

New Plymouth District

**OPEN SPACE, SPORT
AND RECREATION
STRATEGY - 30 YEARS**

**BACKGROUND
DOCUMENT**

August 2014



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
**NEW PLYMOUTH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
newplymouthnz.com

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1. Background

The need for an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy was highlighted during the development of the Coastal Strategy 2006, when it was identified that there was a need to have a more strategic approach to facility and open space provision.

In 2012 following the conclusion of the Sports Parks Management Plan, the Council requested Council officers to prepare a New Plymouth District Recreation and Leisure Strategy in collaboration with key stakeholders. This strategy is now referred to as the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy.

Between 2008 and 2012 information was collated from various sources such as surveys, community workshops and was included in the background document entitled 'Recreation and Open Space Current Situation October 2012' which helped the Council and the community better understand the current trends in recreation and open space areas.

2. Introduction

This document will discuss the Council's current level of service for recreation and open space within the New Plymouth District, the benefits of recreation and open space and the key challenges that the Council and the community currently experiences.

The draft strategy addresses some of the key issues within this document and takes into consideration the underlying assumptions included (Sections 2 to 6 of this document). The 'Recreation and Open Space Current Situation October 2012' document (DM: 1347951) also supports and assists the development of the strategy.

The draft strategy will deliver the following objectives:

1. Set clear goals for recreation and open spaces including consideration of –
 - The recreation, sport and leisure needs of the community and emerging trends;
 - High performance sport needs;
 - Connectivity and use of open space for community accessibility;
 - Regional biodiversity objectives; and
 - Local identity and sense of place amenity.
2. Define levels of service for open space and recreation facility provision.
3. Identify options for purchasing land that has a high potential to meet community recreational needs or is required through level of service provision.
4. Include criteria for purchasing new open spaces and disposing of land and facilities that offer limited opportunities or public benefit.
5. Identify opportunities for improving and enhancing recreation opportunities, including opportunities for bridle trails, mountain bike tracks and a dog park (as identified during the 2009-19 Community Plan consultation process).

Key questions are included throughout the draft strategy document to seek feedback from the community and key stakeholders.

3. Demographic Profile of New Plymouth

To understand the level of recreation and open space that is required, it is important to understand the demographic profile of the New Plymouth District and what the current trends are.

The graphs below have been updated from the previous 'Recreation and Open Space Current Situation' document (2012).

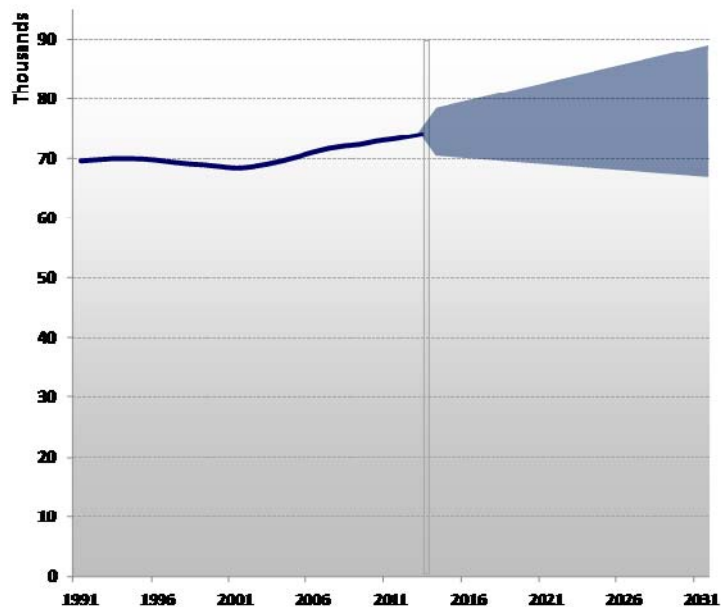
3.1. Age and Population Profile

The characteristics of the local population, influences the use of recreation facilities and open space. The New Plymouth District population has had 7.7% growth since the 2001 census and the trend of low to modest growth is forecast to continue over the next 10 years¹. The population is projected to grow from an estimated 75,100 in 2015 to 84,600 in 2025².

Figure 1 shows high low population growth scenarios for the New Plymouth District and the range between. The most significant demographic change will be the ageing of the population with the population expected to get proportionally older, as Figure 2 shows. The average age is expected to increase from 38 years old (2006) to 40 years old, and it is expected that the number of 65 year olds and over will increase by 36%.

