




This picture gives an example of what the space could look like under the trees. There are natural paths created by children already.

We would add:

 low log rounds - for balancing and jumping

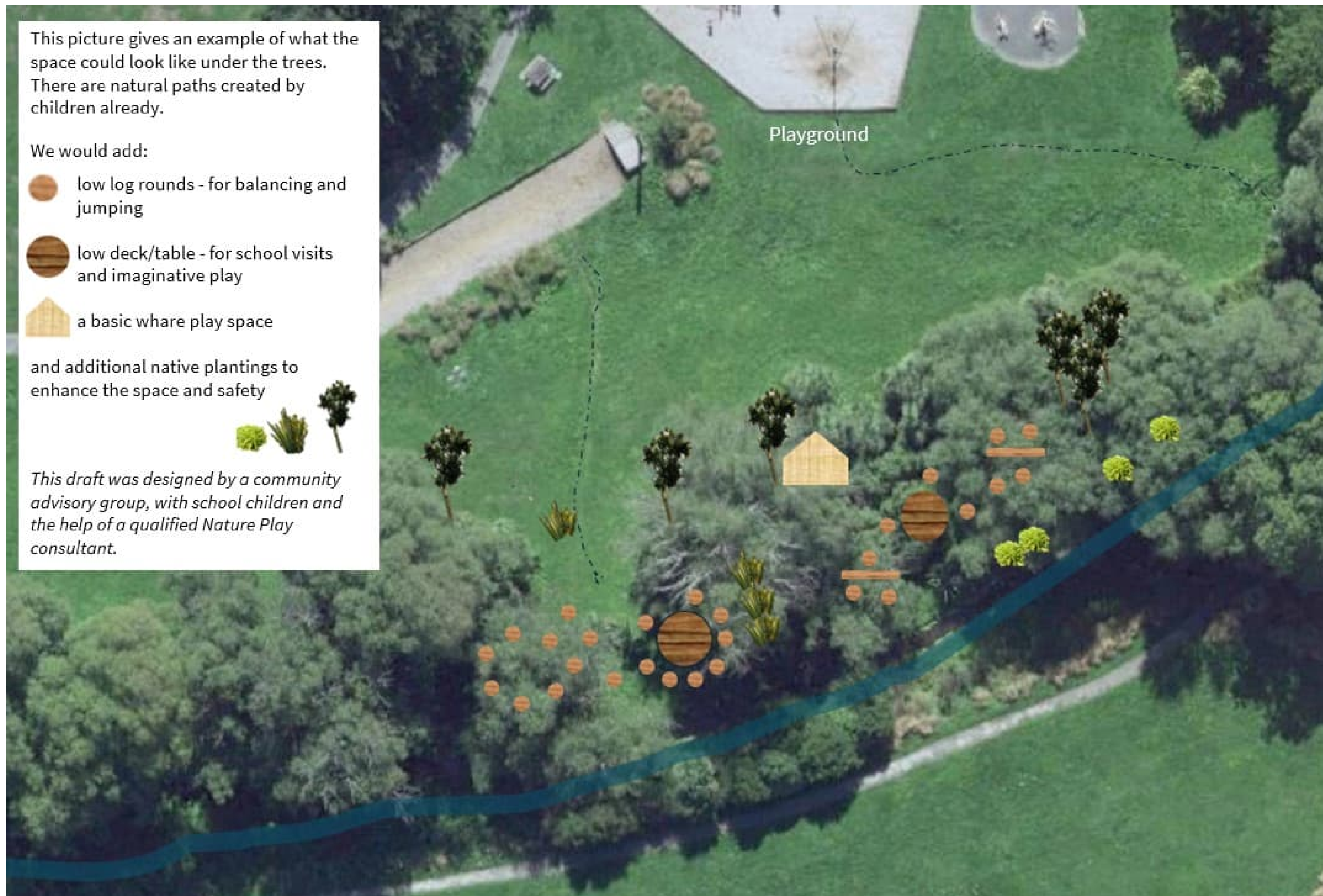
 low deck/table - for school visits and imaginative play

 a basic where play space

and additional native plantings to enhance the space and safety



*This draft was designed by a community advisory group, with school children and the help of a qualified Nature Play consultant.*



Feedback was gathered from local children and adults who use the reserve. Below are their responses to the questions - What do you like about the area bordering Kā Pūtahi creek? How do you want to play? How do you imagine the space?

