

Finance and Performance Committee

Meeting of 25 March 2026

Business Unit: Community
Date Created: 18 March 2026

Vandalism Costs - Parks and Property

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with information on vandalism, graffiti and theft in relation to Community Assets for the 2024/2025 Financial Year, and a 6 month update for 2025/2026 Financial Year.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohinga

That the Committee note the annual report on vandalism, graffiti and theft trends on a range of community infrastructure assets.

Report prepared by:
Erica Rowe
Community Parks and Property Advisor

Approved for submission by:
Lyn Daly
General Manager - Community

1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 A report on vandalism to community infrastructure assets was presented to Council on 19 September 2024. At that meeting Council asked for a report to be provided on an annual basis that captured the cost and impact on vandalism and theft of community infrastructure assets. This report builds on the initial data that has been collected and reported.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

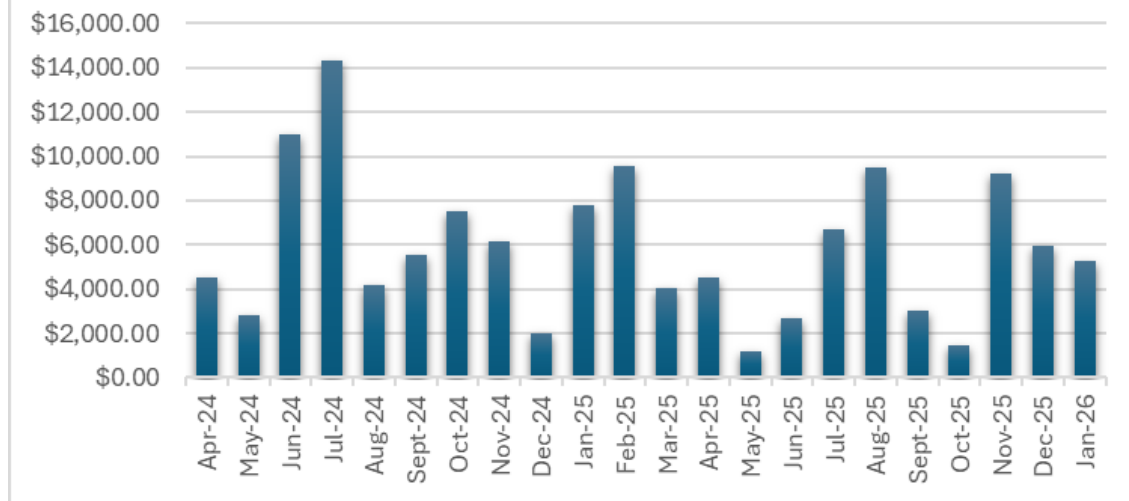
- 2.1 Manawatū District Council strives to create a welcoming environment where community assets are clean, safe and well presented, and to deliver a high level of service to the community at a reasonable cost, now and in the future.
- 2.2 The matters described in this report are generally operational in nature. The strategic link to this report considers value for money and excellence in local government by evaluating trends of vandalism over time, and by considering how vandalism is responded to and planned for.

3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 The below data is derived from Green By Nature (GBN) reporting, from where they have identified vandalism, graffiti and theft. Occasionally MDC officers will disagree with the categorisation and charge to a regular cost centre (i.e. wear and tear verses vandalism).
- 3.2 The data presented should be considered as a snapshot, and is not a comprehensive or necessarily a true reflection of vandalism, graffiti and theft within the district. Not all events are charged under the Open Space Maintenance contract. Low value repairs and maintenance are undertaken through the contract by a full-time resource that carries out general inspection and maintenance work, which will include some vandalism repair that is not uniquely captured as a cost. In addition, occasionally volunteers undertake graffiti removal (Keep Feilding Beautiful and youth restoration workers) and this labour cost is not captured.
- 3.3 Other direct supplier charges are not captured in the presented data. For example, Gimme Fuel charge MDC directly for replacement LPG gas bottles that have been stolen.
- 3.4 The following data is only for parks, property, public conveniences, halls and cemeteries. It does not include the Makino Aquatic Centre, Manawatu District Libraries, or fly tipping, however, overtime this data will provide Council with an understanding of vandalism, graffiti and theft impacts to our assets.

Costs of vandalism, graffiti and theft repairs per month:

Cost of vandalism, graffiti and theft repairs made by GBN



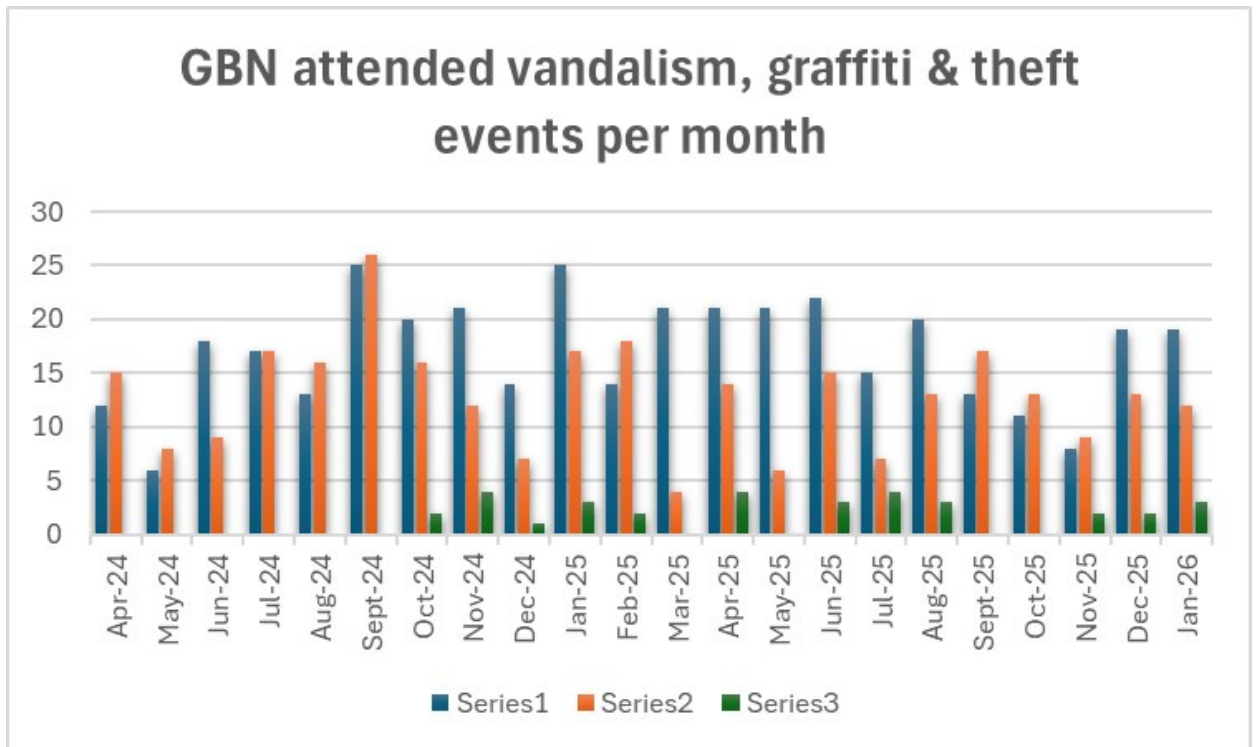
Significant events:

- June 2024: Victoria Park - tidied up & replaced sign at Park after car crash. Feilding Cemetery - replaced stolen pump & resecured inside sextons shed. (\$6K).
- July 2024: Campbell St toilets - emptied blocked sump pump chamber & replaced stolen water heater, replaced stolen hand drier (\$10K).
- February 2025: Johnston Park - replaced power boxes for the lights of Johnston Park (\$5K).
- August 2025: Timona Park - relined the disabled toilet wall, repainted block walls in other 3 toilets after arson. Johnston Park Grandstand (\$7.5K).
- November 2025: Fergusson Street and Stafford Intersection - repaired damage done to roundabout (\$8K).

	2024/2025 total cost	2024/2025 average per month
Vandalism	\$56,421.38	\$4,701.78
Graffiti	\$8,983.09	\$748.59
Theft	\$2,526.03	\$280.67
Total	\$67,930.50	\$5,731.04

	2025/2026 July-Jan cost (6 month total)	2025/2026 average per month
Vandalism	\$31,271.12	\$5,211.85
Graffiti	\$3,910.82	\$651.80
Theft	\$2,855.40	\$475.90
6 Month Total	\$38,037.34	\$6,339.55

Vandalism, graffiti and theft events attended by Green By Nature



[blue = vandalism, orange = graffiti, green = theft]

	2024/2025 total events	2024/2025 average per month
Vandalism	234	19.5
Graffiti	168	14
Theft	19	2
Total	421	35.08

	2025/2026 July-Jan events (6month total)	2025/2026 average per month
Vandalism	86	14.3
Graffiti	72	12
Theft*	11	1.8
Total	169	28.1

*Note: Theft data capture commenced October 2024.

- 3.5 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) includes core principles that are used in design, maintenance, and future planning of Council open spaces and facilities management for many years. These principles have practical steps of application that are captured in existing asset management plans, and utilised in practice on an ongoing basis.
- 3.6 Planned asset renewals are an opportunity to review the suitability and resilience of assets and structures in public spaces. For example, the renewal of an aged toilet block will typically include replacement with a building structure and hardware that are physically resilient, an orientation and lighting that makes for safer access and, and components that are designed for serviceability etc.
- 3.7 Current data indicates relatively steady occurrences and costs associated with vandalism, graffiti, and theft over time. There are no apparent emerging trends that would

suggest that current management practices should be changed. Utilisation of a range of tools to combat vandalism will continue to be investigated and implemented where appropriate. For example, the first stage of a project led by Feilding and District Promotions in the Central Business District to introduce CCTV cameras as a crime prevention measure may be able to be replicated in other parts of the district, as appropriate.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

4.1 Not applicable.

5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

Significance of Decision

5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

Māori and Cultural Engagement

5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

6.1 Operational budgets and planned renewal budgets have historically been used to respond to vandalism. Renewal budgets are utilised when damaged assets are nearing the end of their lifecycle and it is considered that asset replacement is a better option than repair.

6.2 Council has the option of using its self-insurance fund for higher valued vandalism costs. Utilisation of this fund is subject to a \$5,000 excess.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

7.1 There are no financial implications that require decision-making associated with this report.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

8.1 There are no statutory requirements for this report.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 Data will continue to be collected to enable future reporting on vandalism, graffiti and theft.