

Waikato District Council Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan



About the plan

- Partnered document between Waikato District Council and Sport Waikato
- Evidence-based
 - Active NZ, 2021
 - Statistics NZ, 2018
 - Sport NZ, 2018
 - Community Survey
 - Regional Sports Organisation Survey (distributed at a regional level and including those National Sports Organisations based in the Waikato)
 - Local Club Survey
 - Census, 2018

Purpose of the plan

- To bring together Council and Sport Waikato workstreams across Play, Active Recreation and Sport
- To influence activity levels and overall wellbeing of the Waikato district
- To provide guidance for strategic investment and fully optimised facilities
- Help to inform LTP, master plans and other investment decision-making processes
- Formal evidence-based document
 - Living document
 - 10-year lens with a 3-year review to give opportunity to flex and reprioritise



Key themes

Reducing barriers to participation:

-  Time
-  Cost
-  Quality opportunities
-  Accessibility and inclusion
-  Connectivity

Partnerships:

- Sport Waikato
- Council
- Sports Clubs
- Communities
- Co-funding/investment



Play

- ▶ Intrinsically motivated, freely chosen activities with no predetermined outcome.
- ▶ Play is spontaneous, fun, accessible, challenging, social, repeatable, and occurring anywhere at any time.
- ▶ Play for tamariki is personally directed with limited or no adult involvement but can also be undertaken together by whānau.



Play

Strategic Priority	Focus	Action	Responsibility ⁵	Priority
Play	Neighbourhood Play System	Identify and address opportunities and barriers for tamariki to play in their school and community through Neighbourhood Play System approach.	SW C	Medium
Play	Play Streets	Identify community neighbourhoods where Play Street initiatives may increase or enhance safe play alongside positive social engagement.	C SW	Community driven
Play	Play on the Way	Consider incorporating play elements and opportunities through school grounds, footpaths, streets, alleys, green spaces, waterways, industrial zones, marae, churches and shops—to promote play every day.	C SW	High
Play	Play Trailer	Investigate the need for community play trailer within the district. Partnership approaches should be considered between councils and organisations to fund, manage and maintain, specifically considering rural communities and kaahui ako (school communities of learning).	C SW	Community driven
Play	Playground Renewals	Where playgrounds are highlighted to be renewed, consideration for co-design of engaging age-appropriate play opportunities, family-friendly social spaces, and meeting standards for universal design should be included. Considerations are put forward to the Asset Management Plans for Open Spaces.	C	High
Play	Play Trail	Consider blue, green and grey space sites suitable for connected and engaging play opportunities, such as play trails, and as part of town concept planning Example of proposed inclusion to the Ngaaruawaahia, Hopu Hopu, Taupiri Structure Plan.	C SW	Medium
Play	Nature Play	Explore locations for natural play opportunities outside of built playgrounds. (e.g., Wetlands, water, planted areas, orchards).	C SW	Medium
Play	Cultural Play	Work with communities to identify suitable sites to co-design traditional cultural play opportunities (e.g., mara hupara playgrounds and features)	C SW	Medium

Active Recreation

- Active Recreation includes all other forms of activity, other than sport, that require some level of physical exertion as a core element.
- Active Recreation is undertaken by people for enjoyment in their own free time with a reasonable expectation that participation will increase physical fitness and may include indoor or outdoor activities.

Active Recreation

Strategic Priority	Focus	Action	Responsibility ⁵	Priority
Active Recreation	Cycling	Continue supporting those providing for cycling provision with focus on connectedness between existing urban environment and specific cycling locations (e.g. Raglan Town2Surf, Te Awa Cycleway extension, Pukekohe)	C	Medium
Active Recreation	School Travel Plans	Continue to support active transport opportunities to and from school through school partnerships, design, infrastructure and footpaths, cycle paths maintenance.	C	On-going
Active Recreation	Connectivity	Continue to develop a connected, accessible and maintained network of footpaths, tracks, trails and bridle paths for everyday micro-mobility and equine journeys, and recreation opportunities within grey, blue and green open spaces. Consider last mile trips within communities, as well as intra and inter district links and loops. Item is addressed in the Connectivity Strategy (Review 2024)	C	High
Active Recreation	Dog Friendly Areas	Consider availability and access to on and off leash areas for dogs where people can safely recreate. (e.g. Pokeno, Te Kowhai, Pukemoremore) Considerations to occur through eventual review of the Dog Bylaw, Reserve Management Plans and omnibus Open Spaces Strategy review.	C	Low
Active Recreation	Natural Bodies of Water	Investigate recommendations that come out of Waikato Regional Natural Bodies of Water strategy, that will include both on and off water investment recommendations and consider key user groups (e.g., Rowing, waka ama) and specific places (e.g., Lake Puketirini, Waikato Awa).	C SW	Medium
Active Recreation	Equestrian Activities	Continue to engage equestrian groups and riders within relevant policies and strategies to provide safe and appropriate access to the bridle path network. Support for the creation of a Regional Equestrian Strategy. Consideration of bridle trails in the Connectivity Strategy review (Draft 2024).	C SW	High
Active Recreation	Seniors Activities	Investigate the current provision of appropriate and accessible physical activities for senior adults, with a focus on traditional sport offer (e.g., bowls, croquet) alongside emerging sport (e.g., pickleball) and as a way to optimise existing facilities (e.g., community halls), and open space locations (e.g., fitness parks and trails).	SW C	

