbs and Waiwhetu has a higher level of avoidable hospital admissions than Waterloo. There is a concentration of social housing throughout Moera and in Waiwhetu north of Whites Line East. These areas are designated for future housing intensification.



Both suburbs are ethnically diverse; Moera is the most ethnically diverse of all the valley floor suburbs and along with Hutt Central has the highest percentage of Asian peoples. The area is important for Mana Whenua with urupa to the south of Hutt Park, Waiwhetu Stream, Hutt River and Waiwhetu Marae.

Neighbouring Gracefield and Seaview are important employment hubs for science, research, engineering, new and emerging businesses.

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Reserves where residents can be involved in community activities, socially interact and engage in physical activity.

Opportunities to reflect the various cultures of local residents in programmes and activities.

Opportunities for physical activity as part of everyday life.

Quality materials, well maintained with evidence of stewardship and care.

Areas for gatherings, picnics and activities.

Reserves where Gracefield/Seaview where

Places for young people to actively recreate and that allow youth to see and be seen.

People in the 15 to 64 age group generally look for opportunities for casual sports and recreation as well as organised sport and recreation and are more mobile than other demographics.

Community activities to do with fruit and vegetable production are often important in areas with multi-cultural communities and new immigrants and in low socio-economic areas where people have limited resources.

Large specimen trees give a sense of permanence and sign of stewardship and care.

Places for employees in Gracefield and Seaview to recreate and socialise.

³⁵Avoidable hospitalisations are influenced by housing quality, access to services, opportunities for daily physical activity (improved through access to places to exercise, walkable street patterns, public transport, access to parks and reserves) - Elizabeth Lucie-Smith, Measuring the Difference - Avoidable Hospitalisations, Hutt Valley DHB, July 2012

⁴See Appendices for details

1.6 Recommendations

Establish a new neighbourhood reserve in tandem with medium density housing development in the area between Eponi and Waterloo Stations.

See 3.1 3) page 11

Establish all weather paths to connect neighbourhoods through reserves - Godley Street Reserve, York Park, Bell Park, Trafalgar Park.

See 3.1 6) page 11

Identify uses for sportsfields in Bell Park and York Park. The development of artificial turf has reduced the need for sportsfields in these parks.

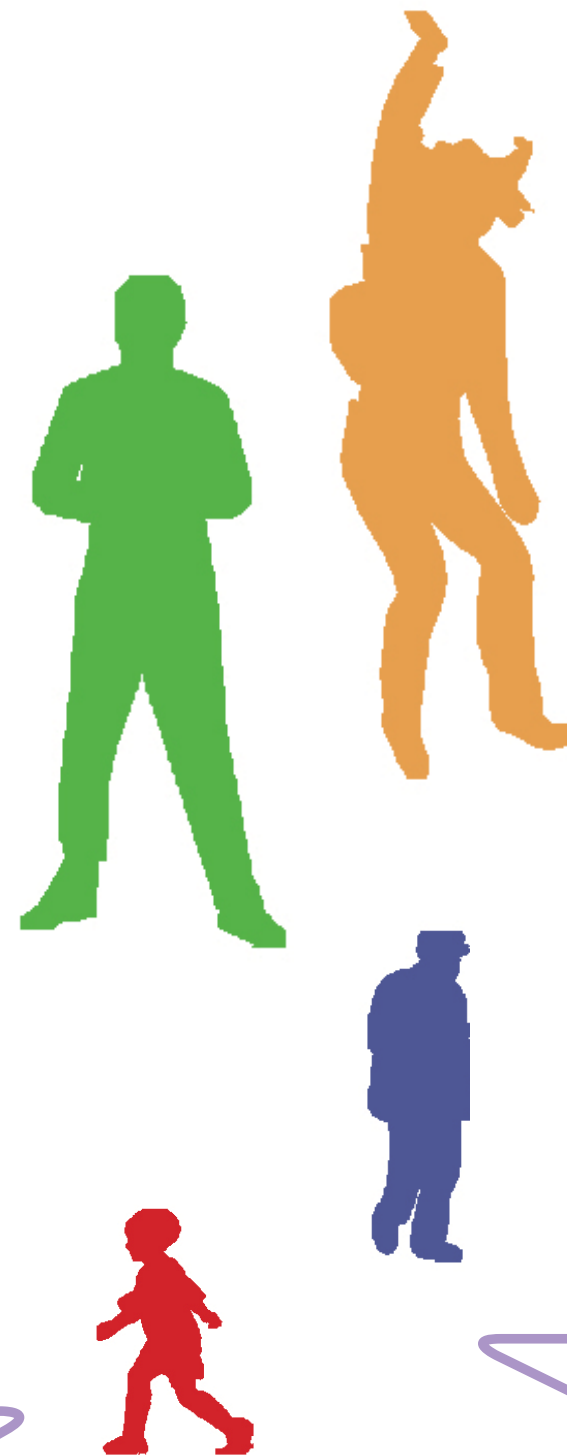
See 3.1 5) page 11

Integrate Trafalgar Square into Waterloo shopping centre to create an attractive suburban destination.

See 3.1.2 6) page 12

Use a variety of approaches to engage with neighbourhood communities, Mana Whenua and ethnic communities and widen use, extend values, programmes and activities in parks for neighbourhood use - Godley Street Reserve, Bell Square, Waterloo Reserve, Purser Grove, Trafalgar Park, Bell Park, Trafalgar Square.

See 3.1.2 4) page 12



Improve connectivity and encourage physical activity with a pedestrian and cycle trail along Waiwhetu Stream. This would be a safe alternative to cycling on roads and would increase awareness and interest in streams, their significance, ecology, health and future.

See 3.2.1 1) page 14

Improve access and signage from Moera to the Hutt River Trail at the end of Barber Grove and Randwick Crescent (next to Moera kindergarten); Seek opportunities to develop new access e.g GWRC purchase of the site at the Woollen Mills Point area at the end of Pirie Crescent

See 3.2.1 1) page 14

Develop York Park and Awamutu Grove Reserve riparian ecological values and flood management (allowing Awamutu Stream to overflow in times of flood and thereby protecting neighbouring residential areas from flooding).

See 3.2.1 2) page 14

Add value to reserves with tree planting using species that have multi-values, relate to stream environments (Awamutu Grove Reserve, York Park) and break up large open spaces into smaller human scale areas where people feel more comfortable for informal recreational activities (York Park, Bell Square).

See 3.2.2 4) page 14

2.0 Eastern suburbs reserve locations, types and facilities

- 1 Hutt Park - large, open multi-purpose sports field area and recreation hub, car parking, indoor recreation facility, amenity planting, vegetation along riparian stream edge, Hutt Valley Golf Course and holiday park, Awamutu and Waiwhetu streams.
- 2 York Park - open grassed area surrounded by residential housing and accessed from three streets. Used for children's sport. Awamutu Stream flows through the site towards Hutt Park. Flood prevention stream work includes riparian planting.
- 3 Moera Kindergarten next to the Hutt River stopbank. Along with the kindergarten buildings and two clubrooms, the site has a small kick-a-ball space, car parking and links to the river promenade beyond.
- 4 Moera Reserve Community Centre - pleasant open space with community house, library, playgrounds for different ages, community garden, mature pohutukawa trees, amenity planting, kick-a-ball space, car parking, located on a street corner in the shopping centre bringing identity and sense of place to the suburb.
- 5 Awamutu Grove Reserve - grassed open space with street frontage and boundaries on the railway line and Whites Line overbridge. The reserve has small trees and shrubs on boundaries with the railway line and overbridge. Awamutu Stream runs along the eastern reserve boundary and has potential to be more of a feature.
- 6 Bell Square - grassed open space with street frontages on all four sides in a residential area. The green open space contributes to the amenity and character of the immediate area with large trees defining road edges.
- 7 Bell Park - sportsfields, clubroom, driveway and path entrances from three streets. Lower Hutt City Football Club has relocated to Fraser Park and the clubrooms have new tenants. Surrounding houses have 'eyes on the park' and some have access onto the park through boundary timber fences. This brings neighbourhood surveillance to the park.
- 8 Hinemoa Street/Wainui Road - a small grassed area with all weather path and trees follows the western bank of Waiwhetu Stream, links two streets and provides connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists between Hinemoa Street and Wainui Road.
- 9 Godley Street Reserve - neighbourhood park with playground, seating, amenity planting and kick-a-ball space. Links two

