



Te Mahere Haukori, Taakaro Haakinakina o Waikato Takiwaa

PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT PLAN

2023–2028

NGAA HUA

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RAAPOPOTONGA MATUA

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New Zealanders individually and collectively value the role physical activity plays in their lives. The provision of high-quality physical activity opportunities through play, active recreation and sport, has an important role in creating healthy, vibrant, connected communities.

52% of young people (5-17 years)
59% of adults (18+ years)
do enough physical activity to positively impact their wellbeing¹

HOWEVER

70% of young people (5-17 years)
76% of adults (18+ years)
suggest they would like to do more physical activity than they currently do¹

Waikato District Council and Sport Waikato would like to work together to support the provision of play, active recreation and sport opportunities for the Waikato District community. The Waikato District (similar to the Waikato Region and New Zealand as a whole) faces a number of challenges that necessitate improved decision-making and collaborative planning.

These include:

- Limited funding
- Climate change
- Maintaining ageing assets, facility sustainability and optimisation
- Planning for growth
- Changing participation preferences
- Improving collaborative and partnered approaches
- Working with neighbouring local authorities

The Waikato District had a population of 75,618 people at the 2018 census and is projected to have a growing population for

the next 30 years. A growing and ageing population, with more than half being rural residents presents challenges when thinking about providing for play, active recreation and sport, particularly when considering access and provision that meets the needs of a growing, changing and often distanced community.

Methodology: The process of developing The Waikato District Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan included three areas of focus including surveying of community members, clubs and regional sporting organisations, secondary data analysis (identifying trends in activity preferences and district demographics).

Strategic priorities and recommendations: The plan aligns with Moving Waikato – the region's strategy for physical activity, which has a vision of 'everyone active' and sets out the organisational goal of having 75% of all Waikato adults and young people active enough to positively impact their wellbeing by 2030. Additional relevant plans have been reviewed to ensure the Waikato District Play, Active Recreation and Sport

Plan supports their goals and objectives.

Strategic priorities and recommendations are included within each section for play, active recreation sport and physical activity spaces, along with an action plan that outlines the focus area, task, lead responsibility, funding and priority timeframes, outcomes and supporting the strategic outcomes for both the Waikato District and Sport Waikato.



KOORERO WHAIMARAMA

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Overview and Purpose

Physical activity through play, active recreation and sport has a crucial role in supporting community health and wellbeing outcomes. It plays an important part in building communities that are healthy, vibrant, resilient and connected while helping people to improve their overall physical, mental, social and emotional health. As a collective, New Zealanders value the role that physical activity plays in their lives.

84% of adults (18+ years)
89% of young people (5-17 years)
feel that being physically active is important¹

52% of young people (5-17 years)
59% of adults (18+ years)
do enough physical activity to positively impact their wellbeing¹

The Waikato region (and Aotearoa/New Zealand more broadly) has some fantastic natural resources (e.g., lakes, rivers, waterways and coastlines) and publicly-provided/managed facilities (e.g., indoor and outdoor courts, aquatic facilities, parks and open spaces, playgrounds and play spaces, skateparks, BMX tracks, cycleways and walkways) to support people to be active, but we have some work to do to raise activity rates among people and communities in ways that help to lower our high rates of non-communicable health issues and instances of psychological stress that lead to poor and declining mental health².

Despite understanding the benefits of being active, barriers to participation remain for people and communities, reflecting rapid changes within our society where people are increasingly time-poor and cash-strapped and therefore, the ways they desire to or can participate are changing.

Future planning needs to recognise these changing needs and demands and help to provide for participants in ways that support access to quality opportunities to be physically active via play, active recreation and sport for life.

For Council, the Plan provides direction on what should be done and crucially, focusing

The purpose of this Plan is to provide guidance and direction in the provision of play, active recreation and sport in the Waikato District. It provides a strategic framework for investment in play, active recreation and sport in the district using evidence from a range of national, regional and local sources (e.g., local play, active recreation and sport providers, community members) to map current and future priorities that will enhance the participation levels and experiences of people and communities in the Waikato District.

thinking on the maximising of current assets, supporting evidence-based decision-making about current facility provision and potential future needs, opportunities for partnership and responding to changing participation trends and preferences.

For both Sport Waikato and Council, the Plan provides guidance on strategic approaches to the delivery of services to improve experiences of participants, grow participation and support sustainability.

Waikato District Council and Sport Waikato work in partnership for the delivery of services that support the people of the district to access play, active recreation and sport opportunities.

By working together as lead agencies of the Plan, we will deliver a coordinated and clear

pathway of activity for the provision of play active recreation and sport for the Waikato District.

How to use this document

This plan has been developed from insights, national and regional surveys, forming evidence-based recommendations. Surveys include; Community Survey, Club Survey, RSO Survey, Active NZ, Census 2018. The plan is considered a tactical document, focused on implementation through the creation of an Action Plan. The Action Plan is designed to remain a live and be updated as goals are achieved and steer the direction and investment of the Council – Sport Waikato partnership. The outcomes of this plan are used in the development of business cases and help inform the Council's Long Term Plan.

2.2 Alignment to Strategic Focuses

Waikato District Council

Waikato District Council has a vision to work together as a district to build liveable, thriving and connected communities as townships continue to grow.

- **Liveable communities** are well-planned and people-friendly, providing for a range of quality residential options, social infrastructure, walkways and open spaces. They reflect what's important to people, and support a shared sense of belonging both to the local community and the wider district.
- **Thriving communities** participate in Council decision-making and community-led projects, provide input into the management of their local assets, and sustain the local business sector providing local employment
- **Connected communities** have fit for-purpose infrastructure to create liveable, thriving communities. Connectivity through roads, cycleways, walkways, and digital capabilities that enable rapid information sharing, and engaging in activities together. By these means, people in connected communities access services and amenities that meet their social, health, education, and employment needs.

Together with Community Boards and Committees, Council developed the following community outcomes to guide decision-making:

- **Cultural | Ahurea**

We celebrate who we are | Ka whakanui maatou i too maatou katoa

We celebrate all cultures. We treasure our diverse communities, and acknowledge our cultural rights and obligations. We honour, understand and implement Te Tiriti o Waitangi and acknowledge the relationship with mana whenua of our district.

- **Economic | Ohaoa**

We support local prosperity | Ka tautoko maatou i te houkura aa-rohe

We champion sustainable growth in our local economy. We support local enterprise and encourage innovation and socio-economic prosperity for all, while managing regulatory processes to protect and promote our unique district. We acknowledge our rural and Maori economies as key contributors to our district's prosperity and sustainability.