Sport

- Sport has institutionalised rules, competition, and conditions of play (e.g., time, space/boundaries, equipment).
- It has a formalised structure and a recognised representative body at a local club, regional, and/or national level.
- Participation in sport is typically defined by competition between people or teams to determine an outcome/winner.

Sport

Strategic Priority	Focus	Action	Responsibility ⁵	Priority
Sport	Hubbing	<p>Continue to support sport and community hubbing projects encouraging clubs and community groups to combine resources, share and optimise facilities, share costs and services, and develop new ideas. Particular focus should be applied to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dr John Lightbody Reserve – Raahui Pookeka Lake Hakanoa Domain User Groups – Raahui Pookeka West Sport Complex – Matangi – Raglan Naturally – Pokeno – Munro Block User Groups – Te Kowhai – New Sport Platform – Future Ohinewai Development – Naike Community Wellbeing Hub – Te Akau-Waingaro 	SW C	
Sport	Squash	<p>Work with the Clubs to investigate opportunities to raise the quality of squash court provision in Raahui Pookeka and Ngaaruawaahia and consider whether optimisation may be an appropriate strategy, taking into account accessibility of provision. This exploration may be completed in associated with the Hamilton City study of court provision – Medium Priority</p> <p>Continue to support clubs with existing plans to upgrade facilities, or those with low facility quality or membership ratios to improve the quality of provision as a mechanism to grow participation (e.g., Raahui Pookeka Huntly, Ngaaruawaahia, Te Akau-Waingaro)</p>	SW C	
Sport	Softball	Support the continued development of Softball in the Waikato district at existing locations (e.g., Ngaaruawaahia, Tuakau) and inactive sites (e.g., Raahui Pookeka) and possible new locations (e.g., Pokeno, Rangiriri)	SW C	Community driven
Sport	Rugby League	Support the development of Rugby League in the Waikato District with facility developments (e.g., Davies Park, Taniwharau), along with governance, coaching, funding, and targeted participation assistance in partnership with Waikato and NZ Rugby League.	SW C	Community driven

Sport

Strategic Priority	Focus	Action	Responsibility ⁵	Priority
Sport	Low-cost and Localised options	Explore in partnership with communities, schools, clubs, RSOs, organisations and funding partners the co-design of localised zero/low-cost/koha provision of play, sport and active recreation offering with an increased focus on space utilisation/optimisation and community engagement and opportunities outside of traditional competition structures (e.g., localised competitions, whaanau days, cross-code festival days). Consider the staging and support required to plan, deliver and exit. (e.g., Raahui Pookeka, Active Me Kia Tu fund, Tuu Manawa)	SW C	High
Sport	Resources and Signposting	Continue to identify and signpost clubs and organisations to find the support, programmes and resources they require from Regional Sporting Organisations, National Sporting Organisations, Sport Waikato, Sport NZ, Council or another external provider. (e.g., Waikato Institute Leadership in Sport, Community Waikato, Recreation Aotearoa).	SW C	
Sport	Insights and Evaluation	Continue to utilise insights and evaluation to support accurate and evidence-based identification of trends and opportunities. Gather data on user numbers and visitor survey insights.	SW	High
Sport	Emerging Sports	Consider provision for emerging sports such as lacrosse, ki o rahi, and disc sports. Identify opportunities to incorporate provision into existing and/or planned facilities (e.g., Munro road Sports Park, Te Kowhai, Tuakau)	SW C	Community Led

Spaces and Places

- Spaces and Places refers to the locality, or preferred locality, where community physical activity occurs, whether this is play, active recreation or sport, and regardless of whether this occurs across built infrastructure or across informal natural settings.