## Opportunities for play

*This place is AWESOME. We made a base and needed more logs to make it better and another bridge. DON'T make a real bridge that would ruin it. We need a ladder and a platform up high as a look-out.* Child visitor

*Don't cut down too many trees and branches coz they are good to play on/with.* Child resident

*Plant more trees and plants to hide around.* Child resident

*A swing would be cool but only if it goes high.* Child visitor

*A little wooden bridge but not fancy.* Child resident

*Kids being challenged to take risks and succeed.* Adult resident

*Slopes for children to roll down.* Adult resident

*Huts to hide in.* Child resident

*Children exploring the space.* Adult resident

*Children building huts.* Adult resident

*Accessways that are fun and the kids have ownership of their space.* Adult resident

*Have stepping stones over creek.* Child resident

*Put the treehouse back.* Child resident

*Low ropes obstacle course.* Child resident

*Some more places to make bases, maybe with platforms but don't make them huts because we want to do that ourselves.* Child visitor

*Would love to see a basic 3-sided structure that could be used like a play house.* Adult resident

*Kids creating their own play zones.* Adult resident

*Add a swing above the water.* Child resident

*A space of discovery where kids can take risks, climb, play games and meet neighbours.* Adult resident

## Opportunities to connect with others

*A place for regular get togethers, "Say 3pm on Sundays, come play etc. Parents BBQ while kids go play. Family and community fun space.* Adult resident

*Families here having a picnic.* Adult resident

*Parents feel safe letting kids play unsupervised in the area.* Adult resident

*Picnic table (round of a tree trunk with matching seats).* Adult resident

## Opportunities to form a connection to place

*There are lots of cockabillies in the stream and we found loads of bugs.* Child visitor

*Dig a water hole out in the creek so can fish for eels.* Child resident

*Make fruit trees for eating and gathering food.* Child resident

*Children learn about the eco-system and what creatures dwell in the area.* Adult resident

*'Forest' for foraging.* Adult resident

*Māori and Pasifika labels.* Adult resident

*I want this area to be 'rediscovered' by our community as a safe taonga.* Adult resident

*Lookout' to observe wildlife.* Adult resident

## Opportunities to care for the environment

*Clear the blackberry.* Child resident

*Keep it natural.* Child resident

*Rubbish bin so no littering.* Child resident

*Encourage more wildlife to the area.* Child resident

*Make sure we don't disrupt the animals homes - no concrete paths - just natural stepping stones.* Child resident



The community feedback demonstrated a strong desire for minimal fixed structures or elements - with a strong focus on working to enhance and celebrate the natural features. The below images and ideas were gathered based on this feedback.

6) Community planted areas

Move some planting to allow for pathways to connect areas and elements - use the pathways which are already being established naturally by people as a guide. Create small open areas by removing pockets of planting around existing logs and stumps (or moving logs and log rounds into open areas) to create areas which will be enclosed spaces for play as the bush grows.



5) Developing 'wild' space

Move and/or reshape logs to enhance play opportunities. Tunnels with planting in areas of good drainage. Select tree which will be good for climbing. Add fruit and nut trees for foraging, where suitable. Possibility of elevated platforms (over 600mm as 'look outs' could be considered.



4) Open space for older children

Explore possibility of rope swing and tree hut. Low rope pathway, logs, rounds, stumps as obstacle course/ground is lava, platforms as bases for capture the flag etc. Connection to creek - possibly with stepping stones - materials available for diy bridges.



1) Connections

Signage to educate adults about the benefits of nature play, what this may look like and what children gain from exploration and connection with natural environments. Styx Trust Education advisor to work with local children to create interpretative signage. Accessible pathway linking playground to open area for families. Creative and fun elements (natural materials) along the path to invite people to explore and learn about the area. Grassy bank below playground for rolling and running.



2) Open area for families and young children

A three-sided rustic hut, picnic tables made from wooden slabs or rounds, natural loose parts for children to move and create with (log rounds, branches, planks), log round circle for groups to gather. Balancing pathway - log rounds and beams under 600mm. Opportunities for connection to creek.



3) 'Wild' areas

Remove ivy and blackberry, leave bush areas as natural as possible, add materials for children to use (sticks, logs, log rounds), create small wooden platforms (less than 600mm above surface) as 'bases' and for children to create temporary huts around, talk tubes could connect platforms.

