



Document Info & Acknowledgements

Document version: DRAFT – Kaipara Spaces & Places Plan 2021

Authors: Kiri Pope, Richard Lindsay, Anna Lindsay

Acknowledgements

RSL would like to thank for following people and organisations for their input into developing this plan:

Project Team

Brent Eastwood, Stu Middleton – Sport Northland
Phil Marsh, Josh Port - Northland Sports Coalition
Walter Wells – Te Kahu o Taonui
Deborah Harding – Māori advisory
Ana Mules – Far North District Council
Darlene Lang – Kaipara District Council
Sue Hodge – Whangarei District Council
Phil Heatley – Northland Regional Council
Jamie Delich – Sport New Zealand
Joey Yovich – Sport Northland (PSG Administrator)

With Thanks To

Hamish Watson, Kaipara District Council
Roxanne Kelly, Sport Northland
All individuals, rangatahi, whānau, clubs, community groups and regional sports organisations that gave up their valuable time to complete surveys and attend workshops, hui and answer our questions.

Disclaimer

Information, data and general assumptions used in the compilation of this report have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. RSL Consultancy has used this information in good faith and makes no warranties or representations, express or implied, concerning the accuracy or completeness of this information. RSL Consultancy is acting as an independent consultant. In doing so, the recommendations provided do not necessarily reflect the intentions of the client. Interested parties should perform their own investigations, analysis and projections on all issues prior to acting in any way in regard to this project.

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary	4
2. Introduction	6
3. Kaipara District Demographics.....	6
3.1 Demographic Considerations for Kaipara District	6
3.2 Geographic Considerations for Kaipara District	9
4. District Challenges and Trends	9
4.1 Summary of Regional Key Challenges.....	9
4.2 Kaipara's Key Challenges and Opportunities.....	10
4.3 Summary of National and Regional Trends.....	11
4.4 Participation Considerations for Kaipara District	12
5. Future Planning – Facility Hierarchy and Principles.....	14
5.1 Facility Hierarchy	14
5.2 Planning Principles.....	15
5.3 Facility Project Evaluation / Decision-Making Criteria	16
6. Gap & Oversupply Analysis - Kaipara District	19
6.1 Inventory Overview.....	19
6.2 Inventory Findings.....	22
7. Alignment with the Regional Strategy	23
8. Key District Wide Recommendations	24
9. Key Facility Specific Recommendations.....	26
9.1 Sport and Recreation Hubs	26
9.2 Aquatic Facilities (Pools) and Water Based Sport and Recreation.....	29
9.3 Sports Fields	30
9.4 Court Based (Indoor and Outdoor)	32
9.5 Specialised Sport Facilities.....	33
9.6 Community Halls.....	35
9.7 Play and Recreation Facilities.....	35

1. Executive Summary

The Kaipara Spaces & Places Plan is a facility-focussed plan that helps support the regional strategy for play, active recreation and sport – Kōkiri ai te waka hourua. The regional strategy provides the high-level strategic framework to guide future decision making, with the district level plan providing more detailed guidance for the Kaipara area. Both documents will help inform Kaipara District Council's (KDC's) Long Term Plans (LTPs) and work programmes across the full range of sector organisations in the Kaipara District.

Kaipara, like the rest of the Te Tai Tokerau region has experienced strong population growth, particularly between 2012 and 2017. Rapid growth is expected to continue in the Mangawhai area, with Kaiwaka and Maungaturoto also expected to grow strongly. Growth in Dargaville should remain steady, while some parts of the district are expected to have a slight easing in population. The district population is also aging rapidly.

When planning spaces and places for play, active recreation and sport in the Kaipara District it is important to do so in the context of expected rapid aging of the population, alongside ongoing district and regional population growth. However, with some easing in population expected in parts of the district, careful planning is required before investing in new facilities in some areas.

Kaipara has a much lower population density than the New Zealand average. The district population is unevenly distributed with many small settlements and a large rural area. The dispersed nature of the population makes it difficult to provide a consistent level of service and access to opportunities across the district's communities. Relatively long travel times are required through the district and to access sport and recreation facilities in the wider Te Tai Tokerau region. Many Kaipara residents regularly travel to Whangarei for active recreation and sport opportunities, including for training.

The regional strategy - Kōkiri ai te waka hourua identifies a number of challenges influencing play, active recreation and sport. These are relevant to the Kaipara District and have helped inform the direction of this plan. The Kaipara District also has some specific challenges and opportunities. For example, high a number of non-Council owned sport and recreation assets such as sports fields and facilities that are owned and maintained by clubs or community organisations. This brings strong community input and feelings of ownership and value. However, it also creates challenges around inconsistent standards of maintenance and levels of access for different communities in the district.

Data on the participation rates for the Kaipara population shows that most participation is through recreation rather than traditional team sports. This, along with demographic trends, indicates that provision of a variety of safe walking, jogging/running and bike/cycle routes is an important way to support people in the Kaipara being active. Access to both natural and built swimming facilities and demand for gym/work out options, along with group exercise classes will continue to be important in the district.

The facility inventory of the district identifies 32 main sport and recreation sites, providing approximately 80 play, sport and recreation facilities including playgrounds, sports fields, pools, a variety of courts and club room buildings. It is positive that the district already has a large number of multi-use sport and recreation facilities, with 13 of the main sites providing for two or more sport and recreation facilities and activities. Overall, there are sufficient facilities to meet most identified needs in the district. The key challenge is maintaining play, active recreation and sport facilities at appropriate standards as they age. There are opportunities to maximise use of facilities through provision of features such as lighting (e.g., outdoor courts and sports fields) and increased partnerships between sport, recreation and community groups, including schools, marae and iwi both for multiuse facilities and also activation through locally led programming.

Section eight outlines key district-wide recommendations, while section nine outlines specific recommendations by facility type and where relevant by sports code and activity type.

In order to support the regional strategy - Kōkiri ai te waka hourua, it is important that the Kaipara Spaces & Places Plan aligns with the overarching intent of the regional strategy. To achieve the vision and address the priorities of the regional strategy along with the recommendations of this plan, a new way of working will be required. A greater focus on partnerships, collaboration and working with the community on locally led initiatives is important going forward.

2. Introduction

This plan has been developed alongside work on the regional strategy for play, active recreation and sport – Kōkiri ai te waka hourua. It is important that this plan is read in conjunction with the regional strategy, which provides high-level, overarching regional direction for future planning for play, active recreation and sport across Te Tai Tokerau.

The purpose of the Kaipara Spaces & Places Plan 2021 is to support the regional strategy by providing more specific, district level guidance to spaces and places (facilities) planning. It is largely focussed on built (rather than natural) community sport, recreation and play facilities in the Kaipara District. Planning for play, active recreation and sport facilities is important as the network of facilities provided in a district (and region) should be fit-for-purpose and sustainable. This plan, along with the regional strategy, provides a pathway to achieving a well-planned facilities network through:

- Reflecting on and considering Kaipara's unique attributes, challenges and advantages.
- Identifying principles and criteria for assessing future spaces and places (facility) development priorities.
- Providing a picture of current and projected future facility demand and supply.
- Aligning with the regional strategy - Kōkiri ai te waka hourua.
- Providing clear recommendations to influence and guide future spaces and places planning, funding and development decisions.

This plan is intended to help inform the Kaipara District Council's (KDC's) Long Term Plan (LTP) process and work programmes across the full range of sector organisations in the Kaipara District. This plan provides high-level direction that will need to be supported by more detailed, community and project specific planning. It is intended that the plan will provide guidance not only to new facility developments and upgrades, but crucially it also provides direction on opportunities to maximise existing facilities, reduce duplication, and help provide improved return on investment into play, active recreation and sport spaces and places (facilities) in the Kaipara District.

Definitions

For the purpose of the regional strategy and this plan we use the following definitions:

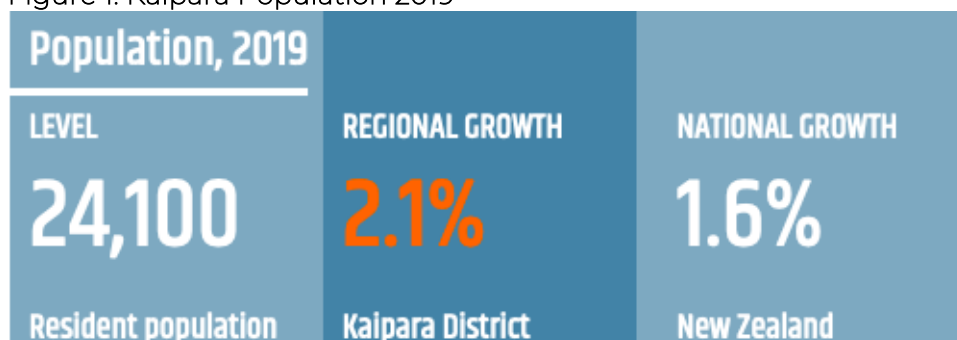
Active Recreation and Sport is considered to be activities that you do for fun, challenge and fitness that involve movement and get your heart rate up. Active Recreation and Sport includes a wide range activities such as walking, fishing, stand-up paddle boarding and a huge range of individual and team sports. Participation can occur in a range of settings from informal to organised competitions and individual to group/club environments. Typically Active Recreation is non-competitive physical activity undertaken for wellbeing and enjoyment. Whereas Sport is typically more formally organised and often competitive.

