

# **ATTACHMENTS**

## **Ordinary Council Meeting**

**4 April 2023**

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5.1 Hearings and Deliberations on the draft Recreation and Sport Strategy Principles

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Points Raised: Parks and Reserves	Officers Response
<p><b>More shade a playgrounds (22)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shade sails / cloths (11)</li> <li>• Also rain shelters (3)</li> <li>• Slides get to hot (can burn) (7)</li> <li>• To stop sunburn (and skin cancer) (9)</li> <li>• Taupō Domain (1)</li> <li>• And more seating and near play equipment (so can watch kids) (3)</li> <li>• Babies need lots of sun protection (1)</li> <li>• Kinloch (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers recommend shade be included as an objective for our reserve network across the district.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term-plan will consider the timing, location, options, and costs for provision of shade.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>More pathways (8)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage walking and fitness (especially for elderly and young people) (1)</li> <li>• Fitness and sport areas like petanque, and disc golf in Motuoapa reserves (1)</li> <li>• Support better and safer alternatives to car travel (2)</li> <li>• Lions Walkway should be upgraded (1)</li> <li>• Tourism asset (2)</li> <li>• Most used public space (1)</li> <li>• Creatively connecting existing walkways, and leveraging local private partners to achieve this (1)</li> <li>• Prioritise investment (e.g. ETA shared path was fine as gravel, but Waitahanui waterfront path is sandy and no good. (1)</li> <li>• Gravel rather than concrete to save costs (1)</li> <li>• Kinloch - pathway connecting existing footpath on Kinloch Rd &amp; Oakdale Rd. (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that the principles already capture the desire for improvement to the shared path network.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term-plan will consider the timing, location, options, and costs for provision of shared paths.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>Recreation is broader than reserves and sportsgrounds (1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpaths support walking, exercising dogs, running, kids cycling, pushing strollers, greeting neighbours. They are probably the most used recreational assets. This should be a focus of the strategy (1)</li> <li>• For example, the new Wharewaka subdivisions, which have a fantastic network of attractively planted, interconnected</li> </ul>	<p>Officers recommend adjusting the wording around shared paths to be more inclusive of urban development areas and footpaths.</p>

<p>pathways, which allow people to walk, cycle and play. Whereas other areas are all closed cul-de-sacs, or private roads with no path links (e.g. Mapara). (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take a more holistic view as to what recreation means in our community (1)</li> <li>• develop a more coherent view of how we value and foster recreation in the design and development of our towns (1)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>More stuff for older kids (8)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 on 3 basketball courts (can be turf to cut down noise) (1)</li> <li>• Work with regional and national sporting bodies who may support community reserves (e.g. Basketball NZ "Hoop in the heart of every community" initiative) (1)</li> <li>• More Public Basketball courts (3)</li> <li>• More public tennis courts (2)</li> <li>• Tennis court in the south side of Taupō (1)</li> <li>• More football goals in our reserves (1)</li> <li>• Basketball court and Lighting at Pihanga Reserve (1)</li> <li>• Nga Roto Estate (1)</li> <li>• Wharewaka Point (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers recommend activities for a range of ages be included as an objective for our reserve network across the district.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term plan will consider the timing, location, options and costs for provision of shade.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>Skatepark (3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New larger one (1)</li> <li>• Skate Rink for roller derby (1)</li> <li>• Hamilton, Palmerston one's good examples (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers recommend skateparks be included as an example of the range of activities in our reserve network across the district.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term plan will consider the timing, location, options and costs for provision of skateparks.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>More / better maintenance and mowing (7)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many parks and reserves look messy (2)</li> <li>• Screams neglect (1)</li> <li>• This is important, affects spirit / pride / community wellbeing (1)</li> <li>• New mowing and maintenance strategies needed (1)</li> </ul>	<p>The current Council service level and funding is based on keeping grass heights within a range rather than frequency of mowing. These ranges include high profile reserves (town centres) 30mm to 50mm, standard reserves (neighbourhood parks) 40mm to 80mm, and basic (stormwater gullies) 50mm to 150mm.</p> <p>Service levels and funding requirements could be reviewed through the long term plan.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce number of mow areas to better manage important ones, and reduce emissions (3)</li> <li>• Work with community / volunteers to support maintenance (3)</li> <li>• More frequent mowing in Kinloch (1)</li> <li>• Mowed areas getting smaller which looks bad (1)</li> <li>• Too many invasive weeds (1)</li> <li>• Adopt a reserve concept (1)</li> <li>• Park equipment not maintained (3)</li> </ul>	<p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>Improve accessibility (5)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including for prams and buggies (1)</li> <li>• Gates Park (1)</li> <li>• Wheelchair access (1)</li> <li>• Wheelchair ramp into the lake (3)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that these issues are captured by the principle of inclusive and accessible.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term-plan will consider the timing, location, options, and costs for accessibility works.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>More Toilets in reserves (5)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important for kids especially young families (2)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that this issue is captured by the objectives for reserves including supporting amenities such as toilets and benches.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term-plan will consider the timing, location, options, and costs for adding toilets to parks/reserves.</p>
<p><b>Natural weed management (4)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree in principle, but sometimes need to use more intensive eradication methods (2)</li> <li>• Shouldn't be an excuse for doing less (1)</li> <li>• Weeds should not block access and noxious weeds should be removed (1)</li> <li>• Weeds should not be considered natural cover (1)</li> <li>• Need to prevent seeding and spreading to new areas (1)</li> <li>• Use natives for shade (as weed management) (1)</li> <li>• Comply with Regional Pest Management Plan (1)</li> <li>• Reserve boundaries should be clearly marked (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that this issue is captured by the objectives for reserves including the principle of prioritising but not exclusively using natural processes.</p> <p>Council has an existing policy which sets the preference for natural weed management but acknowledges that this is not appropriate in all cases.</p>