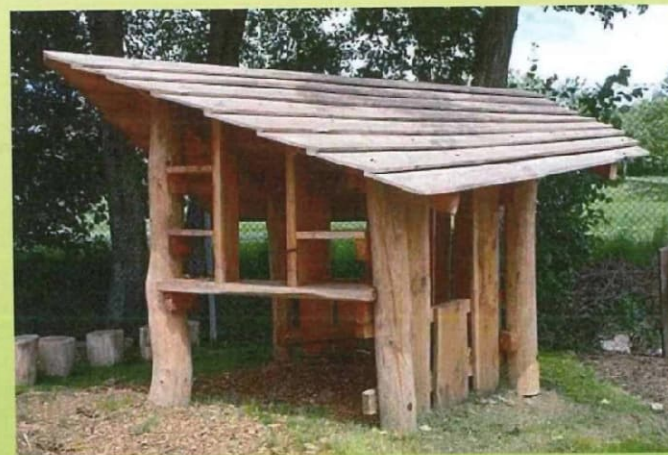
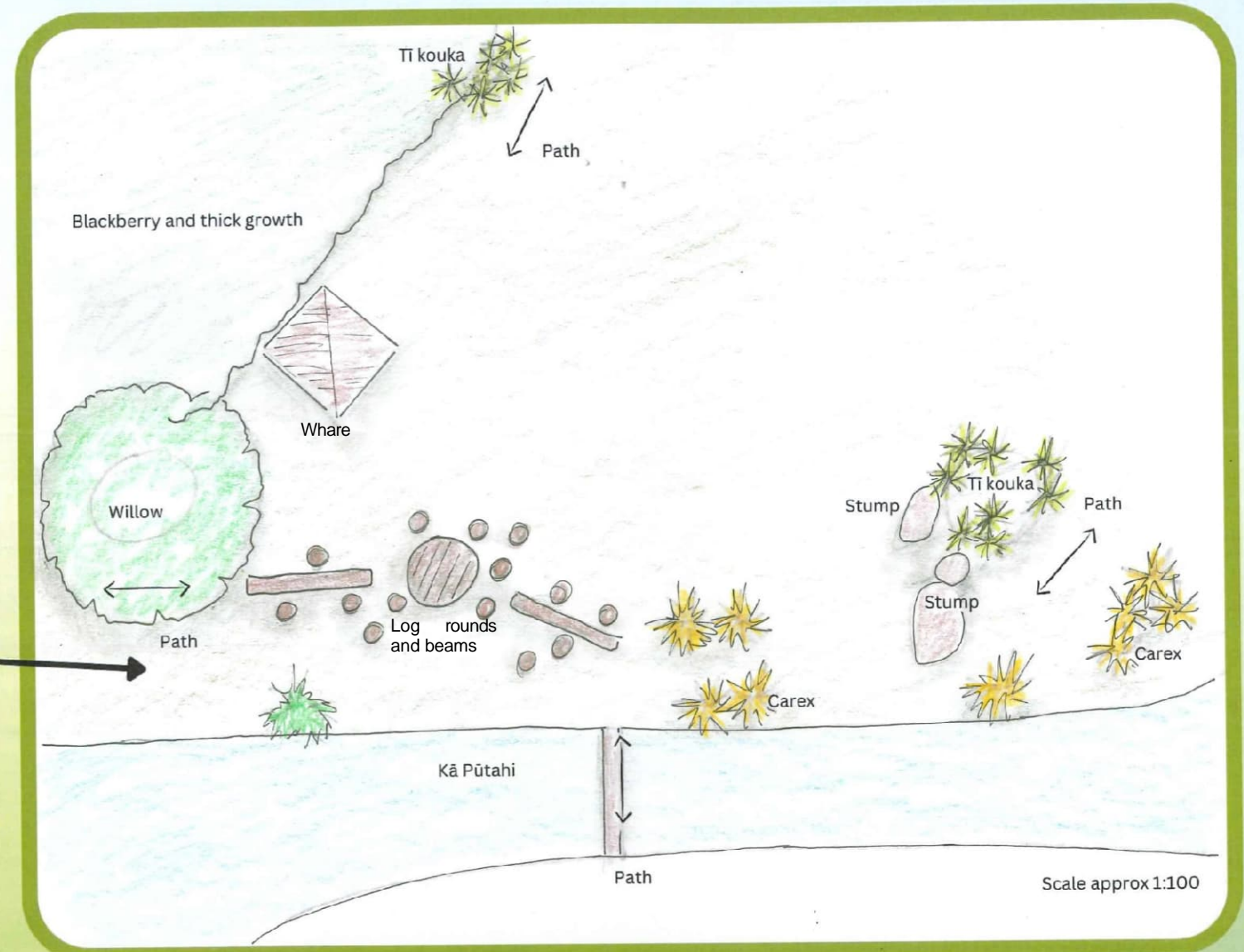
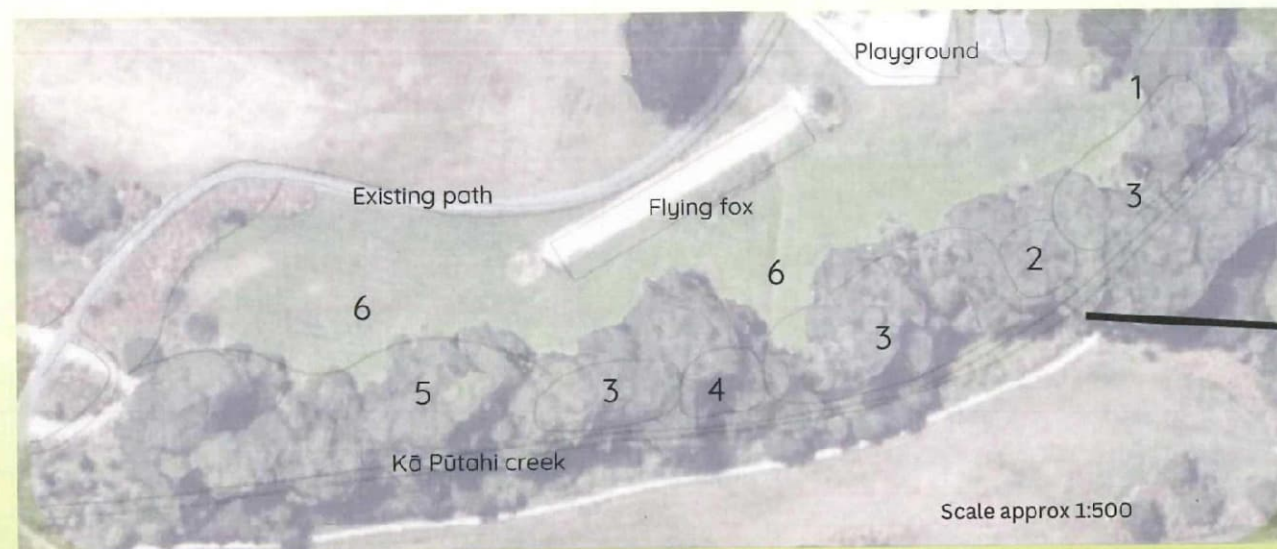