Play is considered to be fun, accessible, challenging, social and repeatable activity that is spontaneous and can happen anywhere. Play has no pre-determined outcome and has limited or no adult involvement. It is intrinsically motivated, personally directed and freely chosen.

3. Kaipara District Demographics

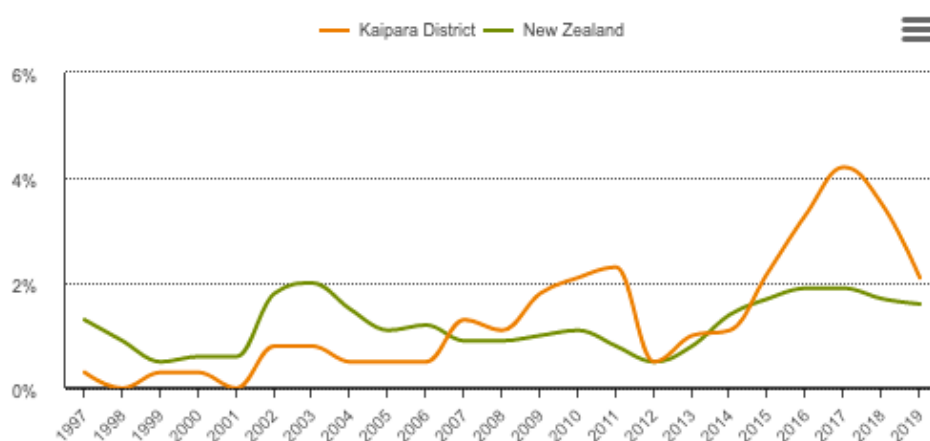
3.1 Demographic Considerations for Kaipara District

Figure 1: Kaipara Population 2019



Kaipara, like the rest of the Te Tai Tokerau region has experienced strong growth, particularly between 2012 and 2017. Whilst the level of growth has reduced recently the Kaipara District is still growing at a higher rate than the national growth rate. (Refer to Figure 1 below).

Figure 2: Kaipara Population Growth Compared to New Zealand Population Growth
Population growth, 1997-2019



In 2020 Kaipara District Council, (KDC) engaged Infometrics to prepare population projections for the district due to a delay in projections, based on the 2018 census, from Statistics New Zealand. The Infometrics report Population Projections 2018-2051 Kaipara District Council¹ is based on a medium-high growth scenario. Key projections contained in the Infometrics report include:

- Growth has been steady over the past 15 years, particularly strong in the last five years.
- As a consequence of Covid-19, population growth is projected to slow over 2020 and 2021.
- Growth is projected to pick up from 2022 onwards.
- The district is expected to reach 32,600 people by 2051. This is a 35% increase from 2019.
- The district population is projected to age rapidly over the next 30 years, with the number of residents aged 65 years and over growing from 5,600 in 2019 to 12,200 in 2051 (a 118% increase).

¹ Sourced from <https://www.kaipara.govt.nz/uploads/policy/Infometrics%20Kaipara%20projection%20report%20v3.pdf>

- Growth is expected to continue in the Mangawhai area, with Kaiwaka and Maungaturoto also expected to grow strongly.
- Dargaville is projected to grow steadily, with lesser growth in the Kaipara Coastal area.
- The population in Ruawai-Matakohe, Otamatea and Maungaru is expected to ease slightly.²

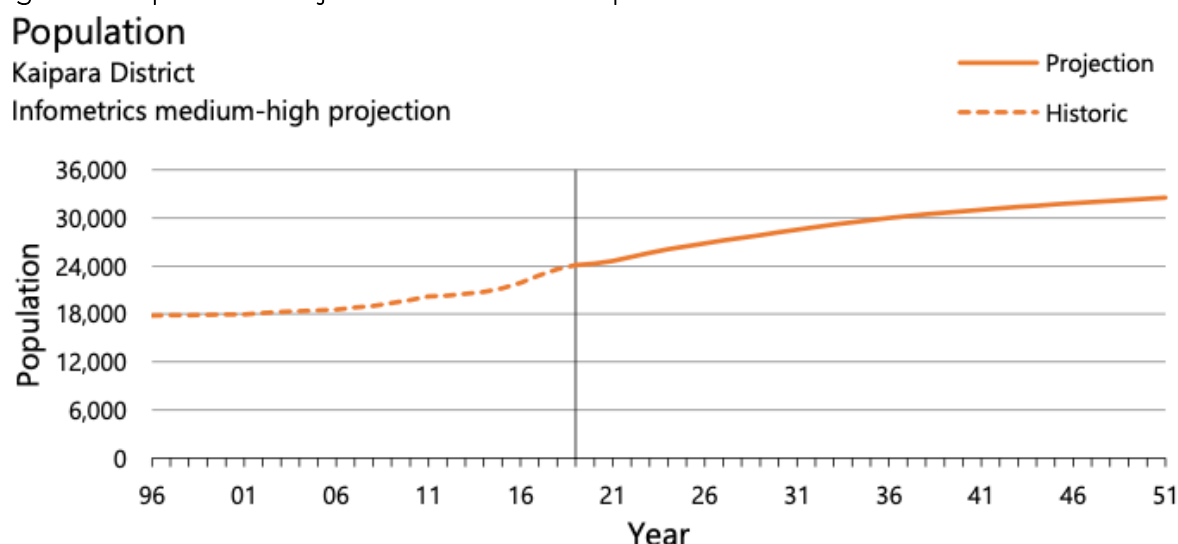
Ethnic Profile of the Kaipara District

2018 Census data³ shows the following regarding the ethnicity of the Kaipara population:

- 83.3% European ethnic group
- 24.6% Māori ethnic group⁴
- Between 2006 and 2018 people reporting as European ethnic group increased 6.6% from 76.7%.
- Between 2006 and 2018 people reporting as Māori ethnic group increased 2.4% from 22.2%.

Based on regional and national trends it is expected that the Māori proportion of the Kaipara population will increase over time.

Figure 3: Population Projections 2018-2051 Kaipara District



Source: KDC Infometrics 2020

When planning spaces and places for play, active recreation and sport in the Kaipara District it is important to do so in the context of expected, ongoing district and regional population growth overall, but with some easing in population in parts of the district.

It is also important to note that Whangarei, the largest urban area in the Te Tai Tokerau region is also experiencing rapid growth. Approximate travel times from Kaipara communities to Whangarei include:

- Dargaville 50+ minutes.
- Matakohe 60 minutes.
- Maungaturoto 55-60 minutes.
- Mangawhai 60+ minutes.

² Ibid, executive summary.

³ Sourced from <https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018-census-place-summaries/kaipara-district#ethnicity-culture-and-identity>

⁴ Note: percentages do not total to 100% as some people report belonging to more than one ethnic group.

As Whangarei is relatively close to many parts of the Kaipara District, sport and recreation facilities provided in Whangarei and its growing communities, such as Ruakaka may also provide some benefit to Kaipara residents.

3.2 Geographic Considerations for Kaipara District

The Kaipara District is located to the north and west of the Kaipara Harbour, stretching from the Mangawhai and Kaiwaka areas, through to Donnelly's Crossing. Dargaville is the largest town with 4,794 people⁵, Mangawhai (936 people) has more than doubled since the 2013 census⁶.

Figure 4: Population Density 2018

Area	Population	Land Area (km ²)	Population Density (people / km ²)
Kaipara	22,869	3,108	7.36
Te Tai Tokerau	179,079	12,502	14.32
Aotearoa	4.7m	268,021	17.54

Kaipara has a much lower population density than the New Zealand average. The district population is unevenly distributed with many small settlements and a large rural area. Relatively long travel times are required through the district and to access sport and recreation facilities in the wider Te Tai Tokerau region. Many Kaipara residents regularly travel to Whangarei for active recreation and sport opportunities, including for training.

The dispersed nature of the population makes it difficult to provide a consistent level of service and access to opportunities across the district's communities. Providing a local level of service, to cater to training needs in particular, is important to help reduce the negative impacts of travel and encourage more participation. However, this is also balanced with an acceptance that people will need to continue to travel to access higher level competition and more specialised spaces and places.

The district also has a large area of harbour, along with many rivers and lakes. These natural features provide many opportunities for water-based recreation and sports, including hunting and fishing. However, there are also risks associated with many areas of the harbour due to strong tides.