Spaces and Places

Strategic Priority	Focus	Action	Responsibility ⁵	Priority
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Indoor/Outdoor Court Provision	<p>Recommendation that council explore indoor and outdoor court provision priority in line with projected growth. Consideration to be given to Hamilton City's indoor sub-regional indoor court project and recommendations from the national indoor and outdoor strategy (due for release in late 2023). Possible exploration in partnership with Hamilton City Council and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Also COLA Systems and Court Covers</p> <p>Review through the Community Facilities Strategy (Draft 2024) and impending omnibus Open Spaces Strategy review</p>	C SW	Medium
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Floodlighting	Floodlighting should be considered as part of any sport field upgrades – especially alongside sand-based fields. Council might like to consider working with partner funders to provide a comprehensive, maintained and accessible floodlight network.	C SW	Medium
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Aquatic Spaces	Explore the current network, capacity, unmet needs and future supply for uncovered, covered, aquatic facilities in built (e.g., pools, splash pads) locations. Review district wide aquatic investment programme in accordance with Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan and National Aquatic Facilities Strategy 2023 recommendations.	C SW	High
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Playing Fields	<p>Rerun the field supply and demand modelling undertaken in 2020 to take account of updated field supply, sports membership data and population projections. Develop or upgrade sports fields to increase capacity in line with the recommendations of the Central Waikato Sub-Region Winter Sports Field Study (Global Leisure Group September 2020), and Waikato Artificial Turf Study (Visitor Solutions 2023).</p> <p>Encourage collaboration across users to support shared field usage maintaining a regional network approach in line with Waikato Regional Sport Transition Plan.</p> <p>Recommendations are that the Council focus heavily on improving the quality of the existing sports field network through drainage and irrigation projects across a range of field soil and sand types.</p>	C	High

Spaces and Places

Strategic Priority	Focus	Action	Responsibility ⁵	Priority
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Green Gym, Nature and Restoration	Consideration could also be given to synergistic opportunities between active recreation, and conservation (e.g., Wetland development and restoration through initiatives like Good Gym and Green Gym).	SW C	Low
Physical Activity in Space and Place	Diversity, Inclusion & Access	<p>Any new or existing facility development ensures principles of accessibility and inclusion (for example, race, gender, age, ability). Encourage local clubs to provide programmes that ensure principles of accessibility and inclusion are considered (for example, race, gender, age, ability).</p> <p>Consideration of these principles should be applied at every Capital project for Open Spaces and Facilities. Where necessary an internal guidance document will be created.</p>	C	High
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Amenities	<p>Careful consideration for investment into amenities (i.e., change facilities, drinking, shade, seating, rubbish bins) at recreation reserves across the district. From the community survey, this is highlighted as being a high priority. Consider alongside master planning of sports fields, and concept designs (i.e., Munro Block, Te Kowhai).</p> <p>A review of amenities to occur alongside Reserve Management Plan reviews</p>	C	High

Spaces and Places

Strategic Priority	Focus	Action	Responsibility ⁵	Priority
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Tracks and Trails	<p>Work with Herenga a Nuku Aotearoa to develop a network map that provides a hierarchy of provision, reflecting access, proximity and challenge of each track and trail (through associated technology provider e.g., Plan My Walk, Pocket Maps). Develop a connected boundaryless cycling and waling network that links to other play, active recreation and sport sites, leveraging central government support through Regional Land Transport Plan and associated Waka Kotahi Cycling Plan. Continue investment in development of cycling and walking tracks and trails where need is identified while focussing on optimising and maintaining existing assets.</p> <p>Continue to invest into trails of regional significance with a focus on improving customer experience and maintaining/elevating status to 'Great Walks/Rides' (e.g. Waikato River Trail, Te Awa Cycle Way, Te Araroa).</p> <p>Focus on flexible, accessible and inclusive provision for all, including low participation groups and aging population taking into account Accessible Outdoors Guidelines developed by Recreation Aotearoa and Mountain Biking Trail Guidelines 2023.</p> <p>Consideration to be included in the Connectivity Strategy Review (Draft 2024)</p>	C SW	High
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Gymnastics	<p>Work proactively with key stakeholders such as Council, Gymsports Clubs and the MOE/Schools to explore long term use/lease agreements and facility partnership approaches to secure quality Gymsports access to facilities.</p> <p>Prior to any major renewals or upgrades, undertake a needs and options analysis. If a need is identified, undertake a feasibility and business case analysis prior to developing any new facilities/refurbishments.</p> <p>Consideration included in the Community Facilities Strategy (Draft 2024)</p>	C SW	Community led
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Business Cases	<p>Feasibility and business cases progressed for all subregional facility development recommendations relevant to Waikato District as outlined in the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan.</p>	C SW	On-going

Spaces and Places

- Holiday Skatepark Delivery – Waikato/Hamilton/Waipā
- Changing Room Upgrades
- Funding for Needs and Feasibility
- Kia Tu Sport NZ
- Portable Pump Track



Any questions?