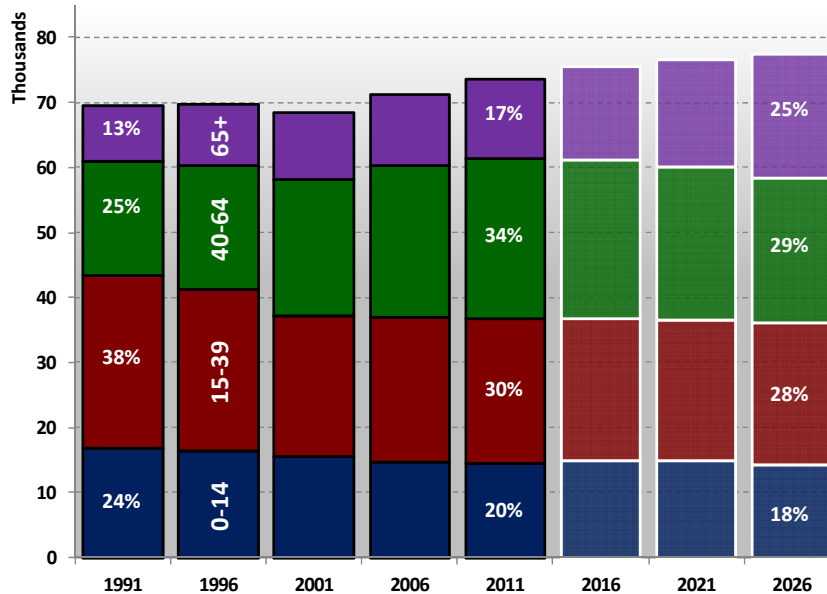
These age and population profiles are used in the assumptions for the Council's Long Term Plan 2012 – 2022.

Figure 1: Population Growth in New Plymouth District



¹ Statistics New Zealand. (2013). 2013 Census Data: Usual Resident Population Count by Territorial Authority Area.

Figure 2: Population and Age Profile – New Plymouth District



This increasing ageing population will mean that planning for recreation and open space will increasingly have to take into account the needs of older users. Open Space consultation and surveys shows that older people are very active and tend to be high users of open space. It may be expected that more grandparents will increasingly have an active role in taking and minding children to play spaces for example. Older people are users of facilities where there are a variety of activities such as the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre, and are actively involved in groups such as the Friends of Pukekura Park. Conversely having an increasingly ageing population could mean that there may be a higher number of people with disabilities. It is therefore important that recreational facilities are provided within open spaces that are accessible to people of all ages including the elderly, people with disabilities and also for younger families as they can often experience similar accessibility issues to open spaces.

According to the 2013 census families make up 66.8% of households² and families with children are the most common family type with 55.5% of all families having children³. One person households make up another significant group with 25.8% of all households. The age profile above suggests that family size may decrease as the population gets older. This may have an impact on the type of open space required.

3.2. Household Structure and Ownership

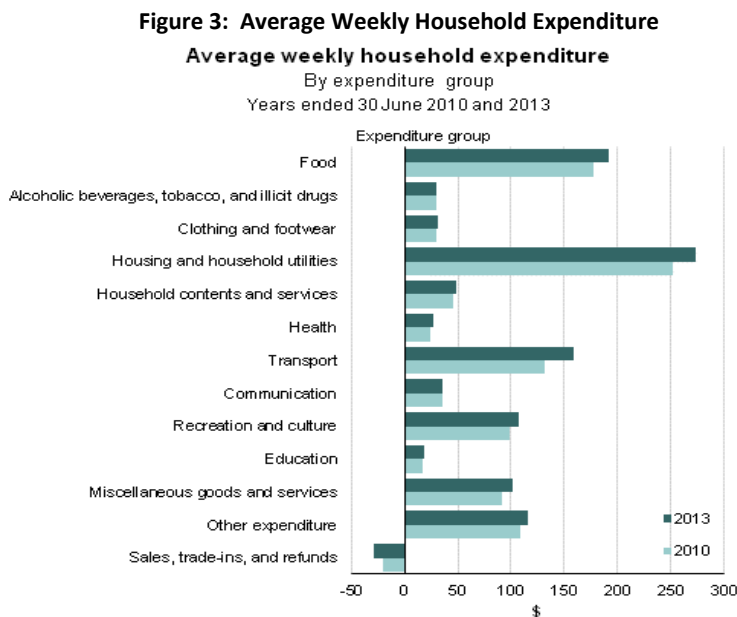
The 2013 Statistics New Zealand household expenditure survey found that on average New Zealand households spend \$107 per week on Recreation and Culture Activities including audio visual equipment, major recreational and cultural equipment, Other recreational equipment and supplies,

2 Statistics New Zealand. (2013). 2013 Census Data: *Household composition for households in occupied private dwellings*. Author.

