

## **Section 4 – Russell Park**

## 8. Russell Park and surrounds

### 8.1. Purpose

This document sets out information and the management approach specific to Russell Park and surrounds.

It provides a summary of key issues identified by the community and Council regarding the future use, management and development of Russell Park and the surrounding areas of Central Park and A and P Showgrounds. For ease of reference, we call the combination of these areas a 'sport and recreation precinct' although we recognise there are different ownership models in place.

This document includes a proposed way forward to respond to these issues, and provide clarity on the short, medium and long term priorities for Russell Park and surrounding areas.

### 8.2. What is provided at Russell Park (including Central Park and A and P Showgrounds)



Size	13.033 ha (not including Central Park and A and P land)
Park Category	Sport and Recreation Park – District Hub
Location	River Terrace, Waipukurau
Land	Russell Park (CHBDC)

	Central Park (CHB Rugby Trust) A and P showgrounds (A and P Society)
Facilities	Russell Park (CHBDC) – Sportsfields, cricket pitch, public toilets and changing rooms, fitness facilities, splash pad, playground, skatepark, BMX track, Scout Hall, Waipukurau Memorial Hall, memorial cenotaph.  Russell Park (CHB Community Trust) - Centralines Sports Complex – multi use turf and asphalt courts, swimming pool, indoor stadium.  Central Park (CHB Rugby Trust) – sportsfields, grandstand, clubrooms.  Waipukurau Lawn Tennis and Squash Club (WLT&SC)  A and P showgrounds (A and P Society) – meeting rooms, equine facilities, corrals, grazing pasture/ junior sportsfields
Leases	CHB Community Trust – ground lease for pool and stadium expires 30 June 2022.  – Central Hawke’s Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Association – Lease 50 Dated 23 August 2001 Term from 1 May 2001 for term of 21 years Expires 1 May 2022 for purpose of A&P Show. No rent – just pay all outgoings including tree management. Lease subject to Reserves Act 1977
Use (across wider sports precinct)	Rugby, touch rugby, football, netball, hockey, tennis, squash, walking, cycling, swimming, fitness, play, leisure, dog training and activities, skate/scooter activities, scouts, indoor courts use, Tukituki trails entrance, events e.g. Christmas Parade, Little Easy and Matariki fireworks, school sports days, after school programmes, running.

### 8.3. What role does Russell Park have in the wider sports and recreation network?

Russell Park is Central Hawkes Bay’s district hub sport and recreation park. District hub reflects that the park and facilities are for many different sports, events and activities, and used by people from all over the district.

The wider sport and recreation precinct will continue to be a base for district-wide sport and recreation facilities catering to a variety of sporting codes, and provide for community activities, events, active/passive recreation and play opportunities.

There are several issues and opportunities identified through Thriving Places and Spaces and the Long Term Plan, that need to be responded to so that this Park continues to meet the sport and recreational needs of the community.

### 8.4. What we have heard to date

We received feedback on Russell Park and Central Park through the following processes:

- 2021/2022 feedback through the Thriving Places and Spaces survey
- 2021 Sports Club Survey
- Site visit and facility tour with Aqua Management (July 2021)
- 2021-2031 LTP submissions on Russell Park
- Russell Park User group meeting and survey
- Russell Park user group walkover (February 2022)

From this we have identified the following issues relating to demand and sports club growth, and facility and land provision.

<p><b>Increasing demand</b></p>	<p>The growth of several sports that currently use Russell Park and vicinity and the need for facilities to service this growth (e.g. some clubs do not have a base to operate from, no changing facilities, ageing facilities, small facilities that clubs have outgrown, quality facilities to attract and retain members).</p> <p>Identified potential for a multi-use sports facility (clubrooms, toilet, change facilities, storage) to service growing demand and provide a quality, fit for purpose facility for a variety of codes and clubs. Also potential to provide wider community benefit outside of sports use e.g. meeting spaces, events, functions and conferences.</p> <p>Demand for additional court space in the future as a potential extension to the Indoor Stadium. Also sufficient demand to extend the gym area and include spaces for Pilates.</p> <p>Demand for use of the multi-use turf and issues with user access to indoor court change facilities. Need for changing facilities, toilets and storage adjacent to the turf.</p> <p>Population increasing by 9,100 people from 14,850 in 2019 to 23,980 by 2051, with an additional 3,000 people living in Waipukurau. Access to quality sports and recreation experiences is needed to provide opportunities for new people to the district to be active and connected with the community.</p> <p>No comprehensive understanding of utilisation and demand across all codes and trends over time. Council provides basic sportsfield maintenance and manages bookings for the Russell Park sportsfields while the operator of the Centralines Sports Complex manages bookings for the outdoor turf complex and indoor stadium and pool.</p> <p>Regional sports organisations identified growth across all sports – rugby, netball, hockey, cricket, tennis, basketball and football, and greater need for collaboration and coordination across codes.</p>
<p><b>Facility issues</b></p>	<p>A 2014 concept plan for Russell Park resulted in several projects delivered over the last 8 years. Projects include the multi-use turf provided by CHB Community Trust, playground, splash pad, skatepark, exercise and fitness trail and various other upgrades to lighting, parking, toilets etc. This concept was never fully implemented and much has changed since it was first developed.</p>

