

Topic 2 - Urlich Park (Moir Street Reserve) – what’s next?

Recommendation | Ngā tūhunga

That Kaipara District Council:

- a) Notes the feedback received from the community.
- b) Agrees that a more focused needs assessment with key stakeholders to determine the kinds of sports and recreational facilities are required to ensure current and future needs are met in readiness for the concept design work.
- c) Notes, that there is no change to the Long Term Plan activity year 2026-2027, which provides \$200k, via financial contributions, for the development and design of the Urlich Park concept plan in 2026-2027.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long-Term Plan 2024-2027 Consultation Documents.

Introduction

Kaipara District ‘Roadmap to Recovery’ Long Term Plan 2024-2027 Consultation Document asked our communities the question below about Urlich Park, currently bare grassy farmland on Moir Street, close to the Village:

Q1 What kinds of sports and recreational facilities do you want to see developed in Urlich Park (Moir Street Reserve)?

There were plenty of suggestions (needs and wants) received from the 374 respondents to this question as shown in the table below.

General comments also expressed the need for a sporting facility to provide activities for teenagers during bad weather and cater to all parts of the community. They also mention the importance of prioritising resources and spaces for the growing number of younger age groups to keep them active, engaged, and connected to the community. Additionally, they emphasised the significance of accessibility for disabled people.

Some respondents however have mixed opinions about the development of the Urlich Park for sports and recreational facilities. Some feel that the money should be spent elsewhere and that there are already enough facilities in place. The importance of community consultation and needs assessment is highlighted as well.

TOPIC 2 – Urlich Park
Submissions

We received 374 comments on recommendations of sports & recreational facilities at Urlich Park.

Theme	Subtheme	Comment #
		374
SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES	Swimming pool	55
	Indoor gymnasium	22
	Basketball court	20
	Football field	19
	Netball court	19
	Outdoor sports fields	18
	Rugby field	18
	General gym facility	16
	Sportsville (like Dargaville)	15
	Parks and reserves	14
	Complement existing sports facilities	13
	Walking and biking trails	12
	Youth facilities	12
	Changing facilities	11
	Athletics track	10
	Club rooms	10
	Cricket pitch	10
	Field hockey court	9
	Squash	9
	Badminton court	8
	Indoor facilities	8
	Dog friendly area	7
	Indoor courts	5
	Pickleball court	5
	BBQ facilities	4
	Dedicated space for young children	4
Kaihu Valley Trail	4	
Skate park	4	
Volleyball court	4	
Culture centre	3	

	Outdoor courts	3
	Playground	3
		37
OTHER AMENITIES	Multipurpose space	8
	Library	7
	Parking	7
	Meeting space	5
	Community hub	4
	Cafe	3
	Sheltered area	3

Options and Assessments

Factoring a high growth forecast in the Mangawhai area (8,247 by 2027), and urban expansion, the LTP feedback tells us there is community anticipation for greater educational, sporting, and recreational facilities. This is great news for economic prosperity and aligns with Kaipara the place to be, giving credence to attracting new residents to our district and empowering our communities to contribute and thrive.

Our focus now is on recovery from the last 10 weather events, and we recognise in this tough economic climate, to keep rates as low as possible, essential funding should be directed to infrastructure recovery and renewals where required. This is demonstrated by submission feedback below:

Theme	Subtheme	Comment #
		108
OTHER COMMENTS	Do not develop Urlich Park	19
	Direct funds elsewhere	15
	Increase community consultation	14
	Defer development	11
	Concern regarding unfair rates spend	9
	Do not spend money/limit spending	9
	Prefer more natural spaces	9
	Do not duplicate existing facilities	7
	Preference to remain within budget	6
	Focus on core services	5
	Swimming pool (opposition)	4

Impact of recommendation on the LTP (financial and non-financial)

We already own the 5.8-hectare block of land on Moir Street, purchased in September 2022 to develop for future sports and recreational facilities using reserve contributions from the Mangawhai area, therefore it was funded by/for population growth.