3 Includes both couple and single parent families in 2013 Census Data.

Recreational and cultural services (recreational and sporting services), newspaper books and stationery, accommodation and package holidays⁴. This is a 9% increase from the last survey that was undertaken in 2009. Of the \$107 that is spent on recreation and culture activities, \$39 per week is spent on major recreational and cultural equipment, equipment for sport, camping and outdoor recreation. This shows that people are still willing to spend money on some form of recreation.

Figure 3 shows that households spend a significant portion of their money on food, housing and household utilities, other expenditure (interest from mortgages, savings etc) transport and recreation and culture. This graph shows that there is a general increase in how much New Zealanders are spending on recreation and culture.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

3.3 Tourism

In addition to the resident population, Taranaki is a tourism destination that attracts mostly Visiting Friends and Relations (VFR) and business travel with Mount Taranaki and New Plymouth being the main visitor destinations.

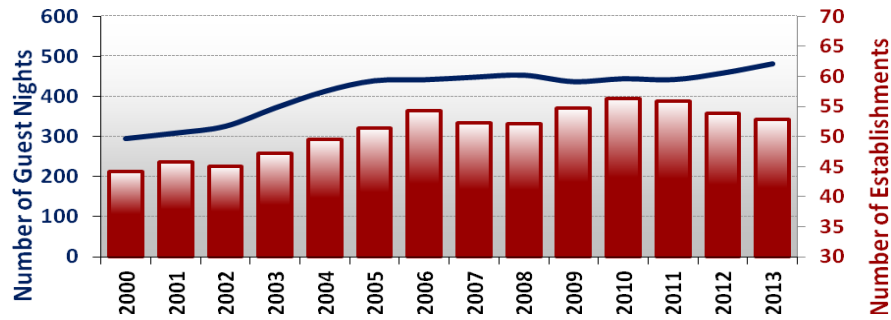
As shown in Figure 4, New Plymouth has experienced steady growth in tourism during the last nine years and this is forecast to continue⁵. Total visitor nights to New Plymouth District is forecast to grow from 1,331,000 in 2009 to 1,354,000 in 2022; an increase of 23,000 or 1.7%⁶ (find correct reference). This is likely to increase use of open space by people from outside the Taranaki region and there are opportunities for development for open space to enhance visitors' experience. It is therefore important to note that open spaces have a significant role in the tourism industry, as they allow for a variety of activities such as concerts, sports events, festivals that generate income for the local economy etc.

⁴ Statistics New Zealand (2013). *Household Economy Survey Year Ended 2013*.

⁵ Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (2014) *Territorial Authority (TA) by Total Accommodation*.

⁶ Statistics New Zealand (2013). *Industry for the employed census resident population count aged 15 years and over*, Statistics New Zealand.

Figure 4: Average Number of Guest Nights Spent in New Plymouth



3.4 Employment

Recreation and open spaces also create employment opportunities for people in their local communities. Figure 5 below shows that people are increasingly employed in the arts and recreation services in New Plymouth⁷.