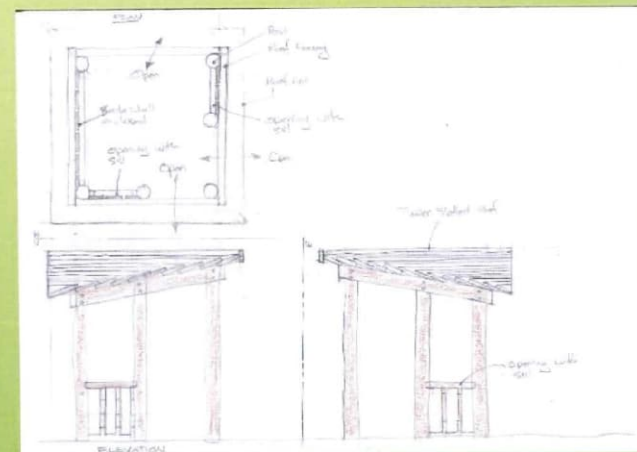
## Englefield Reserve Nature Play Space Draft Concept Design from Engagement

Two open areas (shown below as 2 and 4) have been selected for enhancement, with the bush areas protected for children to create their own space with loose parts and naturally occurring resources like branches. Low elements to encourage children and families to explore the space fit within the current budget and the vision for retaining the natural feel of the space. These can be added to later as funds and interest allow, providing opportunities for local schools and groups to be involved.

This open area has flat access to Kā Pūtahi creek and currently has good visibility and connection to the fixed playground which may make it appealing for families with young children to explore. A whare and fixed balancing logs and beams could be added to enhance the space, with other loose parts added when available. Paths marked on the plan are those which have naturally formed through use - these could be mowed or left to continue to develop through use.