<p><b>Enhancing the environment (3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More planting of native trees and plants (which enhance biodiversity and store carbon) (2)</li> <li>• Protection areas for biodiversity (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that this principle is captured through the principle of enhancing the local environment.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term-plan will consider the timing, location, options, and costs for adding planting programmes for parks/reserves.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>More community participation (3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More community involved in native planting, pest control, habitat for wildlife (bug and lizard refuges, wildflower areas for pollinators), nature play areas, fruit and nut trees, etc (1)</li> <li>• Opportunities for local community to be kaitiaki of local areas. (1)</li> <li>• Encourage public / volunteers to support maintenance and weeding (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that this principle is captured through the principle of community participation.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>More dog areas (3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not just dog parks – but walking areas / open paddocks (1)</li> <li>• Fencing (1)</li> <li>• Fenced Dog park for Taupō. Prevent runaway dogs. Support puppy training (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that this issue is captured through the objectives for the reserve network which includes safe spaces for dogs to be exercised off leash.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term-plan will consider the timing, location, options, and costs for appropriate dog exercise areas.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>Erosion protection (2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakeshore protection reserve adjacent to 9 Ferry Road requires stabilisation to support Taupō Rowing club and Taupō Waka Ama (1).</li> <li>• 2m of lakefront gone near yacht club (1)</li> </ul>	<p>This is outside of the scope of the recreation and sport strategy. This is part of Councils wider erosion management strategy. This feedback has been passed onto the relevant team.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term-plan will consider the timing, location, options, and costs for beach replenishment and erosion protection programmes.</p>
<p><b>More rubbish bins (2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More regularly emptied (1)</li> <li>• More recycling bins</li> </ul>	<p>This is outside of the scope of the recreation and sport strategy. This is part of Councils wider waste management process. This feedback has been passed onto the relevant team.</p>