The question asked in the LTP consultation was to understand the high level needs, wants and aspirations of the community to develop a concept plan for Urlich Park.

Allocation of \$200k is in the LTP 2026-2027 year, funded by financial contributions, to undertake this work.

Points raised from submission relating to Urlich Park

Within the recommended facilities for Urlich Park, some comments argued that:

- we already have two recreational facilities in Mangawhai area – Mangawhai Activity Zone and the Domain, therefore should Council direct funds to develop these facilities and open spaces further, or at least it was recommended, Council doesn't replicate their facilities at Urlich Park.
- this needs to be a long-term project, at least 3 – 5 years out.
- its funding needs to be considered further - funded by its users or a targeted rate.
- a more focused needs assessment is undertaken during the initial planning phase, including extensive community consultation to determine the kinds of sports and recreational facilities are required to ensure current and future needs are met.
- with the development of new facilities and spaces disability accessibility be at the forefront of the conversation for environmental planners and landscape architects.
- more natural spaces would be welcomed.
- there are multiple car parks available and potential Moir Street traffic congestion, especially when state highways are redirected via Mangawhai, be a consideration.
- the Community Hub and Library be sited at Urlich Park.
- there are rubbish bins available for users.

All the above will be considered when the concept planning is initiated.

There were further comments that the rest of Kaipara are missing out on funding sports and recreational facilities in their towns.

Within the LTP 2024-2027, we have funds allocated to the following in 'Open Spaces and Facilities'. This may be concept planning, renewals, remediation, or installs. These projects are still to be approved by Council, however submissions received in the LTP consultation will influence that outcome.

- Build Dargaville Library Hub
- Build Mangawhai Library Hub
- Mangawhai Pensioner Housing
- Pensioner Housing - Heat Pump Installation
- Pine Beach WW treatment upgrade
- Pine Beach Day Visitor toilets
- Mangawhai Civic Building - Preliminary Work
- Aranga Toilet Replacement
- Dargaville Book Purchases- Print
- Dargaville Hall - Annex Replacement Facilities
- Memorial Park: Carpark and Drainage Improvements
- New Mt Wesley Cemetery: Sexton Shed including Toilet Renewal
- Pahi Reserve: Playground and Irrigation Replacement
- Pahi Toilet Disposal Field
- Parks hard surface renewals
- Parks Infrastructure renewals
- Parks wastewater renewals

- Playground renewals
- Selwyn Park: Fencing, Playground and Drainage Improvements
- Tinopai Wharf renewal
- Welcome to Kaipara Signs
- Baylys Beach Boardwalk - Stage 2
- Fagan Place - Playground
- Te Kopuru Domain Improvements
- Tinopai Boat Ramp Upgrade
- Gum Diggers Track Jetty / Establishment
- Lincoln Downs Outdoor Pursuits Park development
- Mangawhai Sports Park infrastructure
- Mangawhai Heads Surf Beach - Master Plan Development - Parking/Space
- Kaipara Digital book purchases

Fit with Long Term Plan

The recommendation is consistent with the Long -Term Plan 2024-2027.

Policy Implications

Consultation policies - Financial Contribution Policy as Ulrich Park concept planning will be funded from Financial Contributions.

Conclusion drawn

With Council's focus over the next year being recovery, and in a tough economic climate, we recognise there is high community appetite to direct essential funding to infrastructure recovery and renewals where required.

Factoring the high growth forecast in the Mangawhai area (8,247 by 2027), and urban expansion, the LTP submissions indicate to us there is a community eagerness for greater educational, sporting, and recreational facilities.

Even in a challenging environment Council continues to plan and adapt in readiness.

Next steps

A concept plan will be developed in year 2026-2027, funded by Financial Contributions (growth), considering all the feedback received in this LTP consultation and future collaboration / engagement with stakeholders.