4. District Challenges and Trends

4.1 Summary of Regional Key Challenges

The regional strategy - Kōkiri ai te waka hourua identifies a number of challenges influencing play, active recreation and sport. These are entirely relevant to the Kaipara District and are summarised below:

Key strategic challenges in Te Tai Tokerau:

Population Distribution	<i>"It can be hard to find enough teams, or (players for), full 15 or 13 a-side teams. Regular small sided, (7 or 9 a-side), competition would be more realistic" - survey respondent</i>
Equity Issues	There are social and economic barriers that limit opportunities for some people to participate and thrive in play, active recreation and sport.

⁵ Statistics NZ 2018 census data.

⁶ Ibid

Transport Challenges	The need to travel and the distances involved can put people off participating.
Small Ratepayer Base and Limited Council Funds	Councils must carefully balance delivery of all core services including support for play, recreation and sport.

Key sector challenges:

- Declining volunteerism - the availability of volunteers including referees, coaches, administrators.
- Membership retention - including youth drop-off and youth leaving the region.
- Funding and operational sustainability - ability to fund maintenance of facilities and operations, including programmes. Resources required for compliance.
- Affordability - RSO & NSO affiliation fees affect affordability.
- Accessibility for all.
- Facility distribution and quality throughout the region.
- Centralisation of competitions and facilities can challenge the ability to deliver to local communities.
- Improving awareness of existing opportunities.
- Active recreation and play are not 'organised' and do not have a voice.
- Skill gaps within the sector in volunteer and paid roles.
- Changing expectations and demands for enhanced services including paid staff.

Key challenges for māori:

- Accessibility to facilities / spaces.
- A sense of disconnect is felt in spaces and places around the rohe (area) by māori
- Access to information.
- Cost of travel and participation in play, active recreation and sport.
- The level of service in smaller communities tends to drop off making it more difficult to access opportunities.
- Lack of time to volunteer and coach – many other responsibilities and commitments to our own people first.
- Some are disconnected to whānau, hapū, iwi and therefore lack understanding and connection with whakapapa, mātauranga, taiao and a whānau centric approach or way of living.

4.2 Kaipara's Key Challenges and Opportunities

The Kaipara District has a high number of non-Council owned sport and recreation assets, comparative to other council areas in New Zealand. There are a number of sports fields and a wide range of sport and recreation facilities that are owned and maintained by clubs or community organisations. One of the benefits this brings is strong community input and feelings of ownership and value. However, it also creates challenges around inconsistent standards of maintenance and levels of access for different communities in the district.

Ensuring access for the full range of potential community users can be a challenge when Council does not own many of the sites which could be available to support local play, active recreation and sport opportunities. Council needs to work with the owners and providers of these key sites to ensure appropriate access and provision for the community across the whole district.

The Kaipara District Council Resident Satisfaction Survey shows high satisfaction levels of residents who use local parks, reserves and sports fields (89% satisfied 2019, 92% satisfied 2018). However, there is an opportunity to increase community use of Council controlled parks, reserves and sports fields, with only 65% of local residents accessing them in 2019 (an

increase from 62% in 2018). Locally led initiatives to increase use of parks could be a simple way to increase activity levels within the Kaipara community.

4.3 Summary of National and Regional Trends

The regional strategy - Kōkiri ai te waka hourua identifies a range of national trends that are impacting on participation in play, active recreation and sport in Te Tai Tokerau.

- **Decreasing physical activity** - The 'electronic revolution' has transformed movement patterns. People sleep less, sit more, walk less, drive more, and generally do less physical activity than they used to.
- **Decline in traditional sport participation** - Changing lifestyles and the often highly competitive nature of some traditional team sports is seeing declining levels of participation in these activities, for both young people and adults.
- **Individual versus team and recreation versus sport** - a paradigm shift in participation from the overwhelming popularity of traditional team-based sports to more non-traditional, often individual, sport and recreation activities.
- **Embracing the impact of technology** - e-bikes, smart watches, MapMyRun, virtual clubs and a range of new technologies can benefit and encourage participation.
- **Pay to play** - many sport and recreation activities are being offered in a more casual, pay to play format rather than through traditional club membership.
- **Increased expectations** - participants in sport and recreation are now 'customers' expecting a higher level of service both in terms of the facility standards, flexibility and ease of use.
- **Communities of interest** - whether they be ethnic or gender communities, people often like to be active within their own communities.
- **Equipment costs** - the cost of equipment and uniforms can be prohibitive to many particularly in low socio-economic communities. Sports equipment recycling is common in a number of communities throughout New Zealand.
- **Cultural activities** - kapa haka, mau rākau, ki o rahi and waka ama are becoming increasingly popular not only for Māori. Dance and martial arts are also popular across a wide range of participants.
- **Role models** - continue to be strong influencers not just of product purchase but also participation. The use of role models/leaders within communities can contribute to the success of participation focussed programmes.
- **Increasing recognition of the importance of play** - There is a renewed recognition of everyday play opportunities being an important part of the development of young people.

These trends are also relevant to the Kaipara District. For full details see the full regional strategy ([insert link](#)).

Key Regional Participation Trends

Northlanders, on average are less active than the New Zealand average.

- Only 67% of Northland adults are active (72% nationally).
- Less Northlanders are physically active for 5 hours or more per week (38.9% compared to 43.8% nationally).
- Less Northlanders achieve at least 2.5 hours of activity per week (43.3% compared to 49.5% nationally).
- Northlanders are more likely to participate in little or no physical activity (16.6% compared to 14.3% nationally).

Participation data for the region and participation data by age group at a national level indicates there is strong current and projected future demand for:

- Walking/jogging and cycling trails and facilities that support those activities (i.e. car parking, toilets).
- Gym facilities (providing equipment-based exercise as well as activity space suitable for group classes including dance, pilates/yoga).
- Swimming facilities.
- Fishing facilities such as boat ramps, piers and jetties.

4.4 Participation Considerations for Kaipara District

The Sport NZ Insights Tool provides data on the participation rates expected for the Kaipara population for various sport and recreation activities. This is modelled off participation data in the Active NZ survey 2018⁷. Key points of note from the top ranked activities include:

- Walking is the top participation activity (49.8%).
- Inactivity is high, at 30.6%.
- Gardening and jogging/running are the 3rd and 4th most common activities (23.9% and 23.9%).
- Participation in individual recreation and sport activities is much more common than participation in team sports.
- Individual workout, swimming and group exercise classes are the most common facility-based activities.
- Golf is the highest ranked sport (4.2%).
- Football and netball are the highest ranked team sports (at 4% and 3.6%).

For people in the Kaipara District the top sport and recreation activities participated in during the last 12 months⁸ include:

- Walking/power walking (30.5%).
- Swimming/diving (18.3%).
- Run/jogging (14.8%).
- Cycling/bike riding (14.6%).
- Going to the gym/working out (14.4%).

This indicates that provision of a variety of safe walking, jogging/running and bike/cycle routes is an important way to support people in the Kaipara being active. It also shows that access to both natural and built swimming facilities is important. It is expected that demand for gym/work out options, along with group exercise classes will continue to be important in the district.

Other considerations:

Travel - It is apparent that generally people in the Kaipara District are accepting of the need to travel to access facilities, particularly those for competition purposes. However, travel is certainly a challenge that discourages participation for some in the Kaipara, or limits the choices people have when considering a sport or recreation activity.

Small communities - The smaller communities in the district do not have the population and demand levels to justify significant investment in facilities of a Sub-Regional/District standard. However, investment in maintaining and developing multi-use local level facilities will help support local participation opportunities.

⁷ Sourced September 2020 from <https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/insights-tool/>

⁸ Sourced from Sport NZ Insights Tool – <https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/insights-tool/> based on 2011-2019 data from the Nielsen Consumer & Media Insights report

Locally suitable programmes - For smaller communities it can be hard to secure enough players to maintain a full team for regular competitions. To encourage more participation in team sports it is apparent that small-sided games and mixed gender options might help address some of these challenges, particularly for junior level play.

Recreation options – It is more common for people to participate in recreation activities rather than traditional team sport. Maintenance of existing recreation facilities and consideration of investment in new facilities to support recreation and play is important to support this preference.

Aging population - With an aging population it is important to continue to provide opportunities and facilities that are suitable and attractive to older adults. For example, the demand for group exercise options, off-road walking and cycle trails, easy access, warm water swimming facilities and potentially hydrotherapy may increase.