<p><b>Private encroachment onto council reserves is a problem (2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People creating barriers to others accessibility (2)</li> <li>• People cutting vegetation, trees, and making private tracks (e.g. for Kayaks to the lake) (1)</li> <li>• More action on private annexing and exploitation of reserves. Council doesn't act and turns a blind eye (1)</li> <li>• Te Kopua Reserve (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Council is aware there has been encroachment on reserves. We have an existing process to address encroachment, if members of the public believe there is encroachment, then they are encouraged to raise a service request so that it can be investigated by Council staff.</p> <p>There is work ongoing by reserves staff to address encroachment across the district.</p>
<p><b>More and better playgrounds (1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More things for Kids (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that this issue is captured through the objectives for the reserve network</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term-plan will consider the timing, location, options, and costs for any new playgrounds or playground improvements.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>Other (9)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only make changes within Council's mandate (1)</li> <li>• No golf carts at spa park. Already issues with disc golf, walkers and dogs. All vehicle should be banned (1)</li> <li>• Fencing off areas, like in town centre recently is unnecessary and creates inconvenience (1)</li> <li>• Shops not accessible (1)</li> <li>• Planning should have been better (1)</li> <li>• Fitness doesn't always need sport grounds (1)</li> <li>• District plan, ban private roads (1)</li> <li>• Harsher fines and more enforcement officers for dogs' droppings (1)</li> <li>• Repairing damaged and vandalised property promptly - Not the users' fault, and they need the facilities (1)</li> <li>• More enforcement presence (1)</li> </ul>	<p>These are additional issues; some are related others are outside of the scope of the recreation and sport strategy.</p> <p>To ensure these issues are addressed the summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider.</p>

<p><b>Area specific comments</b></p> <p>Kinloch (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Kinloch playgrounds - not just more of the same, but a joined up thinking with different solutions at each (1)</li> <li>• Better barriers to stop vehicles at Kinloch main lake front by the BBQ (1)</li> <li>• Replace aging playground by the community hall (including swings already removed) (1)</li> <li>• Raise or better drainage at main Kinloch domain, which is constantly wet and muddy (1)</li> <li>• Sand replacement needed at the western end (1)</li> </ul> <p>Wharewaka Point (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More playground equipment (1)</li> <li>• More bike racks (1)</li> <li>• Bike track (1)</li> </ul> <p>Omori and Kuratau (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Football Goals on the reserve by the Community Hall. (1)</li> <li>• An exercise circuit. (1)</li> <li>• An upgraded pontoon on Kuratau Beach (1)</li> <li>• poor condition of the parking area by the playground on the reserve by the Community Hall (1)</li> <li>• There is no designated parking area, cars are encroaching on the reserve (1)</li> <li>• Parking infrastructure needs to be installed and sign posted (1)</li> </ul>	<p>To ensure these issues are addressed the summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider.</p>



Points Raised: Sportsgrounds and Facilities	Officers Response
<p><b>Ice Rink (8)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great asset (3)</li> <li>• Good for tourism (2)</li> <li>• Permanent ice rink / roller rink or ski park (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that the principles and objectives for sportsgrounds and facilities address this issue. The strategy states "Council will provide a sportsgrounds and facilities network across the district, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meets the needs of the community</li> <li>• supports a wide range of activities for all ages</li> <li>• supports sports at all levels – from social to competition.</li> <li>• provides a variety of playing surfaces (e.g. water, grass, concrete, indoor, turf)</li> <li>• supports events.</li> </ul> <p>We believe this allows for an Ice Rink but if elected members want this option to be explored, they will need to direct council officers to investigate this as part of the long term plan.</p>
<p><b>Netball Courts (3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor condition (2)</li> <li>• Lack of investment (2)</li> <li>• Need lights (1)</li> </ul> <p><b>More indoor court space (2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term need for increased indoor, multisport facilities (1)</li> <li>• Indoor recreation centre for over 70s (1)</li> <li>• Indoor facility in Kinloch (1)</li> <li>• Prioritising what must be held at the Taupo Events Centre and helping other sports who only require a hard surface to find other solutions (1)</li> </ul> <p><b>Owen Delany Park (2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More funding needed (1)</li> <li>• Changing room upgrades (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that the principles and objectives for sportsgrounds and facilities address this issue.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term-plan will consider the timing, location, options, and costs for any new sports grounds, facilities or asset improvements/renewals.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>2nd Hockey Turf (1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could even be high quality grass (1)</li> <li>• Needs to be fenced off to avoid vehicles (1)</li> <li>• Taupō misses out on hockey tournaments due to having only one turf (1)</li> <li>• There isn't enough hockey space - school teams are restricted and practice times are very tight</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that the principles and objectives for sportsgrounds and facilities address this issue.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term-plan will consider the timing, location, options, and costs for any new sports grounds or facilities.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded facilities could support wider community groups (Rugby, league), and school groups</li> <li>Would support introduction to hockey for schools or kids wanting to try hockey on a slower turf.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community water sport facility (1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of storage means boats get vandalised (1)</li> <li>Culturally significant (1)</li> <li>Need a 20m long 16m wide building (1)</li> <li>Work with Council, TMTB, Waka Ama, Yacht Club, Rowing Club (1)</li> <li>Beneficial to the community and local economy (1)</li> </ul> <p><b>Disc Golf (1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Congestion at spa park (1)</li> <li>Need for other reserves for disc golf Riverside Park, Whakaipo, Owen Delaney (1)</li> </ul>	<p>the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>More covered, outdoor, hard surfaces play areas (1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More poor / wet weather reducing playing days (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that the principles and objectives for sportsgrounds and facilities address this issue.</p> <p>Asset management plans and the long-term-plan will consider the timing, location, options, and costs for any new sports grounds or facilities.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>Event and local sport balance (1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs to be better (1)</li> <li>More flexibility (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that the principle of “access to community sportsgrounds and facilities will be fairly balanced between both local sport and events”</p>