- **Environmental | Taiao**

Our environmental health underpins the health of our people | Ka taunaki too maatou oranga aa-taiao i te oranga o oo taatou iwi

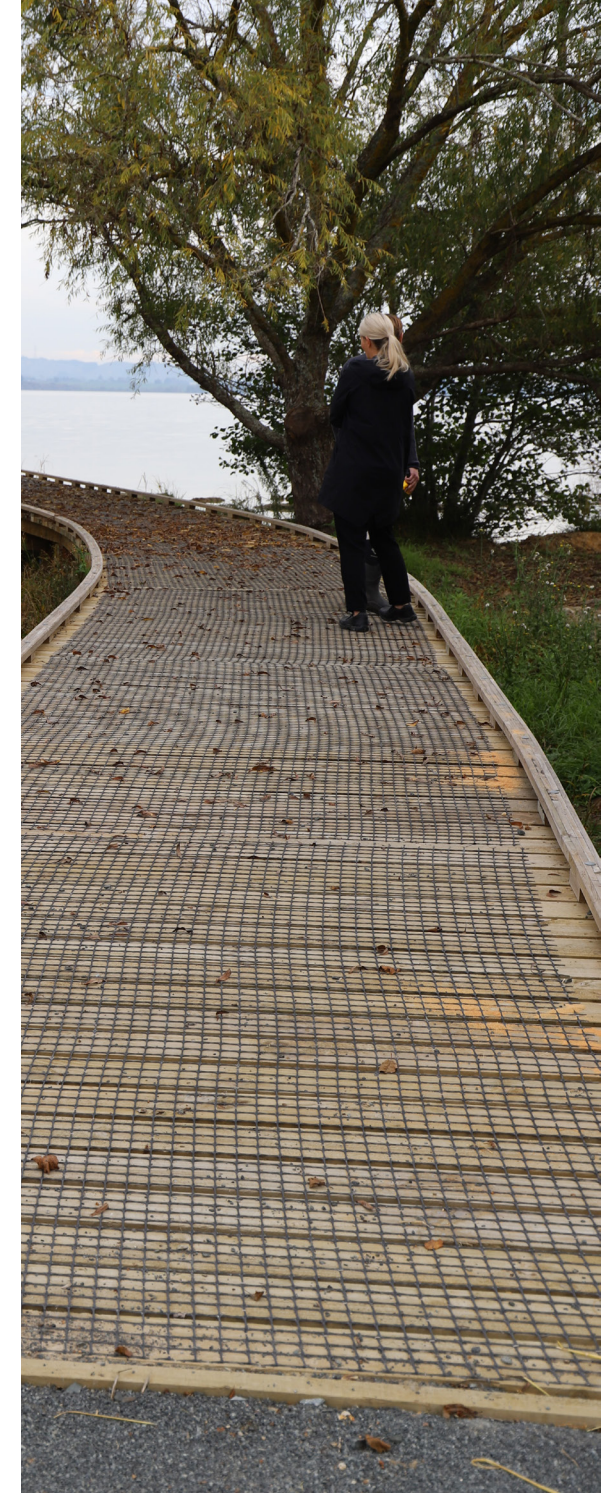
We want waterways which are healthy and create connections. We protect and enhance our soils, water and native biodiversity and take care of our Taiao (natural environment) for the health and wellbeing of our people, our communities and for future generations.

- **Social | Paapori**

We have well connected communities | He hononga whaitake katoa o oo maatou hapori

Our communities are connected, safe, accessible and resilient. We put community wellbeing at the heart of our decisions, and we embrace partnerships to get things done to improve people's lives.

Council understands the provision of and investment in play, active recreation and sport to be an important component to achieving the vision and community outcomes.



Sport Waikato

Sport Waikato is a Regional Sports Trust, whose mandate is to grow the physical activity levels of people and communities in the Waikato region through play, active recreation, and sport. The work of Sport Waikato is guided by Moving Waikato – the region's strategy for physical activity, which has a vision of 'everyone active' and sets out the organisational goal of having 75% of all Waikato region adults and young people active enough to positively impact their wellbeing by 2030.

The strategy sets out three strategic pillars:

The current Horizon of Moving Waikato focuses on **rangatahi (12-17 years)**, **tamariki (5-11 years)** with the inclusion of **tamariki mokopuna (under 5s)** in education, play, active recreation, and sport (e.g., community) settings.



HOROPAKI RAUTAKI

3. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Waikato District (not unlike the Waikato region and Aotearoa/New Zealand as a whole) faces a number of challenges in the future that necessitate the use of a planned and collaborative approach to the delivery of opportunities for play, active recreation and sport. Equally, there are a number of opportunities to entice and grow participation that can and should be realised. These challenges and opportunities are outlined below.

3.1 A Growing, Ageing Population with Communities in Medium Deprivation

75,618
PEOPLE
MADE UP OF
25,026
HOUSEHOLDS



Within the Waikato District we are likely to see continued population growth and there is preparation to expect population growth to increase to approximately 98,835 by 2031 and rise to between 128,500 and 149,500 by 2060 with growth across all age groups³. Most of this growth is expected to be seen in the North of the district as a result of the effects of the roading changes between Auckland and Hamilton.

On top of this, the demographic trends show that the population is ageing.

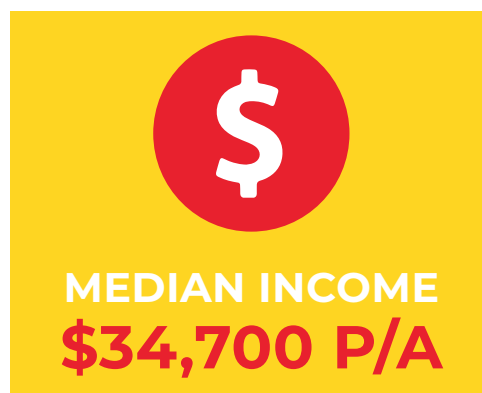
Indeed, along with the rest of New Zealand, Waikato District's population is projected to age over the next 30 years. The number of youth (aged under 15) is projected to hold steady at around 20,000 until the late 2030s, and thereafter, gradually increase as a result of net migration, births and population of childbearing age (a subset of the working age population). The population aged 65 years and older is projected to grow strongly, from 9,800 in 2018 to 26,000 in 2048, outnumbering youth throughout the projected period⁴.

Of course, a growing and ageing population, with more than half being rural residents presents challenges when thinking about providing for play, active recreation and sport, particularly when considering access and provision that meets the needs of a growing, changing and often rurally distanced community.

The Waikato District comprises 37 SA2 areas (Statistical Area 2), with 12 of these reporting high levels of deprivation, totalling 26,898 people⁵.



National average 17%; Waikato regional average 24%



3.2 The Value of Sport and Physical Activity

Sport and recreation opportunities are essential to effectively manage and enhance the overall wellbeing of communities as well as to minimise any negative social issues. Research has consistently demonstrated the value of sport and recreation in the lives of people and communities in Aotearoa/New Zealand¹.

