

Design your ideal footpath plan

How much do footpaths matter to you over the next 10 years? Closes 27 September 2026.

New to the Long Term Plan? Read this first

A Long Term Plan, or LTP, is the 10 year plan every council in New Zealand must prepare. It sets out the services we deliver, the projects we fund, and how much it costs the people who live here and the people who pay rates here. We refresh it every three years, and that includes having conversations with the community before we put pen to paper. We started conversations about the next LTP in April 2026 through the Budget Challenge.

Learn more at: www.tararua.govt.nz/long-term-plan

Timeline of the Long Term Plan

Early engagement
round 1

20 April to 31 May 2026

Early engagement
round 2

September 2026

Prepare the draft
Long Term Plan

Sept 2026 to Mar 2027

Consultation
March 2027

Adoption
2027

How to give feedback

There are three topics to choose from - footpaths, libraries and economic development. You can give feedback on all three, or just the one that matters most to you. If you're filling in more than one form, you only need to complete the **About you** and **How did we do** once. Just keep your forms together when you send them back so we know they are all from the same person.

Fields marked * are required.

Things that might be helpful to know before you start:

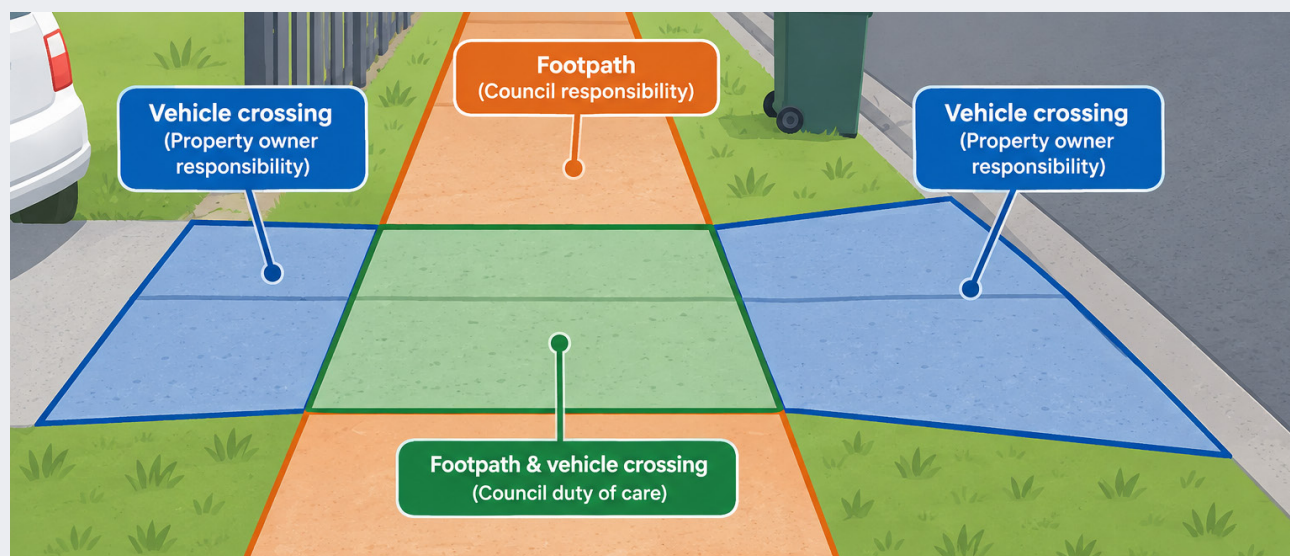
Footpaths are partly paid for through rates. There are two kinds of rates. General rates are shared by everyone and pay for things the whole district uses. Targeted rates are only paid by the people who get a set service, like a town water scheme. Footpaths come out of general rates, so the whole district helps pay for them. About \$1.29 of every \$100 of rates goes to footpaths.

About 73% of the cost is covered by a subsidy. NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) is the government agency for transport. It helps pay for some footpath work through a subsidy, so the government covers a share and rates cover the rest. Before 2018, footpaths were paid for entirely by ratepayers. The total budget to spend on footpaths can go up or down depending on how much central government funding is available. The amount of subsidy is calculated once every three years. Currently NZTA pays for 73c out of every \$1 we spend on transport in Tararua.