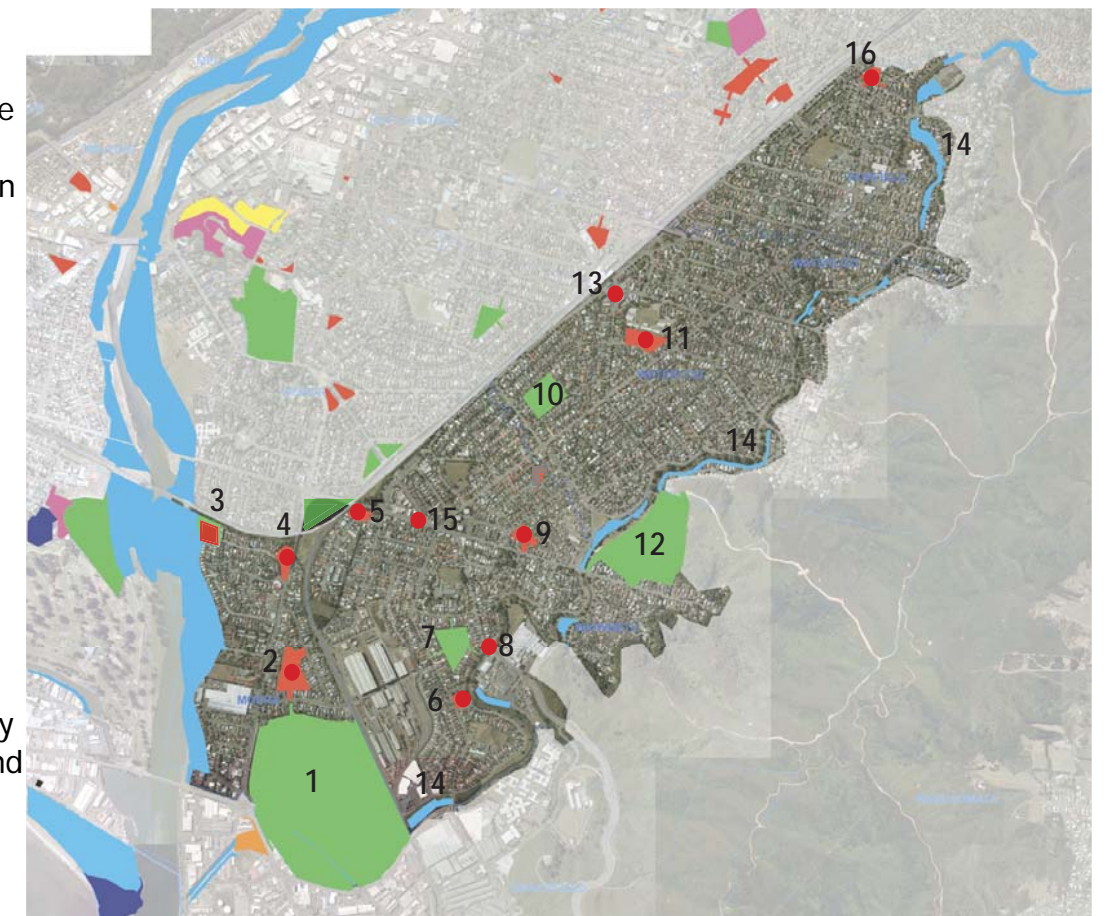
streets for connectivity. Has wide street frontage onto Godley Street, good surveillance from the street and neighbouring houses and lane access from Whites Line East. Potential for more activities.

- 10 Trafalgar Park - large grassed area with two wide street frontages, edges defined by pohutukawa trees and toilets. Excellent surveillance. Provides for informal and organised sports and events such as holiday sports.
- 11 Waterloo Reserve - Grassed open area on Trafalgar Street with kick-a-ball space and tennis/netball courts adjoining Waterloo School, Kindergarten and Playcentre. Wide street frontage but lacks character. Character will increase once specimen trees have matured (includes copper beech).
- 12 Te Whiti Park - Large park with sportsfields, clubrooms, playground, parking, paths, bush, track with access to the Eastern Hills and large trees along the park's western edge on Waiwhetu Stream. Jointly managed with local iwi.
- 13 Trafalgar Square Reserve - Located in the Waterloo shopping centre and between the shops, Cambridge Terrace and Waterloo Station. A treed grassed area with Plunket rooms and small playground, seating and subway access to the train station.
- 14 Waiwhetu Stream - grassed areas with specimen trees and other vegetation along the banks of Waiwhetu Stream. Paths, picnic tables and seats in some locations and riparian planting. Links eastern suburbs and is an important ecological corridor.
- 15 Hawkins Street - small triangular-shaped grassed area where two streets converge next to BP petrol station on Whites Line East. Once specimen trees have matured, the reserve will improve streetscape amenity.
- 16 Purser Grove Reserve - neighbourhood playground, Scouts hall and a grassed kick-a-ball area serving the local area. Located at end of cul-de-sac with access to Waiwhetu/Naenae Roads. HCC play strategy 'Go Outside and Play' proposes the Council and community work together at the reserve to expand neighbourhood opportunities and social connections.

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

KEY

- Sports and Recreation - facilities for organised sport (sportsfields, club rooms, hard courts, changing rooms etc)
- Recreation and Ecological Linkages - linear typically with low levels of development
- Neighbourhood - Small reserves in residential areas with open areas for play and relaxation; often have playgrounds



3.0 Roles of reserves and opportunities

Clarifying the roles of reserves helps to identify whether a reserve is meeting the needs of its community, or whether a reserve can be extended, developed or changed to better meet needs. The preference is for multi-purpose and multi-use reserves, but there is also a case for niche reserves that fulfill a need for a particular group of people.

Some parks with sportsfields and associated facilities such as club rooms have a primary purpose of providing for sport, but an arguably equally important purpose of providing for local neighbourhood use when the parks are not in use for organised sporting activities. In this way the community is getting more from their reserves. Reserves with recreational facilities are important to the dominant demographic in the suburbs, young people from 15 to 39 years old, who use sportsfields as members of clubs or other organisations, but also informally.

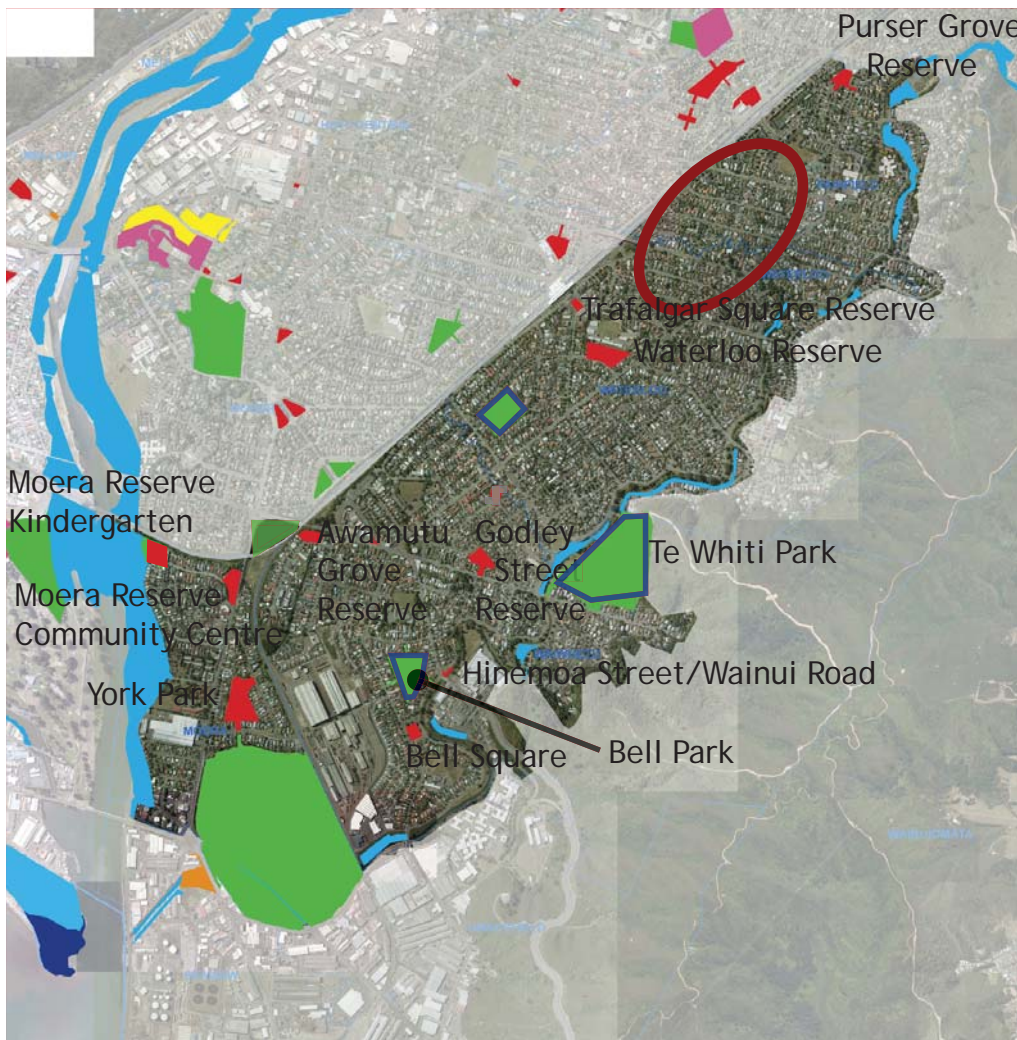


Figure 8: Neighbourhood Reserves

- Neighbourhood reserves
- Sports and Recreation reserves with neighbourhood use
- Area zoned for more intensive housing with a gap in reserve provision