Of course, an understanding and appreciation of participation trends,

92%

believe being active keeps them **physically fit and healthy**, and helps **relieve stress**

88%

believe that sport and other physical activities provide them with **opportunities to achieve** and **help build confidence**

84%

believe sport **brings people together** and creates a **sense of belonging**

74%

of people say sport help builds **vibrant and stimulating communities**



Sport and physical activity can **reduce rates of many physical health related disorders** and **improve health outcomes** as a result



Evidence indicates a positive association between **children's physical activity participation** and **academic achievement**



Participation in sport has been linked with **greater employability** in graduates from universities



There is a link between **sport participation**, **improved social capital**, feelings of **social cohesion** and **community identity**

52%

of young people (5-17 years)

59%

of adults (18+ years)

do enough physical activity to positively impact their wellbeing¹

HOWEVER

70%

of young people (5-17 years)

76%

of adults (18+ years)

suggest they would like to do more physical activity than they currently do²

3.3 Changing Play, Active Recreation and Sport Preferences, Trends and Barriers

How people like to be physically active is consistently changing, as are their barriers to participation.

Preferred Activities for YOUNG PEOPLE



Running/Jogging



Walking for Fitness



Games
(e.g. four square, tag, bullrush, dodgeball)



Swimming



Playing
(e.g. running around, climbing trees and make-believe)

Preferred Activities for ADULTS



Walking



Gardening



Individual Workouts
(with equipment)



Running/Jogging



Playing Games
(eg. with kids)

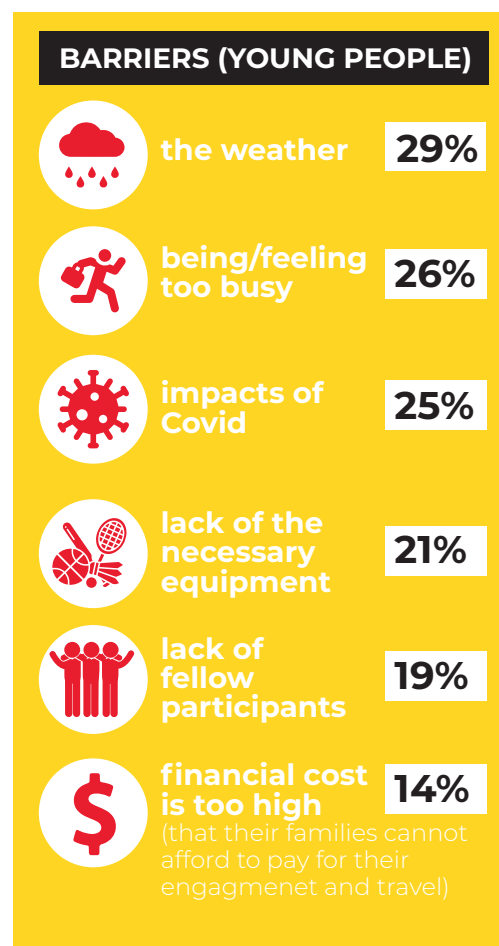
ACTIVE RECREATION and PLAY are the preferred modes of physical activity for Waikato District residents

18%

of young people in the Waikato District are using active transport to travel to and from school¹

Sport does not rank in the top 5 activities for young people, nor the top 5 activities for adults.

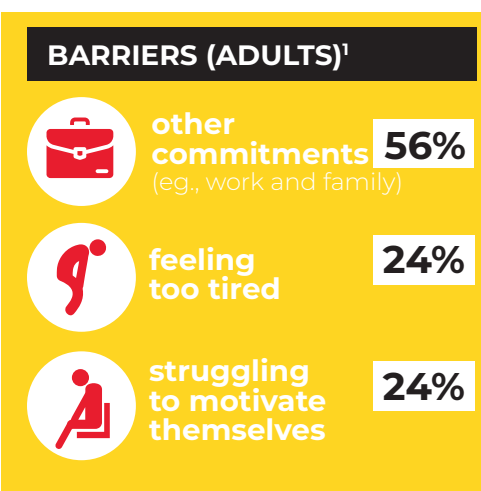
Interestingly, while sport ranks low when it comes to activity preferences, 23% of young people are active while training or practising with a coach/instructor, with a similar percentage (25%) being active for extra exercise or training or practicing without a coach/instructor present.



This likely demonstrates the role that formal sport offerings play in encouraging additional and personally driven physical activity for fitness, skill and social reasons away from planned sessions. Given the physical activity preferences of Waikato District's residents, it is not surprising that most people are active at home, school, out in nature, and/or using public facilities¹.

Yet, while at a glance, many of Waikato District's young people and adults are doing enough physical activity to positively impact their wellbeing, and indeed 86% of adults in the district understand the benefits of physical activity for their mental or emotional wellbeing, there are a number of barriers that prevent both young people and adults from being as active as they would like to be¹.

Despite challenges for young people, there is a desire to be involved. Regionally, 64% of rangatahi/teenagers in Year 7 want to do more physical activity in



school, a figure which decreases by age for in-school activity but rises in the community setting, such that by Year 13 67% of rangatahi/teenagers want to be active outside of school.

The social benefits and opportunities associated with physical activity participation are important to Waikato District residents with many adults and young people choosing to be active with family and/or friends.

Noting these trends, preferences and barriers, an inter-agency approach to supporting physical activity participation through play, active recreation and sport is necessary to enhance community wellbeing.

Equally, as people's lives change (e.g., increasing demands on time and financial resources) new and innovative approaches to support physical activity participation are required. For example, prioritisation of low-cost, low-commitment, family-friendly and

fun play, active recreation and sport opportunities are increasingly more likely to satisfy the participation needs of both young people and adults as user groups.

3.4 Maintaining Assets, Facility Sustainability and Service Levels

In many communities in the Waikato District (and nationally) facilities are ageing and maintenance costs to keep these facilities functioning can become increasingly high and burdensome. The ongoing sustainability of facility and service provision is likely to become increasingly difficult in some locations, especially those where populations are decreasing or ageing.

Equally, those areas with a number of facilities for the same sport and with no multi-sport usage require careful thought and planning to ensure a robust and sustainable district facilities network.

3.5 Improving Collaborative Approaches and Working with Neighbouring Local Authorities

Historically, decision-making in the sport and recreation sector, particularly around facility development, has been made on an ad hoc basis and with little foresight about sub-regional use and/or the potential of collaborative models of operations and investment.

Indeed, as the Waikato regional population remains increasingly mobile, community members' participation does and can cross district and regional boundaries more frequently. The Waikato District neighbours Hamilton, Hauraki,



WAIKATO REGION

70% travel **outside of their district** to be physically active with migration noted across **multiple districts** within and outside of the region.¹

WAIKATO DISTRICT

77% travel **outside of their district** to be physically active.

Matamata-Piako, Waipa and Otorohanga districts of the Waikato region, as well as Auckland to the north, making it an area ripe for cross-boundary physical activity participation.

In fact, the Waikato District Community Survey highlighted the level of migration of people and communities of the district, with 27% of respondents travelling to Hamilton City, 26% to Auckland and 17% to the Bay of Plenty to be active via play (5%), active recreation (67%) and sport (31%)².

