

## Neighbourhood Conversation Walk

# Inner City East

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A group of 13 people participated in the 'Inner City East' neighbourhood walk on 29 February 2020. The walk started at Te Ara a Rongo Reserve and finished at Tūranga Library. The Inner City East neighbourhood is one of the most established and densely populated residential areas in the Central City. A mix of Central City and Linwood residents and people interested in Central City living participated in the walk. The main purpose of the walk was for Council staff to hear people's thoughts and experiences of the neighbourhood and discuss opportunities to enhance neighbourhood elements and character. Informally the walk also served as an opportunity for people to discover new spaces, talk with each other about Central City living and to make connections with like-minded people. Key spaces and observations are outlined below:



## Neighbourhood Strengths

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- Neighbourhood is well established with a variety of housing types providing choice to residents. The area also offers more affordable housing options.
- Residents find it easy to access a variety of services in the core and often use the East Frame and the Promenade to get around.
- Te Ara a Rongo Reserve (between Gloucester and Worcester Streets) is a neighbourhood asset and is well used by residents. Residents feel a sense of ownership of the park due to being involved in the consultation process. Latimer Square is also a neighbourhood asset although it has a slightly more formal 'look and feel'.
- Margaret Mahy Playground, Rauora Park and temporary installations in the East Frame are well-used and liked by residents.

## Opportunities

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- Improve the pedestrian experience across the entire neighbourhood; increase greenery and mid-block connection, and safe crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Increase local use and enjoyment of Latimer Square by improving access into the park (e.g. multiple pedestrian crossing points), and by increasing the number of events and activities held there.
- Increase neighbourhood 'bumping spaces' and encourage the development of neighbourhood-level services which provide for people's day to day needs.
- Use signage and community notice boards to make it easier for residents to find out what is happening in their area. Include signage and interpretation on new developments to tell stories and explain features (e.g. bug hotels in Te Ara a Rongo reserve).
- Promote community-oriented resources to community groups, and assist existing and new residents to connect with each other and the neighbourhood.
- Trial non-traditional ways of engaging with people that tend to be less easy to reach or who participate less in local community-life.
- Harness the multiple opportunities to be created by the new Canterbury Multiuse Arena.

# Residents Points of Interest

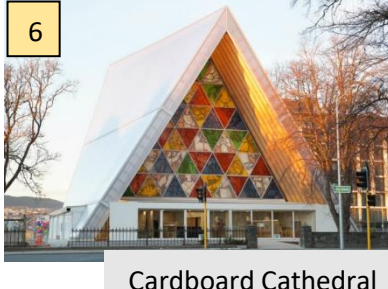
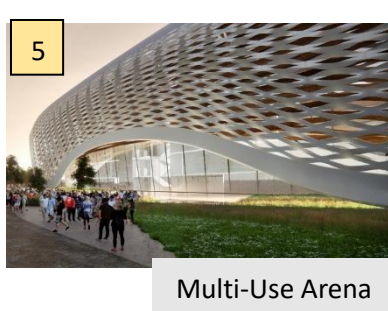
The following spaces were some of the main points of interest on the walk led by a local resident of the Inner City East neighbourhood.



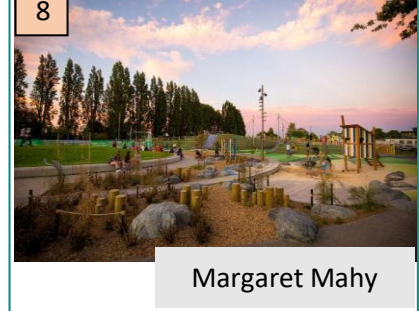
## Greenspaces



## Key Facilities



## Notable Places



# Summarised comments from participants

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## Insights gained

- “I didn’t realise housing would be on either side of Rauora Park”
- “Great to hear other people’s experiences of living in the city”.
- “The walk made me think about the city in a different way and was almost like a reintroduction”.

## Likes

- “Great that the Basketball court in the East Frame is well-used at all hours of the day and evening. This provides youth with a space to socialise.”
- “I like that the Central City is for everyone”.
- “Having an e-scooter has expanded my neighbourhood and made it easier to access more services. I scoot to work instead of drive now”.
- “I like the shared spaces in my housing development. This is where I meet my neighbours”.

## Dislikes

- “If there were mid-block laneways I would be able to walk a shorter distance to get to cafes and greenspaces during my lunchbreak.”
- “Barbadoes Street is not pleasant to walk along. I would much rather walk along Madras. There’s more to see”.
- “There is a growth in short-term rentals here. It impacts my sense of community’.
- “There is a lack of day to day services in the neighbourhood. I have to get in my car to go to the suburbs for stuff I need, including my shopping”.
- “There is a lot of traffic surrounding Latimer Square. It affects my enjoyment of the park”.
- “Would like to see more greenspaces in the light industrial parts of the city”.
- (There are) “No affordable housing schemes in this part of the city”.
- (I dislike) “Vacant spaces. Forgotten and abandoned houses”.

## Other

- “It would be great to have more pocket parks across the neighbourhood”.
- “The Multi-Use Arena will only be used once a week for major events. It needs businesses on the edge of the stadium otherwise it will be dead most of the time.”
- “Many people think the inner city is an expensive place to visit but there a lots of things to do that don’t cost any money”.
- “We need to engage with a more diverse community in the planning of our neighbourhoods”.

### How will the information be used?

Insights and experiences shared by participants on the Conversation Walk will help inform neighbourhood level planning. The walk was a great way to hear from people about the neighbourhood and build relationships. The list of strengths shows the Council what the advantages of this neighbourhood are, and the list of opportunities provides a good starting point to identify elements that could be enhanced. This information may also help shape Council webpages about Central City living.