5. Future Planning – Facility Hierarchy and Principles

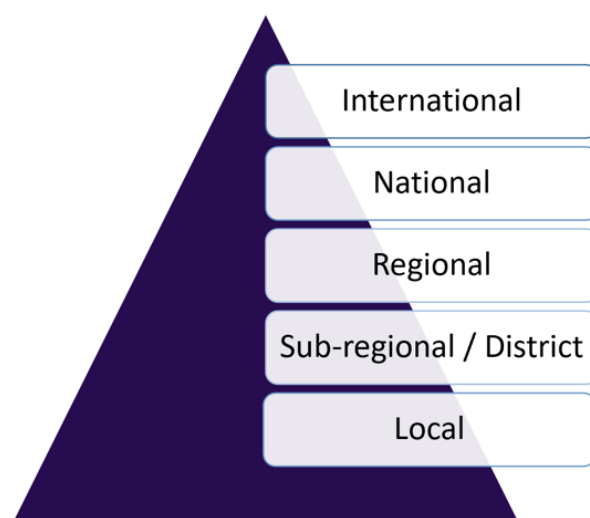
5.1 Facility Hierarchy

A facility hierarchy is developed to help understand what level of provision facilities are planned for, and capable of meeting, based on the core needs of user groups at different levels. These hierarchy definitions are taken from the Sport NZ Data Dictionary. Having a consistent hierarchy with other areas of New Zealand allows direction comparisons to be made, and helps regional and cross-boundary prioritisation, where required.

When using the facility hierarchy a facility should be categorised at the level it is primarily/regularly used for. While some facilities may meet some international standards e.g. a basketball court meeting FIBA requirements, if the majority of use is for local to regional level it should be categorised at regional level.

It is also important to understand that a facility at a higher hierarchy level may meet the needs all the way down to a local level.

Figure 5: Facility Hierarchy Diagram



International: A facility with the ability to host international competitions / events (between nations). For example: Semenoff Stadium, ITM Hockey Centre.

National: A facility with the ability to host regional representative competitions (including professional and semi-professional franchise competitions involving teams from outside New Zealand) and / or to serve as a national high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes. For example: Cobham Oval, Trigg Sports Arena.

Regional: A facility with the ability to host inter-regional and internal regional competitions and / or serves as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes. For example: McKay Stadium, Kauri Coast Community Pool.

Sub Regional/District: A facility with the ability to draw significant numbers of participants/teams/competitors from a whole district or across adjacent territorial authority

boundaries for either competition or training purposes. For example: Te Pouto O Te Rangi (Harding Park), Sportsville Dargaville.

Local: A facility which often facilitates people's introduction to sports and recreation and primarily serves a town or suburb (or potentially two suburbs) only. For example: Selwyn Park, Southern (Te Kopuru) Rugby Club.

5.2 Facility Planning Principles

A set of key principles have been developed to guide future decision making. These principles will need to be considered alongside agreed criteria. This will allow asset owners, user groups and decision makers to understand why and how spaces and places and programmes and services are planned for and prioritised.

Planning Principle	Description
Sustainability	Well used facilities able to meet their operational costs and with strong governance and management.
Partnerships and collaboration	Working together to achieve maximum return on investment.
Meeting an identified need	Clear demand is demonstrated within the community.
Multi-use (co-locating and hubbing)	Facilities should be designed to enable integrated uses such as hub facilities, multi-use facilities or co-located facilities, catering to sport and recreation and other complimentary community uses.
Future-proofed	Ability to adapt facilities to changing needs and trends. Designing or re-designing facilities and spaces in ways that enable them to be adapted, developed and extended in response to future demands.
Inclusive, accessible and affordable	Facilities, programmes and services that are accessible for all to get to, participate in, move within (physically accessible), and use (priced appropriately).
Spaces and places that deliver wider benefits to our communities	Multi-use facilities that serve the broadest range of community needs possible, providing advantages for the whole community beyond providing for just play, recreation and sport.
Reflect the unique needs of Northland(ers)	Respond to the unique geography and population and the social and cultural needs of Northland communities.
Spaces and places are optimised through partnerships and activation	Before a new development is considered it is expected that existing facilities would be considered and maximised through partnerships and collaboration before new facility investment progresses. This helps give effect to the other key principles of identified need, partnering and collaboration, sustainability, multi-use and wider benefits.
We value the importance of play	There is a renewed recognition of everyday play opportunities being an important part of the development of young people. Including recognition of the right of young people to have varied, self-directed, playful experiences.

5.3 Proposed Facility Project Evaluation / Decision-Making Criteria

The following criteria have been developed to reflect the key principles and can be used to assess both current and future planned spaces and places investments.

The criteria included in ***bold italics*** are considered to be Level one - Gateway Criteria. These criteria need to be considered first and met with a high degree of certainty before a more detailed assessment of any proposal is undertaken using the remaining (level two criteria).

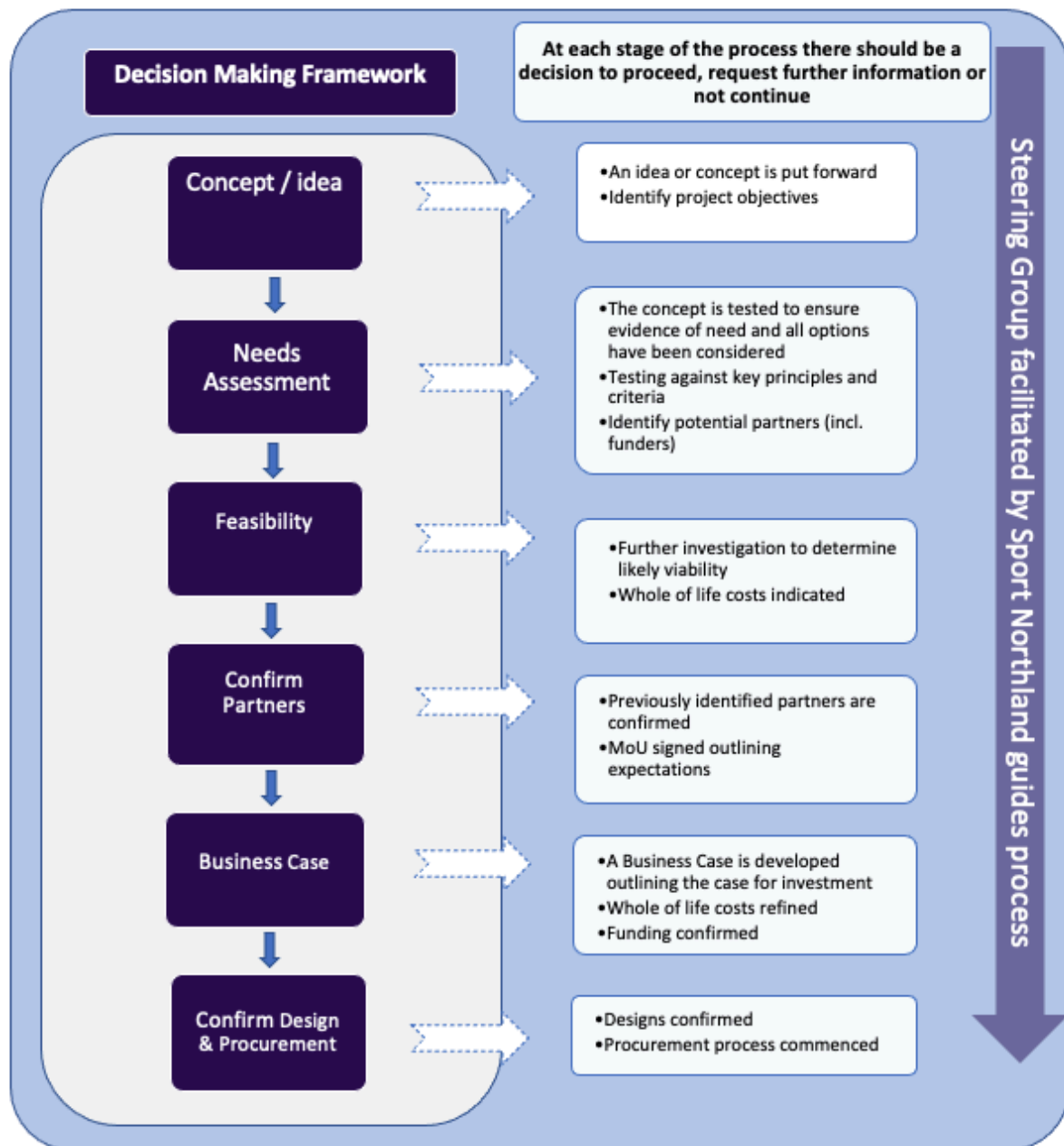
The principles and criteria will be applied to each concept put forward for consideration using the Decision Making Framework provided in Figure 6 below.