3.1 Neighbourhood reserves

1. Neighbourhood reserves range in size from the very small (Hawkins Street Reserve at 303m²) to a size that is large enough for multi-use (Moera Reserve Community Centre at 4576m²). All except Hawkins Street and Hinemoa Street/Wainui Road Connection are large enough to have open grassed areas for play and relaxation, and are flexible enough for games as well as space for large trees. Three neighbourhood reserves have formal playgrounds.
2. The locations of reserves in the eastern valley floor suburbs means that most residents can reach a reserve within the recommended 400 metres or 8.5 minute walk to a reserve. This includes parts of the suburbs where higher density housing is proposed.
3. The exception is an area zoned for medium density housing between Waterloo and Eponi Stations. The nearest reserve is further than 400 metres and takes longer than the goal of most residents being able to reach a reserve from their home in 8.5 minutes. A neighbourhood reserve in this area is important because housing intensification means smaller private open space with fewer options for outdoor living, physical activities, gardens and large trees.
4. Eastern Fairfield and Waterloo lack a neighbourhood reserve but properties often have sizeable private open space, neighbourhoods are more affluent with resources to access recreational areas. In addition, grassed spaces along Waiwhetu Stream offer opportunities for informal recreation, amenity and connectivity.
5. The larger parks with sportsfields have areas that function as neighbourhood reserves. An example is Te Whiti Park which is used by local people for a variety of informal recreational activities - walking, dog exercise, jogging and informal ball games. Another is Bell Park, where some of the houses with backyards onto the park have gates in boundary fences for access to the park.
6. The reserves generally connect neighbourhoods, although most lack paths through the reserves which limits reserve use as shortcuts between streets in all weathers.
7. Some reserves have specimen trees which bring maturity to a reserve. As well as increasing amenity values, mature trees provide shelter and shade, show the changing seasons and provide nesting and roosting for birds.

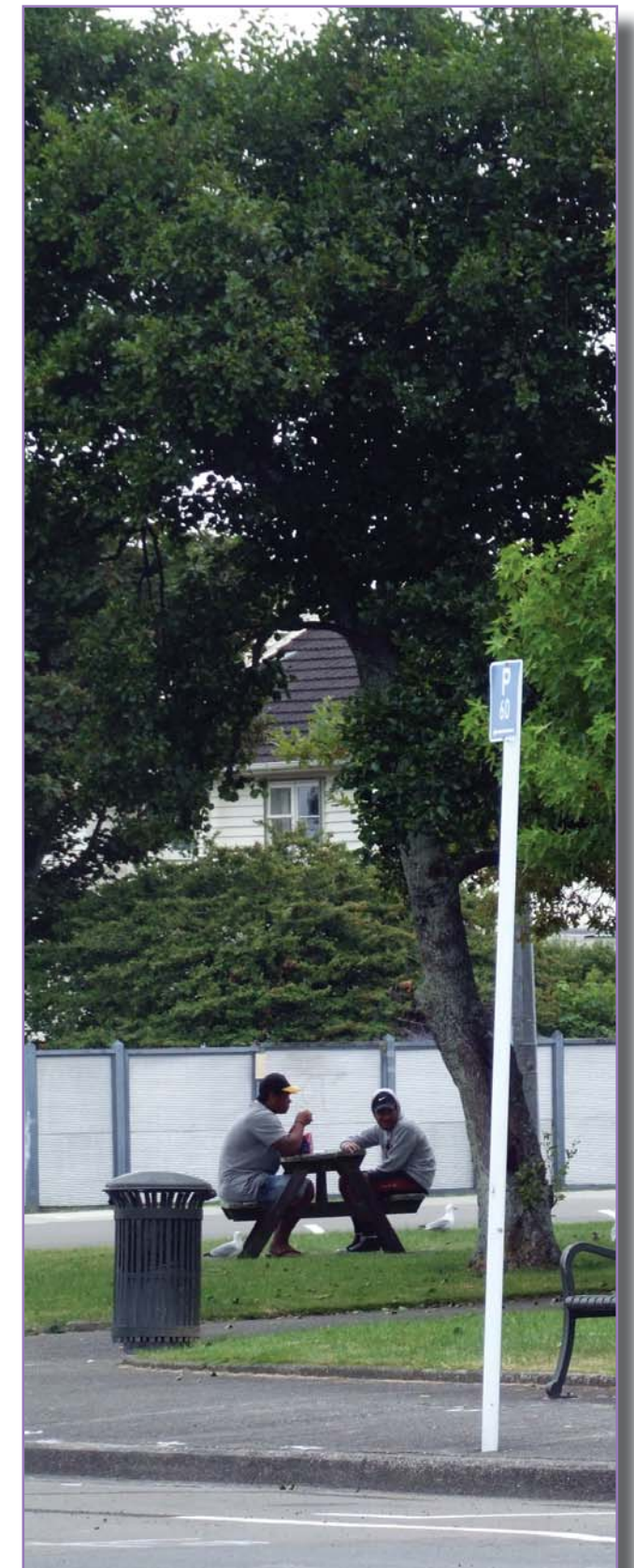


Figure 9: Picnic in Trafalgar Square Reserve

3.1.1 Roles of neighbourhood reserves

1. Flexible, generally well-maintained green neighbourhood open space with scope for energetic activities such as ball games, facilities that attract a variety of use and connect neighbourhoods, are safe for users (away from roads, easy to access close to people's homes without having to cross busy streets, overlooked by houses or from neighbouring streets), and are large enough to adapt to different uses as people move into and out of a neighbourhood:
 - Moera Reserve Community Centre, Godley Street Reserve, Trafalgar Park, Purser Grove Reserve.
2. Green open space with mown areas but without facilities. Usually connect neighbourhoods:
 - York Park, Awamutu Grove Reserve, Bell Square, Waterloo Reserve.
3. Pocket parks or small reserves bringing amenity to the streetscape:
 - Trafalgar Square Reserve, Hawkins Street Reserve.
4. Parks with sportsfields and other areas that can also be used for neighbourhood activities:
 - Bell Park can be safely accessed from the neighbourhood without having to cross roads. A plus is that neighbouring properties access directly onto the reserve although the park lacks amenities for local use - there are no trees for shade or shelter or to define spaces, and no paths through the park for shortcuts between streets and to connect neighbourhoods. Changes in sportfield demand offer an opportunity for new uses for this park
 - Te Whiti Park can be safely accessed from the neighbourhood and has good surveillance for safety
 - Trafalgar Park - activities can be seen from the neighbourhood and streets and the park can be safely and easily accessed
 - Hutt Park has high amenity values with extensive planting on sportfield edges, but has limited neighbourhood use. The park is separated from residential areas by Randwick Road which is a busy road and lacks safe crossing points from Moera.

3.1.2 Opportunities

1. Improve use and connectivity with all weather paths in and through reserves:
 - Godely Street Reserve, York Park, Bell Park, and Trafalgar Square
2. Breaking up large open reserve areas into smaller spaces. Flexible open grassed areas are important for ball games and other energetic activities, but people feel more comfortable in defined areas with a more human scale. Spaces can be defined by trees, paths and seating:
 - York Park, Bell Square
3. Featuring large trees, diversifying tree species and planting additional specimen trees that have multi-values:
 - York Park, Trafalgar Park, Awamutu Grove Reserve, Bell Square, Bell Park
4. Engaging with local communities on reserves. Engaging with mana whenua is particularly important in Moera and Waiwhetu. These two suburbs are two of the most culturally diverse in Hutt City and engagement requires a variety of approaches
5. Finding new reserve uses that extend the values of sportfields no longer needed for sport due to development of artificial turf in the City and consolidation of sports facilities:
 - Ball Park, York Park
6. Connecting Trafalgar Square to the Waterloo shopping centre to make an attractive suburban centre and local destination, keeping parking for local shoppers but moving the emphasis from roading to integrating the reserve with the shopping centre
7. Improving connectivity by using CPTED principles for a safer route to the railway overbridge between Waiwhetu and Moera (York Street and Awamutu Grove).



Figure 10: Informal recreation Te Whiti Park

3.1.3 Summary possible development

Establish a new neighbourhood reserve in tandem with medium density housing development in the area between Waterloo and Eponi Stations.

Add value to existing reserves with tree planting using species that have multi-values.

Attract neighbourhood uses by breaking up large open spaces into smaller more human scale areas where people feel more comfortable.

Widen use, extend values and amenity of reserves with programmes and activities for neighbourhood use - Bell Park, Trafalgar Park, Godley Street Reserve, Bell Square, Waterloo Reserve, Purser Grove.



Better connectivity between parts of the suburbs with a trail along Waiwhetu Stream and improved path to the rail overbridge between Awamutu Grove and York Street.

Engage with Mana whenua on neighbourhood reserve use and development.

Integrate Trafalgar Square Reserve with Waterloo shopping centre.

Establish all weather paths to connect neighbourhoods through reserves.

Establish new uses for sportsfields in Bell and York Parks

Use a variety of approaches to engage with ethnic communities to extend roles of neighbourhood reserves and meet neighbourhood needs.



Figure 11: Medium density housing in Waiwhetu with houses closer together and covering more of the site

3.2 Recreational/Ecological Connectivity

3.2.1 Roles

1. Recreational connectivity

Waiwhetu Stream

Paths along stream banks have potential to provide a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists, connecting the eastern suburbs and leading to Hutt Park, Seaview and the harbour.