In light of such migration, collaborating with other district and city councils will become increasingly necessary to make sure that quality facilities, experiences and services are provided for the community while reducing unnecessary duplication.

Additionally, collaborative approaches to facility provision and the combining of current clubs should be considered in

the future to boost participation and to help relieve both financial and human resource (e.g., volunteer) burdens to support increased sustainability.

Collaboration should be considered an option between local authorities, communities and community groups, and schools/education.

3.6 Covid-19

In 2020, Aotearoa/New Zealand and the world experienced significant and unprecedented challenges as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic had considerable effects on individuals and the active recreation and sport sectors, including disruption to the delivery of sport, changes in the patterns and types of physical activity of people, as well as increased fiscal strain at both the level of individuals and the sector.

The increased financial demands on people and families, post Covid-19 are still being felt by many as the cost of living bolstered by the rate of inflation has increased significantly, placing incredible strain on things like food security for a number of communities.

From this major global event, there are many learnings that should be taken forward when thinking about systems, structures and models of sport and the provision of and access to play, active recreation and sport for people and communities.

3.7 Climate Change

Climate change is and will continue

to have an impact on the ways people choose to be physically active, as well as on sport and active recreation infrastructure.

For example, the impact of rising sea levels and coastal erosion are already proving to be key factors in some districts, as is increasing (and traditionally unseasonal) rainfall.

Equally as social consciousness focuses more on the impacts of climate

change globally, and particularly on how to minimise these, it will become increasingly important to reduce the dependence on vehicles that produce greenhouse gas emissions when planning spaces and places for sport and recreation.

Provision of active transport and shared pathways will become increasingly important with the move toward more sustainable facility design as well as

Climate Change

The impact of climate change will require the need to focus on:



Facility location



Social conscious



Sustainability facility design - lighting, energy use



Active transport

Covid-19



Disruption to delivery



Fiscal strain on the sector



Financial demands on participants

There are many learnings that should be taken forward when thinking about systems, structures and models of sport and the provision of and access to play, active recreation and sport for people and communities, including:



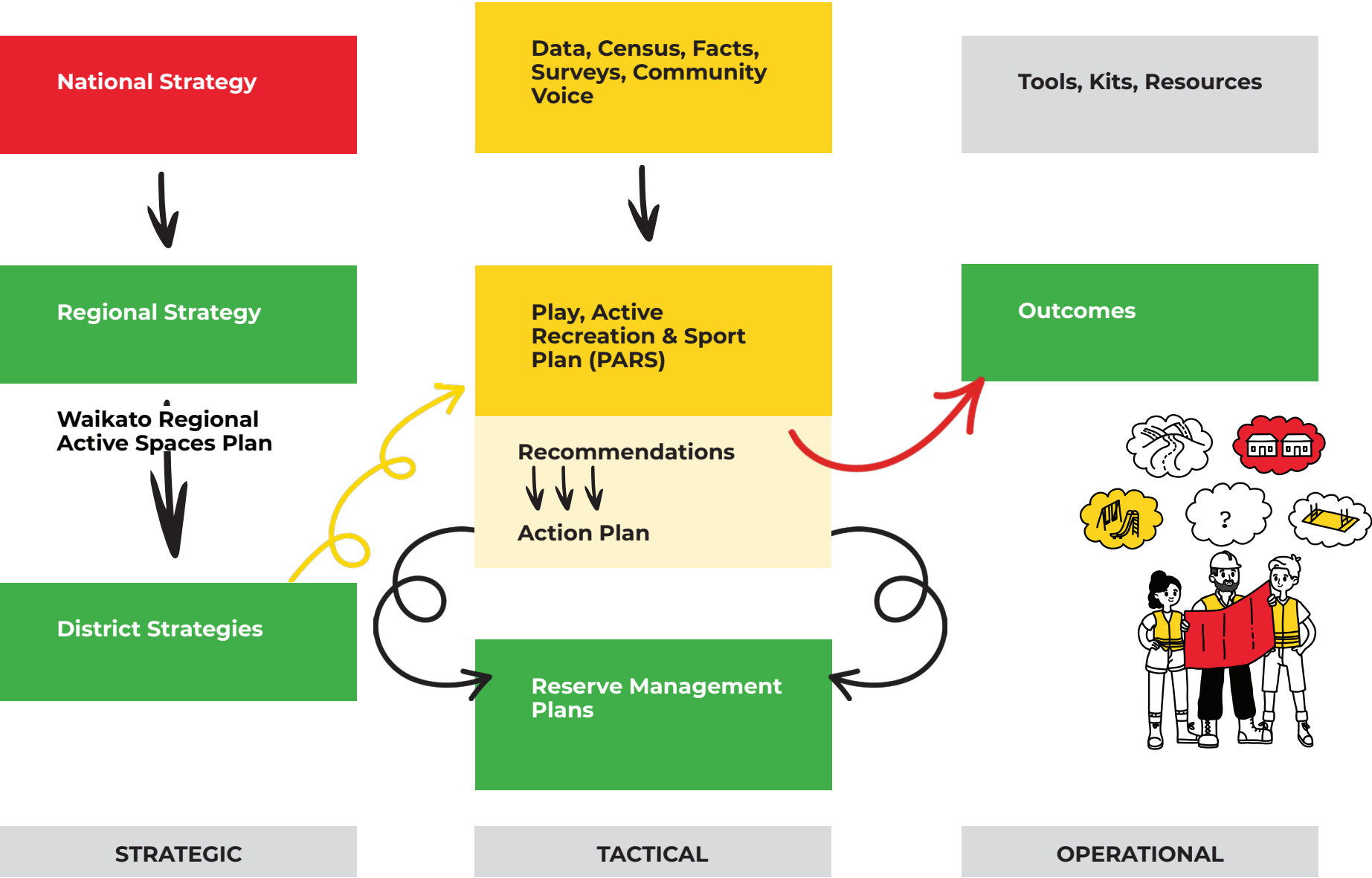
Cost to clubs and the end user



The importance of free and easily accessible spaces and places

3.8 Alignment to Other Regional and Local Strategies and Plans

The below diagram illustrates how the Plan interacts with other documents across both organisations. The following plans have been reviewed to ensure the Waikato District Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan supports and aligns with their goals and objectives:



TIKANGA

4. METHODOLOGY

The process of developing the Plan included three key areas of focus including survey assessment, secondary data analysis (trends in play, active recreation and sport and district demographics) and community engagement. This approach provided the best means to gather **comprehensive, robust and triangulated information** to inform decisions made in developing the Plan.

To support the development of the Plan, a project team was established to oversee the development of a strategic and partnered approach to growing participation in play, active recreation and sport participation among people and communities in the Waikato District. Representatives of both Waikato District Council and Sport Waikato were involved in the plan development process.