Table 1: Principles and Criteria

Principle	Criteria
1. Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The capability of potential facility developers to develop and operate facilities.</i> • The degree to which the existing or proposed facility is operationally sustainable (taking a whole of lifecycle approach which looks at operational and maintenance costs throughout a facility's life).
2. Partnering and Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential for operational and/or capital partnerships between multiple stakeholders.
3. Meeting an Identified Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The degree to which any existing or proposed facility matches the projected needs of the community within its core catchment area. In the case of facilities with wide utilisation (such as aquatics facilities) this involves consideration of all potential users from general recreational users through to organised sports codes.</i> • <i>The degree to which demand exceeds supply (once all existing facilities are being run at an optimal operational level) and the facility or proposed facility can meet the identified gap.</i> • <i>The degree of alignment a facility or proposed facility has with national and regional facility strategies.</i> • The ability of the facility or proposed facility to progress the play, active recreation and sport objectives of Te Tai Tokerau, the Kaipara District and wider New Zealand society. • The needs identified can only be met through additional provision. • The degree to which the duplication of facilities (from an international to a local level) is avoided.
4. Multiuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The degree to which the proposed project will enable integrated uses such as hub facilities, multi-use facilities or co-located facilities. • The degree to which the facility will cater to play, active recreation and sport and other complimentary community uses.
5. Future-proofing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability of the facility or proposed facility to reflect international and national best practice in its location, design and subsequent operation.

Principle	Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The degree to which the facility or proposed facility will be designed or redesigned to enable it to be adapted, developed and extended in response to changing future demands.
6. Inclusive, accessible and affordable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The degree to which the facility or proposed facility caters to all sectors of the community, including the level of physical accessibility for those the disabilities. The level of affordability of use or participation in the facility or programme/services. Alignment with wider strategic documents and plans such as those concerned with urban planning, infrastructure development, events strategies and transport networks.
7. Facilities that deliver wider community benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The return on investment (capital and operational) that the facility or proposed facility can generate (measured in terms of community benefit). The degree to which the facility or proposed facility will serve the broadest range of community needs possible, providing advantages for the whole community.
8. Reflect the uniqueness of Northland(ers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The degree to which the proposed facility responds to the unique geography and population and the social and cultural needs of Northland communities.
9. Optimise existing facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The degree to which the proposal optimises an existing facility e.g. through partnerships to increase use, enhancements to make a facility more fit-for-purpose. The degree to which a facility or proposed facility compliments / optimises the existing or proposed facility network and builds on district and regional strengths.
10. Importance of play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The degree to which the facility or proposed facility supports everyday play opportunities for young people within local communities.

Figure 6: Decision Making Framework



6. Gap & Oversupply Analysis - Kaipara District

6.1 Inventory Overview

There are 32 main sport and recreation sites in the district, providing approximately 80 play, sport and recreation facilities including sports fields, pools, a variety of courts and club room buildings. Some of these sites also include playgrounds. Table 2 below lists the main sport and recreation sites in the district, briefly summarizing what is provided at each. Note: this excludes facilities provided by schools.

There are 19 playgrounds provided on KDC land across the district. These are listed in Table 3 below. There are many other playgrounds in the district owned by third parties (e.g. schools/kura).

It is noted that there will be other play, active recreation and sports facilities across the district that have not been captured in the current data. Further work needs to be done to improve the data capture of existing facilities in the district, particularly facilities that are provided by schools and marae.

Sport and Recreation Sites

Table 2: Main Sport and Recreation Sites in the Kaipara District⁹

Site Name:	Ownership:	Operator:	Facilities provided:
Sport and Recreation Hubs (Multi-use)			
Kaiwaka Sports Complex	Trust – multi-code Land – KDC/DoC	Kaiwaka Sports Association	2 sports fields (rugby/touch); club building/changing room; dance studio; indoor sport and recreation space; 6 outdoor courts tennis/netball; 2 squash courts; playground.
Mangawhai Community Park	Council	Kaipara District Council	Skate park; pump track; outdoor court; playground.
Maungaturoto Country club	Club	Club operated	Sports fields rugby union and football; 2 quash courts; club building/changing rooms; 2 bowling greens; skatepark; dirt track (motorsport); outdoor equestrian centre.
Pioneer Park	Land - Northern Wairoa Rugby Sub Union Buildings - Dargaville Rugby Club and Dargaville Old Boys Rugby Club	Northern Wairoa Rugby Sub Union, Dargaville Rugby Club and Dargaville Old Boys Rugby Club	3 sports fields (rugby/sevens); 2 Squash courts; Club building / changing rooms.
Northern Wairoa Memorial Park (Sportsville Dargaville)	Land – Council Buildings - KDC (Kiosk) & Kauri Coast Recreation Society (KCRS)	Kaipara District Council, KCRS Sportsville Dargaville	Sports field (rugby league); sports field (football); outdoor courts tennis/netball; club building/changing rooms; petanque court.

⁹ Data source - Sport NZ Inventory Tool

Site Name:	Ownership:	Operator:	Facilities provided:
Ruawai Reserve	Club Land - KDC	Ruawai Rugby Club/Ruawai Community Sports Club	Sports field (rugby); dance studio; club building/changing rooms.
Selwyn Park	Council	Kaipara District Council	Skate park; bike park; outdoor basketball court; playground.
Southern (Te Kopuru) Rugby Club & Squash Club	Club	Club operated	Sports field (rugby); club building/changing rooms; 2 squash courts.
Taharoa Domain	Council	Kaipara District Council	Mountain bike park; Club building / changing rooms; water sports - waka ama.
Te Kopuru Recreation Reserve	Council	Kaipara District Council	Sports field; playground; outdoor court; (basketball); toilets.
Te Pou tu O Te Rangi - Harding park	Council	Kaipara District Council	Bike park; disc golf course.
Activity Specific / Single Code Sites			
Arapohue Bowling Club	Club	Club operated	1 bowling green; club building/changing rooms.
Awakino Point - Dargaville Racing Club / Silver Pine Pony Club	Club	Club operated	Race track; club building/changing rooms; outdoor equestrian centre.
Dargaville Bowling Club	Club	Club operated	2 bowling greens.
Dargaville Pistol Club	Club	Club operated	Shooting range.
Dargaville Tennis Club	Club	Club operated	4 tennis courts; club building/changing rooms.
Hakaru Branch - Wellsford District Pony Club	Club Land - Council	Hakaru Pony Club	Outdoor equestrian centre - pony club, horse riding; club building/changing rooms.
Kauri Coast Community Pool	Sport Northland	Community Leisure Management	Outdoor - Lap pool; hydrotherapy pool; toddler's pool; building/changing rooms.
Mangawhai Bowls Incorporated	Don't Know Land - Council	Club operated	3 bowling greens (1 all-weather); petanque terrain; club building/changing rooms.
Mangawhai Football Club	Other	Kaipara District Council	Sports field (football).
Mangawhai Golf Club	Club	Club operated	18 hole course; club building.
Matakohe cricket ground	Other	Matakohe community group	Sports field (cricket).
Maungaturoto Bike Park	Council	Kaipara District Council	Bike park; pump track.
Mamaranui Bowling Club	Club	Club operated	1 bowling green.
Northern Wairoa Boating Club	Club	Club operated	Club building / changing rooms.
Northern Wairoa Golf Club	Club	Club operated	18 hole course; club building.
Paparoa A&P Showgrounds	Other trust	Trust operated	Outdoor equestrian centre - Ararua Pony Club Venue.
Paparoa Golf Club	Club	Club operated	18 hole course; club building.
Rima Haira Recreational Reserve	Club	Kaihu Rugby Club	Sports field (rugby).

Site Name:	Ownership:	Operator:	Facilities provided:
Ruawai Bowling Club	Club	Club operated	2 bowling greens.
Tatarariki Tennis Club	Club	Club operated	3 tennis courts.

Playgrounds

It is common for district councils to provide playground infrastructure for young people in their communities.

An audit undertaken in 2020 notes that the 19 KDC playgrounds (listed in table 3 below) are in varying condition and that a number of the older playgrounds are past their useful life and need to be replaced.¹⁰ Overall, the KDC playgrounds had a compliance rating of 66%¹¹. The vast majority of play equipment items and safety surfacing were noted as being in good to excellent condition¹². KDC has almost completed the necessary work to bring all 19 sites up to standard in response to the 2020 audit. Continued monitoring and pro-active maintenance is important.

Table 3: Kaipara District Council Playgrounds¹³

	KDC Playgrounds	Location
1	Mangawhai Heads Campground	Mangawhai Heads Road
2	Mangawhai Heads	Fagan Place
3	Mangawhai Park and Skate Park	Molesworth Drive
4	Kaiwaka Hall	Kaiwaka Mangawhai Road
5	Maungaturoto	Hurndall Street
6	Paparoa Village Green	State Highway 12
7	Pahi Beach Camp	Pahi Road
8	Tinopai	Komiti Road
9	Ruawai	Wharf Road
10	Dargaville Selwyn Park	Jervois Street
11	Selwyn park new fitness	Jervois Street
12	Taha Awa (Riverside) Gardens	Totara St
13	Dargaville Jaycee Park	Hokianga Road
17	TeKoporu	Norton Street
14	Glinks Gully - 3 sites	Marine Drive
15	Glinks Gully campground	Marine Drive
16	Kellys Bay campground	Bayview Road
18	Kai Iwi Lakes Campground	Domain Road
19	Tangiteroria	Pukehuia Road

¹⁰ Play Central Playground audit report 2020.