Points Raised: Supporting Recreation and Sports Club and Organisations	Officers Response
<p><b>Support for clubs and organisations (7)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No financial support (cash), cheaper rents/leases, or perhaps rates discounts (1)</li> <li>Provide grants to clubs who support community wellbeing (1)</li> <li>Better use of council grants, which are a significant total budget. (1)</li> <li>Transparency around budgets and where funds are used (1)</li> <li>Funding for Taupō disc golf club to support maintenance costs (1)</li> <li>Support for Radio Control Car club. Track at spa park is in bad state. Doesn't have to be money, could be professional digger / driver assistance. (1)</li> <li>Agree with support for running and managing clubs and finding 3rd party funding (1)</li> <li>Sport House (Lake Taupo District Sports Advisory Council) is invaluable (2)</li> <li>Council does provide good support (1)</li> <li>Sports Advisory funding is poor. Grants of \$500 are worthless. Needs review to ensure better links and connections to current thinking and trends (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that the principles for supporting local organisations will help address these issues including better targeted funding and improving transparency.</p> <p>The long-term-plan will consider the amount of funding allocated for community grants by Council.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team and the Community Development team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>Fees and charges (5)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost of leasing a reserve is prohibitive (for group of friends to play sports together) (1)</li> <li>Cheaper pools (and slides) for locals (2)</li> <li>Fair costs for facilities that are fit for use (1)</li> <li>Use of council reserves and facilities to lease at fair cost (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that the principle that “Council will provide the use of pools, sportsgrounds and facilities at fair cost” will help address this issue.</p> <p>Fees and charges are reviewed as part of both the annual plan and long-term plans.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>
<p><b>Hubbing (2)</b></p> <p>Some clubs do not want to hub (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We've got our own building – its our home (1)</li> </ul>	<p>We have heard many perspectives on hubbing or physically locating clubs together. While there are definite financial benefits there can be some practical difficulties.</p> <p>The strategy signals that Council will <b>not</b> be forcing clubs to hub but is happy to help</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We don't want to have to pack up stuff that takes a long time to set up. (1)</li> <li>• Continue to provide affordable leases to individual clubs (1)</li> </ul> <p>Purpose built sports and recreation hub in AC baths area. (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do away with the individual buildings and bring them into one purpose built facility. (1)</li> <li>• Better utilise the space, work collaboratively, and reach out better to young people (1)</li> </ul>	<p>promote colocation and can potentially support clubs and organisation to come together to share space/resources. This will also be a consideration when Council is looking to allocate its limited funding.</p>
<p><b>Taupō model Rail Clubs' hobby expo (1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important to support financial existence of club (1)</li> <li>• Supports all other hobbies too (1)</li> <li>• Working with Council to provide shared opportunities with all other hobbies groups (1)</li> <li>• Costs increased for used of Taupo Events Centre auditorium – based on charging for an extra day beforehand to prepare the area (carpet and power), and an extra day afterwards to pack up (carpet and power)– this is excessive and unaffordable. (1)</li> </ul>	<p>Officers believe that the principle that “Council will provide the use of pools, sportsgrounds and facilities at fair cost” will help address this issue.</p> <p>Fees and charges are reviewed as part of both the annual plan and long-term plans.</p> <p>The summary of submissions, including specific areas and problems raised, will be passed on to the relevant asset team to consider through this process.</p>

