



# Je Rautaki o Ngā Wāhi Ora o Murihiku

SOUTHLAND SPACES + PLACES STRATEGY 2023

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## About RSL Consultancy

RSL Consultancy undertakes projects and offers strategic advice throughout Aotearoa to enable community well-being. We support organisations to make informed decisions when it comes to their people, facilities, places and spaces. RSL carries out a range of pre-planning work from needs assessments and feasibility reports to business cases. We also work on a range of organisational strategic and operational projects.

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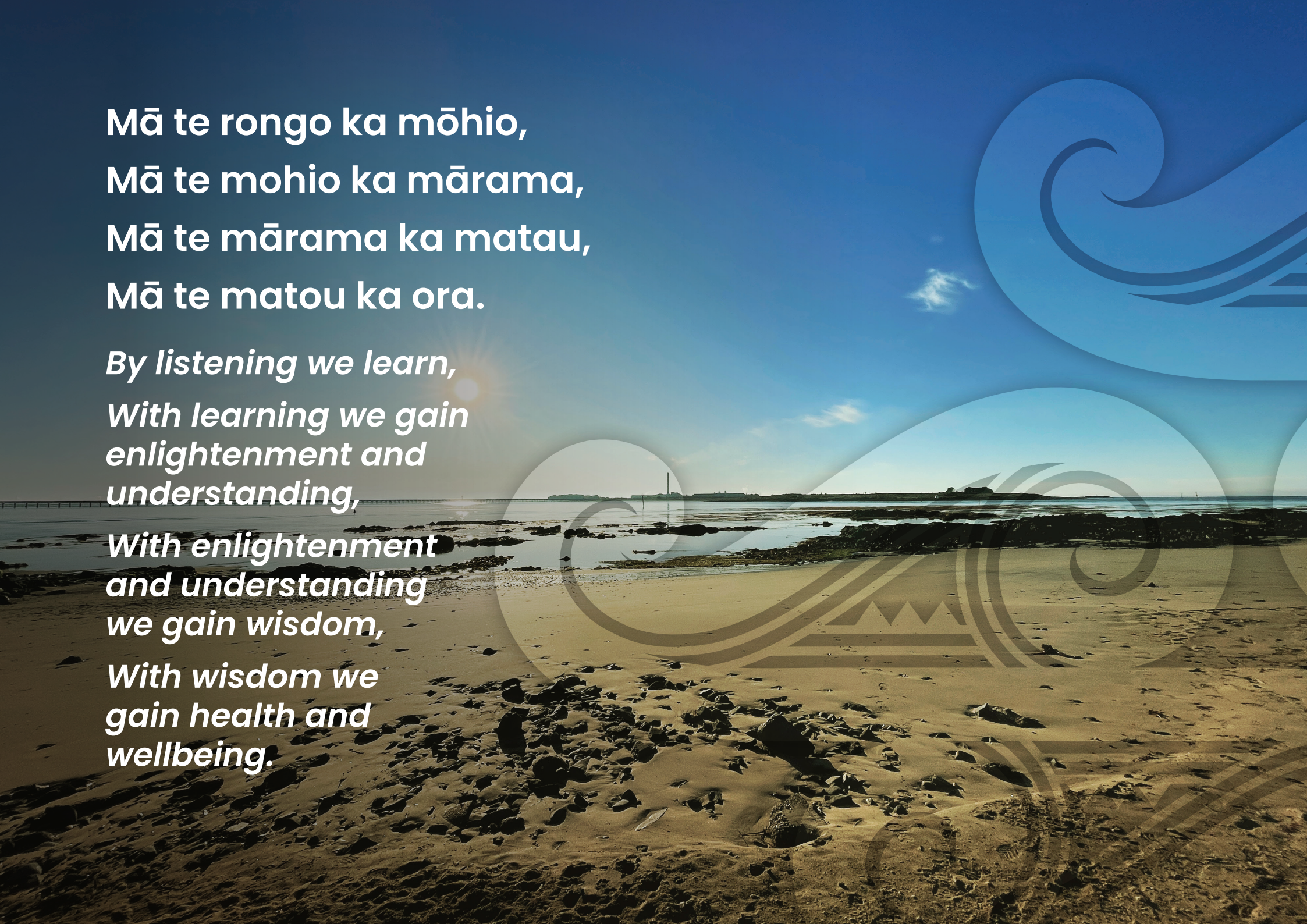
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**Mā te rongō ka mōhio,  
Mā te mohio ka mārama,  
Mā te mārama ka matau,  
Mā te matou ka ora.**

*By listening we learn,  
With learning we gain  
enlightenment and  
understanding,  
With enlightenment  
and understanding  
we gain wisdom,  
With wisdom we  
gain health and  
wellbeing.*



# FOREWARD

This refreshed Southland Spaces and Places Strategy signals a point of maturity in how partners collaborate and work together in Southland.

An updated and agreed approach to spaces and places provision for play, active recreation, and sport that is based on evidence and is pragmatic comes at a time when Councils, funders, the sport and recreation sector, and ultimately the participant are feeling the burden of an economic downturn. Fiscally prudent decisions and collaborative solutions to facility challenges are more important than ever.

Along with considering the changing needs of the participant, this iteration of the Strategy considers environments that support active recreation, play and sport, seeks to explore mana enhancing relationships with mana whenua, and considers the role the Strategy can play in advocating for better environmental outcomes.

Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa (Sport NZ) aims to inspire New Zealanders to develop a life-long love of participating in play, active recreation, and sport. Above all, we want to see “Every Body Active”. Sport NZ has long been an advocate for locally-led development of spaces and places for play, active recreation, and sport that provide quality experiences for people. Working alongside our Regional Sport Trusts and National Sport and Recreation Organisation partners, we are committed to supporting local government and others involved in the planning, design, procurement, funding, development, governance, and operation of more affordable, well-utilised, and sustainable spaces and places. We know this is a critical enabler for physical activity and community wellbeing.

We also know that levels of physical activity are in decline and yet people want to be more active and have access to a broader range of physical activity experiences. This is more marked for some communities and age groups than others. The decline in physical activity levels is due to a range of social, economic, technological, political, and environmental factors, only some of which we can influence. Fortunately, providing quality experiences for people in your communities is something we can influence together.

Southland continues to lead the way in having community funders at the table alongside Councils as key enablers of spaces and places provision and ensuring a complementary network approach.

The ultimate goal of the Murihiku Southland Spaces and Places Strategy is to ensure all parties are better informed of community needs and have shared vision of what best practice provision looks like. It's encouraging to see this new Strategy is further refined and simplified and provides a high-level strategic approach and decision-making framework for spaces and places provision. It promotes a collaborative approach, both strategically and operationally, and a shared understanding of the system pressures, progress, and priorities to help guide Councils and funding agencies in their decision making.

Sport NZ acknowledges and applauds all the Councils, funders, and Active Southland for their continued leadership in this area and we look forward to continuing to support the Strategy implementation.

Julie Morrison

General Manager Strategy, Policy & Investment

September 2023

“  
Tama tū, tama ora,  
Tama noho, tama mate.

An active person will remain healthy,  
while an inactive person will become unwell.

**The Spaces and Places Advisory Group is committed to being an inclusive collective which recognises our ethical and moral responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.**

*Upholding the principles of the treaty provides opportunities for tangata whenua in Murihiku to realise aspirations of taha tinana and hauora when participating in a range of activities. The Advisory Group recognises that considering a mātauranga Māori approach to planning and developing our spaces and places is inclusive and the right thing to do.*

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# 01

## INTRODUCTION *He Whakatakinga*

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Mō tātou, ā, mō  
ka uri ā muri āke nei

For all of us and the generations that follow



## 1.1 BACKGROUND | Papamuri

In 2021 the Southland Regional Spaces and Places Strategy was developed through a collaboration between Sport Southland (now Active Southland), Sport New Zealand, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council, Community Trust South, ILT, ILT Foundation, and the Matakura Licensing Trust. Those organisations had shared interest in working together to create and implement a more aligned approach to regional planning for spaces and places (facilities) for play, active recreation and sport across Southland.

In 2023, the partners to the original strategy, alongside iwi and mātauranga representatives, undertook a review of the 2021 document, which has resulted in this 2023 strategy.