¹¹ Against various applicable NZ safety standards.

¹² Play Central Playground audit report 2020.

¹³ Note: Playground 3 – Mangawhai Park and Skate Park is not maintained by KDC. All other playgrounds listed are owned and maintained by KDC.

It is now recognised that built playground infrastructure is only one way of providing play experiences for young people. Increasingly play spaces, including natural spaces, are being recognised for their play value. The Kaipara District has a variety of open spaces and natural spaces, including bush and beach areas, promoting and encouraging use of these areas for creative play opportunities for children would be beneficial.

6.2 Inventory Findings

It is positive that the district already has a large number of multi-use sport and recreation facilities. 13 of the main sites provide for two or more sport and recreation facilities and activities. Currently, according to the data provided, bowling and tennis tend towards single use facilities. There are also a number of single use sports fields. There are a large number of club room buildings, many of which require maintenance to bring them up to date with current expectations of participants and spectators.

There is a mixture of ownership and management models for the key sport and recreation assets in the Kaipara District. The range of different approaches can lead to inconsistencies with asset management and operations between different facilities and communities. With single club facilities in particular, there is a risk of facility decline, if maintenance is not prioritised, or even facilities being lost from the district network if a club does not remain viable for any reason.

The inventory indicates there are very few specific facilities providing for water sports. However, it is known that many locations which are used for water sports have not been captured in the inventory. It is important for future planning, that more detail on water sports facilities is gathered before the first review of this plan is undertaken.

Generally, most communities in the district have access to playground facilities and equipment, either through KDC or school/kura-provided facilities. The gap seems to be in facilitation and support provided to ensure young people maximise play opportunities. It is also important that future planning for play considers alternative types of play space provision, including the potential for natural play and Mara Hupara (traditional playground) space and the potential for enhanced play features at existing sport and recreation sites.

7. Alignment with the Regional Strategy

The Kaipara Spaces & Places Plan is a facility-focussed plan that helps support the regional strategy for play, active recreation and sport – Kōkiri ai te waka hourua. The regional strategy provides the high-level strategic framework to guide future decision making, with the district level plan providing more detailed guidance for the Kaipara area. Both the regional strategy and the Kaipara Spaces & Places Plan will help inform Council long term plans (LTPs) and work programmes across the full range of sector organisations in the Kaipara District.



In order to support the regional Kōkiri ai te waka hourua strategy it is important that the Kaipara Spaces & Places Plan aligns with the overarching intent of the regional strategy. To achieve the vision and address the priorities of the regional strategy a new way of working will be required. A greater focus on partnerships, collaboration and working with the community on locally led initiatives is important going forward. This section identifies some ways that Kaipara District Council can work to align with the pillars and objectives of the regional strategy.

Partnerships

- Support the implementation of the regional strategy.
- Proactively seek partnerships with other organisations to support local access to play, active recreation and sport facilities and programmes.

People

- Work directly with local communities, including mana whenua, to support and develop local capability and increase locally led initiatives.

Programmes & Participation

- Support culturally appropriate programmes.
- Focus on programmes that deliver quality opportunities for all sectors of the community.

Planning and Policy

- Where required, consider changing Council policies, to better support and align with the regional strategy and the recommendations of this plan.
- Review ways of working to reduce process and compliance barriers that locally led initiatives and events currently face.

Spaces and Places

- Continue to monitor provision against key targets and satisfaction levels for open spaces and facilities in the district.
- Maximise use of existing facilities in the first instance, before building new.
- Support and contribute to the next level of detailed, regional planning as required.

8. Key District Wide Recommendations

A range of general actions are required, to help the district progress towards achieving the future priorities identified in the regional Kōkiri ai te waka hourua strategy. These recommendations align with the pillars, objectives and priorities of the regional Kōkiri ai te waka hourua strategy.

General Recommendations:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
Adopt the Kaipara Spaces & Places Plan and use it to guide planning for facility provision on a district-wide and local basis.	KDC	KPARSF	Immediate
Establish a Kaipara Play, Active Recreation and Sport Forum (KPARSF) to drive the implementation, monitoring and review of the Kaipara Spaces & Places Plan.	KDC, Sport Northland	Sports, Community groups	Short
That the KPARSF undertake annual reviews of progress on the plan recommendations and a full review of the strategy every three years (with timing synchronised to allow the strategy to inform the KDC Long Term Plan LTP process).	KPARSF, KDC	Sport Northland	Ongoing
Undertake regular reviews of the Sport NZ Inventory Tool data for the district to ensure the database is up to date and becomes a useful resource for future planning.	KDC	KPARSF	Ongoing
Develop an integrated play strategy, with cross-Council initiatives to improve access and use of public space for play.	KDC	Sport Northland, Sport NZ, Iwi/hapū	Short
Identify a local play advocate within Council to advocate for play and child-friendly design within both Council and community led projects. This advocate could also represent KDC on the Te Tai Tokerau Play Coalition proposed through the regional Kōkiri ai te waka hourua strategy.	KDC	Sport Northland	Short
Develop policy that encourages investment into multi-use sport and recreation hub sites (over single use facilities where practical).	KDC, funders	Sport Northland	Short
Establish local levels of service for multi-use, introductory level play, active recreation and sport facility provision in each identified community within Kaipara.	KDC	Sport Northland	Medium
Investigate the possibility of a contestable 'match' fund for community groups to obtain up to 50% contribution to a maximum project value for prioritised amenity facility enhancement projects (upgrades to toilets, storage, change rooms, shade and shelters). Seek partnerships with community funders and commercial entities to support this match fund concept.	KDC	Funders, community groups	Short
Ensure that regional and district sport and recreation facility hubs are supported with appropriate facilities at local level (a hub and spoke approach). For example, support regional competition facilities such as the Kensington Hockey Stadium with local turfs for training and junior playing needs.	Sport Northland	KDC, RSOs	Ongoing
Encourage all asset owners to have Asset Management Plans in place and undertake ongoing, regular maintenance to ensure the district network of facilities remains in an appropriate condition to support	Sport Northland	KDC	Ongoing

General Recommendations:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
participation. This is of particular importance due to the high proportion of non-Council owned sport and recreation assets in the district.			
Where possible, prior to renewing sports club's leases, Council should review lease conditions to facilitate increased sharing/sub-tenancy arrangements and consider implementing shorter lease terms so areas can be adapted to alternative future uses if demand declines.	KDC	Sport Northland, clubs, RSOs	Ongoing
When planning new or upgraded sports and recreation facilities ensure that consideration is given to how opportunities for spontaneous play can be catered to within these sites and facilities.	Asset owners	Sport Northland, KDC	Ongoing
Work to support local Kaipara based community organisations and volunteers to activate play spaces, increasing the time, place and permission for play to occur.	KDC	Sport Northland	Ongoing
Work with Sport Northland on implementing a Kaipara Facility Navigator role to assist the local community to work with Council on recommended facility development and enhancement projects.	KDC	Sport Northland	Short
Review Council policies and procedures to consider ways Council can best support locally led initiatives, including events. This may include providing support to assist groups with planning, delivery and compliance barriers (such as health and safety paperwork, traffic management, public liability insurance).	KDC	Sport Northland	Short
Ensure that appropriate levels of recreation planning resources are provided within Council.	KDC	Sport Northland	Ongoing
Where marae are considered the hub of the community, engage with and investigate ways in which funding and support can be provided to develop the spaces in order to provide participation opportunities within play, active recreation and sport.	Marae	Sport Northland, KDC, funders	Ongoing

9. Key Facility Specific Recommendations

This section highlights recommendations that relate to specific play, active recreation and sport facilities and activities within the Kaipara District. These recommendations align with the pillars, objectives and priorities of the regional strategy - Kōkiri ai te waka hourua.

Overall, there are sufficient facilities to meet most identified needs in the district. The key challenge is maintaining play, active recreation and sport facilities at appropriate standards as they age. There are opportunities to maximise use of facilities through provision of features such as lighting (e.g. outdoor courts and sports fields) and increased partnerships between sport, recreation and community groups both for multiuse facilities and also activation through locally led programming. The following series of tables outlines specific recommendations by facility type and where relevant by sports code or activity type.