	<p>Waipukurau Memorial Hall is an earthquake prone building and currently operating with capacity limits until a decision is made on its future. This decision has linkages with the potential for a civic and community hub within the Waipukurau town centre and the potential for a multi-use sports facility that provides for wider community use.</p> <p>Issues with existing toilets, storage, clubroom and change facilities and need for upgrade plus new provision. Support to further develop Russell Park to make it more accessible with amenities and change rooms that are fit for purpose, continual footpath and regular seating, and the potential for a multi-sports facility servicing several codes and clubs.</p> <p>Carparking and pedestrian safety issues in both main carpark and newer turf carpark.</p> <p>Issues with irrigation and lighting restricting use of the Park and sportsfields. Lack of suitable accommodation options for sports tournaments and programmes.</p>
<p><b>Land, management and development issues</b></p>	<p>There are four separate landowners that contribute to the ‘sport and recreation precinct’ with different funding, management and operational structures, some of which have long term sustainability challenges.</p> <p>Land leases are in place with the CHB Trust for Centralines Indoor Stadium and Pool on Russell Park, and with the A and P Society.</p> <p>Waipukurau Bowling Club is located nearby and is privately owned and operated.</p> <p>There are also areas of underutilised land that have the potential to cater to future growth and require a clear plan in place to determine future use and development.</p> <p>The different ownership and management models reflect the significant role the community have played in providing the land and facilities, and opportunities to our community. It also presents a significant challenge in ensuring long term security of access for the community given the role these facilities have in the district. There is a need to identify the optimal model to ensure ongoing sustainability and community benefit.</p>
<p><b>Impact on volunteers</b></p>	<p>Sport has a huge reliance on volunteers to manage facilities, run clubs and sporting programmes. This places significant pressure on these groups to operate in a sustainable way, now and into the future. For example, the ability for volunteers and coaches to continue to administer clubs due to time and cost involved, lack of succession plans for when key people are no longer able to volunteer, lack of youth coming through, ageing membership, need for greater access to skills/training opportunities for volunteers and all aspects of club operations.</p>

COVID impacts	Sport was the most compromised domain in terms of ability to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to other forms of physical activity like walking and cycling. Impacts include lost revenue, cash flow difficulties, reduced capacity and change of membership. All these things have hit the sector hard and will present ongoing challenges to respond and adapt to.
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### 8.5. Proposed Approach

Council will lead a collaborative process to develop a Masterplan for Russell Park. This will help to complete and secure the sport and recreation precinct for the future and recognises the district hub status of this park and the benefits of this to our wider community.

A Masterplan process is a good way to:

- Provide the opportunity for everyone to input, Russell Park sports precinct users and the wider community.
- Consider everything from developing an aspirational vision for the Park through to what can be achieved on the ground and the why, where and how that supports delivery and investment.
- Provide something visual that people can easily engage with and understand.
- Help different user groups understand each other's needs on the Park and identify opportunities for collaboration, avoid duplication and identify options for moving forward.
- Better understand the role and contribution of the Park to the wider network and regional facilities.
- Assist with prioritisation of investment and ability to access external funding opportunities.
- Identify and agree on quick wins, as well as medium to long term requirements.

The key factors that could help shape the masterplan, and the recommended process to develop the masterplan are outlined below.

### 8.6. Key factors in planning for the future of Russell Park and surrounding area

The biggest consideration across all the issues identified is that of funding constraints. This supports the need for a collaborative approach to problem solving, working together to achieve the best outcomes for the Park and District, and planning together for the future.

The key factors to assist in driving a collaborative approach include:

- Multi use and shared facilities providing opportunities to achieve efficiencies and collaboration and reduce the impact of buildings on the Park.
- Catering to a wide range of users and types of use, recognising the district hub status of the Park.
- Levels of service that reflect the status and extent of use including maintenance, lighting, toilets and change facilities, fit for purpose and future proofed facilities.
- Development of strong, successful and sustainable sport and recreation groups that are meeting our community needs.
- Provide for growth of sports codes and clubs recognising benefits of an active and connected community.