**RECREATION & SPORT STRATEGY - PROPOSED ONLINE CONTENT****LANDING PAGE****What are we aiming to achieve through this strategy?**

1. This strategy provides a clear framework and direction for Council and the wider sports and recreation sector to work together to provide fantastic sports and recreation opportunities in Taupō district.
2. There are two core problems that this strategy resolves. The first is that many clubs request Council support at various times. Support has been provided at some times and not others, and in a range of ways and formats, such that clubs are unclear how and when they can seek or expect Council support.
3. This strategy resolves this by:
  - Defining Council's role and responsibilities
  - Establishing a clear framework for how Council will support sports and recreation clubs
4. The second core problem is that the sector wants to know what Council's plans are for addressing pressures on its facilities, and how is it aiming to develop and improve its sport and recreation spaces overtime. The strategy resolves this by providing a clear framework for how council will plan and manage its sport and recreation facilities. It also sets out clear objectives and direction on areas of focus for improvements.

## RECREATION & SPORT STRATEGY - PROPOSED ONLINE CONTENT

### SUMMARY PAGE

#### Summary – Where we are

Some great council facilities. Many are popular and loved.

But there are opportunities to:

- Catch up to recent strong growth
- Make improvements to meet modern needs and standards
- Improve accessibility
- Ensure we hit the right balance between local sports and events

Some fantastic sports and recreation clubs that provide amazing opportunities and support Taupō district to be a great place to live.

But there are opportunities to:

- Improve financial sustainability and resilience so these great opportunities remain
- Co-ordinate investment and resources to reduce costs and make the most of what we have

Lots of reserve land and open spaces. Some are popular, loved, and connect us to world class natural spaces.

But there are opportunities to:

- Catch up on the growth and popularity of informal recreation
- Deliver environmental improvements that make our reserves even better places to enjoy
- Tell our local stories
- Expand and improve our shared path network

#### Summary – Where we want to be by 2035

Great sports and recreation facilities that support a wide range of sports and recreation activities

- Sports grounds and facilities that are highly used, highly valued, and meet the needs of the community
- Affordable, resilient, and financially sustainable council assets

Great sports and recreation opportunities that make Taupō a great place to live

- Resilient and financially sustainable sports and recreation clubs
- Inclusive, accessible, and affordable sport and recreation
- Coordinated investment and resources

Amazing reserve network that enhances our environment, tells our local stories, and we love getting out to enjoy it

- Reserves that are highly used and highly valued and meet the needs of the community
- Te ao Māori is valued and our environment is enhanced
- Great, highly used shared path network and connections

## RECREATION &amp; SPORT STRATEGY - PROPOSED ONLINE CONTENT

**Community parks and Reserves**

Community parks and reserves are important because they provide a space for people to connect with nature, engage in physical activity, and socialize with others. These spaces serve as a hub for community gatherings and events, and often include amenities such as playgrounds, walking trails, and seating. Parks and reserves can also provide environmental benefits by preserving natural habitats and supporting biodiversity. Community parks and reserves play a critical role in fostering healthy, connected communities and promoting a sustainable future.

**Guiding principles for Reserves and Parks**

<b>Principle 1</b>	Council has a role to provide parks and open spaces across the district that provide opportunities for people to get out, get moving or simply get some fresh air and interact with nature.
<b>Principle 2</b>	<p>Council will provide a reserve network across the district, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most houses in urban areas are within a short walkable distance from a neighbourhood park, which has a basic playground and somewhere to kick a ball around.</li> <li>Most houses in urban areas are within a short drive or cycle from a community park. This is a larger play space that supports more activities. It should be a community hub for informal recreation, with a more substantial playground, hard and soft play surfaces (for example, a field with goals, and a hard court for basketball or tennis, <u>or a skatepark or pump track</u>) and a larger recreation space with supporting amenities such as toilets and benches. Examples are Besley Park, Brice Street Reserve, and Te Kapua Park.</li> <li>Bush areas, waterfront reserves and gullies support open recreation, access to our lakes and waterways, play, leisure, walking, cycling and picnicking.</li> <li><u>Safe spaces are available for dogs to be exercised off-leash.</u></li> <li><u>Playgrounds have appropriate shade.</u></li> <li><u>There are activities to support a range of ages and abilities.</u></li> </ul>
<b>Principle 3</b>	Community reserves will be managed so they enhance the local environment.
<b>Principle 4</b>	Community reserves will be inclusive and accessible so everyone in our community can get out and enjoy them.
<b>Principle 5</b>	<u>New development, footpaths and</u> Community reserves will be progressively improved to enhance our shared pathway network and connections.
<b>Principle 6</b>	<p>Local communities will be given the opportunity to participate in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying what needs to be improved</li> <li>Enhancing community reserves.</li> </ul>
<b>Principle 7</b>	Weed management will take a long-term holistic approach that prioritises natural processes.