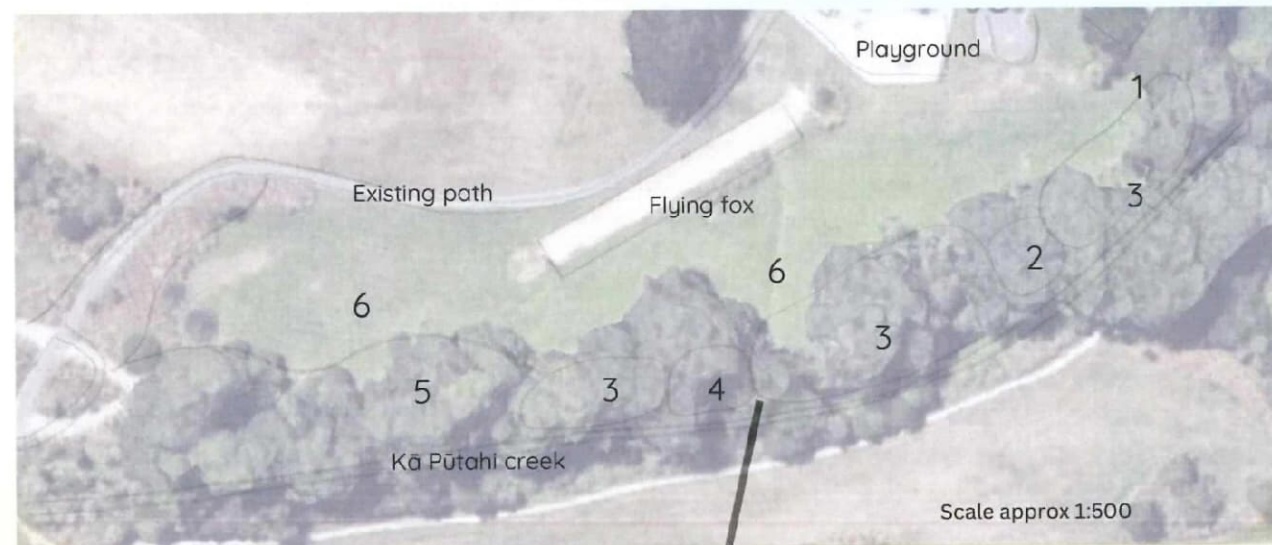
Small, rustic whare with open sides and a 'serving' bench for dramatic play.



Vertical logs, beams and a low deck (no higher than 600mm above surface) which can be used for climbing, balancing and jumping. The beams and deck can double as seats and a work surface for nature crafts such as weaving or play like potion making or mud play.