Hutt River Trail

The Hutt River Trail on the eastern bank of the river is accessed at the end of Croft Grove, Barber Grove and at Moera Kindergarten on Randwick Crescent and leads north connecting Moera through Strand Park with Hutt Central, although access and connections need improvement.

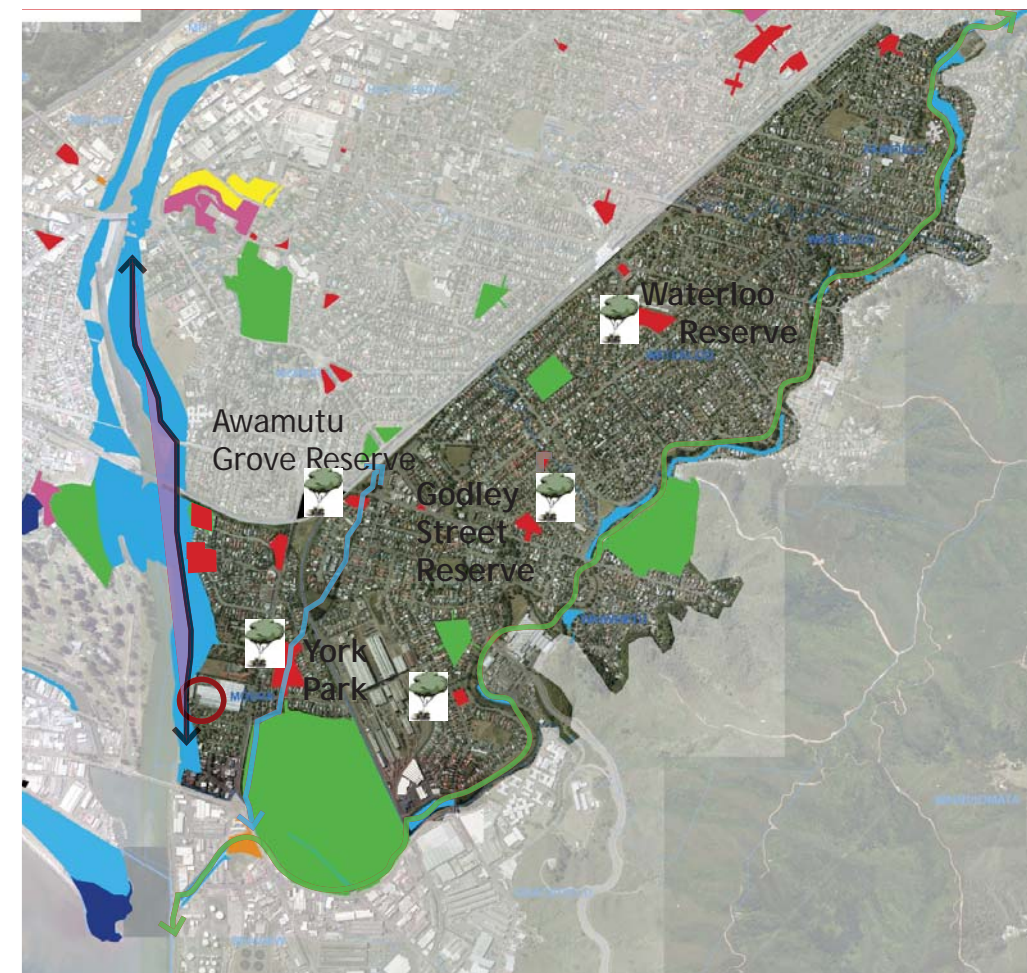


Figure 12: Recreational and ecological connectivity

- ↔ Waiwhetu Stream Trail
- ↔ Hutt River Trail
- ↔ Awamutu Stream
- Potential connections (Woollen Mills Point)
- 🌳 Scope for specimen trees

2. Ecological connectivity

Reserves along Waiwhetu Stream and Awamutu Stream have a role in improving stream habitat and health, reducing erosion and sediment, increasing the capacity of streams and improving secondary flow paths in times of flooding. For example Hutt Park is a secondary flow path and Awamutu Stream in York Park has been widened and its edge planted.

Improvements have been carried out on Waiwhetu Stream and the stream cleaned up, weeds eradicated and controlled, amenity improved, seats, picnic tables and information and interpretation along the stream developed.

Friends of Waiwhetu Stream is an active volunteer group. A management plan for Waiwhetu floodplain is currently being developed by GWRC.

3.2.2 Opportunities

1. A trail along Waiwhetu Stream for recreation and active transport would encourage physical activity. The trail would follow the left bank in some places and in others the right bank. In some places in Fairfield and Waterloo the trail would have to leave the stream because of lack of space between the stream and neighbouring properties.
2. Providing access to the water at selected locations for natural play and fun would expose children to the natural environment.
3. Reserves along Waiwhetu and Awamutu Streams have a role to play in reducing flooding, providing an area where water can overflow, especially under bridges that impede water flow, provide habitat and food sources for birds as well as provide quality amenity e.g. Awamutu Grove Reserve has scope for a wider stream bed along with riparian planting for stream edge habitat and quality tree planting.
4. Diversifying tree species and planting trees indigenous to the area in reserves and along the streams would expand biodiversity in the eastern valley floor suburbs. Planting fruit trees would expand

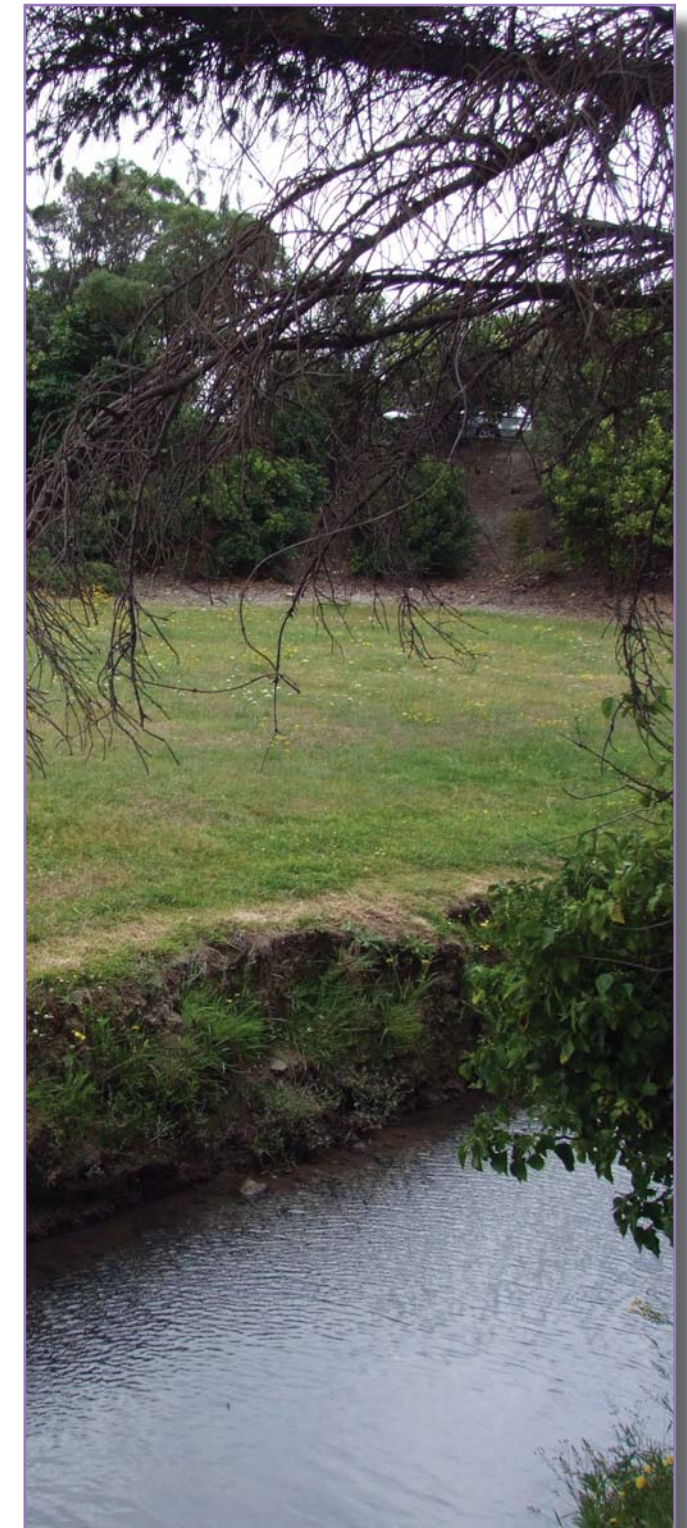


Figure 13: Awamutu Stream in Awamutu Grove Reserve

the role of reserves. Trees also define areas in parks, producing spaces at a more human scale where people feel comfortable. This especially applies to York Park, but also to Waterloo Reserve next to Waterloo School, Bell Square and Trafalgar Park.

5. Connectivity between Moera and the Hutt River Trail and between Pirie Crescent/Tirangi Road and Barber Grove could be improved with the recent GWRC purchase of the site at the end of Pirie Crescent in the Woollen Mills Point area.
6. GWRC is developing the Waiwhetu Floodplain Management Plan. Including recreational benefits and amenity in management objectives and policies would widen stream values.

