

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 & 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 provides 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 & P Showgrounds)



Size	13.033 ha (not including Central Park and A & 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 & P showgrounds (A & 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 outgoing 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, Parkrun, 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 Hawke's 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>Increasing demand</p>	<p>The growth of several sports that currently use Russell Park and vicinity and the need for facilities to service this growth (i.e. some clubs do not have a base to operate from, no changing facilities, ageing facilities, small facilities that clubs have outgrown, lack of 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. There is also potential to provide wider community benefit outside of sports use e.g. meeting spaces, events, functions and conferences.</p> <p>There is demand for additional court space in the future as a potential extension to the Indoor Stadium, and to extend the gym area and include spaces for Pilates.</p> <p>Demand for the multi-use turf: there are issues with user access to indoor court change facilities, and a need for changing facilities, toilets and storage adjacent to the turf.</p> <p>The population is projected to increase 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>There is no comprehensive understanding of use 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 a greater need for collaboration and coordination across codes.</p>
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<p>Facility issues</p>	<p>A 2014 concept plan for Russell Park resulted in several projects delivered over the last eight 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 links 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>There are issues with existing toilets, storage, clubroom and changing facilities, and a need for upgrades plus new provision. Support to further develop Russell Park to make it more accessible with amenities and changing 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>There are carparking and pedestrian safety issues in both main carpark and newer turf carpark. Issues include irrigation and lighting restricting use of the Park and sportsfields.</p> <p>There is a lack of suitable accommodation options for sports tournaments and programmes.</p>
<p>Land, management and development issues</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 & 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 has played in providing the land and facilities, and present opportunities to our community. They also present 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>Impact on volunteers</p>	<p>Sport relies hugely 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. Issues include 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, and need for greater access to skills/ training opportunities for volunteers and all aspects of club operations.</p>
<p>COVID impacts</p>	<p>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.</p>

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 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 for its development 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 & 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. Plan to incorporate provision of shade areas in master plan process and widening of the gate entranceway and adding bollards to ensure this is included for consideration in the masterplan process
5. 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)
6. Develop and adopt draft masterplan (options) - Include projects required to achieve masterplan and prioritisation approach to these. This needs to also provide realistic picture of growth and demand for additional facilities (eg cricket pitch, additional courts, artificial turf)
7. Agree key roles and responsibilities with key stakeholders on implementation, with a combined approach to funding
8. User group workshop and wider community engagement on draft masterplan
9. 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	Central Hawke's Bay Dog Training Club
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"> • Keep the lawns mowed over summer holidays • Inability to water/maintain sportsfields • 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 • Repair all old floodlights • Complete area outside Memorial Hall • Mow motocross area for greater use than grazing • Irrigation to keep park looking green for amenity
Shade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more shade especially around splash pad, skateparks and playground
Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the park and footpath • More formed pathways (to assist in maintenance of the turf and courts)
Carparks and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Signage to encourage traffic to slow down • Speed bumps to slow down traffic
Toilets and change facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilets and change rooms near the trail carpark and signage letting people know it's there • Storage building for equipment
Bookings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online booking system • Easy to access and flexible booking system
Cycle trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pump station for bikes at the beginning of the bike track or the swing bridge
Skatepark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of the Waipukurau Skateparks due to cracking and damage • Add lights and a water fountain • Connect skatepark to the footpath • Development of stage 2 of the skatepark and include youth in this • Emergency access near skateparks • Lighting of the skatepark
Sports hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient funding to 'complete' past projects
New facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half-court basketball/streetball court with decent hoop setup • Outdoor cooking area • Building with kitchen for clubs holding events • Open up BMX track as a children's biking facility • More trees in some areas • Additional lighting for rugby fields

8.10 Feedback received from Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan Consultation for consideration in development of the Masterplan

<p>Central Hawke's Bay Dog Training Club</p>	<p>Dog training club aspirations include fit for purpose grass turf in the back sportsfields, electricity supply, maintained driveway and clubrooms for meetings, etc. The club is interested in development of a multi-use building. Other issues include maintained fence, signs to pick up dog droppings and improving foot traffic access to the riverbank. Note different entity to kennel society who use the A & P Society grounds.</p>
<p>Parkrun</p>	<p>Use of the Park for 5 km park runs each Saturday morning. Suggested improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide shelter or shade • Signpost and communicate where the Park is so that it is visible • On Page 31 of the Plan, Section 8.2, under Users in the table add that parkrun use the park and/or on that they are also one of the User Groups • Marked 5km Run/walk course - A 5km start and finish marker and markers on the way would offer an opportunity for anyone to 'follow the trail' - also safety in terms of access in an emergency • Entrance between Russell Park and Stopbank by skate ramp near SH2 - entrance is quite narrow
<p>CHB Trust CHB Rugby Football Trust Central Rugby and Sports Club</p>	<p>Submissions raise issues/opportunities regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heavy reliance on sponsorship, funding, and volunteers • facilities that are not fit for purpose • support for the consideration for a multipurpose facility or sports hub to service several codes and support development and growth of sport • asking Council to assist with organisations that are currently servicing the needs of the community and have a passion and already invested • recognising growth of sports on the park • advocating for assistance to ensure the longevity of this and prepared to work with Council for a mutually beneficial outcome for development of sport and the community • previous request of assisting with feasibility assessments to apply to the Lottery foundation is still the preferred method • current ownership model is not sustainable • time for BIG Picture futuristic thinking – integration and sustainability
<p>Aqua Management</p>	<p>Urgent need for toilets and changing rooms for the netball courts and turf</p> <p>Maintenance of Russell Park and Coronation Park needs clear and long-term direction and planning. Irrigation of both parks needs to be planned before more money is spent on spraying and re-grassing</p>
<p>Central Hawke's Bay District Community Trust</p>	<p>Maintenance of Russell Park and Coronation Park needs clear and long-term direction and planning. Irrigation of both parks needs to be planned before more money is spent on spraying and re-grassing</p> <p>Imperative for turf work to be completed and facilities provided for users into the future.</p> <p>Need for consistent and regular irrigation and spraying.</p> <p>Carparking and traffic management is a major concern and needs to be a top priority before someone is seriously injured.</p> <p>Support for a one-way traffic system, painted carparking, completion of sealed areas and speed bumps. Carparking layout needs to be improved as well as traffic flow through the park and peak time traffic management.</p> <p>Floodlights need to be operational.</p> <p>Additional shade is needed in summer for health and safety.</p> <p>Additional security such as CCTV is needed.</p> <p>The competitive swimming and fitness markets are strong in Central Hawke's Bay and need to be considered in any future development of the swimming pool.</p>