4.1 Information Gathering Process

Three separate surveys were distributed to support the development of this Plan and in particular, to gain local insight about the preferences, challenges and trends of play, active recreation and sport in the district – these surveys included a Regional Sports Organisation

Survey (distributed at a regional level and including those National Sports Organisations based in the Waikato district), Local Club Survey and Community Survey.

In addition to the surveys administered specifically for the purpose of forming this Plan, we have also utilised other survey sources, including both Sport NZ's

Active NZ survey and the 2018 census. Sport Waikato invests heavily in boosting the Waikato region's sample size for Active NZ, which ensures access to survey data from both adults and young people that is distinguishable by district.

Following analysis of Active NZ data, the 2018 census information and the capture of information from survey sources, a

4.2 An Overview of Respondents

Regional Sports Organisation & Local Club Surveys

These surveys sought to highlight the key priorities of both regional and local sporting organisations with respect to:

- Facility development
- Maintenance
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Membership trends
- Volunteer trends
- Service provision and sustainability

Community Survey

This survey canvassed a greater breadth of topics with the main aim:

- How residents are physically active
- Opportunities for increased engagement
- How spaces and places are accessed and enjoyed
- Participation barriers

52

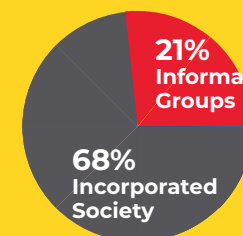
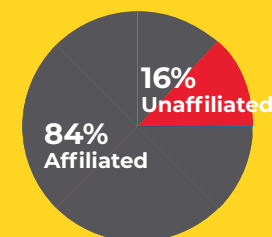
responses from Regional and National Sports Organisations

52%

had responsibility to **support their code's delivery and growth** in the Waikato District

80

clubs took part from sports such as: netball, rugby union, rugby league, squash, waka ama, horse riding and cricket



Community Survey

410 responses

47% completed the survey on behalf of themselves as individuals

53% completed as or on behalf of their family unit

All age groups represented but

25-44 & 45-64 year

age demographics the most represented

A range of ethnic groups:

60% New Zealand European

15% Maaori

9% Other European

2% Cook Island Maaori

1% Indian

4% of respondents indicated they felt a sense of belonging to a further range of ethnicities, including Hawaiian, South African, Turkish and Greek.

draft plan was formed collaboratively between Waikato District Council and Sport Waikato. This draft was then presented for community feedback, where additional community input was sought and fed into the Plan process.

4.3 Limitations

As with any data collection methods, there are limitations to the accuracy and reliability of the data received. The Plan has been prepared based on available data at the time of writing and it is likely that some data omissions do exist.

In order to alleviate these limitations, we have been careful to ensure a breadth of data sources have fed into this Plan, and

that data sources have been triangulated so as to increase reliability.

Despite limitations, the Plan represents the most comprehensive data source currently available but does not replace the need for additional assessment (e.g., feasibility studies) and focused planning in an ongoing manner to support and connect with communities.

As sporting codes and Sport NZ update existing national and regional facility plans and participation trends and community demographics continue to change, it is envisaged that this plan will require updating, with formal review every 3 years in alignment with Council's LTP.



In 2021, **986 young people** and **5339 adults** from the Waikato region shared their experiences of play, active recreation, and sport outside of our Plan-specific data gathering process¹.

WHAKATINANA RAUTAKI

5. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 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 whaanau.

Play is a popular form of physical activity for people and communities in the Waikato District. It appears in the top 5 activities for both young people and adults, meaning there is evidence of regular engagement in play across the lifespan for residents of the district¹.

In the Waikato District, local parks and reserves, aquatic facilities, playgrounds and obstacle courses are important spaces that provide for play. Community survey results reveal that 40% of respondents are using existing playgrounds/obstacle courses, yet only 11% are very or extremely satisfied with these.

Majority suggested that they are not fit for purpose (e.g. family friendly including opportunities for adults to play with their children, or accessible – able to be played

31% of young people played games (eg. four square, tag, bull rush, dodgeball)

31% played on playgrounds (eg. jungle gyms) in the 7-day period prior to the survey

13% of adults played games (eg. with their kids) in the 7-day period prior to the survey

For young people in particular, 'playing or hanging out with family or friends' (70%) or 'playing on my own' (61%) are some of the most popular ways that they are active¹

on/in/at by people of different abilities). Additionally, safety and security are also mentioned as barriers to satisfaction.

While young people are often most active at school and while engaging in playful activities, schools remain underutilised community play assets.

50% of Active NZ (2021) respondents

indicated that young people are active at a school and 27% of families reported via the Community Survey using schools to engage in physical activity (play or otherwise). This presents an opportunity to develop a broader offer of both facilities and programmes that utilise the convenience of location and reducing the need to duplicate facilities¹.

Schools are ripe for play (and often containing fantastic play infrastructure and resources), Waikato District schools are not currently being used to their full 'play potential and this under-utilisation of school play facilities - both formally and informally - represents a missed opportunity to identify, widen and strengthen the Waikato District community play network.

Given the appetite for play in the district, it is important that spaces, places and opportunities for play are provided, and this includes less structured play (e.g., play that is not defined by the use of playground equipment per se).

These spaces need to be easily and readily accessible for people to accommodate the spontaneous nature of play. Attention needs to be turned to modernising,

innovating and increasing access and inclusivity when it comes to providing for play, this includes ensuring play spaces cater for multiple users:

"[I] like to go to [the] playground on my way to get groceries etc, [I] have to travel quite a way for a large playground"
(Eureka resident)

"They are plain wood, brown and boring, there is no colour or life to the parks, needs more seating and inviting vibes"
(Pookeno resident)

Of course, as time and cost continue to be barriers to participation in physical activity for both adults and young people in the Waikato District community, play represents a significant opportunity to engage residents in regular physical activity that meets their needs.

"Every other playground around town is tagged with graffiti and damaged because of out of control children/teens."
(Ngaaruawaahia resident)

Play Recommendations:



Promote the benefits of play to and for the community using **targeted campaigns** – normalise this in the effort of creating a playful district that contributes to community vibrancy



Undertake a **play space/facility stocktake** to ensure existing network of play facilities **meet the needs of users** (e.g., age-appropriate, variety, safety) along with the inclusion of provision of family-friendly assets and infrastructure in and around play spaces – shade/shelter, fencing and amenities such as toilets and seating, and access to water.



Capitalise on the **network of Waikato District parks** and their proximity to residents to **create community play spaces**, including schools, that are close to home, safe, inclusive and easy to access for all ages and abilities



Consider incorporating **play elements** and opportunities through communities for **everyday play, and non-traditional options** outside of built playgrounds such as nature play, cultural play, and play-on-the-way that can be located in the blue, green and grey spaces of townships.