3.2.3 Summary of possible development

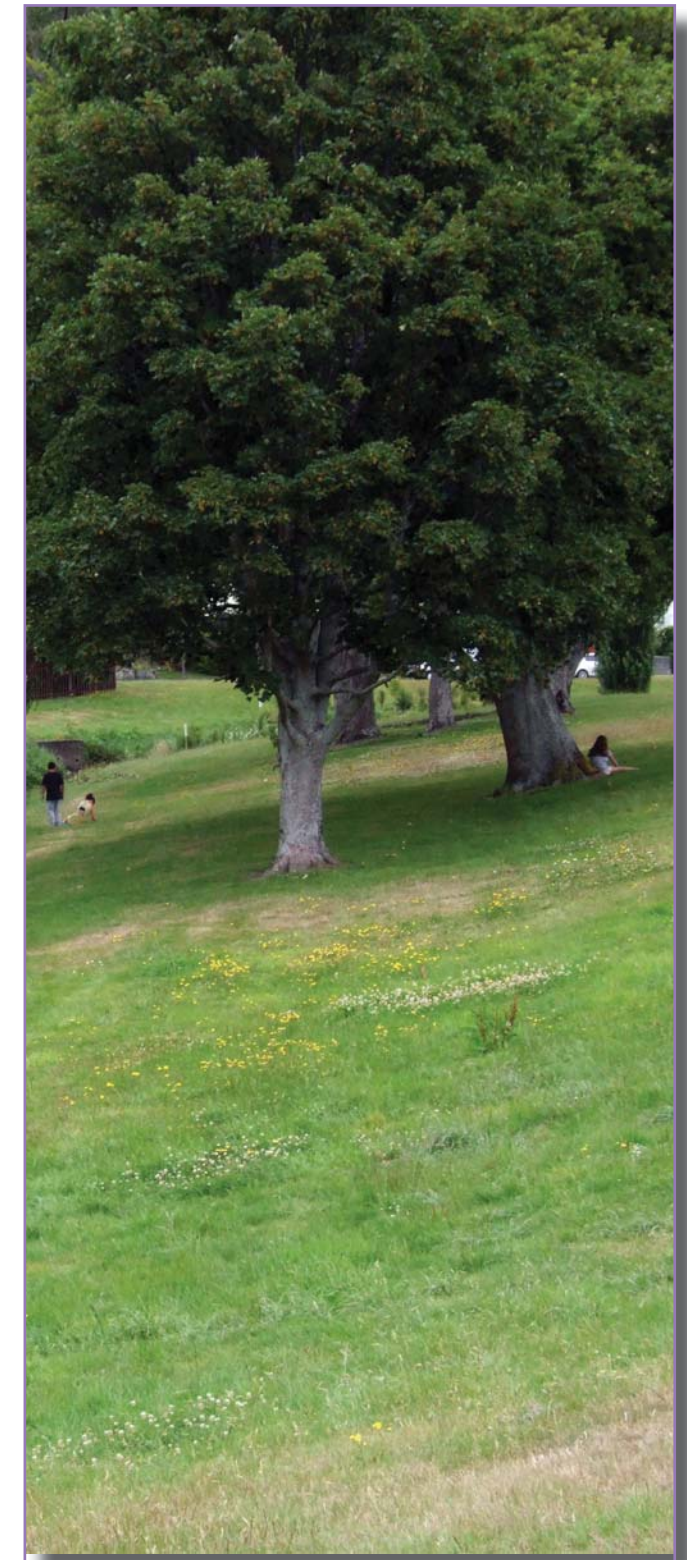
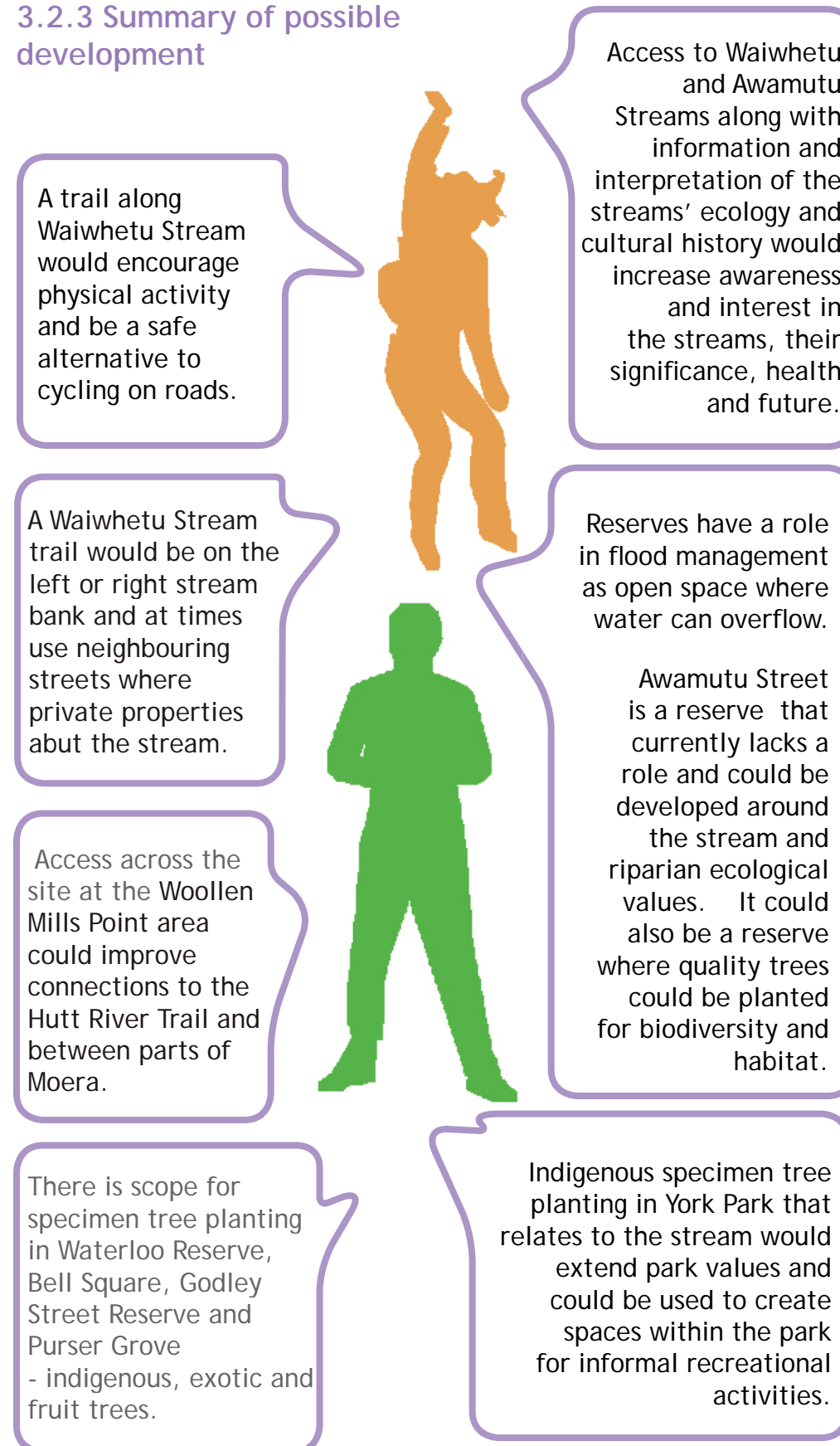


Figure 14: Waiwhetu Stream

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Hutt City Council, Go Outside and Play 2012

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Hutt City Council, Urban Forest Plan 2009

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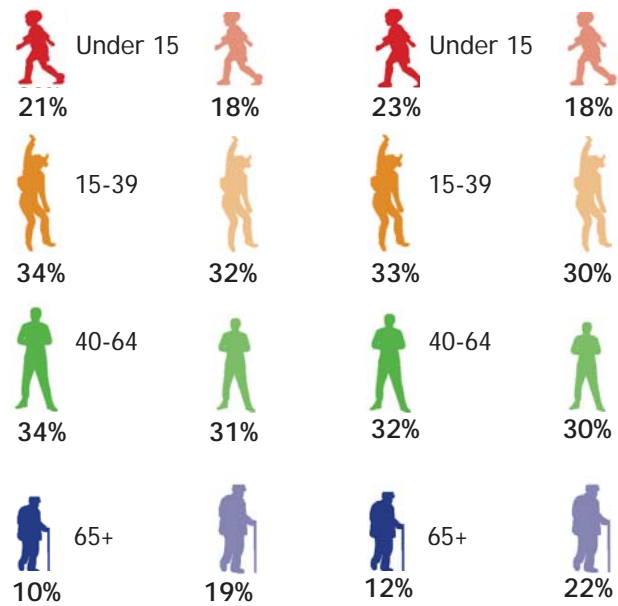
Figure 15: Trafalgar Park