Figure 5: Employment Count for New Plymouth 2006 - 2013

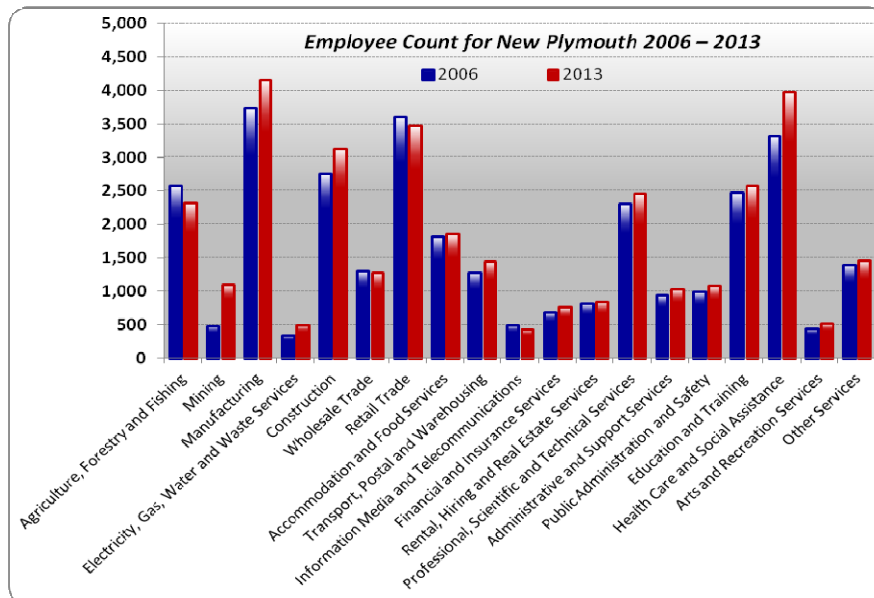
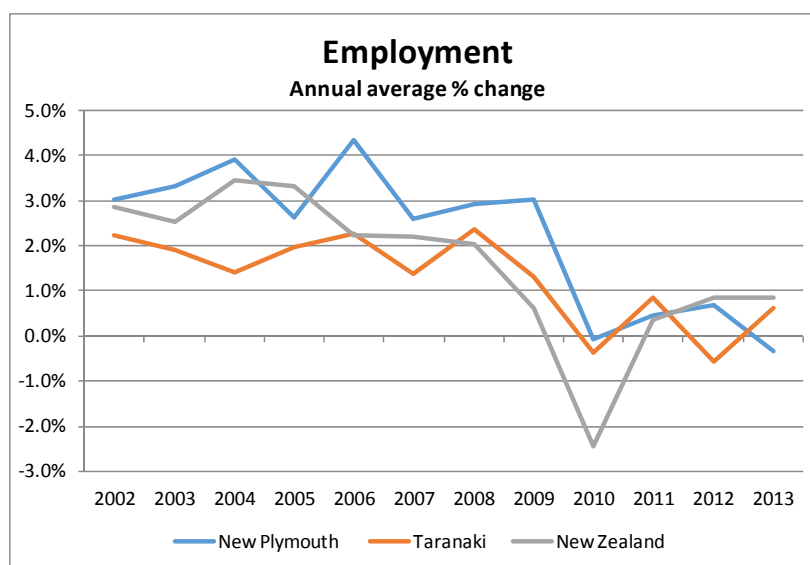


Figure 6 below also shows that in the year to March 2013 employment in New Plymouth decreased by 0.3% compared to the previous 12 months. It increased in the Taranaki region (0.6%) and in New Zealand (0.8%). Approximately 39,050 people were employed in New Plymouth in the 2013 year to March. This accounted for 69.9% of employment in the Taranaki region, and 1.8% of national employment for the year⁸.

⁷ Includes sport and recreation activities, heritage activities, artistic activities and gambling activities.

⁸Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (2013). *Quarterly Labour Market Report*. Author.

Figure 6: Employment rates in the New Plymouth District, Taranaki Region and New Zealand



4. Benefits of Open Space, Sport and Recreation

It is well known that recreation and open space has positive benefits on the health of people, the local economy and also on the environment. Some of the research available is discussed below.

4.1 Health

The provision of recreation and open spaces has the following health benefits:

- Open spaces contribute to social, mental and physical wellbeing. A 2007 Denmark survey found that access to a garden or green areas close to home is associated with less stress and lower likelihood of obesity⁹. A Netherlands study also found that the perceived general health of people living in less built-up urban areas tended to be better and was strongly related to the extent of green space. In a UK study suffering from mental illness, 90% or more of them indicated that green exercise activities benefited their mental health¹⁰.
- Interacting with the natural environment alleviates stress, anxiety and depression. A study in the United States found that people who used local parks for recreation reported fewer visits to the doctor than did non-park users. Active park users were found to be healthier than non-park users for a number of measures including blood pressure, body mass index and levels of depression¹¹.
- Interaction with the natural environment improves peoples' general well-being and happiness. above¹². Interaction with the natural environment increases peoples' contact with nature and spaces of cultural significance (cultural/spiritual wellbeing).

⁹ Wellington Regional Public Health Unit – Healthy Open Space – Summary of the impact of open spaces on health and well-being

¹⁰ Parks Forum (2008). *The Value of Parks*. Victoria, Australia.

¹¹ Parks Forum, p9.