9.1 Sport and Recreation Hubs

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
General	Continue to support existing multi-use sport and recreation hub sites across the district as important community sport and recreation assets. Work with all existing sport and recreation hub sites to ensure they have asset management plans in place and are maintaining facilities in line with those plans. It is important to ensure that long term maintenance and replacement is planned for.	Sport Northland	KDC, sport and recreation hubs	Ongoing
	Investigate ways to increase use of existing multi-use sport and recreation hub sites through membership initiatives for existing clubs and seeking other community uses of the sites and facilities. Initial work should be undertaken with the Maungaturoto Country Club and Ruawai Sports Ground.	Sport Northland	KDC, sport and recreation hubs	Short & Ongoing
Mangawhai Community Park	Continue to maintain and develop the park as a key resource for public recreation and enjoyment.	KDC	Mangawhai community	Ongoing
	Work with the community to undertake a review of the Mangawhai Community Park Master Plan to inform future development and use of the site.	KDC	Mangawhai community	Short
	Continue to support the Mangawhai Activity Zone (MAZ) as a key recreational resource for skate and bike alongside a range of other sport and recreation activities.	KDC, Mangawhai Activity Zone (MAZ)	Mangawhai community	Ongoing

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
Northern Wairoa Memorial Park and Pioneer Park	Continue to maintain and develop as a key sports hub site, working with the adjacent Sportsville Dargaville. Consider incorporating additional play, active recreation and sport uses as opportunities arise.	KDC	Northern Wairoa Rugby Sub Union, KCRS	Ongoing
	Undertake a needs and feasibility assessment to consider the provision of additional amenity facilities including multipurpose toilets, change rooms, storage, and car parking to serve Pioneer Park and the wider Northern Wairoa Memorial Park and Sportsville Dargaville precinct.	Northern Wairoa Rugby Sub-Union	KDC, KCRS	Medium
Pioneer Park, Northern Wairoa Memorial Park and Sportsville Dargaville Precinct	Joint planning is required regarding future developments at these sites to ensure synergies and reduce any duplication across the wider precinct area. Undertake a joint planning project to consider opportunities to enhance the provision and standard of sports field lighting to allow for multiple codes (football, rugby league, rugby) to use for training and night games. Ensure any initiative by Sportsville Dargaville to provide a lit, multi-use turf area is considered as part of this planning.	KDC	Kauri Coast Recreation Society (KCRS), Northern Wairoa Rugby Sub Union	Short
Pou Tu o Te Rangi (Harding Park)	Continue to develop and maintain as a key site for mountain biking (as the primary use). Explore an alternative location for disc golf (possibly at Memorial Park).	KDC, Pou Tu o Te Rangi (Harding Park) Joint Management Committee	Sport Northland	Ongoing
	Investigate other potential compatible uses of the site to increase its recreation use and value to the wider community. This could include consideration of walking tracks, entry level cycle or learn to ride and nature play opportunities.	KDC, Pou Tu o Te Rangi (Harding Park) Joint Management Committee	Sport Northland	Short
Selwyn Park	Continue to maintain as a key site for play and active recreation (skate, bike - pump track, court sport and playground).	KDC	Local community	Ongoing
	Investigate options to increase use of the site for play through working with the local community to activate it with community-led play initiatives.	Sport Northland	KDC	Short & ongoing
Sportsville Dargaville	Undertake a detailed options and feasibility assessment for a multi-use turf installation in Dargaville. The replacement of the existing turf at Dargaville High School needs to be one of the options considered.	KDC, KCRS	Sport Northland, Northland Hockey	Short

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
	Subject to the outcome of this assessment ensure that the proposed multi-use turf is primarily suitable for hockey, whilst also providing a resource to support other codes, particularly for training needs. The specifications need to cater for adult hockey (training) and junior hockey training and games. Ideally the turf will meet full-sized hockey specifications (1/2 turf at a minimum) to make it suitable for a wide range of other uses and be lit to the appropriate standards to support training for multiple codes.			
	Provide a low-cost rain cover/shade system over a minimum of 2 courts, with side protection options on the prevailing wind side. This may require removal and repurposing of some of the existing court lights to allow lighting that is compatible with a cover system. Also see court sports recommendations (section 9.4) for more detail regarding courts.	KCRS	Funders	Medium
	Investigate options for providing more opportunities for self-directed play for children at the site. This may include permanent infrastructure such as play equipment, formed bike tracks and markings for play activities (e.g. hop scotch, 4 square) on appropriate surfaces. It may also include activating the site with mobile play equipment and play 'events'.	KCRS	KDC	Short
Te Kopuru Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and enhance with the local community to further increase play, sport and recreation uses and value. Consider providing cycle opportunities for young people at this site.	KDC	Sport Northland, Bike Northland	Ongoing

9.2 Aquatic Facilities (Pools) and Water Based Sport and Recreation

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s)	Supporters	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
General	Investigate formal partnerships with schools, where required, to increase community access to school provided pools.	Sport Northland	KDC	Short
	Ensure there is a well-planned programme of ongoing facility maintenance and upgrades to ensure existing facilities continue to meet the needs of the community.	Asset owners		Ongoing
Kauri Coast Community Pool	Maintain this as the key aquatic facility for the district. Undertake an options assessment and feasibility study for upgrading the facility to meet the future needs of the community, focussing on catering to all ages and abilities. A priority consideration is options for extending the season and maximising use of the hydrotherapy / children's pool through covering these areas. Options for provision of some covered lane space could also be considered within this planning work. This should be done in conjunction with the Regional Aquatic Facility Plan as proposed in the regional strategy.	Sport Northland, KDC	RIF	Short
	Ensure starting blocks and lane ropes are maintained in good condition to support competitive swimming requirements.	Sport Northland	Swimming clubs	Ongoing
Water-Based Sport and Recreation				
Support facilities	Work with water-based sport and recreation groups to identify priority sites across the district for investment in appropriate water access, boat storage and amenity facilities (toilets, tap water). Top priorities are provision of public toilets and fresh water wash down areas for vessels. Secure storage areas and enhanced launching areas are also desirable. This may include facilitating partnerships with existing water based sports groups to cater to a wider variety of water based users.	KDC	NSC	Short
Programmes	Support the local implementation of the proposed regional partnership programme for water safety and basic water skills education.	Sport Northland, NSC	Local clubs	Short

9.3 Sports Fields

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
General	Undertake a sports field supply and demand study to assess current capacity, demand hours and the potential need to facilitate partnerships to increase allocation/access by some field based codes where there is an imbalance in provision. For the Kaipara area, the issue of 'security' of access needs to be a key consideration of this study as many playing fields in the district are not council owned. This will inform development of a detailed implementation plan for sports field improvements (lighting, drainage, irrigation).	KDC	Asset owners, Sport Northland, RSOs, clubs	Medium
	Continue to maintain existing sports fields to ensure a quality playing experience is provided. This may require field quality improvements such as irrigation and drainage at some sites.	KDC, asset owners		Ongoing
	Any new sports field developments should, where possible, be large enough to cater to 3 full sized winter playing fields along with an appropriate level of amenity provision (car parking, toilets, change rooms, storage and other recreation facilities). These and any enhancements of existing sports field should be multi-use sports hubs wherever possible, ideally with both a winter and summer code allocated to a field site.	KDC	Sport Northland, RSOs, clubs	Ongoing
	Work with clubs and recreation groups to create a prioritised programme of amenity facility enhancements at key sport and recreation sites across the district. Many facilities have had maintenance deferred meaning toilets, change rooms and storage facilities are in poor condition. When planning such upgrades ensure consideration is given to appropriate unisex changing facilities to support increases in female participation.	KDC, Sport Northland	Asset owners	Short
	That Council support the provision of appropriate space and time for taonga takāro (traditional Māori sports) such as ki-o-rahi and mahi a te rehia on parks and reserves. This may be at Council sites or through encouraging partnerships with the owners of non-Council owned sports fields.	KDC, asset owners	Sport Northland	Short
Football	Subject to the joint planning work for sports field lighting in the wider precinct, enhance the football floodlights at Northern Wairoa Memorial Park to meet competition-standard specifications to allow night games and enhanced training opportunities.	KDC, Northern Wairoa Football Club	Northern Football, Sport Northland, Northern Wairoa Rugby Sub Union, KCRS	Medium

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
	Work with the Mangawhai Football club to improve the standard of facilities available for football at the Mangawhai Domain including playing field quality improvements and sports field lighting to increase the hours of use.	KDC, Mangawhai Football club	Northern Football, Sport Northland	Short
Rugby league	Subject to the joint planning work for sports field lighting in the wider precinct, install new floodlights at the rugby league fields at Northern Wairoa Memorial Park to meet competition standards to allow night games and enhanced training.	KDC, Rugby League Northland	Sport Northland, Northern Wairoa Rugby Sub Union, KCRS	Short
	Seek partnerships with rugby clubs and other codes to secure access to grounds for training and competition purposes.	Rugby League Northland	Clubs	Ongoing
Rugby Union	Seek to maximise the use and sustainability of current clubroom facilities through potential partnerships with other codes, activities and community groups.	Northland Rugby	Clubs, Sport Northland	Ongoing
Athletics	Continue to ensure the community has access to quality grass athletics tracks for local level participation and training. This may require turf quality enhancements and partnerships with schools.	Athletics Northland, asset owners	Sport Northland	Ongoing
Cricket	Support the provision of an area suitable for training and games in Mangawhai to cater to the growing community.	KDC	Northland Cricket, Mangawhai Cricket Club	Ongoing