- Recognise wider values of the Park including green space, amenity, active recreation, culture and history, play and passive use, and the connections to the Waipukurau town centre and other amenities.
- Accessible and inclusive facilities and experiences.
- Clarity on roles and responsibilities in the approach to ownership, management, utilisation, funding, operations and promotion.

### **8.7. Masterplan Process (2022-2023)**

1. Key stakeholder meetings – outline proposed approach (CHB Trust, CHB Sports and A and P)
2. Agree key roles and responsibilities with key stakeholders on process.
3. Align key recreation and community facility decisions and other relevant work with this process – swimming pool, memorial hall, town centre plans.
4. User group co-design workshops – recognise all inputs to date, workshop collective vision and values for park recognising its key role as a district hub park, understand relationship between Russell Park and Central Park, identify challenges, opportunities. Use to gather any additional user information (eg membership, growth etc).
5. Develop and adopt draft Masterplan (options) - Include projects required to achieve Masterplan and prioritisation approach to these. Needs to also provide realistic picture of growth and demand for additional facilities (eg cricket pitch, additional courts, artificial turf).
6. Agree key roles and responsibilities with key stakeholders on implementation. Combined approach to funding.
7. User group workshop and wider community engagement on draft masterplan
8. Adopt final masterplan and include in Long Term Plan.

## 8.8. Attachment 1 – User group participation in surveys

Ruahine Cadet Club	Junior Motocross
CHB Athletic Club	Waipukurau Skate Park Development Team
CHB Touch Rugby Club	Waipukurau Cubs and Scouts
Central Sports	CHB Kennel Society
Waipukurau Tennis and Squash Club	Aqua Management Ltd
Central Hockey Club	CHB District Community Trust
CHB Rugby Club	Rotary River Pathway Trust
CHB Hockey Association	
CHB Junior Rugby	
Cycling CHB	
CHB Rugby and Sports Club	
CHB Swim Club	

## 8.9. Attachment 2 - Additional feedback from surveys

What is working well:

- Great space with plenty available all at one stop. Splash pad is great as is the park.
- So many options for different ages and abilities.
- Youth use it all the time and it suits their needs.

What could be improved:

Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep the lawns mowed over summer holidays.</li> <li>- Inability to water/maintain sportsfields.</li> <li>- Drivers doing donuts in the back carpark destroys the surface as well as flings shingle onto the sports turf. Locking the gates has mitigated this to a certain extent. However, it can occur in the daytime at low usage/no or minimal passive surveillance.</li> <li>- Repair all old floodlights.</li> <li>- Complete area outside Memorial Hall.</li> <li>- Mow motocross area for greater use than grazing</li> <li>- Irrigation to keep park looking green for amenity</li> </ul>
Shade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need more shade especially around splash pad, skateparks and playground.</li> </ul>
Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete the park and footpath.</li> <li>- More formed pathways (to assist in maintenance of the turf and courts)</li> </ul>
Carparks and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carparks - issues with sealed carpark being used by boy racers and need lines painted on northern parking area, more carparking needed and loop with one-way traffic.</li> <li>- Signage to encourage traffic to slow down</li> <li>- Speed bumps to slow down traffic</li> </ul>
Toilets and change facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Toilets and change rooms near the trail carpark and signage letting people know it's there</li> <li>- Storage building for equipment</li> </ul>
Bookings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Online booking system</li> <li>- Easy to access and flexible booking system</li> </ul>

Cycle trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A pump station for bikes at the beginning of the bike track or the swing bridge.</li> </ul>
Skatepark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintenance of the Waipukurau Skateparks due to cracking and damage</li> <li>- Add lights and a water fountain.</li> <li>- Connect skatepark to the footpath.</li> <li>- Development of stage 2 of the skatepark and include youth in this.</li> <li>- Emergency access near skateparks</li> <li>- Lighting of the skatepark</li> </ul>
Sports hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sports hub at either Waipawa or Waipukurau. Have multiple sports clubs under one. Fields not used should be sold and money used on other areas or to support ongoing projects.</li> </ul>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insufficient funding to 'complete' past projects.</li> </ul>
New facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Half-court basketball/streetball court with decent hoop setup.</li> <li>- Outdoor cooking area</li> <li>- Building with kitchen for clubs holding events</li> <li>- Open up BMX track as a children's biking facility</li> <li>- More trees in some areas</li> <li>- Additional lighting for rugby fields</li> </ul>