## 1.2 PURPOSE AND INTENT OF THE STRATEGY | Ngā whaingā o te rautaki

The Murihiku Southland Spaces & Places Strategy (2023) provides a range of insights that will help guide the approach to regional planning for play, active recreation and sport spaces and places facilities across the Murihiku Southland Region. It is intended that this strategy will build on the foundations and learning from the 2021 strategy. It provides a high-level strategic framework, to help guide councils across Southland, and all relevant funding agencies, in their decision making. It will help ensure the play, active recreation and sport sector as a whole, is more informed as to the priority facility needs of the Murihiku Southland region, helping to improve the sustainability of facilities and maximise them for the benefit of the whole community.

It is critical that this high-level strategy is supported by detailed local planning, at district and community level, including local strategies, plans and policies such as asset management and reserve management plans. This strategy is not a replacement for detailed local planning, rather it will support and inform detailed planning at the local community level. The research and background data that support

this strategy, including information from community engagement, is provided in a separate reference document.

This strategy is focussed on the key challenges, opportunities, desired future outcomes and initial priorities for spaces and places in Murihiku Southland. It very deliberately does not provide recommendations for all facilities in Murihiku Southland on an individual sport or activity specific basis. Rather it focuses on providing a clear planning framework that can be used to help consider and inform future investment in facilities. It is intended to be a living, breathing document that will evolve as new opportunities arise and as the needs of the Murihiku Southland community change over time.

## 1.3 STRATEGIC FIT | Whakauru Rautaki

This strategy provides high-level direction, to help guide future decision-making for play, active recreation and sport spaces and places in Murihiku Southland.

Sport NZ also provides a number of high-level strategic documents and resources to help guide the future of play, active recreation and sport across Aotearoa. These have been considered during the preparation of this strategy.

## 1.4 DEFINITIONS | Ngā Whakamaramatanga

In this strategy the following definitions are used:

**Active Recreation** is considered to be non-competitive physical activity for the purpose of wellbeing and enjoyment. It includes activities that:

- occur in built, landscaped and natural environments (including outdoor recreation, fitness/exercise, community recreation, aquatics)
- are undertaken by individuals and by groups
- occur with and without the involvement of a 'provider' group or organisation (i.e. can be undertaken independently)

**Sport** is usually defined as physical activity that is competitive, organised and involves the observation of rules. It may be participated in either individually or as a team.

The reality is that often there is no real differentiation between Active Recreation and Sport, particularly from the view of community participants. To recognise this, we note that: **Active Recreation and Sport** is considered to be activities that you do for fun, challenge and fitness that involve movement. Active Recreation and Sport includes a wide range of activities such as walking, fishing, stand-up paddle boarding and a huge range of individual and team sports. Participation can occur in a range of settings from informal to organised competitions and individual to group/club environments.

**Play** is an innate human activity. It is considered to be fun, accessible, challenging, social and repeatable activity that is spontaneous and can happen anywhere. Play may not have a pre-determined outcome, is intrinsically motivated, personally directed and freely chosen.

**Play Spaces** are those areas with elements or features designed to encourage play. They can be highly structured with built equipment or less formal spaces designed for nature play or creative play. When people have time and permission to play, any space can be a play space.





# 02

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT *Horopaki Rautaki*

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Ki te kahoē he  
whākakitenga ka ngaro te iwi

Without vision the people will be lost

This section provides a brief summary of some key data and trends relevant to Murihiku Southland, to provide overarching context. Further detail is provided in the reference document that accompanies this strategy.

## 2.1 GEOGRAPHY | Papawhenua

Southland is the southernmost region in New Zealand. The region is essentially a triangle with 2 sides being the South Island's southern and south-western coasts, and the third boundary extending across country, below the Otago region.









It is a large area of over 3.1 million hectares, some 13% of New Zealand's land area yet with just over 2% of the New Zealand population residing in the region. The region encompasses the territorial authority areas of Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council, and Southland District Council. Approximately half of the region's population lives in Invercargill City, with Gore the largest town. Other main towns include Matakura, Bluff, Winton, Riverton and Te Anau.

The landscape of Southland includes 3,400 kilometres of rugged coastline, significant plains which are largely in agricultural use, and two national parks, Fiordland and Rakiura which attract significant visitation to the region.<sup>1</sup>

## 2.2 DEMOGRAPHICS | Ngā Tatauranga

Statistics NZ 2018 Census Data and medium population growth projections have been used to inform the development of this strategy. Key demographic considerations for Murihiku Southland are:

MURIHIKU SOUTHLAND COMMUNITY PROFILE	
	2018 population of just over 100,000, growing by about 7,700 people by 2043 when it is expected to stabilise at around 108,000.
	The distribution of the region's population will remain fairly similar over time. By 2048 56% of the Southland Region's population will reside in Invercargill City (55% 2018), 32% in Southland District (same as 2018) and 12% in Gore District (13% in 2018)
	The population of Southland is aging. By 2048 the 40-64 age group is expected to increase by 3% and those aged 65 years and over by a significant 72% or 12,050 people.
	Younger age groups are projected to decline with a 16% decline projected in those aged 0-14 years and a 7% decline in the 15-39 year age group by 2048.
	A trend of a declining 'Active Population' is expected, with an active population decline of 7% across Southland by 2048.
	Increasing ethnic diversity. By 2048 those identifying as Māori, Asian and Pasifika are expected to increase to be 24%, 16% and 5% of the population respectively.

<sup>1</sup> Information in this section summarised from: Southland Regional Spaces and Places Te Rautaki O Murihiku (2021) and <https://teara.govt.nz/en/southland-region>

When planning for the future of play, active recreation and sport spaces and places across the region it is important to understand and consider these key factors relating to population change:

- Only a small increase in the total population is anticipated, therefore significant population driven participation increases are not expected.
- Southland has a geographically spread population needing local participation opportunities alongside Invercargill as the main population centre.
- The importance of warm, accessible active recreation facilities with or alongside social spaces that suit an aging population.
- Increasing ethnic diversity will likely result in changing participation preferences and therefore changing facility needs.

All these demographic changes signal a need for facilities that are multi-use, inclusive, accessible and adaptable and can cater to a range of different activities, ages and abilities as participation changes over time.

### **2.3 THE VALUE OF PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT | Nga uara o ngā takaro me nga hakinakina hohe hoki**

Play, active recreation and sport have long been valued as key parts of the New Zealand and Murihiku Southland lifestyle. Participation has a range of benefits for individuals and communities including contributing to physical and mental health and well-being, social connection, national and local pride and the economy. The spaces and places that support play, active recreation and sport across Murihiku Southland are therefore considered to be integral to the overall wellbeing of communities across the region.

### **2.4 KEY TRENDS IN PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT | Au ki mo ngā takaro me ngā hakinakina hohe hoki**

Over time a number of trends have emerged that challenge the structure, leadership and delivery of play, active recreation and sport in New Zealand and therefore impact on the spaces and places network that is needed to support community participation and wellbeing. Some of these trends include:

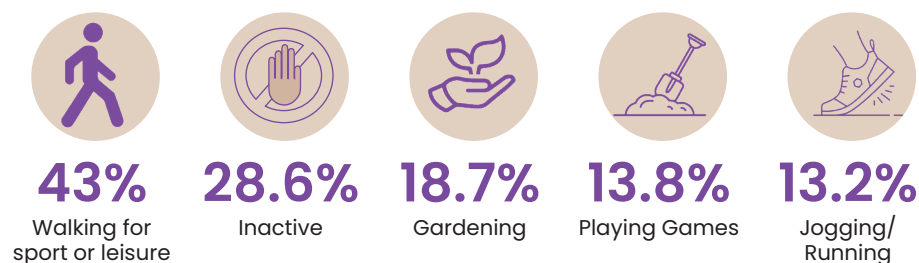
- Increasing diversity in the range of sport and recreation available
- Increasing awareness of the value and importance of play
- Decreasing physical activity, particularly influenced by the electronic revolution
- Aging built facilities, many of which are no longer fit-for-purpose and may not be financially viable to upgrade and maintain
- The development of multi-use hubs which act as broad community facilities, providing for a range of uses rather than just one sport
- Increasing participation in individual sport and recreation activities, a move to more casual participation and reducing popularity of traditional sport
- New technologies that benefit and encourage participation such as e-bikes, smart watches and online tools
- Increasing expectations of participants including the move of some outdoor sports to indoor environments and the desire for year round participation

These trends, and others, are described in more detail in the reference report.