Work with **schools** to open and promote **access to community use of play spaces** to broaden the Waikato District's play network – this should include a focus on **partnerships** and **shared use arrangements** to ensure financial resources can be leveraged and maximised



When planning **new, built community play spaces**, look at ways of incorporating space and provision for **adults** to play alongside their children. Seek community feedback on play spaces to ensure appeal and useability

5.2 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 is currently the most popular way that people are being physically active in the Waikato district. According to the recent Active NZ survey, running/jogging, walking, cycling, swimming, gardening and working out using equipment sit in the top 5 activities for adults and/or young people in the community¹.

These insights mirror regional trends that indicate walking tracks, cycling and

mountain biking tracks are the most used and considered the most helpful infrastructure to enable movement among local communities¹.

ADULTS¹

40% use roads and footpaths

40% at a private property, home, garden or pool

28% using walkways

16% accessing public parks, fields, playgrounds, skateparks or BMX tracks

14% in or beside rivers, lakes and streams¹

MOST USED LOCATIONS



17% use cycle trails as individuals

30% use these facilities with their families

YOUNG PEOPLE¹

57% are active at outdoor locations
(eg. beach, lake, bush, footpaths)

10% use indoor facilities
(eg. gym, community hall, church, marae or indoor pool)

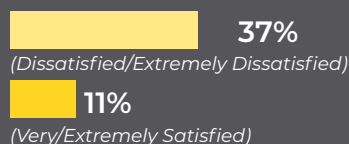
57% are physically active using outdoor facilities (eg. playground, park, field, astroturf or outdoor pools)

¹Active NZ, 2021

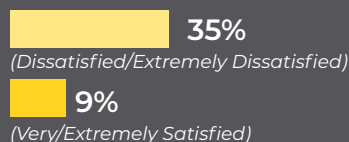
Not surprisingly, a range of spaces support the physical activity levels of people and communities in the Waikato District.

While there is, indeed, high appetite for active recreation participation across the district, satisfaction with current provision has been identified as low across some key enablers.

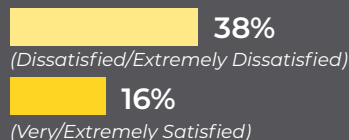
Playground & Obstacle Facilities



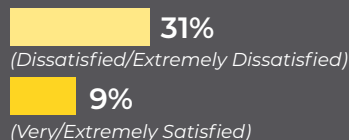
Outdoor sport and recreation facilities



Walkways/Footpaths



Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities



For many respondents, issues exist pertaining to the quality of provision, which can be related to the perceived need for upgrades and maintenance and/or the provision of infrastructure that increases usability (e.g., toilets, seating, parking, shade).

What is also clear from the data is the need to support and provide safe active transport routes and connectivity between assets for active recreation (and/or sport).

18% of young people use active transport to and from school¹

46% use active transport to access locations to be active²

MOST COMMON MODES OF ACTIVE TRANSPORT

30% walking/running

13% cycling

4% horses

3% skateboarding/scootering

"More added into the bigger park at Hakanoa - maybe picnic tables/ areas to eat as a family/ more shaded areas - possibly water play/ sand pit area like Hamilton Lake or Ngaaruawaahia."
(Waikato Resident - Huntly East)

"Having a destination style playground that has toilet facilities, shade and is accessible for those with mobility issues." (Waikato Resident - Raahui Pookeka)

"Playgrounds need more shade as they are just too hot to use in the summer. There should be more water fountains too." (Waikato Resident - Pokeno)

Community Survey respondents indicating a need for increased connectivity between existing walking/ cycle networks within the district (from town to town) and between districts (e.g., Franklin):

"[There are] so few [paths] that actually link up into a nice walking experience that is safe around the town."
(Tuakau resident)

"I'd love more walking options esp. 10km loops with footpaths and fewer scary dogs."
(Te Kauwhata resident)

Of note, among Community Survey responses was also a need to consider provision for horse riding.

At present, it seems that most who want to actively recreate by riding their horse are traveling outside of the district to do

so because there are currently limited tracks that they are either permitted to ride on or that are safe to do so.

"For the horse-riding community there aren't many public parks to ride. Wainui Reserve Farm Park horse riding is permitted but trails and maps aren't clear of where permitted trails are. It would be great if horses were permitted to be ridden in more parks and area in the district." (Raglan resident)

"Bridlepaths where riders can feel safe to go - need parking space to prepare horses." (Matangi resident)

"I would like to see the WDC be more engaging with the equestrian community to investigate shared trail options instead of purely catering to walkers and cyclists. Keeping grass verges alongside roads for horses to safely be ridden without fear of traffic. Allowing horse riders access to parks and bush trails."
(Raglan resident)

Given the significant participation by Waikato District people and communities in active recreation, it is important to consider how to further support popular activities such as walking, running/ jogging, recreational swimming and cycling.

Like play spaces, spaces for active recreation enable physical activity opportunities for those with financial access barriers and time restraints that may preclude participation in more organised forms of activity, such as sport.

Active Recreation Recommendations:

✓ Consider options to support **safe walking, cycling, skateboarding and scooting routes** near primary, intermediate and secondary schools to support sustained and increased active transport among young people.

✓ Consider ways to **better connect parks and reserves, shared paths and cycleways** to extend the active recreation network and enable active transitions between spaces for walkers, runners/joggers, horse riders, cyclists and those using skateboards and scooters.

✓ Continue to support **connections between the Waikato District communities and the natural environment** – lakes, rivers, bush – for active recreation, including the provision of cycling, walking/running and hiking trails and safe access to natural bodies of water.

✓ Consider **availability and access** to on and off leash areas for **dogs** where people can safely recreate.

✓ Investigate the current provision of appropriate and accessible **physical activities for senior adults** with a focus on **removing barriers and increasing facility usage**.

5.3 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.

While sport is not participated in as frequently as play and active recreation by the young people and adults of Waikato District, it continues to be an important mode of physical activity that offers numerous benefits for participants – including social interaction and connection.











Secondary school-aged young people in the Waikato District are participating in sport in lesser numbers than the regional average – 57% of male students and 49% of female students within the region are meeting the New Zealand Secondary School Sports Council's requirements for sport involvement².

Sport also does not feature in the top five activities for adults.

5.4 Sports Clubs, Groups and the Waikato District Sporting Landscape

80 clubs participated in the Waikato District club survey with results showing both successes and challenges for clubs in growing membership and recruiting and retaining volunteers.











The sports most played by Waikato District's **YOUTH** include¹:

1		Football/Soccer	15%
2		Dance/Dancing	11%
3		Basketball or mini-ball	10%
4		Athletics	9%
5		Rugby or Rippa Rugby	8%
6		Kapa Haka	7%
7		Netball	6%
8		Gymnastics	6%
9		Hockey/Floorball	6%
10		Touch	6%

Like participants in sport, volunteers who support the running of sport are struggling with being 'time poor' and the need to juggle family commitments.