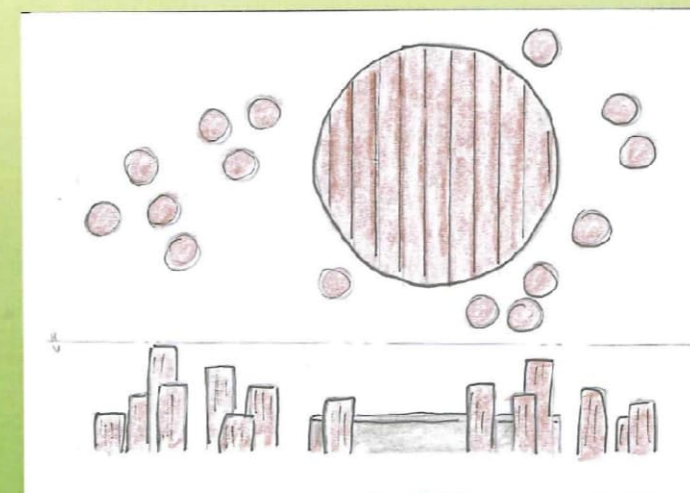
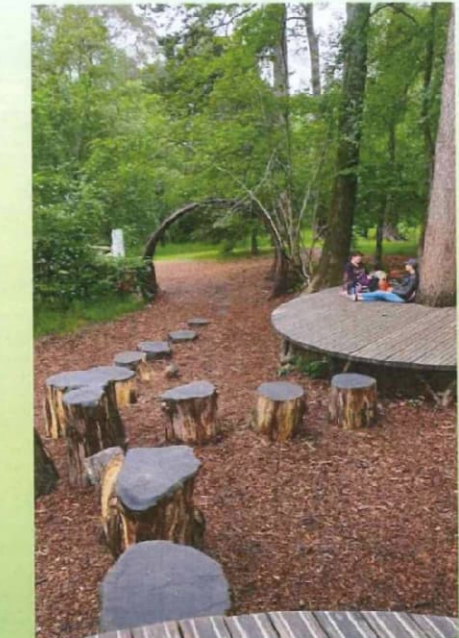
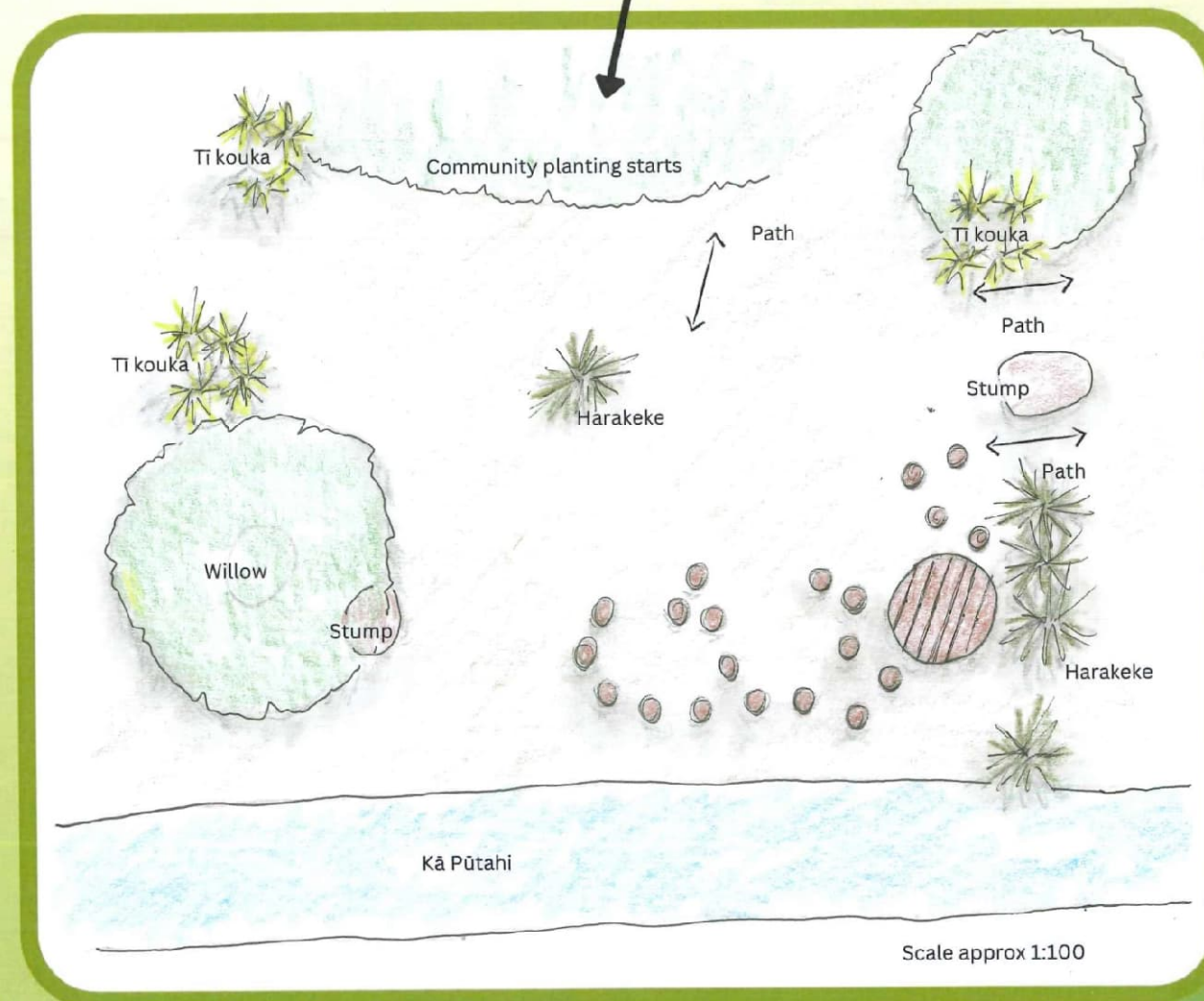






This open area has flat access to Kā Pūtahi creek and currently has visibility to the flying fox and path. There are organically formed trails on either side of this space, leading into bush areas, which allow for nature play opportunities. Paths marked on the plan are those which have naturally formed through use - these could be mowed or left to continue to develop through use.

Fixed low log rounds and a circular 'base' to be added to for balancing and jumping games. Additional loose parts like planks, log rounds, logs and more can be added when available.



Network of low vertical log rounds for balancing and jumping (no higher than 600mm), creating a connected pathway to a low deck.