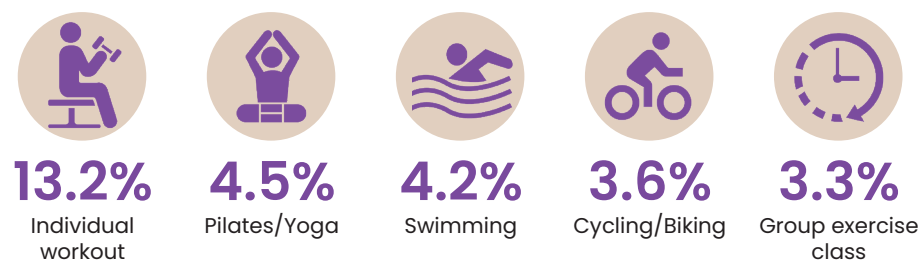
## 2.5 MURIHIKU SOUTHLAND PARTICIPATION TRENDS | Ngā whai au wahitanga o Murihiku

The Sport NZ Insights Tool<sup>3</sup> shows that, for the Active Southland Region the activity behaviour (interests and preferences).<sup>4</sup> This information is an indication only and care should be taken with the proportions of participation that it presents.

### THE TOP FIVE ACTIVITY BEHAVIOURS:



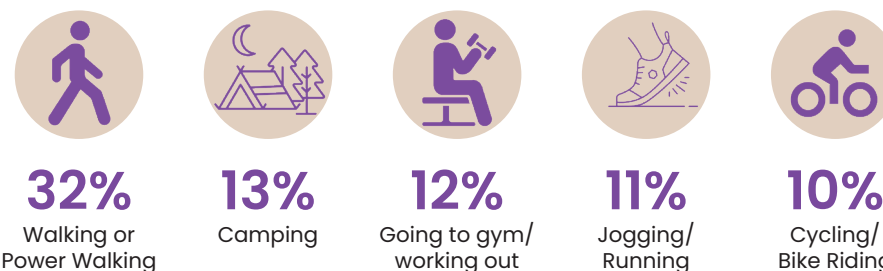
### ROUNDING OUT THE TOP TEN ACTIVITY BEHAVIOURS:



This shows that the majority of participation in Southland is likely to be through recreation and informal or casual participation opportunities or via facilities and classes that cater to more individualised sport and active recreation opportunities such as gym/exercise classes, pools and cycling infrastructure. Most sport and recreation activities that require

facilities such as indoor/outdoor courts and sports fields are outside of the top 15 expected activities in Southland when the whole community's expected participation levels are considered.

When the Sport NZ Activity Trends<sup>5</sup> data for activities participated in during the last year is considered the top 5 results are:



Again, sports or activities that require indoor/outdoor courts and playing fields fall outside the top 10 activity trends, with football highest ranked at 11th (6%), and indoor/outdoor cricket and tennis 15th equal (4%).

However, when the participation of secondary school students is considered, using the New Zealand Secondary School Sports Council (NZSSSSC) census,<sup>6</sup> it shows the top 10 student participation sports in Murihiku Southland are:

1. Rugby Union
2. Basketball
3. Netball (outdoor)
4. Volleyball
5. Touch
6. Football
7. Hockey (outdoor)
8. Badminton
9. Kī o rahi
10. Cricket (outdoor)

All of these sports occur on sports fields or indoor/outdoor courts.

Overall, this data indicates that participation opportunities that are most likely to be chosen by Southlander's tend to be sport or recreational activities that can be participated in casually or informally and on an individual or family basis. It also shows that generally, traditional field and court sports are very common activities for young people.

<sup>3</sup> Sourced from <https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/insights-tool/> Modelled participation uses combined data from the 2019 and 2020 Active NZ Survey and StatsNZ Census 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Activity behaviours is modelled participation using combined data from the 2019 and 2020 Active NZ Survey (last 7 Days participation rates) and Statistics NZ Census 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Nielsen Consumer & Media Insights report for the question: what sport and activities have you participated in the last 12 months. Data sourced for 2011-2020 Copyright 2016 the Nielsen Company.

<sup>6</sup> Sourced from: <https://www.nzsssc.co.nz/Education/School-Sport-NZ-Census-Reports>

# 03

## FACILITY PROVISION AND BENCHMARKING *Whakaritenga Whare me te Tohu Paetahi*

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*Nōu te rourou,  
nōku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi*

With your contribution, and my contribution,  
the people will thrive



### 3.1 REGIONAL SNAPSHOT | HOPUĀHUA Ā ROHE

Sport NZ Facility Inventory Data shows that at the current time there are over 330 known sport and recreation sites across the Southland region with over 650 facilities provided across these sites.<sup>7</sup> The facilities are provided by a range of organisations including councils, charitable trusts, the Ministry of Education and clubs and community groups. Some sites have a single facility such as the Archer Stadium run by the Eastern Southland Basketball Association (Gore), others have multiple facilities at one site such as a playing field(s) and clubrooms. Other sites have a range of uses and facilities such as schools with courts, fields, pools and stadiums or a multiuse park such as Surrey Park with ILT Stadium, various playing fields, athletics track, clubrooms and grandstand.

The five most common facility types<sup>8</sup> in Southland are:

- **Club building / changing rooms** (approximately 150 across the region),
- **Sports fields** (approximately 137 sites providing over 250 fields across the region for the main field-based codes of rugby, rugby league, football, hockey, touch, cricket and softball),
- **Outdoor courts** (approximately 92 sites, many with multiple courts)
- **Swimming pools** (approximately 36 sites, with some providing multiple pools)
- **Outdoor bowls** (approximately 40 sites).

#### 3.1.1 INVERCARGILL

Invercargill includes approximately 132 sites with around 246 facilities of which:

- The most common facility types and sites in the Invercargill area are sports fields (53 sites), club buildings/changing rooms (52), single code outdoor courts (23 sites), outdoor bowls (15 sites) and indoor courts (10 sites).

- Invercargill City Council (ICC) owns 43 sites with 83 facilities located on these Council owned sites. The vast majority of the facility assets on ICC land are owned by clubs, regional sports organisations or charitable trusts who hold a lease with ICC for the land their asset(s) sit on.
- ICC directly owns and operates only a few facilities with Splash Palace being the most significant. Other Council owned and operated facilities include Invercargill Skate Park, playgrounds and park sites such as Turnbull Thompson park.
- The Ministry of Education owns 32 sites with 62 facilities listed at these school sites.
- The remainder of the play, active recreation and sport facilities and sites in the area are owned by other organisations such as trusts and community sport and recreation organisations.

#### 3.1.2 GORE DISTRICT

There are approximately 38 sport and recreation sites in the Gore District which provide around 84 facilities of which:

- The most common facility types and sites are club building/changing rooms (20), sports fields (19 sites), outdoor bowls and outdoor courts (5 sites each), equestrian (4 sites), swimming pools, indoor courts and golf (3 sites),
- At least 31 facilities are on Council owned land.
- The Ministry of Education owns approximately 12 sites which provide approximately 18 facilities. These are predominantly sports fields, swimming pools and outdoor courts.

<sup>7</sup> All numbers in this section are indicative only as the Sport NZ inventory is known to have some data gaps, and is a live system, regularly being updated. It is the most comprehensive facility information that is available.

<sup>8</sup> The Sport NZ inventory does not include some recreation assets such as Department of Conservation land / National Parks, walking and cycling tracks and tramping huts, although some mountain bike parks and areas like the A&P showgrounds are included.

### 3.1.3 SOUTHLAND DISTRICT

Southland district has approximately 162 sites with over 318 facilities of which:

- The most common facility types and sites are club building/ changing rooms (77), sports fields (59 sites), outdoor courts (49 sites), swimming pools (26 sites), outdoor bowls (20), and golf (17).
- 54 sites are known to be Council owned land, with 102 facilities located on those sites, of which approximately 69 are known to be either owned or operated by other community organisations such as clubs and trusts.
- The Ministry of Education owns approximately 41 sites with over 100 facilities listed which are predominantly outdoor courts, sports fields and swimming pools.
- Seven schools also provide indoor multi-use courts (gymnasiums).

### 3.1.4 COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Across the region schools are important providers of play, active recreation and sport facilities, in many instances school facilities are also available for the community to use. However, the level of community use is not formally documented. At a minimum across the region, primary, secondary and area schools are known to provide at least the following facilities<sup>9</sup> approximately:

- 24 indoor court/gymnasium facilities
- 11 artificial turf court areas
- 65 outdoor court areas
- 23 swimming pools
- Numerous sports fields, play grounds and play spaces

There is always some level of casual recreational use of school playing/

sports field areas and play spaces. Some schools have more formalised or organised use of fields such as athletics, rugby, mau rākau, and cricket. Te Wharekura o Arowhenua is in the process of fund raising to develop a kī o rahi field. Some schools are known to make their swimming pools, halls, and indoor and outdoor courts available to the community for activities such as netball, gymnastics, martial arts, badminton and more.

