PLAYGROUNDS
OF THE FUTURE
Hamilton is a city for families and as Hamilton’s population grows, so will our population of young people. That means it’s even more important for our children to have a safe, green space to play – one that is fun and challenging.

The city currently has five destination playgrounds at Hamilton Lake Domain, Parana Park, Claudelands Park, Tauhara Park and Minogue Park.

Our plan is to have 15 destination playgrounds across Hamilton by 2030. We will still have 44 neighbourhood playgrounds serving local communities but our plan is to have a destination playground within close proximity to most neighbourhoods.

Destination playgrounds give children a unique play experience that is vastly different to traditional playgrounds. They are large, themed playgrounds with high-quality, creative and sustainable equipment designed to be fun, as well as physically and mentally challenging.

Destination playgrounds have additional facilities such as parking, toilets, seating, water fountains and shade so families can stay all day.
HAMILTON’S FUTURE

**POPULATION INCREASE**
In 30 years, Hamilton’s total population is predicted to increase by 60,000 people. That represents population growth of around 40%.

**A YOUTHFUL POPULATION**
We have a lower median age than both the Waikato and New Zealand as a whole. This is projected to continue into the future.

40% of Hamilton’s population, in 30 years, will be 0-14 years old or 65+

67% of children who use Hamilton’s playgrounds are under the age of six

50% of children visit a destination playground in Hamilton weekly
HERE’S OUR PROJECT

THE DESTINATION PLAYGROUND PROJECT

Our communities have asked for playgrounds that are safe, attractive and original, with quality accessible facilities that provide an all day experience.

The project is to build 10 new destination playgrounds across the city.

Destination playgrounds require significant funding.

What we will see:

• Upgrade and maintenance of our five existing destination playgrounds
• Ten new destination playgrounds in existing parts of Hamilton
• Four new destination playgrounds in future growth areas after 2030: Rototuna, Ruakura, Peacocke, and Rotokauri
• Themed playgrounds taking into account the history and use of the area and the views of the community
• Stronger more challenging play equipment
• Extra facilities such as parking, toilets, seating, water fountains and shade.

WHY THIS PROJECT IS IMPORTANT

• Hamilton’s destination playground experience will be unique in New Zealand and promote Hamilton’s reputation as a family city
• Destination playgrounds are community spaces that encourage more activity, neighbourhood engagement and more ownership by communities
• Destination playgrounds provide a better and more challenging play experience for children
• As a growing city, Hamilton’s higher-density living is increasing and needs to be complemented by accessible family-friendly green spaces
• Our communities have asked for playgrounds that are safe, attractive and original, and provide an all-day experience for the family.
PROPOSED PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

New Destination Playgrounds:

2016/17  Dominion Park
          Hamilton Gardens
2017/18  Te Huia Reserve
2019/20  Hillcrest Park
2020/21  Glenview Park
2021/22  Bremworth Park
2023/24  Te Manatu Park
2024/25  Porritt Stadium
2026/27  Ashurst Park
2028/29  Moonlight Drive Reserve.

How have the locations been decided?
The proposed locations for destination playgrounds have been identified as the most ideal locations for Hamiltonians by taking into account the following criteria:

- Demographics – number of children aged between 0-14
- Population growth
- Road frontage/good surveillance of site
- Existing facilities such as toilets and car parking
- Accessibility
- Public transport
- Potential for partnering and funding opportunities
- Adjacent supporting facilities such as cafes.
Parana Park’s water feature area, Kowhai slide and other creative play equipment have created a highly entertaining playground. This playground is particularly popular now in summer as it offers a safe and free way for children to play in water.

“We finally got around to visiting the made-over Parana Park children’s area this morning and just wanted to let you know how much we loved it. I particularly liked the lack of distinction between play area and garden, and the non-prescriptive nature of the play features - i.e. play structures that children could incorporate into their own imaginative play rather than play equipment that can only be used one way. Our compliments to all involved - thank you for the obvious thought and effort put into this project.”

JUDI GALLAGHER, HAMILTON
The Hamilton Lake is an extremely popular location for families to visit, and the new destination playground offers exciting and unique equipment for children of all ages. This significant development compliments the junior playground that was already located at Hamilton Lake Domain.

“Wow wow wow! The new playground area at the lake in Hamilton is simply awesome. We were visiting from Paeroa and decided to go to the lake to feed the ducks with our five year old girl. But when we got there we totally forgot about the ducks after seeing the wonderful new playground area. Thank you very much to all the Council employees who created and put it together, it’s a wonderful place now. Best playground that I’ve been to. My girl loves it too.”

MEGAN SMITH, PAEROA
The latest park to undergo development, Minogue Park, includes a great range of equipment to entertain the children all day. With in-ground trampolines, flying foxes, sand pit, tunnels and shaded picnic areas, this new playground has quickly become a great attraction for families from Hamilton and those visiting the city.

"Minogue Park is really well designed and caters for all ages. My kids love the play area and the bike/skate track that surrounds it. You can even feed the ducks and picnic at the lake beside the playground. Will definitely be taking the kids back again.”

KAREN MOWBRAY, MATANGI
DOMINION PARK

Dominion Park will provide a unique destination playground for the local residents and visitors to the Hamilton area. Catering for all ages and abilities, the playspace will draw inspiration from the local surrounding area providing a fun and educational experience. Featuring a great use of space using planting, modern landscape elements and an array of play equipment.

“I’m excited about the construction of a new destination playground in Dominion Park, it will be a great facility for the Nawton area and add to the amazing playgrounds we have across the city. The playground will create a fantastic play opportunity for kids and provide a healthy space for families to get together. My daughter is particularly excited and looking forward to the playground being constructed.”

WIKIWIRA POKIHA, NAWTON
A new playground is also proposed at Hamilton’s world-renowned gardens. Its focus isn’t just on physical activity but also on games, puzzles, discovery and imagination. There are about one million visitors to Hamilton Gardens each year and many of those come in family groups. The adjacent areas of Hamilton East will soon be linked to the Gardens with a new underpass and pedestrian bridge.

“I think one of the really exciting aspects of the new Hamilton playgrounds is that each is being inspired by a different theme. So it’s appropriate that at Hamilton Gardens we’re trying to create a magical children’s garden that picks up the theatrical and exotic themes that you experience in the other themed gardens. For example there’ll be a small door in a giant tree trunk that will lead into ‘The Very Secret Garden of Abdul Kabul’. When I was growing up in Hamilton I thought the most exciting place was the children’s outdoor theatre in Parana Park. So we’re trying recreate that magic with a fantastical outdoor ‘Jade Dragon Theatre’ that could also be popular for children’s performances and events.”

DR PETER SERGEL, HAMILTON GARDENS DIRECTOR
HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

Hamilton City Council is leading this project and is committed to providing high-quality, sustainable and accessible playgrounds for the benefit of the whole community.

We are working on a partnership model with funds raised from funding organisations, donations from individuals, sponsorship from businesses and investment from the Council.

We need your support to create a unique playground experience in our community and build a more attractive city for families.

Julie Hardaker
Mayor of Hamilton
The new Playgrounds Plan has been developed to create better playgrounds around Hamilton providing quality and unique experiences for families.
For more information please contact:
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Find out more at: hamilton.govt.nz