Survey responses indicate that clubs generally understand the importance of relationships with schools to support

The sports most played by Waikato District's **ADULTS** include¹:

1		Swimming	10%
2		Golf	5%
3		Horseriding/Equestrian	4%
4		Boxing	3%
5		Tennis	2%
6		Surfing/Bodyboarding	2%
7		Touch Rugby	2%
8		Netball	2%
9		Football/Soccer	2%
10		Canoeing/Kayaking	1%

their operations and memberships. 64% of clubs surveyed indicated that they are engaged with local schools and the benefits of this engagement includes support for recruitment, coaching, facility/location use, event support. There is evidence among clubs, of many actively

Outdoor sport and recreation facilities used by

16% of individuals
24% of families

Indoor sport and recreation facilities used by

16% of individuals
25% of families

Artificial turf was used by only

5% of individuals

Despite not featuring in the Active NZ results, we note that rugby league is a locally important sport.

looking for ways to connect to grow their membership and/or volunteer bases.

Among the top barriers for clubs is funding to balance operating costs and to ensure the burden of cost is removed from participants.

Almost half of all clubs surveyed (37) indicated that they need support for their finances (including sponsorship) in order to continue to be sustainable, but also to keep costs down for participants). Of those respondents who lease/hire

80 responses from clubs

28% had an **increase** in membership since 2017

30% had a **decrease** in membership

68% had **challenges** retaining or recruiting volunteers

but despite this

57% had managed to **increase** or retain their volunteer base

however

43% reported a **decrease** in volunteer numbers

facilities, 8% had received increases to hire and lease fees in the last five years.

Travel continues to have an impact on the cost of providing for sport and it continues to be reflected in the top barriers for both clubs and participants (particularly young people who suggest their family cannot afford their participation).

76% of club respondents indicated that interclub/city competition was part of their sporting offerings and while most indicated that travel was regional, there are still those clubs who either choose to or require their participants to travel nationally.

19% of clubs have **paid employees**

This indicates the reliance on volunteers, among most clubs, to support the running of sport.

Popular roles (unpaid and paid) within clubs

39% **Board members**

27% **Coaches**

12% **Administrators**

7% **Officials**

6% **Groundskeepers**

The maintenance and upgrade of assets (facilities and equipment) among clubs is one of the key challenges the local sector is facing, which comes down to both cost and expertise.

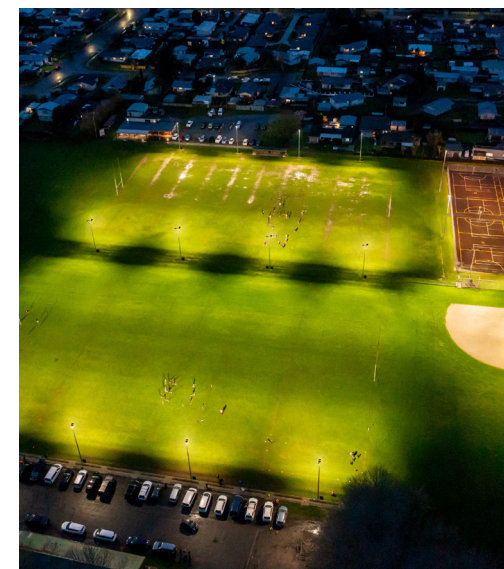
Recruiting participants and volunteers, financial security and collaboration are among the most salient themes identified by respondents when asked to think about the future – all of which can be connected.

Interestingly, 54% of respondents already share their facilities with other codes or organisations, while 11% of respondents are not open to collaborating more than they do currently.

TOP BARRIERS FOR CLUBS:

- \$ Funding**
- \$ Finances**
- \$ Lease/hire costs**
- \$ Travel costs**
- \$ Maintenance and upgrade of assets**

There is certainly appetite among clubs in the district to work together, including via co-location, and this is an important way to ensure that the maintenance and upgrade of facilities can occur in a sustainable way that supports the quality experiences of participants¹.



5.5 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 settings².

As has been demonstrated via the data, Waikato District residents are engaging in physical activity in a range of ways

and in a range of spaces and places (e.g., from natural environments such as lakes, bush and rivers to parks and reserves and community buildings).

What has come through strongly is the emphasis Waikato District residents place on feeling connected to space and place and whether or not it meets their basic needs (e.g., amenities, clean, welcoming, safe and inclusive).

The Community Survey highlighted the

Sport Recommendations:

✓ Consider options to influence and support **shared services and co-location among clubs**. With rising costs, scarcity of funding and appetite to work together, support for **'hubbing'** is needed in the district to future-proof sport. Enabling emerging sports and identifying opportunities to **maximise facility usage**.

✓ Look for ways to **lower the 'cost' of participation in sport** both financially and from a time commitment perspective – investigate innovative solutions to minimise sunk dollars to **reduce fees, alternative competition structures to attract volunteers and increase connection to participants**. For example, pop-up, localised and less formal opportunities for engagement that require lower time commitments. This is particularly important for encouraging participation among high-deprivation communities and low socioeconomic groups

✓ Support **increased engagement between sports clubs/organisations and the community** – increase connections between clubs and schools, support clubs to communicate well with audiences and to connect with volunteer workforces

✓ Support **future planning for sport provision** via the use of insights – particularly, with a focus on multi-use facilities planning and governance/leadership. 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).

84% of clubs believe they are able to financially maintain their owned assets
(based on the ability to also maintain current club membership numbers)

53% of clubs believe they have quality issues

26% of clubs have already scheduled in repairs and maintenance in response

71% of clubs believe their current facilities meet their current needs

71% of clubs believe their current facilities meet their current needs
(however, this drops to 54% when thinking about future needs)

30% of clubs suggested their organisation has capital investment projects either planned or underway, including:

28% New infrastructure

24% Upgrading infrastructure

12% Attention to functionality

12% Utilisation (optimisation)

12% Improving quality of experience

4% Improvements to access, safety and support

4% Governance set up

importance of the natural environment and being outdoors to Waikato District residents with the top three locations for activity being walkways/footpaths, near beaches, rivers or lakes, and in parks and reserves.

Yet, despite these spaces being high priority places for physical activity, satisfaction was often low with 38% of people dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with the provided walkways/footpaths, 35% dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with parks and reserves in the community and 28% dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with the local rivers.

Barriers to enjoyment included pollution, safety, access and the provision of quality infrastructure.

*"Some of the park and reserve walkways need better upkeep the ground is uneven and or the concrete tiles are lifting."
(Whatawhata resident).*

*"Would love to see more walkways around the lake and through the wetlands; would be amazing to link these through farmland."
(Waerenga resident)*

¹ Waikato District Club Survey, 2022

² Regional Insights – Community Survey, 2022

“Down the river walk by centennial park on the Waipa walkway track there are a lot of the plants that give you bad breathing for asthma people. Woolly nightshade.”

(Ngaaruawaahia resident)

Access to natural spaces to be active is important to the people of the district. Therefore, maintaining physical activity levels of the community for health and wellbeing means ensuring continued safe and quality access to natural spaces for active recreation.