People have mixed feelings about our footpaths. In the most recent resident survey, just over half of the respondents (55%) were satisfied or very satisfied with footpaths. About 1 in 6 (17%) felt neither happy nor unhappy, and just under a third (29%) were not satisfied. That's a mixed result, so we want to hear what is working well and what is not.

Not all footpath damage is the Council's responsibility. Property owners are responsible for looking after the vehicle entranceways (crossings) to their property. These are part of the footpath route, but Council generally looks after the public footpath, while the property owner looks after the crossing that serves their property.

A further explanation of vehicle entranceways (crossings) to properties:



Vehicle crossing – property owner responsibility: The part of the path that vehicles drive over to get into a driveway is the property owner's responsibility. This includes keeping it in reasonable condition and paying for repairs or replacement where required.

Footpath – Council responsibility: The normal section of footpath that people walk along is Council's responsibility. Council looks after its condition and carries out maintenance and repairs.

Footpath and vehicle crossing – Council's duty of care: Where the footpath and vehicle crossing overlap, Council still has a duty to make sure the area is reasonably safe for people using the footpath. However, that doesn't necessarily mean Council is responsible for all maintenance or repairs to the vehicle crossing.

Where do you use footpaths the most?*

Footpaths are local, so it helps to know where you're talking about in your answers.

Where do you live?*

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Dannevirke | ☐ Eketāhuna | ☐ Pahiatua | ☐ Woodville |
| ☐ Norsewood | ☐ Pongaroa | ☐ Ormondville | ☐ Somewhere else |

Do you live in a rural or urban area?*

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Urban, in or near a town | ☐ Rural, out in the country |
|---|--|

Do you spend a lot of time in another town? i.e. you live in one, but work in another.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ No, mostly my own town | ☐ Yes I do - it's the town I've ticked below: | | |
| ☐ Dannevirke | ☐ Eketāhuna | ☐ Pahiatua | ☐ Woodville |
| ☐ Norsewood | ☐ Pongaroa | ☐ Ormondville | ☐ Somewhere else |

You and footpaths*

How do you use footpaths in your town? * Tick all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Walking or running | ☐ Walking the dog(s) |
| ☐ Wheeling a pram or pushchair | ☐ Using a walker frame, wheelchair or mobility scooter |
| ☐ Getting to school, work, or the shops | ☐ Skating, cycling or scootering |
| ☐ I don't really use footpaths | ☐ Something else (tell us below) |

If something else, tell us here...

How do you feel about the footpaths? *

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| In your town | ☐ Pretty good | ☐ They're okay | ☐ Not great |
| In the town that you spend a lot of time in | ☐ Pretty good | ☐ They're okay | ☐ Not great |

Is there anything about footpaths that is working really well? Tick all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ They are smooth and easy to walk on | ☐ They feel safe to use |
| ☐ Crossings are in good places | ☐ They are kept clean and clear |
| ☐ Easy with a pram or wheelchair | ☐ Good lighting at night |
| ☐ They connect the places I need to get to | ☐ Something else (tell us below) |

If something else, tell us here...

If you could pick one area of footpath that needed some attention, where is it and why? Be specific.

What about kerb and channel? *

Kerb and channel are the concrete edging and drainage channel that run alongside the road, next to the footpath. They are maintained together, so work on one often means work on the other.

