

Tairāwhiti Play Spaces Network

Future Play Spaces Network Summary

June 2025

Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

CURRENT PLAY SPACES NETWORK SUMMARY

Tairāwhiti has a total of 41 play spaces with an average age of 15 years. The play spaces have the following typology breakdowns:

- Neighbourhood Parks 22 (8 of these currently only provide a swing/ swing set)
- Neighbourhood Parks with Nature Play 1
- Community Parks 16
- Community with Nature Play 1
- Destination Parks 2

Each of our play spaces have been assessed on the following criteria:

- Current quality of play opportunities
- Site suitability for future development, including resilience to climate change and natural events.
- Importance of the play space to the community, based on socioeconomic and demographic data, number of children in the surrounding neighbourhood and other opportunities for play nearby.
- Network equity and geographic distribution.

This is how our network scored:

Current play provision	Number of play spaces	% of Network
Poor play provision	14	34%
Average play provision	24	59%
Good play provision	3	7%

Site suitability	Number of play spaces	% of Network
Poor site for future development	4	10%
Average site for future development	25	61%
Good site for future development	12	29%

Community criticality	Number of play spaces	% of Network
Playspace is not important	4	10%
Playspace is important	33	80%
Playspace is very important	4	10%

Six play spaces are currently overdue for redevelopment under the 25-year cycle. Over the next 12 years (including the 3-year recovery plan and 10-year LTP) 23 play spaces are projected to require upgrades.

FUTURE PROPOSED PLAY SPACES NETWORK SUMMARY

Analysis of the Play spaces Network has proposed an equitable approach to play across the Tairāwhiti region. As each playspace begins in consultation with hapu/iwi and the community, the typology and level of provision may need adjustments. This process will likely align with master planning or the GDC, as well as AMP and LTP processes. External funding secured by community groups or stakeholders may further influence these plans, requiring flexibility to adapt.

Each play site should be considered within the wider network this will ensure we enhance and expand play opportunities strategically and cohesively.

The network plan strives to ensure diverse, accessible, inclusive, and durable play options for all ages and abilities, avoiding duplication and promoting a sustainable, financially prudent approach.

Given the unpredictability of climate change and the significant impact to our region, the play network must strive to be agile enough to respond at a site-by-site basis prior to investment, considering the challenges, opportunities, and future impacts with each play space.

Principles for managing the future play spaces network:

1. Network Planning**:** Developing a long-term plan that defines levels of service, priority areas for investment, and future gaps. This should reflect demographic trends, equity analysis, and spatial distribution which reflects a diversity of age-appropriate assets throughout the network.
2. Service Differentiation: Not all sites need to do the same thing. Define tiers of play spaces— from neighbourhood to destination — and invest accordingly.
3. Inclusion and Equity: Prioritise underserved communities to ensure all tamariki have equal access to quality play opportunities.
4. Nature and Sustainability: Incorporate natural elements, shade and climate-adapted materials to future-proof assets and support a more resilient network.
5. Innovation and Co-Design: Embrace and champion new types of play and co-design methods that involve tamariki, iwi, hapu, and communities in meaningful ways, ensuring their voices are central, and their ideas are meaningfully woven into all parts of the process.
6. Asset Optimisation: In some cases, this may involve reducing duplication, consolidating sites, or repurposing assets to better meet emerging needs.
7. Equity: Play spaces renewals and development will place equity and quality at the centre by using data, the principles of universal design, prioritising iwi and community engagement at the outset and ensuring inclusive, diverse play opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Recommended network provision:

The Tairāwhiti Play Study and Future Network Plan recommends the following regional network provision:

- Relocate/ merge 4 play spaces (and increase provision at sites within an 800m radius)
- Retain and maintain 22 play spaces at current levels of service.
- Retain and upgrade 8 play spaces
- Transition 4 existing play spaces to nature play
- Consider 9 of the identified gaps in the network and partner with communities to support playful outcomes

This represents total of 47 play spaces (an additional 6 in total added to the current network) with the following typology:

Typology	Coastal Network	Rural Network	Urban Network	TOTAL
Pocket parks/playable art pieces and/or sculptures			1	1
Nature play		1	5	6
Neighbourhood	1	5	8	14
Community	6	2	11	19
Community with nature play		1	2	3
Destination		1	1	2
Destination with nature play			2	2
Total	7	10	30	**47**



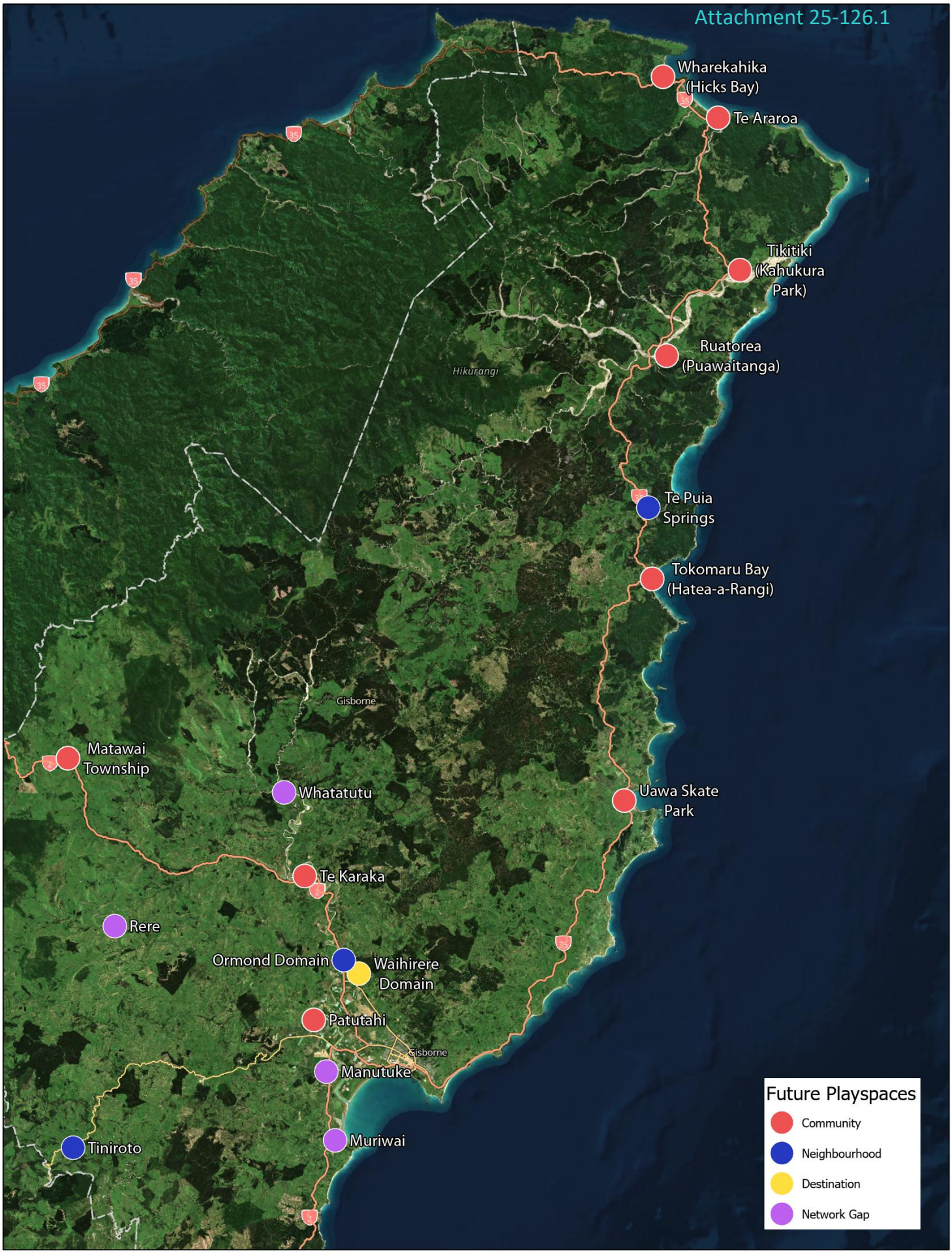
Future Play Provision - Urban | Scale: 1:35,000

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Future Play Provision - Rural | Scale: 1:400,000

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