Aquatic facilities are utilised by 15% of Community Survey respondents as individuals and 31% of those respondents additionally indicated they use them as or with their family.

Satisfaction among aquatic facilities users in the district, is however, low as indicated by the Community Survey responses whereby 26% of those who took the survey indicated they are dissatisfied or extremely satisfied with the facilities (versus only 12% who are very or extremely satisfied). Many of the issues appear to be related to a lack of indoor aquatic space and/or year-round use:

“Raglan is in dire need of an indoor multi-use recreation and aquatic facility that the community can access 7 days a week.”

(Raglan resident)

“Raahui Pookeka swimming pools are awesome. Ngaaruawaahia swimming pools not so much but only because it's so cold!”

(Ngaaruawaahia resident)

“Raglan is by the sea and children need to learn to swim but there aren't facilities for it. Also for rehab purposes a pool would be great within the community.”

(Raglan resident)

“There are no heated pools in Raglan. We have to drive to Hamilton for kids swimming lessons in winter! It should be easier for our kids to learn to swim, especially in Raglan.”

(Raglan resident)

“None in Pookeno and Tuakau. However, the warm swimming pools in Pukekohe is really nice and affordable.”

(Pookeno resident)

These insights mirror regional data, whereby family/adult/youth/child-friendly spaces and places (e.g., spaces that are inclusive of people regardless of age) are thought to be ways that spaces and places for physical activity could be improved¹.

Equally, spaces for the community to engage in water play and that accommodate small children was emphasised as missing from current provision:

“Swimming pool okay but not exciting like Waterworld.”

(Raahui Pookeka resident)

“I would love for the pool to be heated! Our babies have their swim classes over summer but they are early morning so can get cold. Would love if this changes and then could be used year-round too.”

(Te Kauwhata resident)

In and around being active, Waikato District residents want space to connect with others – to socialise, hang out and sit together – and they want to feel welcome, safe and included. Places for sitting, socialising, hanging out and being together as a family were highlighted as gaps in local parks and reserves networks by some respondents as was the provision of shade/shelter, drinking water and seating:

“A nice place to go for a walk and a picnic, that is safe and within a 30 min drive would be nice. Doesn't have to be huge. Just [a] place to connect with nature. A place to take your kid and catch a fish. What would also be nice if there was a bit more adventure type activities for kids.” *(Te Kauwhata resident)*

“I would like that these are designed for the whole family in mind. Different ages and abilities.” *(Whatawhata resident)*

Playgrounds need more shade as they are just too hot to use in the summer. There should be more water fountains too.” *(Pookeno resident)*

These insights mirror regional data, whereby family/adult/youth/child-friendly spaces and places (e.g., spaces that are inclusive of people regardless of age) are thought to be ways that spaces and places for physical activity could be improved (Regional Insights – Community Survey, 2022).

Spaces & Places Recommendations:



Explore options to enhance existing physical activity spaces and places to **include amenities that encourage social connection and provide for family-friendly opportunities** – e.g., seating, shade/shelter, clean, quality amenity blocks and spaces where families can be active together. Also explore opportunities to enhance spaces for **maximising utilisation** i.e. sports field drainage and lighting.



Consider ways to ensure **safe access to natural spaces and places for physical activity** (e.g., rivers, bush, footpaths) to support residents' desire to be active in nature/outdoors



Consider ways to **improve satisfaction levels of those using aquatic facilities** in the district, with a focus on the type of Review the current network for aquatic provision as well as unmet needs and year-round options.



Identify ways in which principles of **accessibility and inclusion** can be applied to new and existing spaces and places, **improving access for all people** (regardless of gender, ability, ethnicity, culture etc) to engage meaningfully in physical activity both in terms of information and infrastructure



Recommendation that council explore **indoor and outdoor court provision** priority in line with projected growth.



Work proactively with key stakeholders such as Council, Gymsports Clubs and the MOE/Schools to explore long term use/lease agreements and a facility partnership approach.



RAUTAKI WHAAINGA

6. ACTION PLAN

The following table is the Action Plan, detailing how this plan will be implemented over the next 10 years. The items in the action plan were created from the recommendations throughout the plan. Each item has a priority and organisation lead (SW = Sport Waikato; C = Council). The action plan is designed to remain a live and be updated as goals are achieved, and steer the direction and investment of the Council – Sport Waikato partnership.

Strategic Priority	Focus	Action	Responsibility	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.	SW/C	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.	SW/C	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).	SW/C	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 Ngaaruwaahia, Hopu Hopu, Taupiri Structure Plan.	SW/C	Medium
Play	Nature Play	Explore locations for natural play opportunities outside of built playgrounds. (e.g., Wetlands, water, planted areas, orchards.	SW/C	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)	WDC	Medium
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 Routes	Continue to support active transport opportunities to and from school through school partnerships, design, infrastructure and footpaths, cycle paths maintenance.	C	Ongoing
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

Strategic Priority	Focus	Action	Responsibility	Priority
Active Recreation	Natural Bodies of Waters	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, Lake Kimihia, Waikato Awa).	SW/C	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	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).	C	
Sport	Hubbing	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: <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 • Pookeno – Munro Block User Groups • Te Kowhai – New Sport Platform • Future Ohinewai Development • Naike Community Wellbeing Hub • Te Akau-Waingaro 	SW/C	
Sport	Squash	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 association with the Hamilton City study of court provision – Medium Priority 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)	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., Pookeno, 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	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, Tū Manawa)	SW/C	High

Strategic Priority	Focus	Action	Responsibility	Priority
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
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Indoor/Outdoor Court Provision	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. Also COLA Systems and Court Covers Review through the Community Facilities Strategy (Draft 2024) and impending omnibus Open Spaces Strategy review	SW/C	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.	SW/C	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.	SW/C	High
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Playing Fields	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). Encourage collaboration across users to support shared field usage maintaining a regional network approach in line with Waikato Regional Sport Transition Plan. 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.	C	High
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 Spaces and Places	Diversity, Inclusion & Access	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). 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.	C	High

Strategic Priority	Focus	Action	Responsibility	Priority
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Amenities	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). A review of amenities to occur along side Reserve Management Plan reviews	C	High
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Tracks and Trails	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 walking 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. 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). Focus on flexible, accessible and inclusive provision for all, including low participation groups and ageing population taking into account Accessible Outdoors Guidelines developed by Recreation Aotearoa and Mountain Biking Trail Guidelines 2023. Consideration to be included in the Connectivity Strategy Review (Draft 2024)	SW/C	High
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Gymnastics	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. 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. Consideration included in the Community Facilities Strategy (Draft 2024)	SW/C	Community led
Physical Activity in Spaces and Places	Business Cases	Feasibility and business cases progressed for all subregional facility development recommendations relevant to Waikato District as outlined in the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan.	SW/C	Ongoing