## 3.2 INSIGHTS FROM THE 2021 STRATEGY | Nga kitenge mai I te rautaki 2021

This section summarises the high-level insights included in the 2021 Strategy. Refer to the 2021 strategy<sup>10</sup> itself for further detail if required.

### 3.2.1 OVERALL OBSERVATIONS

- High number of single use facilities and lack of multiuse facilities
- Most regional and sub-regional spaces and places located in key population areas of Invercargill, Gore, Te Anau and Winton.
- Providing equitable access across the region is challenging, particularly for rural areas and smaller towns.
- Aging facility stock with variable condition and quality.
- A number of facilities impacted by building/earthquake standards such as grandstands at Rugby Park and Surrey Park.
- Good examples of successful regional spaces and places including ILT Stadium Southland, Gore Multisports Complex, Sandy Point Sports Precinct, Fiordland College Sports Precinct.

Key success factors for these sites include:

- o High profile sites central to population areas
- o Multi-use clusters with other community/sports facilities
- o Serve local community and destinations for events

<sup>9</sup> Information provided by Active Southland staff regarding known school facilities (excluding specific detail on sports fields).

<sup>10</sup> Summarised from Southland Regional Spaces and Places Strategy 2021 (Otium Planning Group).

- o High quality spaces
- o Accessible with good parking
- Overall the spaces and places provided across the region are considered sufficient for current and projected population.
- Distribution, condition, quality and accessibility needs to be considered.
- There are constraints related to indoor courts and aquatic facilities.
- Ways to improve operational viability of facilities and economic benefit should be considered.

### 3.2.2 KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED IN 2021

- Challenge One – High number of single use facilities and a need to design flexible spaces and places that activate Southlanders.
- Challenge Two – a number of facilities now require renewal.
- Challenge Three – There is no regional planning approach to identifying and funding strategic priorities in the Southland Region.
- Challenge Four – need to maximise the contribution of regional spaces and places to Southland’s economy and liveability.
- Challenge Five – Southland’s spaces and places will need to adapt to climate change.

### 3.2.3 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS IDENTIFIED IN 2021

- Flexibility – deliver spaces and places that maximise their flexibility to meet community demand.
- Sustainability – review spaces and places in a well-planned and sustainable way.
- Collaboration – work together in the planning and investment of spaces and places.
- Attraction – work together to market and attract events to Southland in event ready spaces and places.



# 04

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*Te Whakauru Hapori*

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*Mā pango, mā whero,  
e oti ai te māhi*

By working together we will achieve

**Engagement was undertaken through meetings, community workshops, Māori voice hui wānanga and online surveys.** This provided an opportunity for individual community members and representatives of a wide range of play, active recreation and sport organisations to express what was important to them when planning the future play, active recreation and sport spaces and places network in Southland. Community engagement helped inform the development of all of the remaining sections of this strategy. Here is a sample of community comments:

*“Like all sports, the challenge is keeping youth engaged from age of 14 to 28.”*

*“Access to fields and facilities for Māori sports such as kī o rahi, mau raku and traditional games.”*

*“The greatest concern limiting participation is the availability of court space at suitable times.”*

*“Cost of living hasn’t helped with our member numbers this year, people putting families first.”*

*“We could have trouble finding enough coaches to support an increase in numbers, so membership will be limited to what can be handled.”*

*“Laughter, fun, kai and activity together”*

*“The building is starting to show some wear n tear recently, in need of some renovations.”*

*“We know we have to make changes to our sport from its traditional structure.”*

*“Spaces for the whole whānau and safe options for our young tamariki”*

*“Volunteer leaders are hard to find and current leaders are tired”*

*“Avoid unhealthy competition and work together with other clubs for the good of the athletes”*

*“Modernise toilet and changing facilities.”*

*“Storage”*

*“Don’t put barriers in the way of people wanting to try new sports, make it easy for them to be active”*

*“Lots of choices including accessible swimming facilities in local communities”*

*“Having a BBQ at waka ama would be great”*

# 05

## ASPIRATIONS AND ADVANTAGES *Ngā Wawata me ngā Painga*

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**Whāia te iti Kahurangi kite  
tūohu koe, me he maunga teitei**

Aim high so if you miss you will hit the lofty mountain

## 5.1 ADVANTAGES OF MURIHIKU SOUTHLAND | Nga painga o Murihiku

### REGIONAL SPACES & PLACES ADVISORY GROUP

Key stakeholders have been successfully collaborating on regional spaces and places planning. The improved collaboration between Councils, funders and Active Southland is starting to show strategic benefits.

### COMMUNITY FUNDING

The Murihiku Southland region has a number of charitable funding organisations that provide funding to play, active recreation and sport organisations. Murihiku includes a number of well-established funders who play a significant and valuable role in community funding and have been major investors into facilities in the region over time.

### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The region benefits from easy access to a range of natural features that support sport and recreation including mountains, bush and water, including significant National Parks with numerous "Great Walks". It is important to protect these spaces and experiences for the future.

### PARTICIPATION & EVENTS OPPORTUNITIES

A wide range of play, active recreation and sport opportunities are provided across the region for local community participation. Murihiku Southland also has facilities that are suitable for hosting sport and active recreation events at a regional, South Island and National level including Surrey Park as a whole along with the ILT Stadium and Velodrome.

### SCHOOL FACILITIES

Southland has a large number of schools with quality play, active recreation and sport facilities, many of which provide for wider community access and utilisation. The geographical dispersal of schools across the region, including in small communities, provides at

least a base level/local standard of facility provision in areas that might not otherwise have the population base to support these types of play, sport and recreation assets.

## 5.2 COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS FOR PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES IN SOUTHLAND | Nga hiahiatanga hapori mo te takaro, te hakinakina hohe me nga pukenga hakinakina I te whenua ki te Tonga

- Inclusive spaces
- Accessible for all (including those with disabilities and sensory needs) and able to be accessed via public and active transport options
- Multi-use and safe spaces that cater to whole whānau
- More support/amenity facilities such as toilets, seating, shelter/shade, BBQ's, car parking.
- Welcoming facilities that reflect our past/heritage and cultural narratives
- Everyone knows what facilities are available and how to access them
- Assets spread so rural communities have amenities, draw cards too
- Fit for purpose, flexible, future-proofed
- The community also expressed some specific aspirations for specific facilities such as enhancements to:
  - ILT Stadium
  - Gore Multisports complex
  - Rugby Park, including it being available for more community use
  - Access and facilities suitable for a range of users including roller sports, parkour, marching and others.

# 06

## KEY CHALLENGES *Ngā Wero Matua*

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# Hongi hongiri te wheiwheia

Face with courage those unseen things  
that can create fear



The main facility challenges in Murihiku Southland identified from research, advisory group discussions, surveys and community engagement workshops are summarised below.

Ageing facilities (declining quality)	Duplication and lack of multi-use facilities (1)	Lack of sustainable asset planning & environmental considerations
Accessibility of facilities	Affordability – Costs of participation and facility hire (2=)	Provision and quality of amenities/support facilities
Quantity and capacity of some facilities (2=)	Competing priorities for investment (3=)	Lack of volunteers (3=)
Lack of awareness and not feeling welcome (4)	Storage	Facility policy settings

The number in brackets identifies the top ranked issues.

## 6.1 PRIORITIES TO HELP ADDRESS CHALLENGES | Manake hei awhina ki te whakataui i nga wero

There are a number of ways that the challenges could be addressed across the region, and a multi-faceted approach will be required to address these. However, the top five mechanisms to help address these challenges, which were supported through community engagement included:

- More partnerships and collaboration with organisations working together for shared benefits.
- Providing fun, enjoyable participation environments

- Improving communication and increasing awareness of available facilities and participation options
- Providing opportunities for all regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability and addressing imbalances in participation
- Facilities that support and enable increased participation from less active or low participation groups in communities across the region.

## 6.2 CLIMATE CHANGE AS A KEY CHALLENGE | Huringa ahuarangi hei ahuatanga matua

The importance and relevance of climate change and the impact it is having on communities and the spaces and places where play, active recreation and sport occur is becoming more and more apparent. Internationally and nationally climate change is starting to directly impact many communities.

During the planning phase of play, active recreation and sport facilities there is an opportunity to incorporate an environmentally sustainable approach. While typically this incurs higher initial costs the ongoing benefits when considering the whole life of the facility are significant, especially with running costs. Carbon neutral and carbon positive approaches to our built environment are not only good for our planet but also offer a point of difference. A long-term view of our spaces and places needs to be encouraged, remembering that most facilities will be fixed structures for 50 years or more.