9.4 Court Based (Indoor and Outdoor)

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
General	Prioritise maintenance and quality enhancements to existing indoor and outdoor courts to improve playing surface suitability. Where possible any playing surface upgrades should consider provision of additional line markings to cater to multiple uses, including informal games where that is not already provided.	KDC, asset owners	Funders, Sport Northland	Short & Ongoing
	Investigate formal partnerships with schools to increase community access to school provided courts (indoor and outdoor).	Sport Northland	KDC, schools	Short
	Subject to the outcomes of the regional courts plan, investigate installation of improved lighting and covers over existing outdoor courts in the district to increase usability in all weather (rain and heat protection), starting with some courts at Sportville Dargaville.	KDC, Asset Owners	Sport Northland, RSOs	Medium
Basketball	Subject to the outcomes of the regional courts plan, investigate the provision of additional multiuse outdoor courts (minimum of full ½ court basketball size) across the district to improve local access. Key opportunities are locating these at existing sport and recreation hub sites or in partnerships with schools.	Sport Northland, Basketball	KDC, asset owners	Short
Tennis	Investigate options to increase sharing of existing single use tennis court sites. This may include provision of court markings and equipment (e.g. hoops, goals) to encourage casual utilisation e.g. basketball, futsal. This should be considered in conjunction with the Regional Courts Plan.	Tennis, Sport Northland	RSOs	Short
Futsal	Futsal is currently constrained by a lack of access to suitable facilities. Ensure that all plans for court provision and enhancement consider the needs of futsal.	Sport Northland, asset owners	Northern Football	Ongoing

9.5 Specialised Sport Facilities

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
Bowls	Subject to the regional bowls facility plan, retain the existing network of single community bowling clubs where demand continues to exist. Seek partnerships with other sports, recreation or community groups for clubrooms use to increase sustainability.	Bowls Northland, bowling clubs	Sport Northland	Ongoing
Golf	To enhance sustainability of the district golf clubs, investigate opportunities to increase clubroom sharing with other sports, recreation and community groups. Also investigate alternative programme delivery and promotions to increase activity on existing courses and meet a wider potential player demographic.	Golf Northland, golf clubs	Sport Northland,	Short
	Prior to investing in major renewals or upgrades to existing golf courses and facilities, undertake a needs and options analysis to determine the cost benefit of alternative delivery approaches such as Sportsville partnerships and developing differentiated service offerings e.g. conversion from 18 to 9 hole courses.	Golf Northland, golf clubs	Sport Northland	Medium
Equestrian	Continue to provide a network of Equestrian facilities providing accessible participation opportunities. Encourage multi-use partnerships, firstly with different equestrian groups and disciplines and secondly with other community recreation groups and activities to increase the community use and value of equestrian sites wherever possible.	Asset owners, equestrian organisations	Sport Northland, KDC	Ongoing
Gymsports	Continue local provision of introductory Gymsports opportunities where demand exists. It is appropriate to provide this through shared facilities such as community halls where pack-in and pack out of equipment is required. Travel to fit-for-purpose gymnastics facilities (e.g. Whangarei) will be required for specialised competition level participants.	Sport Northland, KDC	Deliverers	Ongoing
	The Otamatea Club (in Kaiwaka) has ceased operating. If demand exists, work to re-establish this club as the equipment and venue is available. Focus on catering to introductory-level gym and movement classes for young people.	Sport Northland	Local community	Short
Hockey	Investigate partnership options with schools to increase local access to hockey turf facilities to support the regional approach of hub and spoke provision. Local turfs should be multi-use where possible and focussed on training and introductory level hockey needs, with the main competition facilities continuing to be based in Whangarei and Kaikohe. Also see Sportsville Dargaville recommendation.	Sport Northland, Northland Hockey	KCRS, KDC	Ongoing
	Specifically consider opportunities the new multi-use turf at Dargaville Intermediate may provide for basic hockey skills practice for local community use.	Hockey clubs, Dargaville Intermediate		Short

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
Squash	Many squash facilities in the district are aging. Clubs should prioritise general maintenance and minor upgrades to raise existing facility standards and/or keep facilities fit-for-purpose. When undertaking maintenance and minor upgrades clubs should consider enhancing aspects such as court surfaces and walls, lighting (consider LED), heating/ventilation and improving the general amenity of the club including enhancing toilet and change room areas.	Squash Northland, squash clubs	Funders	Ongoing
	To retain existing and attract new members, ensure quality programmes are being offered. Consider options and systems to make access for casual players easier to maximise the potential from growth in this player type.	Squash Northland, squash clubs		Ongoing
	Undertake a needs and feasibility assessment to consider the potential expansion of the Maungaturoto Squash Club to a three court facility (currently two courts). This assessment should include consideration of providing a fit-for-purpose doubles court as there are currently none in the region.	Maungaturoto Squash (and Country Club), Squash Northland	Sport Northland	Medium
Softball	Continue to provide for softball on multiuse grass sites. Do not invest in single-use facilities (dirt diamonds).	KDC	Sport Northland, Northland Softball Association	Ongoing
Dargaville Speedway	Continue to maintain as an important district asset for motor-sport. Consider opportunities to increase use of the site for other recreation activities where it is practical and safe to do so.	Dargaville Production Stockcar Club	KDC	Ongoing

9.6 Community Halls

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
General	Continue to support and maintain a network of multi-use community halls catering to a wide range of uses, including indoor sports and recreation, where sufficient demand and use exist. This should include ongoing maintenance and minor facility upgrades (e.g. floor surface, climate control/heating) to enhance suitability for users.	KDC, asset owners	User groups	Ongoing
Indoor Bowls	Continue to use existing multi-use facilities such as community halls. Where possible installation of climate control to improve the suitability of these venues should be considered.	Indoor bowls clubs, asset owners	KDC	Ongoing
Dance	Continue to use existing multi-use facilities such as community halls. Where possible future upgrades to community hall style facilities should consider the needs of dance groups (e.g. floor type, mirrors, climate control/heating).	Dance groups, asset owners	KDC	Ongoing

9.7 Play and Recreation Facilities

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
Walking & Cycling	Continue to implement key Kaipara-based projects linked to the identified objectives and priorities in the Northland Walking and Cycling Strategy.	KDC, Northland Walking & Cycling Forum	Sport Northland	Ongoing
	Improve walking and cycle connectivity between Sportville Dargaville, Northern Wairoa Memorial Park, Pioneer Park and the Dargaville town centre. Incorporate design features that encourage play on the way opportunities for young people using walkway and cycle ways.	KDC	Northern Wairoa Rugby Sub Union, KCRS	Short
Cycling	Investigate additional pump track provision to support children's bike activity across the wider district where communities show a strong interest and desire to support implementation and future maintenance of these facilities. These tracks can support the pathway to BMX and mountain bike participation.	KDC	Northland Walking & Cycling Forum	Short
	Plan to ensure that support amenities such as adequate car parking, toilets and relaxation facilities (shaded picnic tables) are considered as part of bike track and trail provision.	KDC	Northland Walking & Cycling Forum	Ongoing

Facility/Activity Type:	Recommendation:	Facilitator(s):	Supporters:	Timeframe: Short 1-3 years, Medium 4-6, Long 7 plus
Playgrounds	Continue to maintain existing playground facilities across the district. When play equipment assets are nearing the end of their useful life, consider the changing needs of the community and potential for alternative provision such as play spaces and natural play options before replacing with new equipment of the same type.	KDC, asset owners	Local community	Ongoing
	Work with hapū, and iwi to identify opportunities for distinct Māori play opportunities that create pathways to celebrate and learn cultural identity. This could include consideration of creating Mara Hupara (traditional playground) space within the Kaipara District.	KDC, hapū, iwi	whānau	Short
Parks and Public space	Neighbourhood parks and schools provide a key sites for local communities. Work with local communities to develop and activate these places in a way that suits local community needs, with a focus on providing opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi for spontaneous, informal and casual play and recreation.	KDC	Local community, whānau	Ongoing
Youth Space	Undertake a community needs assessment to consider the demand and possible options for a multi-purpose youth centre catering to drop-in and social requirements of youth as well as catering to youth sport and recreation needs. Ideally this would be part of an existing or multi-purpose facility.	KDC, youth organisations.	Health organisations, MSD	Short