¹² National Leisure and Culture Forum (March, 2014). *The role of culture and leisure in improving health and well-being*. Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association.

- Involvement in sport from an early age can help build character and discipline in children that they can then be applied to other aspects of their lives e.g. learning skills such as hard work, self-esteem, good health and discipline¹³.
- Open spaces also prevent social inequality. Research has shown that developed areas lacking in green spaces result in social disfunction¹⁴. Providing good quality cultural and leisure services is therefore important because it promotes a sense of community and common interest that combats social isolation.
- Open spaces provide a place to be physically active therefore increasing life expectancy and decreasing obesity, e.g. a brisk walk every day in your local park can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease by up to 50%, strokes by 50%, diabetes by 50%, fracture of the femur by 20%, colon cancer by 30% and Alzheimers by 25%¹⁵.
- According to the 2011-2013 NZ Health Survey, the obesity rate for Taranaki children is 22.1% - double the national rate (which is 10.7 %). The obesity rate for Taranaki adults is 27.1% compared with 29.1 per cent for New Zealand adults. Currently one in 20 adults (5%) in Taranaki has diagnosed diabetes which is similar to the national rate of 4.4%¹⁶.
- Engaging with the natural environment increases social interaction and provides more opportunities for more active play amongst children¹⁷.
- Promotes a sense of community and common interest that combats social isolation¹⁸.
- The public can instil a sense of identity, a sense of pride and sense of place within their community by looking after open space.
- There are strong linkages across departments that could benefit the way that people live. Ensuring there are linkages between leisure, spatial planning, transport and public health is important in creating an environment where people can actively choose to walk and cycle as part of everyday life¹⁹.

4.2 Economy

Providing recreation and open spaces allows for a variety of recreational activities to be undertaken that have a wide range of economic benefits for Taranaki. The 'Recreation and Open Space Current Situation October 2012' document shows that recreation and open spaces have the following benefits:

- Providing employment for people in Taranaki. The 2006 Census demonstrated that just over 800 people (813) work in sport and recreation industries.
- Sport and recreation industries contribute to the Taranaki economy. The sport and recreation sector (narrowly defined) is estimated to have contributed \$84.0m to regional GDP in 2008/09, or 1.3%).
- Sport and recreation are an important economic sector in Taranaki. In 2008/09 it is estimated that sport and recreation contributed \$150.7m to the GDP.
- Allows Taranaki schools to be educated about the importance of sport and recreation. Just over five per cent of *The National Curriculum* is related to sport and recreation.
- Sport and recreation facilities are a large investment by Taranaki local governments. (Councils in the Taranaki region spent \$21.7m on new sport and recreation facilities in 2008/09. This includes

¹³ Australian Government (n.d.). Australian Sport: Emerging Challenges, New Directions. Retrieved from https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/aust_sport_emerg.

¹⁴ National Leisure and Culture Forum, p10.

¹⁵ National Leisure and Culture Forum, p 5.

¹⁶ AP New Zealand (2014, June 17). Rising number of disabled people in NZ – survey. *New Zealand Herald*. Retrieved from <http://www.nzherald.co.nz>.

¹⁷ National Leisure and Culture Forum, p10.

¹⁸ National Leisure and Culture Forum, p6.

¹⁹ National Leisure and Culture Forum, p9

the development of the HUB in Hawera. This contributed \$6.3m to the value of the construction sector that year).

- Sport and recreation volunteers contribute valuable services to Taranaki. (Volunteers contributed 3.3m hours to sport and recreation in 2007/08. The estimated market value of these volunteered services is \$47.4m at 2009 values).

4.3 Environment

Recreation and open spaces also have a positive impact on the environment. The 'Recreation and Open Space Current Situation October 2012' document shows that recreation and open spaces have the following benefits for the environment:

- Animal and native plant species are preserved in open space habitats. Taranaki has 70 native animal species and 99 native plant species that are identified as threatened, at risk, or regionally distinctive. In relation to these species, 29 animal species (41%) and 32 plant species (32%) are considered to be adequately protected in Taranaki in terms of population size, number of populations and/or being secured within an area(s) that is formally protected and or actively protected (e.g. invasive plant and animal control).
- Natural and cultural heritage within open spaces is preserved and protected from inappropriate activities. The Council currently preserves natural and cultural heritage through the preparation and implementation of reserve management plans.
- The public can have access to, enjoy and learn about the natural environment within our open spaces.
- Provides access to the coast for the community.