Consideration needs to be given to not only the type of materials and systems used in building but also the site location of facilities when considering changing weather patterns, erosion, and rising sea levels.

The Southland Spaces and Places Strategy partners acknowledge it is important do things differently in future to achieve better outcomes for built facilities & the natural environment through considering environmental sustainably for the future facility network across the region.

# 07

PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION CASE STUDIES

*Ngā Hononga me ngā Mahitahi*

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## Ngā Hononga me ngā Mahitahi

Face with courage those unseen things  
that can create fear

The community identified more collaboration and partnerships as ways to help address some of the existing facility challenges in Murihiku Southland. It was clear from conversations with key stakeholders and community groups that information on some real life collaboration examples would help others to understand the possibilities. This is a snapshot of four local examples, with more detail provided in the reference document.

### 7.1.1 QUEENS PARK GOLF CLUB – MULTIPLE GOLF OFFERINGS

- Collaboration between Queens Park Golf Club and Disc Golf South
- Disc golf holes (elevated metal baskets) have been established on the Queens Park Golf Course.
- Usually a mixture of players of both types on the course at the same time. The tee locations and holes for each variation of the game are in different locations.
- Easy to just work in which each other with awareness, and etiquette, like any group of golfers on a course with others.



*“The extra revenue for the club is great, but also Disc Golf provides a different way to look at golf and how the sport is progressing. It opens a new door to not only younger players but anyone looking to get into golf, helping us navigate the changes of sport in clubs in 2023 by being open and adaptable” - Lauren Howley, Club Administrator.*

To other clubs or organisations who might be considering collaborating Lauren’s advice is:

*“Go for it! you have to move with the times, if you broaden your horizons the amount of opportunity that comes with that is amazing. It has been awesome marketing for us.”*

### 7.1.2 NORTHEND BOWLING CLUB – A CLUB WITH A PROUD 125 YEAR HISTORY NOW SHARING WITH OTHERS

- The Northend Hockey Club use the clubrooms for after match functions on Sundays during the bowls off-season.
- A Weight Watchers group use the clubrooms on weekly basis, year-round.
- Hockey have a member on the bowls club executive committee giving them a say on what affects them regarding the clubrooms
- The building has a separation shutter which can be pulled across when required.
- Sharing is simple and convenient.
- Sharing helps generate additional income to offset operational costs.

*“Collaboration is about what works for your club. Hockey being in our off-season works for us and for hockey as they didn’t have clubrooms to go to themselves” - Fraser Purdue, Northend Bowling Club*



### 7.1.3 AURORA COLLEGE AND COLLEGIATE NETBALL – WIN, WIN PARTNERSHIP

- Collegiate Netball Club supplies coaches for Aurora College teams
- Aurora College provides the Collegiate netball club with free access to the school gym for team training in return
- System has been operating for a couple of years.
- The primary benefit for the school is the provision of coaches.
- The primary benefit for Collegiate is the cost saving in facility hire – they have been able to reduce the fees to players in their teams.
- Both partners benefit from the pathway that has been created between school netball and club netball, some school leavers now feed into the club.

*“It is a great partnership as there are benefits on both sides, a win-win all round” – Anna Crosswell, Sports Coordinator Aurora College.*

### 7.1.4 MURIHIKU MARAE – A STANDING PLACE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Murihiku Marae has recently been rebuilt to ensure that it is fit for purpose to support the rūnaka into the future. The re-build has:

- Modernised the marae with a new mix of facilities and services
- Improved how the marae functions as a community hub.

The marae will continue to support whānau and community wellbeing in a range of ways including through physical activity, social, mental health and wellbeing initiatives (as it has in the past).

Some of the physical activities provided on, or linked to the marae include:

- Play pods providing equipment for supervised free play opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi.
- Space for school visits so students can participate in traditional Māori games such as mau rakau and kī o rahi along with new games that help embed cultural stories for young people.
- Kapa haka and waka ama groups.
- Māra kai.
- The marae is also partnering with Aurora High School and Active Southland to develop māra kai on the school site.

Other partnerships provide a whole raft of social services such as

- Whānau ora,
- A tikanga programme for rangatahi in Department of Corrections care,
- Services to support individuals and families in crisis such as family violence and alcohol and drug programmes
- Resilience against organised crime in the community.

The marae provides for the whole whānau through housing for kaumatua and also a youth home for rangatahi. It is a place for tangi, dances, school holiday programmes, hui, hangi and socialisation for all. A true multi-use, multi-generational space.

### 7.1.5 EASTERN SOUTHLAND HOCKEY – PROACTIVELY PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Eastern Southland Hockey have a hockey turf located at the Gore Multi-Sport Complex. It accommodates three different clubs:

- Eastern Men
- Mataura
- Riversdale

During the hockey season the turf provides approximately 30 hours of playing time per week for hockey. It is also used off-season for social hockey and occasionally for rugby teams when fields are closed due to wet weather. The clubrooms are also hired out by netball teams.

Artificial turfs allow for high usage and in all weather, for sports like

Hockey which has a standard of playing on artificial water based turfs it is an expected part of the game. However, artificial turfs need to be replaced approximately every 12-15 years meaning it is very important to plan for future replacements.

Eastern Southland Hockey have a proactive approach to funding their replacement needs. Incorporated into the playing fees is a turf levy which is put aside towards future turf replacement costs. This means that all players over a 12-15 year period are paying for the turf asset and not just those who are playing when at the time replacement is required. This proactive approach means Eastern Southland Hockey will not be just left to selling cheese rolls for their next turf replacement!



08

STRATEGIC VISION  
*Ahunga Rautaki*





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*Me hoki whakamuri,  
Kia anga whakamua*

The future is informed by the past

A regional planning framework that optimises the play, active recreation and sport spaces and places across the region, supporting the wellbeing (hauora) of all Southlanders into the future.

## 8.1 DESIRED STRATEGIC OUTCOMES | Nga putanga rautaki e hiahia ana

DESIRED OUTCOME	
	<b>A regional network approach to spaces and places planning</b> , supporting the provision of regional and sub-regional facilities across the region in key population centres, supplemented with local facilities.
	<b>More partnerships and collaboration</b> – working together for shared benefits will achieve better spaces and places and participation outcomes for communities across Southland.
	<b>Flexible, multiuse, inclusive and accessible spaces and places</b> that provide enjoyable, welcoming participation environments with a focus on equity of opportunity for all, <sup>11</sup> helping address the imbalances in participation across the diverse community of Murihiku Southland.
	<b>Optimised and sustainable spaces and places</b> that have increased utilisation through improved functionality, awareness, communication and facility sharing.



Making progress in each of the four strategic outcome areas will be required in order for Murihiku Southland to have optimised spaces and places which support community wellbeing into the future.

<sup>11</sup> regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability, affordability.

## 8.2 PRINCIPLES | Matapono

### 8.2.1 ACKNOWLEDGE TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

To recognise the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi a cultural framework will be applied. This will reflect Te Tiriti o Waitangi articles and principles and consider the cultural narrative of the area when planning future play, active recreation and sport facility outcomes for our community.

### 8.2.2 INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE

Facilities are maintained, adapted and developed in such a way as to encourage inclusiveness and accessibility for all. This includes being accessible to all people regardless of income, age, ethnicity, gender and physical ability.

### 8.2.3 EVIDENCED BASED

Any changes to service levels and provision of new or redeveloped facilities will be based on a planned approach, utilising available evidence to inform decisions, including an insights approach<sup>12</sup>.

### 8.2.4 INTEGRATION AND MULTI-USE

Focus on development of multi-use facilities or hubs where a range of sport, recreation, play, education, social and other community infrastructure needs can be met. Over provision or unnecessary duplication of facilities should be avoided.

### 8.2.5 SEEKING BEST VALUE FOR MONEY (ECONOMICALLY VIABLE)

With finite resources, decisions need to be made that are based on ensuring social and economic sustainability and value for money for asset owners and funders. To do this it is important to understand the whole of life costs related to decisions. This means not only being able to build a facility, but also affording to operate and maintain it for the whole of its life.

### 8.2.6 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental impacts and climate change need to be considered when investing in upgrades or new facilities. There is also a need to apply sustainable design and construction methods to ensure the future facility network minimises impact on the environment and is itself, protected from environmental changes.

### 8.2.7 PARTNERING AND COLLABORATION

Partnering with others within and outside of the sector e.g., education, health, Iwi, and the private sector increases the likelihood that facilities will be used to their full potential, maximising the return on investment.