Appendices: Profile of the Eastern Suburbs

1. Population, projected demographic changes, ethnic breakdown

KEY

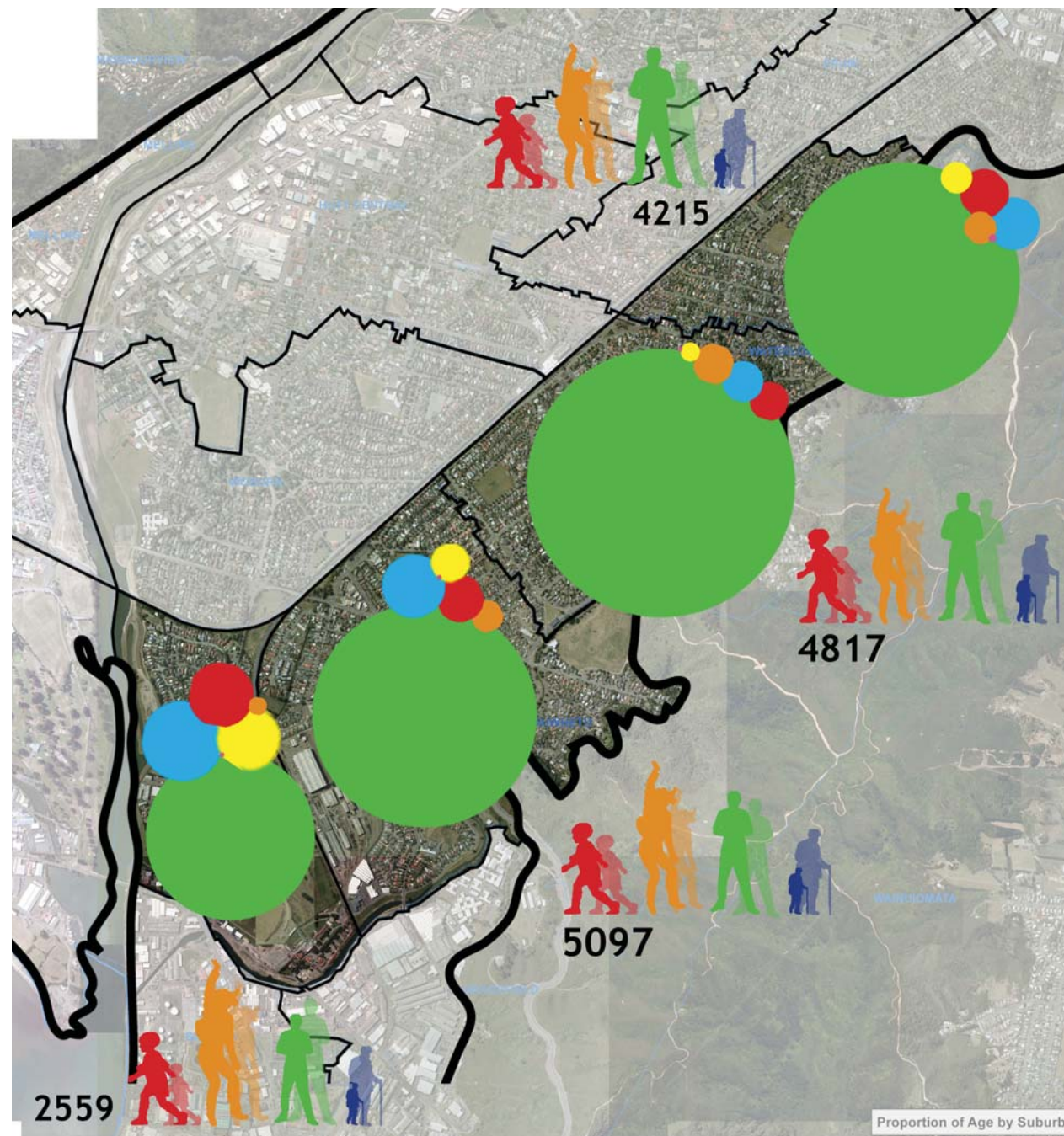
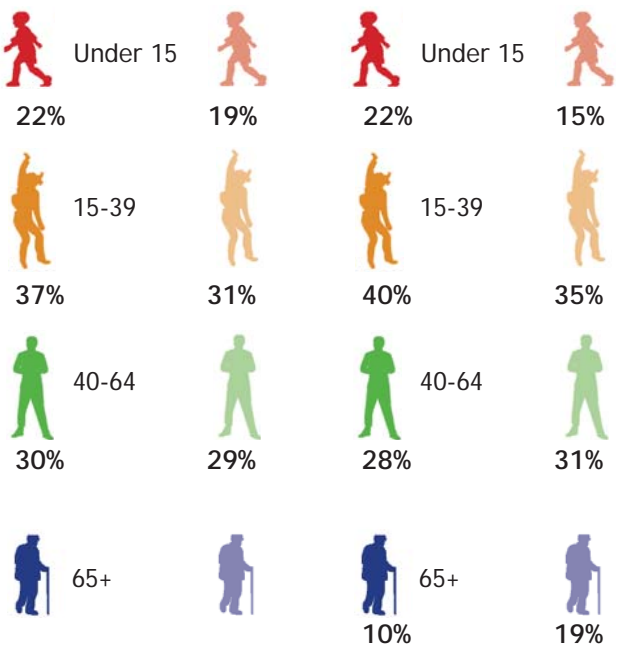
Fairview: Current Projected
Waterloo: Current Projected



Ethnic breakdown

- European
- Maori
- Pacific Peoples
- Asian
- Other
- Middle Eastern, Latin American, African (MELAA)

Waiwhetu: Current Projected
Moera: Current Projected



SUMMARY EASTERN SUBURBS

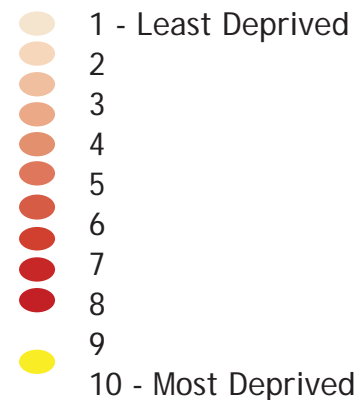
- All suburbs have a low proportion of under 15 year olds with projections of further reductions by 2031, especially in Moera
- Numbers of elderly people (+65) will increase but numbers will be lower than central valley floor suburbs. Levels will broadly match those of Taita and Naenae
- The projected population for 15-39 and 40-64 largely follow valley floor trends with younger adults the largest demographic
- Ethnic diversity is greatest at Moera and Waiwhetu, with comparatively large Maori populations. Waterloo is the least diverse.

IMPLICATIONS FOR RESERVES IN THE EASTERN SUBURBS

- Reserves that cater for multiple ages, are multi-functional and have flexible open space that can adapt as demographics change
- Opportunities to participate in casual active sports and recreation as well as organised sport and recreation
- Places for young people to actively recreate that allow youth to see and be seen
- Reserves and recreation to be part of the commuting journey to and from school and work for young people to adults
- Neighbourhood reserves that are easy to access, within sight and earshot of homes for young children, are safe, have opportunities for undirected cooperative and individual play rather than relying on standard play equipment
- Reserves that are accessible for the elderly, easy to navigate with safe surfaces and paths, and provide for comfort e.g. seating, shelter from sun and wind
- A variety of reserves with spaces for large and small groups
- 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.

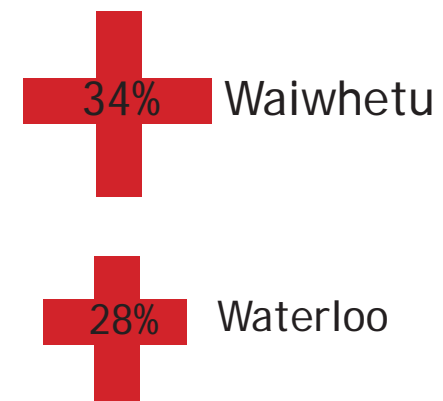
2. Socio-economic levels, social housing and health