5. Current Participation Levels in Sport and Recreation

The 2013 Gemba Market Survey, the 2013 Young Peoples Survey and the 2007/08 Active NZ Survey for Taranaki prepared by Sport New Zealand provides an understanding of how adults and children participate in sport and recreation within Taranaki.

Participation by Young People in Taranaki (5 to 18 years old)

The 2013 Young People Survey found that:

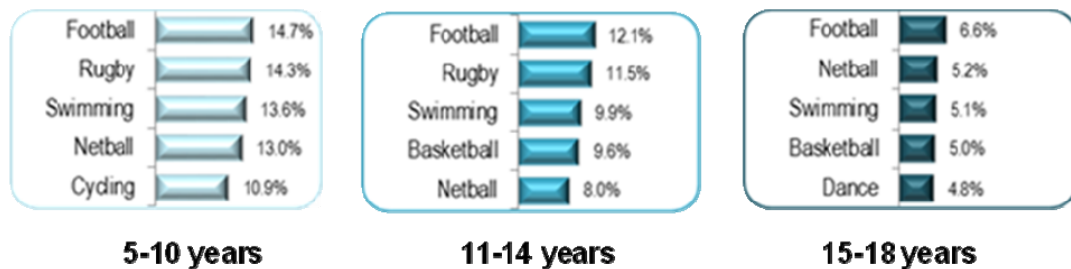
- 9 out of 10 take part in some sport and recreation.
- 5 out of 10 young people belong to a sports club - boys (62.4%) more likely than girls (50.1%).
- Schools are key settings.
- Informal settings and playing games are important (5 out of 10 boys and 4 out of 10 girls play Games regularly).
- Over 8 out 10 young people (10 to 18 years old) had done one or more activities organised by their school.
- The top 4 activities for boys and girls combined are swimming, running/jogging/cross country, rugby/rippa rugby and cycling/biking. The top 10 most popular activities that young people participate in by gender are within Table 1 below.

Table 1: Participation in Sport and Recreation by Gender²⁰

All boys		All girls		
Top 10	%		%	
1	Swimming (5)	82.9	Swimming (2)	88.9
2	Running/jogging/cross country (4)	73.2	Running/jogging/cross country (4)	75.4
3	Rugby, Ripa Rugby (1)	73.1	Cycling, biking (not mtn biking) (5)	73.4
4	Cycling, biking (not mtn biking) (3)	72.0	Walking for fitness (3)	69.9
5	Football, soccer, futsal (2)	68.2	Athletics, track & field	67.3
6	Athletics, track & field	68.0	Netball (1)	62.2
7	Touch	62.8	Tramping, bush walks	56.3
8	Basketball, Mini-ball	61.3	Gymnastics/trampoline/aerobics	55.1
9	Fishing	59.9	Football, soccer, futsal	53.6
10	Skateboarding	55.8	Basketball, Mini-ball	48.8

- The most popular sports/activities that young people are interested in are basketball, cycling/biking, football, hockey, rugby, running/jogging, swimming and tennis. The table below shows what young people (boys and girls combined) are interested in by age.

Figure 6: What Young People are Interested In



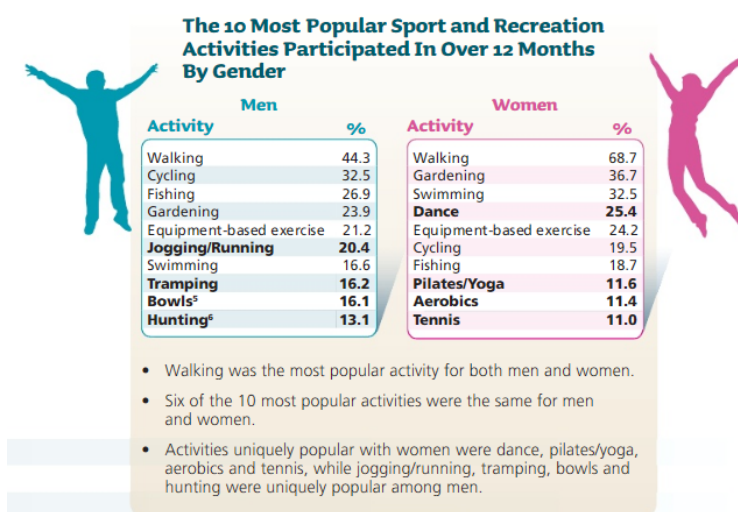
- Overall there are good levels of involvement in sport and recreation by young people but there is a drop off in teenager participation (15 to 18 year olds) in both informal and organised sport and recreation.
- Girls are less active than boys.