### 8.2.8 A NETWORK APPROACH

When determining appropriate levels of facility provision the role each facility plays in the overall facility network needs to be considered. Not all communities need or can sustain the same levels of facility provision.

### 8.2.9 FUTURE-PROOFING

Facilities should be designed to accommodate changing needs over time.

The best, long-term, outcomes are achieved by designing facilities in ways that enable them to be adapted, developed and extended in response to future demands, thereby delivering multi-generational benefits.

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<sup>12</sup> This will include ensuring that the community voice (of participants) and local knowledge is captured and considered in decision making.





09

REGIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

*Ngā Mahere Rohe*

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He wāka eke noa

We're all in this together

## 9.1 FACILITY CATEGORIES | Kawai Panga

Figure 9.1 Facility Categories and their Primary Function

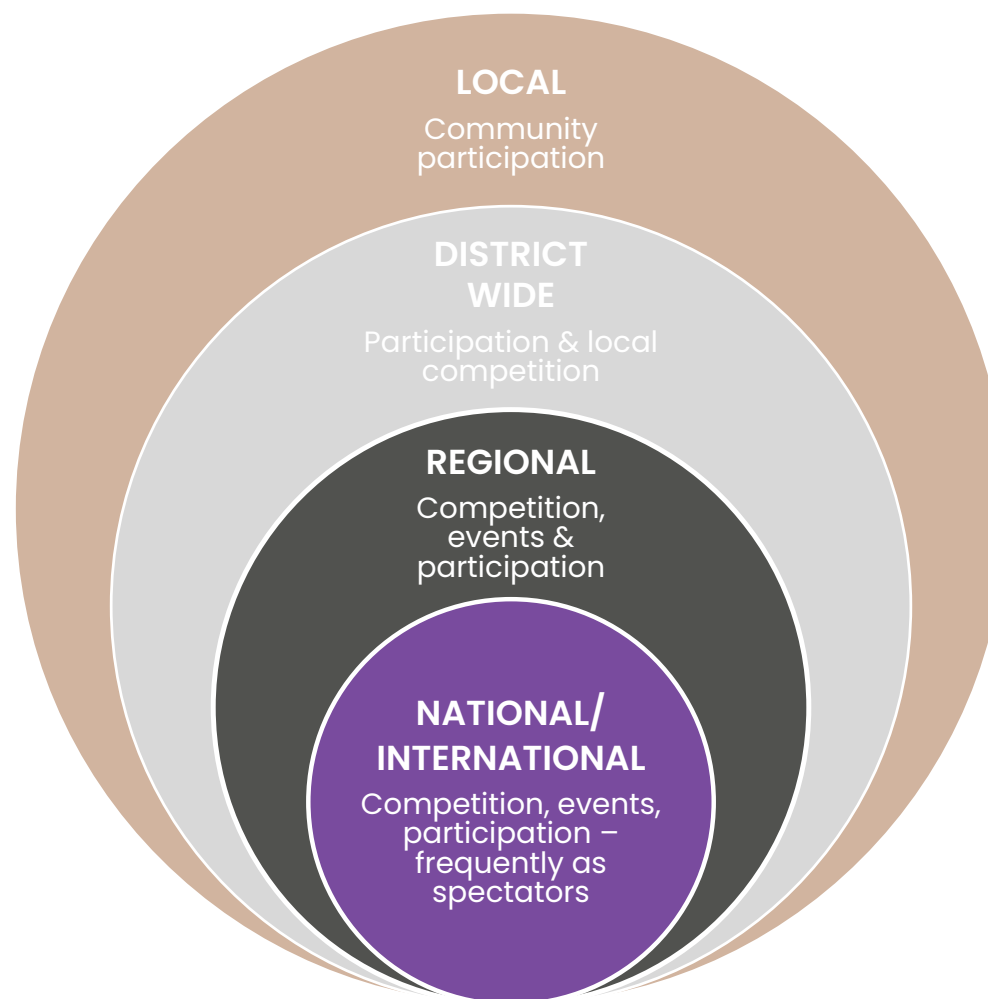
In order to help inform regional facility planning it is useful to have a way to categorise and consider the role of specific facilities and how they support communities to engage in play, active recreation and sport.

All categories of facility have an important role to play within the network of facilities in Southland.

When categorising facilities, it is important to categorise them based on their primary use and intended purpose.

While some local facilities may meet some international standards, such as a basketball court meeting FIBA requirements, if the majority of use and its primary purpose is for local and regional use it should be categorised as a regional facility.

It is also important to understand that a single facility often meets a variety of community needs across the spectrum, from local participation to international competition.



	LOCAL	SUB-REGIONAL/ DISTRICT	REGIONAL	NATIONAL	INTERNATIONAL
DEFINITION	A facility that provides community participation opportunities for a local neighbourhood or town catchment. Local facilities often facilitate people's introduction to sport and recreation within their local community.	A facility with the ability to provide participation opportunities for both training and competition. Often supporting the whole district (Invercargill, Gore District, Southland District), and also drawing teams from across adjacent Territorial Authority areas for competition or a unique participation experience.	A facility with the ability to host inter-regional and internal regional (Southland wide) competitions, serve as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes or provide community participation opportunities for a high number of people across Territorial Authority boundaries. Regional spaces and places are often the primary centre of co-located, multi-sport and active recreation facilities within a regional catchment.	A facility with the ability to host national competitions and events or to serve as a national high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes.	A facility with the ability to host international competitions and events (i.e. between nations).
EXAMPLES	Appleby Cricket Club, Riverton Skate Park, Neuman Park	Turnbull Thompson Park, Gore Multisports Complex, Northern Southland College	Badminton Southland, Hockey Southland, Dolamore Park (mountain biking), Te Anau Bouldering Wall	Rugby Park, Teretonga Park Raceway	ILT Stadium and velodrome.
PRIMARY FUNCTION	Local community participation	Participation and local competition	Competition, events and community participation	Competition, events and participation – most frequently as spectators	Competition, events and participation – most frequently as spectators

## 9.2 MULTI-LEVEL FACILITY ASSESSMENT CRITERIA | Paearu aromatawai taumata maha

The following criteria have been developed to reflect the key principles and can be used to assess both current and future proposed spaces and places investments across region. At level 1, the essential criteria need to be considered, and met with a high degree of certainty before a more detailed assessment of any concept is undertaken using the remaining (level two criteria). The Regional Spaces and Places Advisory Group will use consistent processes to apply the principles and assessment criteria when considering facility concepts. This process will inform the recommendations the advisory group provides to decision making organisations regarding concepts for investment into play, active recreation and sport facility development, redevelopment or major maintenance.

**LEVEL 1 – ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**  
Which all projects must meet

PLANNING PRINCIPLE	CRITERIA
Acknowledges Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Supports principles of Partnership, Protection, and Participation, considers the cultural narrative of the area and Māori participation will be positively impacted.
Evidenced based	A clear need has been defined and supported with appropriate evidence including community insights. Community wellbeing and participation will be positively impacted. Degree of alignment with relevant national, regional and local strategies and strategic drivers. Supported by research, consultation, the wider community and stakeholders.
Inclusive and accessible	Will benefit a broad spectrum of the community, supporting accessibility and equity for all including disadvantaged groups <sup>13</sup> .
Seeking best value for money	Demonstrates economic viability and operational sustainability for the whole of life, with ongoing community benefit.
Network Approach	Matches projected needs by addressing under or over provision and avoiding duplication.