KEY

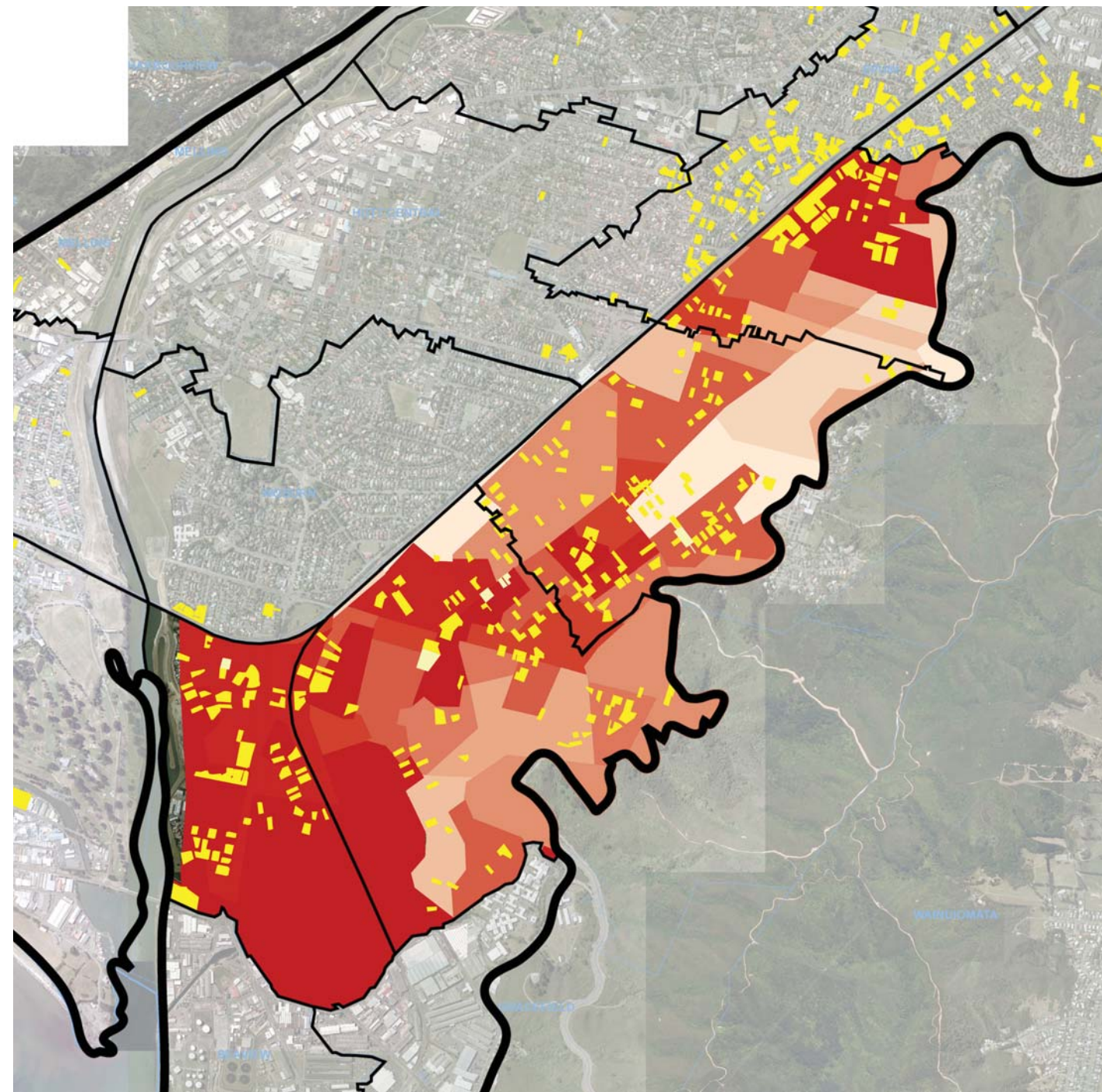


Social Housing - HNZ, HCC

RATE OF AVOIDABLE HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS PER 1,000 POP.



(No data available for Moera and Fairfield)



SUMMARY SOCIO-ECONOMIC LEVELS, SOCIAL HOUSING AND HEALTH

- Moera has very high levels of social and economic deprivation across the suburb. Some western parts of Waiwhetu have higher levels of deprivation but not necessarily where social housing is located. The areas in Fairfield with higher deprivation generally have social housing. Waterloo is generally more affluent
- In areas with higher social deprivation, households are generally larger with a greater number of people per property and fewer square metres per person.
- Housing is 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
- Less access to private and public transport means that reserves within walking distance are important
- Data on avoidable hospital admissions is only available for Waiwhetu and Waterloo with Waiwhetu fourth highest of valley floor suburbs after Taita, Naenae and Avalon. Avoidable hospitalisations are influenced by housing quality, access to services and opportunities for daily physical activity.

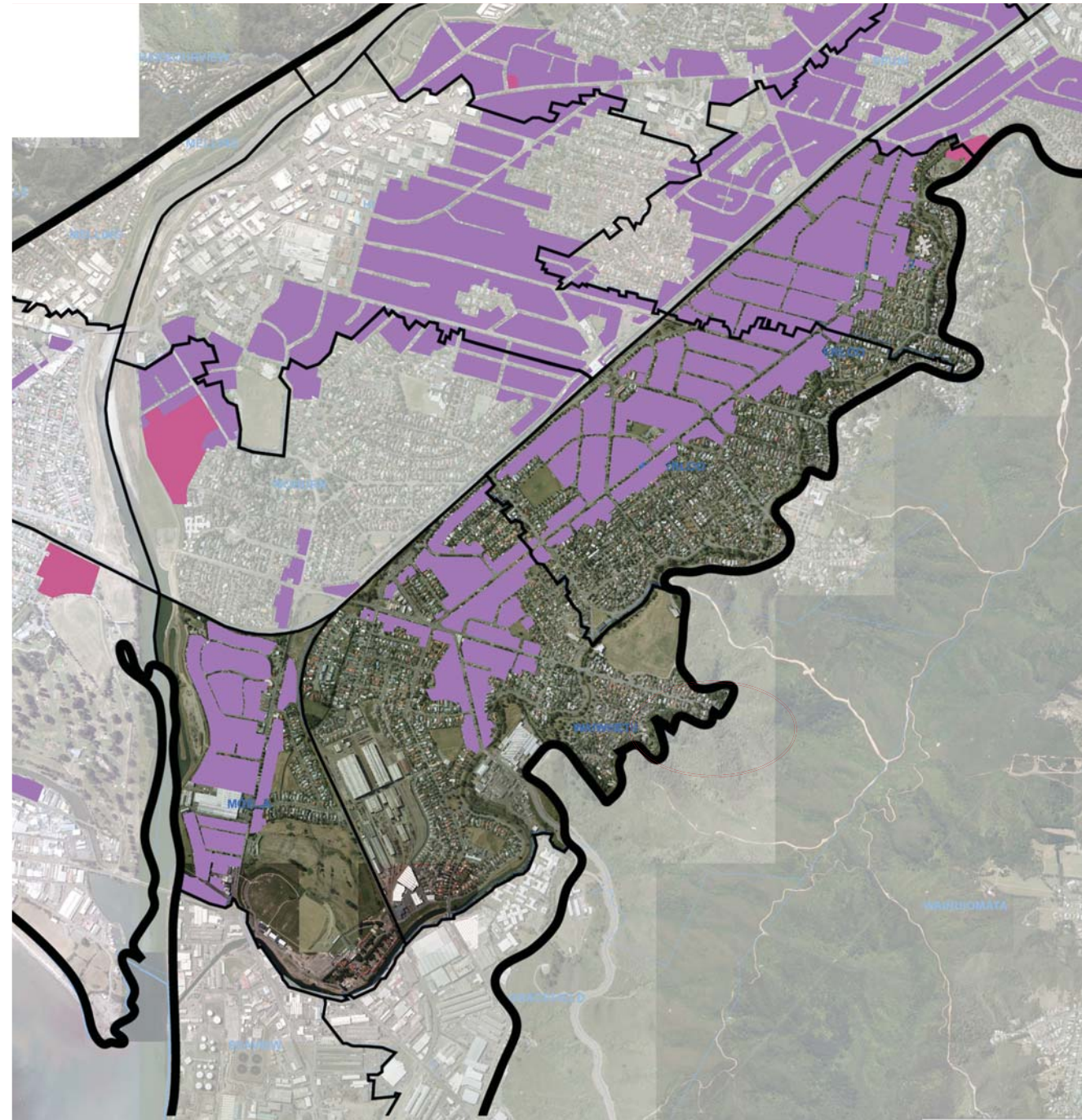
IMPLICATIONS FOR RESERVES IN THE EASTERN SUBURBS

- In areas with higher socio-economic deprivation reserves that offer opportunities for:
 - social contact and for residents to engage with each other
 - play for young people and children
- Where health is an issue opportunities to incorporate physical activity into daily tasks e.g. safe and direct paths to destinations on route to shops, schools and work (Waiwhetu and possibly Moera)
- Neighbourhood reserves that are easily accessible in areas with social housing, health issues and socio-economic deprivation
- Reserves in the more intensively developed built environment and a generally greater number of people per property (some social housing is multi-unit)
- 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 for their own production and/or are mobile, moving addresses and unable to commit resources to their own production.

3. Housing density and retirement homes

KEY

- 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.
- Retirement homes



SUMMARY

- Housing density is proposed to increase in parts of the suburbs near the main railway corridor (near railway stations), along Waiwhetu Road, in Moera, and in central Waiwhetu
- The suburbs lack retirement homes.

IMPLICATIONS OF INCREASED HOUSING DENSITY

- Demand for reserves close to people's homes because of limited space for private gardens, edible or ornamental plants and for quality specimen trees
- Open space for children to run around in and play
- Opportunities for people to interact socially
- Unpaved areas and soft surfaces to absorb stormwater, reduce runoff and improve water quality before it runs into stormwater infrastructure and streams
- Quality public reserves to compensate for smaller private open space (makes higher density living more widely acceptable)
- Space for large specimen trees.