Participation by Adults in Taranaki (Over 16 years old)

- The 2007/08 Active NZ Survey found that the most popular activities for both men and women combined is walking as shown in the figure below.

²⁰ Sport New Zealand. (2013) *Sport and Recreation in the Lives of Young New Zealanders: Sport Taranaki Regional Profile*. Wellington.

Figure 7: Popular Sport and Recreation Activities in Taranaki²¹



The 2013 Gemba Survey found that:

- Three-quarters of adults take part in sport and recreation per week.
- Adults participate in four activities on average.
- Almost 4 out of 10 belong to a club/gym/centre.
- A quarter of adults belong to sports clubs.
- 4 out of 10 adults take part in competitions/events.
- 3 out of 10 adults are volunteers.
- Adult participation levels have been maintained over last 10 years
- The top 5 activities for adult participation in Taranaki are:
 1. Swimming
 2. Cycling/biking
 3. Fishing (marine)
 4. Tramping
 5. Jogging/running
- Adults are passionate about rugby union, rugby league, motorsport, fishing and netball
- 18% of the participants had been to a sports event in the last month (this is above the national average of 17%)
- The top 3 locations to participate in sport and recreation were found to be Outdoor (roadway/walkway in a city) – 49%, Outdoor (beach, river, lake, sea) – 39%, indoor sports facility (32%)

Volunteers

The 2012 Gemba Survey found that:

- Volunteering is the highest nationally within Taranaki.
- Parents make up 40% of volunteers

²¹ Sport and Recreation New Zealand (2009). *Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Profile: Taranaki Region 2007/08*. Wellington: SPARC.

- Referees/judges/umpires make up 25% of volunteers
- Coaches and trainer make up 24% of volunteers (this figure should be used with caution given there were less than 20 respondents)
- Organisers of fundraising events make up 20% of volunteers
- Administrators make up 19% of volunteers

6. Barriers to Open Space, Sport and Recreation

While there are benefits to people using open space for sport and/or recreation, there are also barriers²² which can prevent people from engaging with open space, sport and recreation for these purposes.

The 2006/07 Sport and Recreation Needs survey for Taranaki found that the top three barriers to participating further in sport and recreation were *'poor health/injury'* (21%), *'work commitments'* (19%) and *'age'* (12%) (*too old*). Other barriers that the survey identified include:

- Lack of time (12%).
- Family commitments (11%).
- Inappropriate scheduling/facilities/administrators (9%).
- Cost of participating (7%). The cost of participating in recreation both formal and/or informal can make it a deterrent for participation in sport and recreation.
- Too far/difficult/expensive to travel (5%). Distance, time and cost of travel to open spaces can have an impact on what type of sport and recreation individuals and families want to participate in. For example driving to distant places can have an impact on families raising young children with different levels of mobility, which can have an impact on family recreation. It is therefore important that recreation is accessible to everyone.

Other barriers to participation in recreation include:

- Poor asset quality. The quality of equipment within open spaces can deter people from wanting to use recreational facilities within open space.

7. The Council's Key Partners for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

The Council has partnerships and relationships with a variety of organisations and groups that contribute to planning, development and utilisation of open space, sport and recreation within the New Plymouth District. These partners include:

- Iwi and Hapu
- Taranaki Regional Council
- South Taranaki District Council
- Stratford District Council
- Sport Taranaki
- Department of Conservation
- Taranaki District Health Board
- Disability Groups
- Education Taranaki

- Regional Sport Organisations
- Port Taranaki Limited
- Biodiversity Groups
- Schools
- Sports clubs
- Community groups
- Art in Public Places Trust
- New Zealand Herpetological Society
- University of Waikato
- Taranaki Biodiversity Accord

It is important that the Council continues to build strong relationships with these groups to ensure that current and future generations within the community can enjoy and experience open space, sport and recreation.

8. The Current Situation and the Challenges we face

This section discusses the Council’s current level of service for recreation and open space within the District and the challenges that are currently faced that the proposed strategy will address.

8.1 Open Space Provision and Connectivity

Public open spaces can be defined as ‘land and water areas available to the public for sport, recreational, cultural and conservation and leisure purposes’.