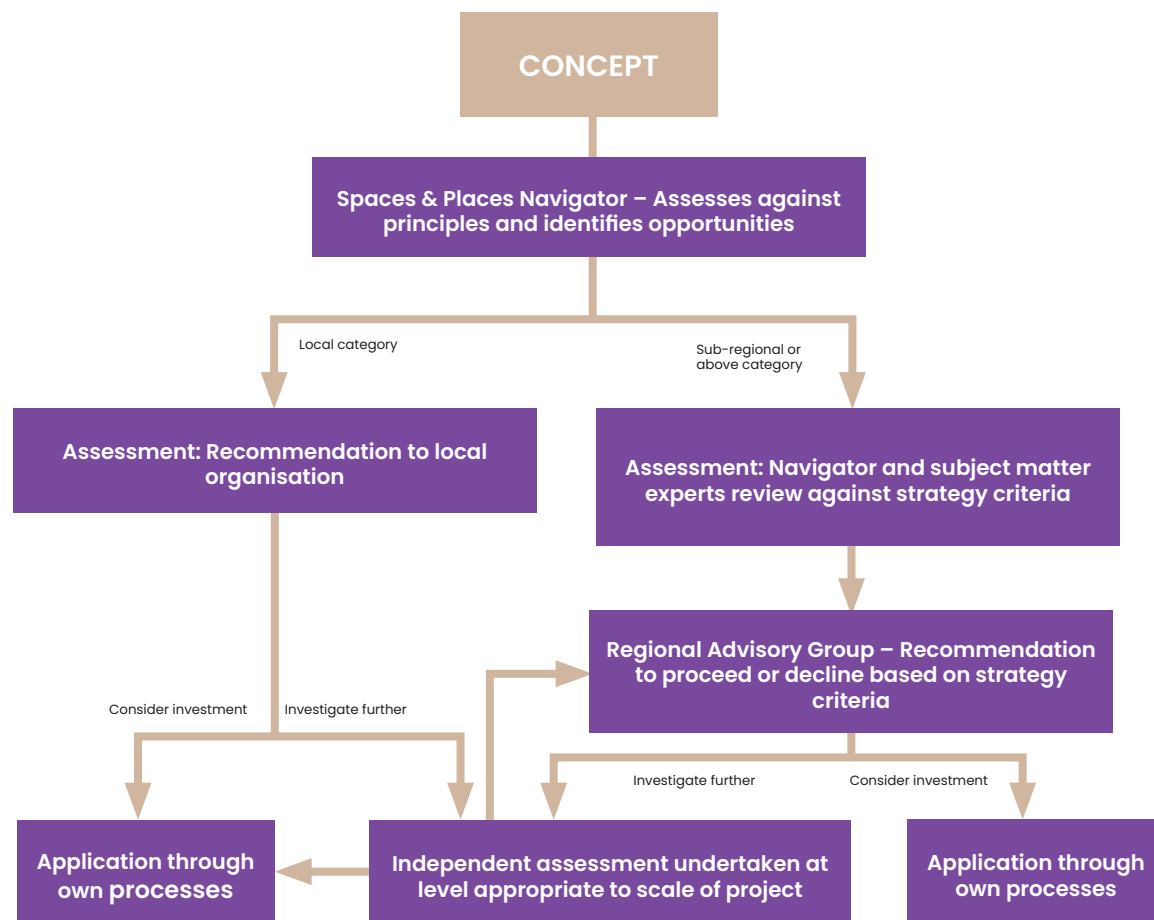
**LEVEL 2 – HIGH PRIORITY CRITERIA**  
While not essential to meet all these criteria, projects should demonstrate clearly how they address these high priority criteria.

PLANNING PRINCIPLE	CRITERIA
Evidenced based	Reflects good practice in location, design and operations.
Integration and multiuse	Supports multi-use, multi-code and cross sector collaboration. Optimisation of facilities through partnerships to increase use and enhancements to make more fit-for-purpose.
PLANNING PRINCIPLE	CRITERIA
Environmental sustainability	Environmental awareness is demonstrated with planning that mitigates against climate risks and applies sustainable design principles.
Partnering and collaboration	Clear potential for partnership between multiple stakeholders and community organisations.
Network Approach	The facility will support rather than compete with other facilities, and prioritise community participation outcomes.
Future-proofing	Flexibility to adapt to changing demand, trends and community needs.

<sup>13</sup> This can be achieved in a variety of ways, including through the application of universal design principles.

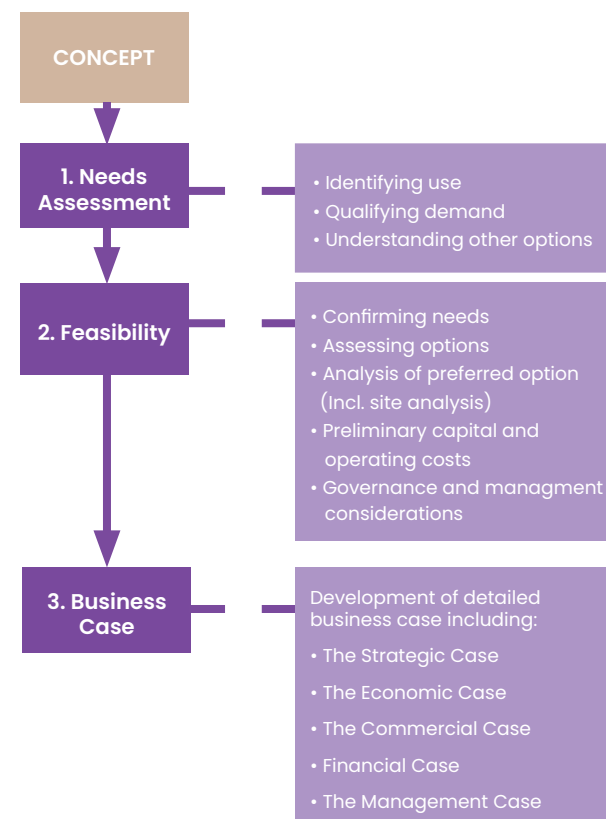
### 9.3 ASSESSMENT PROCESS | Te tukanga aromatawai

In summary, the following process will be used to apply the principles and assessment criteria of this strategy to proposed spaces and places investments across the region. This process will inform the recommendations the Regional Advisory Group provides to decision making organisations regarding concepts put forward for investment into play, active recreation and sport facility development, redevelopment or major maintenance.



The scale of a proposed project will determine the depth of independent assessment required (if any) to provide assurances to decision makers.

The 3 independent assessment phases outlined below can be combined in some instances.





10

RECOMMENDATIONS

*Ngā Tohutohu*

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*Waihoā i te tōipoto  
Kaua i te toiroā*

We're all in this together



## 10.1 RELATIVE PRIORITY APPROACH | Whakatata manakē pātahi

For this strategy, a relative priority approach has been used alongside the multi-level decision-making criteria to determine the proposed priority of recommendations. The relative priorities are:

- High: critical to achieving strategic outcomes, principles and enabling strategy implementation. Fundamental to addressing known provision gaps or oversupply issues and diversifying and improving community participation outcomes.
- Medium: important in responding to community aspirations and future need. May require pre-requisite, planning work to be undertaken.
- Low: not critical to strategy implementation but responds to community aspirations and will improve community play, active recreation and sport facility and participation outcomes.
- Ongoing: recurring actions and priorities that support implementation and continue throughout the life of the strategy.

## 10.2 REGIONAL ENABLING RECOMMENDATIONS | NGĀ TŪTOHUTANGA WHAKAHOHE Ā-ROHE

These are summary recommendations, more detail including potential key considerations for some recommendations are provided in the reference report.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
A regional network approach to spaces and places planning	1. Ensure the Regional Spaces & Places Advisory Group is expanded to include Māori representatives who have been selected by Māori rūnaka and mātā waka groups.	High
	2. Consistently apply the principles and decision making criteria of this strategy to assessing all proposals for investment into play, active recreation and sport facilities across region. To support this, partner organisations are aligned in their individual organisational policies and processes with the regional planning framework.	Ongoing
	3. Incorporate the key findings and recommendations of this regional spaces and places strategy into a broader play, active recreation and sport strategy that takes a more multi-faceted approach to improving participation outcomes. This needs to consider active transportation and recreational walking and cycle trail links from key regional, sub-regional and local spaces and places to where people live, work and go to school.	High
	4. Each Council should develop local spaces and places plans which align with the regional strategy and provide a greater level of detailed direction on local level facilities and local community issues. These plans will also need to include sub-regional and regional assets, in their local context, while remaining mindful of the role they play across the wider region .	High

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
Optimised and sustainable spaces and places	5. Asset owners/facility managers to review policy settings for key regional and sub-regional facilities to help ensure balance is achieved between community play, sport and active recreation bookings and events use. Also consider ways that fees and charges, booking processes, support services and use rules may impact on community utilisation of key facilities including for those with disabilities.	High
	6. Encourage and support individual community sport and recreation organisations who own built assets to undertake more active asset management planning and regular facility maintenance regimes.	High - ongoing
	7. Investigate development of a shared information hub for play, active recreation and sport facilities and programmes across the region, making it easier for organisations to share facilities and for individuals to be aware of the participation opportunities available at these spaces and places.	Medium
	8. Prioritise investment into maintenance and renewals to maximise existing, fit-for-purpose facilities before building new. First and foremost, invest into asset management planning and maintenance of key regional and sub-regional facilities across the region, including sports hub sites and regional code level facilities.	Ongoing
	9. Support facility planning approaches that will enhance environmental sustainability of existing and future spaces and places and assist them to adapt to climate change impacts.	Ongoing
More partnerships and collaboration	10. Investigate mechanisms to provide regular opportunities for community organisations including play, active recreation and sport groups to regularly meet, share information <sup>14</sup> and work together and to build more strategic relationships between community providers, councils and community funders.	High
	11. Work with the newly established Māori Sports Trust, iwi and matāwaka to identify and better support priority spaces that enable and support Māori participation.	High - ongoing
	12. Work with community play, active recreation and sport groups to explore ways volunteers can be better supported and maximised.	Medium