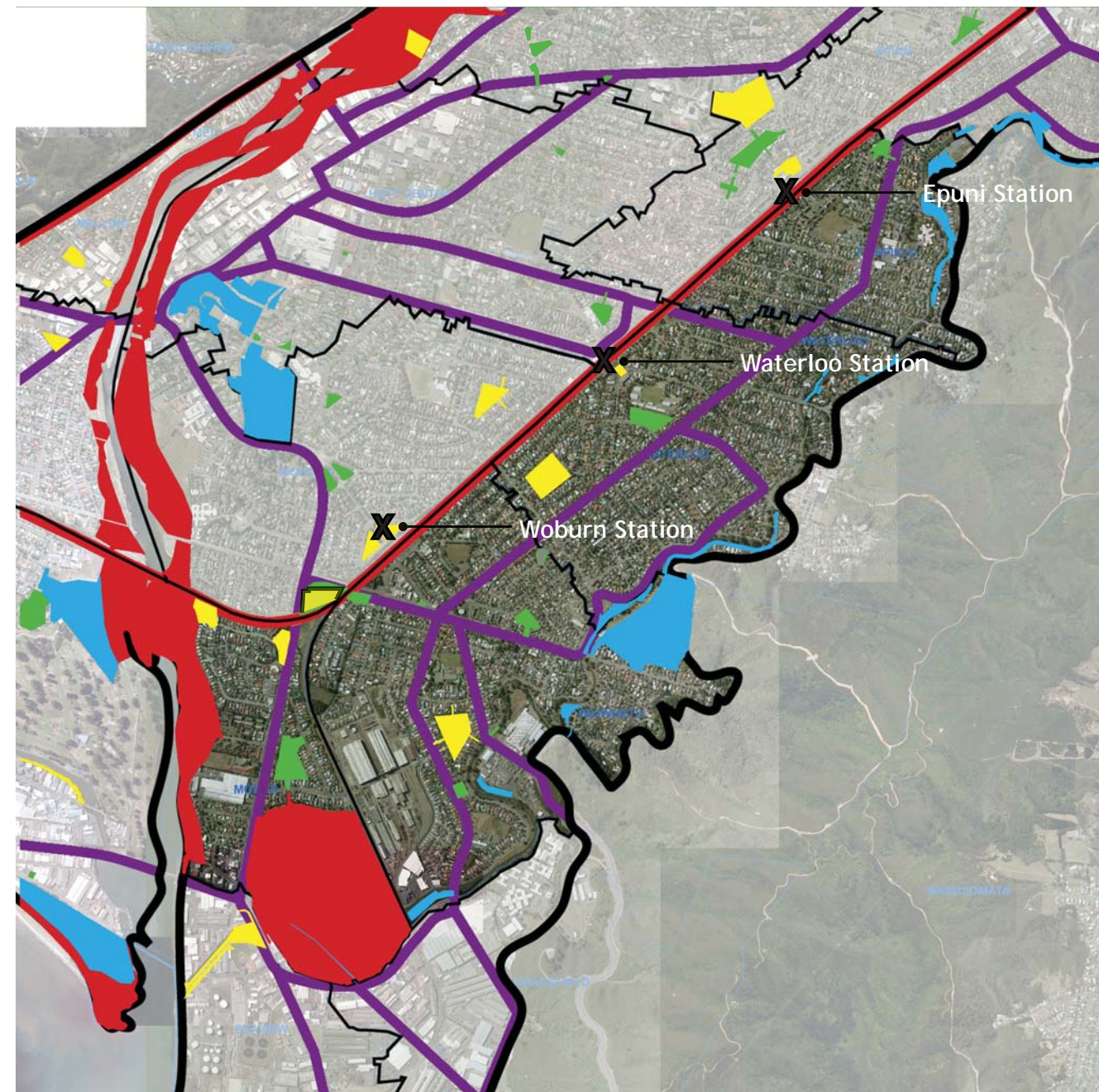
4. Key transport routes and significance of reserves (based on the distance people are likely to travel to a reserve)

KEY TO TRANSPORT

- Rail network
- Bus network
- X** Train

KEY TO RESERVE SIGNIFICANCE

- Region - Visitors are likely to come from throughout the region - Hutt River and Hutt River Trail, Petone Foreshore
- City/District - Visitors are likely to travel from throughout Hutt Valley: Petone Recreation Ground, North Park, Memorial Park.
- Community/Suburban - Generally visited by people from the suburb or have a specific purposes
- Local/Neighbourhood - Generally visited by the local neighbourhood only.



SUMMARY

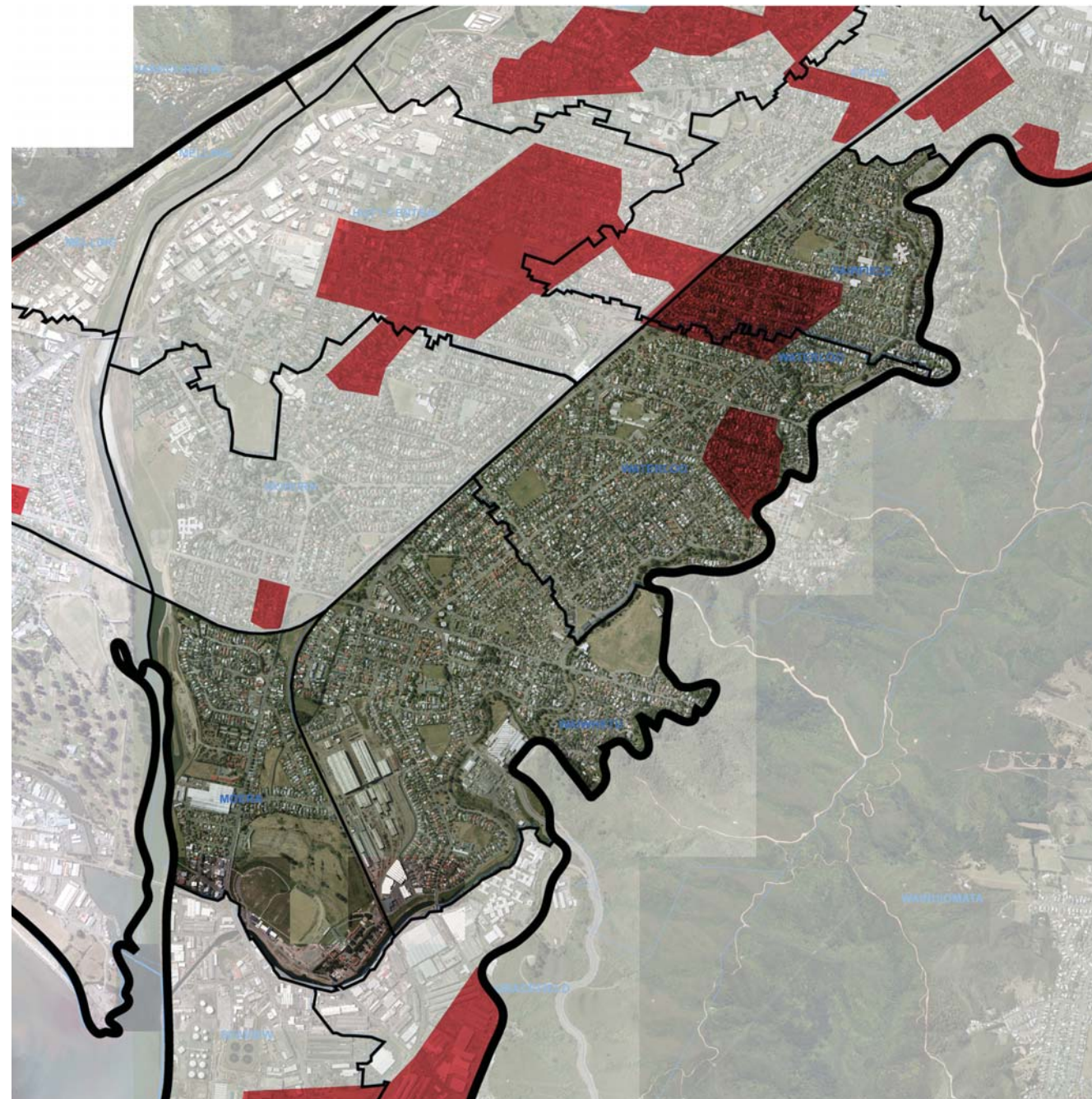
- Fairfield, Waterloo and Waiwhetu have very good access to key valley transport routes (particularly train)
- Moera has access to the Hutt River Trail, an established commuter and recreation cycle route, which passes Hutt Valley High School and the Central Business District
- Hutt Park is a regional sports venue and Te Whiti Park for district and city sport.

IMPLICATIONS

- Fairfield, Waterloo and Waiwhetu are on a regional railway line and bus routes link the suburbs
- Most reserves are on a bus route
- The key sports parks, Hutt Park and Te Whiti Park are on bus routes. They are also both on Waiwhetu Stream.

5. Areas with a reserve shortfall

- 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



Most people are able to reach a reserve suitable for neighbourhood type activities within the recommended 8.5 minutes, the time it takes an elderly person or child to walk 400 metres.

The exception is:

- People who live south of Epuni Station between the railway line and Waiwhetu Road. This is also an area where zoning is for more intensive housing
- An area in Waterloo east of Waiwhetu Road. This is a relatively affluent area where people generally have private open space and resources to travel to reserves for recreation. It is also near Waiwhetu Stream with access to the open space along stream banks.

IMPLICATIONS

- Establishing a neighbourhood reserve in the Medium Density Housing Area south east of Epuni Station is desirable.