## RECREATION &amp; SPORT STRATEGY - PROPOSED ONLINE CONTENT

**COMMUNITY SPORTSGROUNDS AND FACILITIES**

Community sportsgrounds, facilities, and pools are important because they should provide accessible opportunities for physical activity, sports, and recreation. Council facilities offer space for a range of activities that cater to diverse interests and skill levels, promoting physical health and well-being. Community sportsgrounds, facilities, and pools play an important role in promoting social connections and community engagement, as they offer spaces for people to gather and participate in shared activities. These spaces also serve as important venues for local events and competitions, contributing to the cultural and economic vitality of the district.

**Guiding principles for Sportsgrounds and Facilities**

<b>Principle 8</b>	Council has a role to provide sportsgrounds and facilities that benefit the community, but we cannot provide absolutely everything.
<b>Principle 9</b>	<p>Council will provide a sportsgrounds and facilities network across the district, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meets the needs of the community</li> <li>• supports a wide range of activities for all ages</li> <li>• supports sports at all levels – from social to competition.</li> <li>• provides a variety of playing surfaces (e.g. water, grass, concrete, indoor, turf)</li> <li>• supports events.</li> </ul>
<b>Principle 10</b>	<p>Council will support coordinated investment and shared resources across the sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To avoid duplication of services, Council will look to cooperate or partner with other organisations such as schools and clubs to make better use of facilities across the district.</li> <li>• Council will work with Sport Waikato, the Lake Taupō District Sports Advisory Council, and Tūrangi Tongariro Sports Foundation to ensure investment is made based on sector trends and meet the present and expected needs of the community.</li> </ul>
<b>Principle 11</b>	Community sportsgrounds and facilities will be inclusive, accessible, and affordable.
<b>Principle 12</b>	<p>Access to community sportsgrounds and facilities will be fairly balanced between both local sport and events. For example, setting out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the minimum number of weeks of season that will be provided for local sports seasons (with allowance for wet weather impacts)</li> <li>• a cap on the number of events per year that will disrupt local competition.</li> </ul>
<b>Principle 13</b>	Local communities and users will be given the opportunity to participate in identifying what needs to be improved to meet their changing needs.



**RECREATION & SPORT STRATEGY - PROPOSED ONLINE CONTENT****SUPPORTING RECREATION AND SPORTS ORGANISATIONS**

Our local recreation and sporting clubs add so much to our communities and Council has a role to play in supporting them. Currently council provides support through grants that are distributed by the Sports Advisory Council. These grants help our local organisations with smaller one-off costs but we know they face other challenges. While we cannot do everything, we think these are the best ways that we can support local clubs.

**Guiding principles for supporting organisations**

<b>Principle 14</b>	Council recognises that there are many recreation and sports organisations that provide choices and opportunities that make Taupō district a great place to live. While these organisations will continue to rely on their members and users for their core funding, there are ways Council can help.
<b>Principle 15</b>	Council will provide the use of pools, sportsgrounds and facilities at fair cost.
<b>Principle 16</b>	Council will provide reserve land for sports and recreation clubs to lease at a fair cost where we are not making a profit.
<b>Principle 17</b>	Council will provide a budget of contestable grants for recreation and sports clubs who support the community wellbeing.
<b>Principle 18</b>	Council will provide advice to support clubs to access third party funding and become more financially resilient.
<b>Principle 19</b>	Council will consider providing some funding for large capital investments by clubs where those investments benefit a wide section of the community or have wider community benefits.