<sup>14</sup> Including local, working examples of partnerships and collaboration.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
More partnerships and collaboration	13. Facilitate strategic partnerships with other facility providers such as Ministry of Education, rūnaka, marae, Department of Conservation and other providers to increase community access to play, active recreation and sport assets (current and future) provided by those organisations.	High – ongoing
Flexible, multiuse, inclusive and accessible spaces and places	14. Work with local rūnaka to ensure Māori culture, naming and signage including local pūrākau are incorporated into spaces and places (existing and new).	High – ongoing
	15. Encourage existing single-use facilities to become more multi-use for play, active recreation, sport and wider community use outcomes wherever possible. A range of methods could be applied, including restricting investment into facilities where there is no evidence of regular shared use <sup>15</sup> .	Ongoing
	16. Investigate ways to improve access and affordability to quality play, active recreation and sport facilities for high deprivation and low participation communities, including those with disabilities.	Medium
	17. Key stakeholders including Councils and community funders continue to recognise the value of multi-use, integrated facilities and hub sites when reviewing their policies and plans (such as reserve management plans and leasing policies) to encourage investment over single use facilities (where possible and appropriate). <sup>16</sup> .	High
	18. When planning new and upgrading existing spaces and places ensure that the provision of appropriate, quality support facilities and amenities are a key part of facility planning.	Ongoing

<sup>15</sup> It is noted that some specialist playing surfaces may not be conducive to sharing with other activities, such as bowling greens, however, often there are other facilities such as clubrooms associated with these spaces that can be successfully shared.

<sup>16</sup> It is noted that some single use facilities can be viable and sustainable, particularly where they provide a hub for all activity for that code within a district or region such as a facility catering to all club play for example Hockey Southland and the Southland Badminton Association building.

## 10.3 PRIORITY REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS | Manakē I ngā tūtohutanga ā-rohe

### 10.3.1 SPORTS FIELDS

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
A regional network approach to spaces and places planning	19. Implement the recommendations of the <a href="#">Southland Sports Field Strategy 2023</a> over time.	High - ongoing
A regional network approach to spaces and places planning	20. Explore future opportunities for provision of a multi-use regional sports ground in Invercargill that supports and maximises broad community use outcomes for a variety of play, active recreation, sport and events uses.	High

### 10.3.2 INDOOR FACILITIES

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
A regional network approach to spaces and places planning	21. Complete a needs and options assessment for increasing access to indoor courts within the Invercargill area.	High
	22. Support Invercargill Gymnastic Club to complete a needs/feasibility assessment for a modern, fit-for-purpose facility for the future.	High
Optimised and sustainable spaces and places	23. Prior to investing in individual squash club facilities, undertake a regional needs and options assessment for squash facilities considering age, condition and utilisation.	High
	24. Work with basketball to explore ways to best support increases in participation including what role the Gore MultiSport Complex and multi-use courts in schools could play in this.	Medium
More partnerships and collaboration	25. Indoor facility owners facing challenges with facility age, declining condition and a lack of fit-for-purpose features need to seek partnerships with other compatible activities to increase the community value and participation outcomes from any future investment.	Medium - ongoing

### 10.3.3 HUB SITES

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
A regional network approach to spaces and places planning	26. The Regional Sports Fields Strategy identifies the potential for clusters of sports fields and the potential for clubrooms to become wider community hubs. As part of planning for sports field sites across the region, consider the potential to increase other play and active recreation opportunities at these sites where space allows.	Ongoing
Flexible, multiuse, inclusive and accessible spaces and places	27. Following the completion of the indoor courts needs assessment, incorporate any relevant outcomes into a masterplan for the Surrey Park site which will also need to address options to best resolve the grandstand and building issues at the site.	High
STRATEGIC OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
Flexible, multiuse, inclusive and accessible spaces and places	28. Gore Multisport Complex a) Prioritise ongoing, regular investment into asset management and programmed maintenance to ensure the complex remains fit-for-purpose and operationally sound; b) Complete a masterplan for the wider precinct. As part of the masterplan process undertake a high-level needs and options assessment which considers ways to maximise the complex for community utilisation in its broadest sense, including seeking to consolidate more activities to the facility and across the precinct where possible.	Medium
Optimised and sustainable spaces and places	29. Continue to support and maintain Te Anau Domain and Fiordland College as key sub-regional play, active recreation and sport hubs, with future enhancements (where required).	Ongoing
More partnerships and collaboration	30. Work with Central Southland College and local community organisations to explore opportunities for enhanced community use of the school site via community/school facility partnerships.	Medium
Flexible, multifunctional and fit for purpose spaces and places	31. Ensure that the facilities at the Centennial Park hub have asset management plans and regular programmed maintenance to enable them to remain fit-for-purpose.	Medium - ongoing

### 10.3.4 AQUATIC FACILITIES

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
<b>INDOOR POOLS</b>		
Flexible, multiuse, inclusive and accessible spaces and places	32. Undertake detailed planning for the upgrade of Splash Palace as the key, regional aquatic facility, with the intent to maximise functionality for broad community play, active recreation and sport outcomes. Give specific considerations to changing demographics and trends in aquatic facility design and use.	Medium
More partnerships and collaboration	33. Continue partnerships with communities to seek to better leverage school and community pools for wider benefit and the ongoing provision of quality, sustainable local access to swimming pools and learn to swim opportunities.	Ongoing
<b>NATURAL WATER</b>		
Flexible, multiuse, inclusive and accessible spaces and places	34. Work with water-based sport, active recreation and interested communities such as rūnaka and mātā waka groups to facilitate improved support for water-based activities.	Medium

### 10.3.5 OUTDOOR COURTS

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
A regional network approach to spaces and places planning	35. Prior to undertaking any major renewals of single use outdoor court facilities undertake a needs and options assessment which considers the cost/benefit of site upgrades alongside potential for developing multi-use court partnerships at the existing site or in conjunction with schools or other existing community facilities.	Ongoing
	36. Work with Tennis Southland to undertake a regional needs and options assessment that examines age, condition and utilisation of existing tennis courts and develops a prioritised list of court maintenance projects.	Medium

### 10.3.6 PLAY AND ACTIVE RECREATION SPACES AND PLACES

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
A regional network approach to spaces and places planning	37. Use <a href="#">The Great South Cycle Tourism Opportunity Assessment</a> as the key strategic document to inform future cycle trail investment in the region. Link this with the active transport opportunities report (where relevant).	Ongoing
More partnerships and collaboration	38. Work with relevant clubs and interest groups to best consider ways to respond to desires for increased provision and access to facilities suitable for example: a) Parkour – this could be considered through the ICC Play in the City initiative b) Marching – training and competition venue access c) GirlGuiding NZ, Scouts - for increased access to safe, accessible camp locations where activities such as turf fires are allowable d) Others which emerge over time	Low
Flexible, multiuse, inclusive and accessible spaces and places	39. Work with rūnaka, mātā waka groups and local communities to identify opportunities to embed mātauranga Māori, whakapapa and pūrākau within play spaces and play opportunities including the use of natural materials and consideration of creating Māra Hūpara (traditional play space) in partnership with local communities where desired.	High - ongoing
	40. When upgrading playgrounds work with local communities to consider trends in play, and alternative provision options such as flexible play spaces and natural play before replacing existing play equipment with new equipment of the same type.	Ongoing

### 10.3.7 OTHER FACILITY TYPES

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
A regional network approach to spaces and places planning	41. As long as need and community utilisation exists, prioritise ongoing, regular investment into asset management and programmed maintenance to ensure key regional and sub-regional motor and kart sport facilities remain fit-for-purpose and operationally safe;	Ongoing
	42. As long as need and community utilisation exists, prioritise ongoing, regular investment into asset management and programmed maintenance to ensure key regional and sub-regional equestrian facilities remain fit-for-purpose.	Ongoing
	43. Work with Bowls Southland to undertake a regional needs and options assessment that examines age, condition and utilisation of existing bowling clubs and seeks to identify collaboration opportunities across the network.	Medium