How do you feel about kerb and channel? *

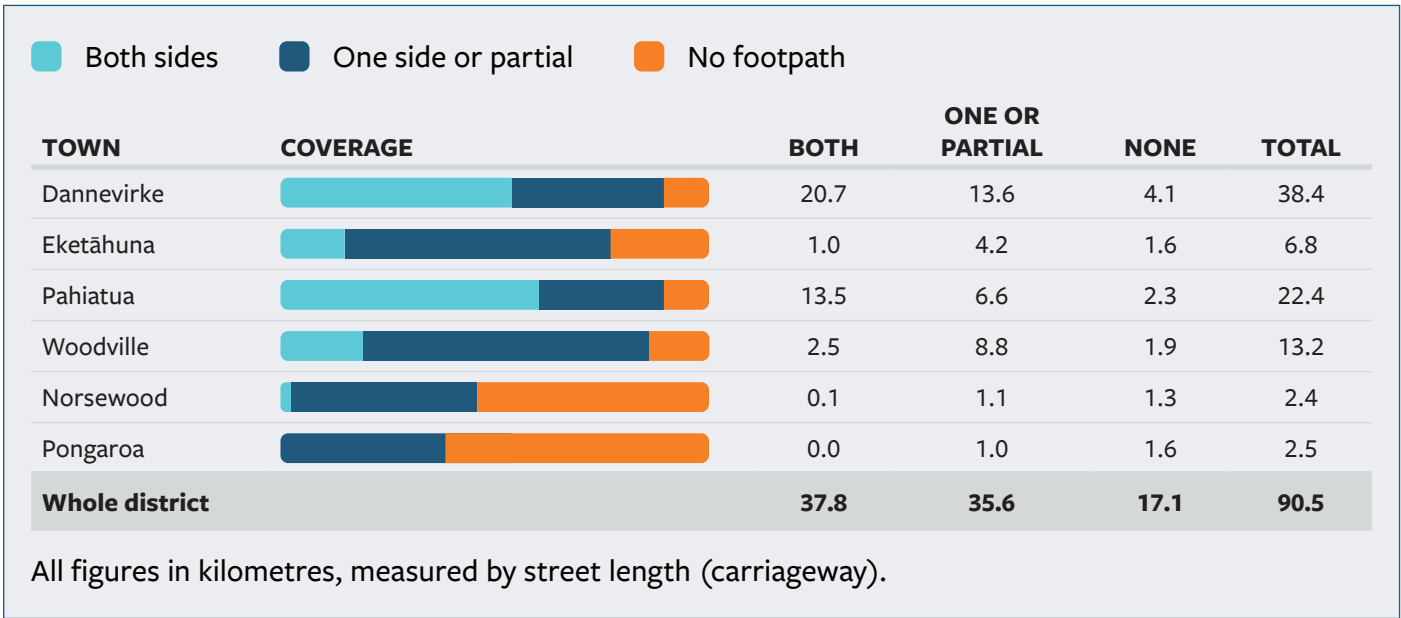
- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| In your town | ☐ Pretty good | ☐ They're okay | ☐ Not great |
| In the town that you spend a lot of time in | ☐ Pretty good | ☐ They're okay | ☐ Not great |

Should we invest more into footpaths?*

Keeping footpaths in good shape costs money. The more we spend, the more we can do, but spending more means more pressure on rates, or doing less somewhere else.

Remember: The annual transport budget from 2024 to 2027 was \$62 million, about \$1.29 of every \$100 of rates goes to footpaths, about 73% of the cost is covered by subsidy, and any spending over the approved subsidy has to be fully funded by rates.

For comparison, here is the status of footpaths across the district.



Example of level of investment:

Your town

Other town you selected

Across the whole district

Spend less: Council would put less money into footpaths than it does today. Money would go to the most urgent safety problems only, so faults would take longer to fix and more of the network would slowly get worse. Some footpaths could become harder to use, particularly for prams, wheelchairs and mobility scooters.	☐	☐	☐
About the same: We keep footpaths safe and fix the worst faults, much as we do today.	☐	☐	☐
A little more: Council would repair the big safety hazards on existing footpaths, like major trip hazards and damaged sections. Footpaths would stay safe for most people, but minor unevenness, cracking and surface faults would still show.	☐	☐	☐
A fair bit more: Council would fix both major and minor faults across the existing network. Walking comfort, accessibility and appearance would all improve. Streets that have no footpath now would still have none.	☐	☐	☐
A lot more: Council would renew ageing footpaths widely to get a high quality, near new network. Most faults would be gone, surfaces would be smooth and easy to use, and urban streets would look a lot better.	☐	☐	☐

If you ticked **spend more**, would you pay more rates for it?

- ☐ Happily
- ☐ Reluctantly
- ☐ No thanks

If you said you would pay more rates, how much more?