**RECREATION & SPORT STRATEGY - PROPOSED ONLINE CONTENT****FOCUS AREAS FOR UPCOMING THE LONG-TERM PLAN**

Council through the long-term plan process will look at the following projects:

- [Shade at playgrounds](#)
- [More local hard surface play areas](#)
- [Improving accessibility](#)
- [More planting in reserves](#)
- [More shared pathways](#)
- [Increasing court space at Taupō events Centre](#)
- [Improving tennis courts and netball courts at Te Kapua Park \(Turangi\)](#)

Based on community feedback these projects may be included in the long-term plan as investment areas in the sport and recreation space. By submitting feedback during the long-term plan process, community members can provide their views on council's proposed activities and investments and suggest approaches or priorities. This helps ensure that council's plans are aligned with the community's needs and values, and that public resources are being used effectively and efficiently.

## RECREATION \$ SPORT STRATEGY - PROPOSED ONLINE CONTENT

**Actions**

Council will deliver on the principles set out in the strategy by taking the following actions:

<u><b>Implementation and delivery</b></u>	
<u><b>Action 1</b></u>	<u>Council's funding policies will set out a fair balance between users and rates for key assets and services.</u>
<u><b>Action 2</b></u>	<u>Leases with sports and recreation clubs will transition towards providing land at cost by 2035.</u>
<u><b>Action 3</b></u>	<u>Council will provide a limited budget of contestable grants through its Grants and Partnerships Policy to support clubs with short-term cost pressures.</u> <u>Council will assist local clubs and organisations in applying for council grants and will provide advice and support to find other grant opportunities to become financially sustainable.</u>
<u><b>Action 4</b></u>	<u>Direction for LTP2024 – 2034</u> <u>Business and asset managers will identify investment options for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>• Shade at playgrounds</u></li> <li><u>• More local hard surface play areas</u></li> <li><u>• Improving accessibility</u></li> <li><u>• More planting in reserves</u></li> <li><u>• More shared pathways</u></li> <li><u>• Increasing court space at Taupō events Centre</u></li> <li><u>• Improving tennis courts and netball courts at Te Kapua Park (Turangi)</u></li> </ul>
<u><b>Action 5</b></u>	<u>We will improve our asset management planning by:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>• Assessing key assets against their strategic network needs to identify where improvements are needed</u></li> <li><u>• Assess levels of use against capacity at both peak and non-peak times</u></li> <li><u>• Identify asset improvement plans looking to lift standards and quality as part of renewals projects where this is practical and efficient</u></li> <li><u>• Outlining the cost of key assets and facilities relative to use to support value for money and cost comparisons</u></li> <li><u>• Outlining the cost of key assets and facilities relative to use to support value for money and cost comparisons</u></li> <li><u>• Review reserve holdings to identify low value land that could be planted, upgraded, or released, bearing in mind the outcomes we want to achieve through our strategic approaches to transport and climate change</u></li> <li><u>• Undertaking accessibility assessments so we know where to make improvements (Working with Access Taupō)</u></li> <li><u>• Outline a programme of revegetation works that will also help achieve our climate change goals (Working with Iwi/Hapu and Greening Taupō)</u></li> <li><u>• Coordinating our Transport and Reserves asset management plans to achieve an integrated shared path network over time</u></li> </ul>
<u><b>Action 6</b></u>	<u>Council will undertake a strong business case process to ensure the value for money of new investment proposals, including due consideration of:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>• investment co-ordination</u></li> </ul>

## RECREATION \$ SPORT STRATEGY - PROPOSED ONLINE CONTENT

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>other revenue and funding opportunities</u></li><li>• <u>partnership opportunities</u></li><li>• <u>level of funding from users</u></li><li>• <u>maximising existing facilities before building new ones.</u></li></ul>
<b><u>Action 7</u></b>	<u>Council will work with Sport Waikato, Sport Advisory Council and Schools (Ministry of Education) to coordinate and inform investment.</u>
<b><u>Action 8</u></b>	<u>Council will develop and maintain a venue allocation and event policy that sets out how council will balance events and local community needs.</u>
<b><u>Action 9</u></b>	<u>Weed management will take a long-term holistic approach that prioritises the use of natural processes.</u>
<b><u>Action 10</u></b>	<u>Council will closely work with Iwi and Hapū to enable them to share their stories as they deem appropriate through our reserves and facilities networks</u>