- ☐ A little more
- ☐ A fair bit more
- ☐ A lot more

Would you rather?*

We are focused on affordability, so spending more on footpaths could mean spending less in other areas. For each pair, tick the one you would rather we did. This helps us understand where footpaths sit alongside the other things we do. **For each choice, pick **one** option.**

Replace a cracked, uneven footpath	☐	OR	☐	Replace the swings at a local playground
Fix trip hazards where tree roots have lifted the footpath	☐	OR	☐	Repair picnic tables and seating at a local park
Build a new footpath linking a street to the town centre	☐	OR	☐	Build a new walking track through a local reserve
Widen a narrow footpath for wheelchairs and prams	☐	OR	☐	Upgrade an accessible public toilet
Add a pedestrian crossing outside a school	☐	OR	☐	Repaint the give way and stop lines at intersections
Extend the footpath network	☐	OR	☐	Repair a road washed out by flooding
Sweep leaves and mudd off slippery footpaths	☐	OR	☐	Mow and tidy an overgrown reserve
Add seating along a town centre footpath	☐	OR	☐	Add picnic tables at a local reserve

What matters most when planning improvements?*

If you were making a plan for the next 10 years of footpaths, what's most important to you? Write 1 beside the most important thing, 2 beside the next, and 3 beside the one after that.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Keep footpaths clear of weeds and debris | ☐ Fix minor safety faults |
| ☐ Repair footpaths lifted by tree roots | ☐ Renew large worn out sections |
| ☐ Build new footpaths where none exist | ☐ Add safer intersection crossing points |
| ☐ Check footpaths regularly to find problems early | ☐ Clean town centre footpaths to keep them looking good |
| ☐ Get property owners to fix / maintain their own vehicle entranceways | ☐ Reinstate footpaths dug up for pipes and cables |

Optional: Keep going, continue numbering all the way up to 10, in order of what's most important to you.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

About you*

Help us to understand how the different parts and people of Tararua District feel about each topic.

Privacy

A summary of all submissions, including the answers to the below questions, will be made publicly available on our website and through council meeting agendas. If you would rather not share your age, gender, connection to the district, please select "Prefer not to say". We are not collecting contact information for this engagement. Any personal contact information you choose to include is kept confidential and will not be published.

Age*

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ Under 18 | ☐ 18 to 29 | ☐ 30 to 44 | ☐ 45 to 59 |
| ☐ 60 to 74 | ☐ 75 and over | ☐ Prefer not to say | |

Gender*

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| ☐ Female | ☐ Male | ☐ Another gender | ☐ Prefer not to say |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|

Connection to Tararua*

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| ☐ Resident | ☐ Ratepayer | ☐ Resident & ratepayer | ☐ Visitor |
| ☐ Business owner | ☐ Business owner & resident | ☐ Business owner, ratepayer & resident | ☐ Prefer not to say |

Where do you live?*

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Ākitio | ☐ Dannevirke | ☐ Eketāhuna | ☐ Herbertville |
| ☐ Norsewood | ☐ Ormondville | ☐ Pahiatua | ☐ Pongaroa |
| ☐ Weber | ☐ Wimbledon | ☐ Woodville | ☐ Outside the district |
| ☐ Other: _____ | | | |

How did we do?*

How easy was it to give feedback?*

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ Very easy | ☐ Easy | ☐ OK | ☐ Hard | ☐ Very hard |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Did we clearly explain the choices, including the costs and the rules Council has to work under?*

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Yes, clearly | ☐ Mostly | ☐ Sometimes | ☐ Not really | ☐ No, not at all |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|

Giving feedback on more than one topic?

If you're filling in more than one form, you only need to complete the **About you** and **How did we do** once. Just keep your forms together when you send them back so we know they are all from the same person. If you have any further comments about the topic, or how we've asked for feedback, please attach extra pages.

When you're done

Drop your form in to any Libraries Tararua branch or service centre, or post it to Tararua District Council, PO Box 115, Dannevirke 4942. Nothing proposed in this feedback form is locked in. We are gathering views now so we can come back for formal consultation in March 2027. Follow our socials or download the Antenna app for updates.