Public indoor and outdoor recreational facilities include the TSB Stadium, Todd Energy Aquatic Centre and district pools.

Public outdoor high performance venues include Yarrows Stadium.

Current Level of Service

Currently the Council:

- Plans, manages and maintains 1440 hectares of parks and reserves land, 48 neighbourhood parks, 24 sports parks, 13 historic reserves and many esplanade reserve and esplanade strips used by residents and visitors.
- Manages 12 community halls, six camping grounds, 53 public toilets, 10 cemeteries, a regional crematorium, Brooklands Zoo, plus public art and monuments.

The Long Term Plan identifies that Parks contribute to the community outcomes being prosperous, secure and healthy, sustainable and vibrant. The Council’s core objectives of parks, is set out in the Long Term Plan which are to:

- Maintain the quality of the district’s parks, reserves and open spaces, including waterbodies.
- Maintain access to the natural environment, including rivers, lakes the mountain and the coast.
- Maintain the quality of the district’s public toilets.
- Provide opportunity for community participation in caring for, and engagement with, the district environment e.g Friends of Pukekura Park, Arbor Day etc.
- Major projects are completed on time and within budget (as listed within the Long Term Plan).

In addition to the above core functions the Council also:

- Provides input into proposed subdivisions, structure plans and the preparation and implementation of management plans for parks and reserves within the district within existing LTP budgets.
- Acquires esplanade reserves and esplanade strips through the District Plan which enables public access and the opportunity to enhance the natural environment, including, rivers, lakes, the mountain and the coast.
- Provides a network of shared pathways that are primarily used for recreational purposes (cyclists, pedestrians, dog walking, horse riding) and also to commute to destinations within the New Plymouth District.
- Seeks to achieve performance measures set out in the Long Term Plan e.g the Long Term Plan consists of performance measures of “Percentage of population living within 400 metres of a public park or reserve”, in which 82% is currently achieved ²³.

Issues:

1. The 2013 Census demonstrates that the general population growth trend is increasing (including age), which means that there will be a growing demand and increased usage of recreation and open space assets within New Plymouth. This will mean that the Council needs to have a strategic approach to the location and types of recreation and open spaces that are provided within the District, particularly in future urban growth areas. Currently there is no level of service that provides strategic direction on where recreation and open spaces should be located within the District to create an attractive living environment.
2. Analysis has already been undertaken to determine what areas within the District have gaps and/or oversupply in open space. The categories identified in the New Zealand Recreation Association (NZRA) ‘National New Zealand Park Categories and Levels of Service’ document were used by applying buffers around existing open spaces and identifying areas where there are gaps or oversupply. The findings from the analysis identifies that there are gaps and/or oversupply for neighbourhood open space in Okato, Oakura, New Plymouth Central, New Plymouth South, New Plymouth East, Bell Block, Waitara and Inglewood (please note that neighbourhood open space can included neighbourhood parks and sports parks). The strategy proposes to address those areas where there are gaps in neighbourhood open space.
3. The maps attached in **Appendix One** show the buffers within different areas within the District and show specifically where there are gaps in neighbourhood open space. Each of the maps include explanatory notes that identify how particular areas have access to neighbourhood parks that are not publicly owned E.g. schools.
4. The tables within **Appendix Two** shows the results of analysis of Council owned open space provision within the urban areas of the New Plymouth District. Urban areas were identified by using the environment area layers in the district plan.
5. Dwelling data was used from the Council property database. A dwelling is defined as ‘any building or structure, or part thereof, that is used (or intended to be used) for the purpose of human habitation, this includes baches, cottages, flats, home units, rest homes, studios, townhouses, apartments, houses, units and sleep outs’.

²³ National Research Bureau. (2014). *Communitrak Survey: Public Perceptions and Interpretations of Council Services and Representation – Feedback for New Plymouth District Council*. Auckland.

The Long Term Plan 2012-2022 currently contains a performance measure being – ‘Percentage of population living within 400m of a public park or reserve’ with a target of 82%. Currently 87% of the population within the District live within 400m of a public park or reserve.

The first table shows the analysis for all areas within the New Plymouth District combined, which shows that 71% of dwellings are within 500m of a neighbourhood open space and 84% of dwellings are within 1000m of a pathway network. The tables that follow present analysis for each urban area. In some cases a 0% is shown. This is due to a particular type of park not being in existence in that urban area.

6. With increased growth acquisition and development of parks and reserves comes additional operating costs. Currently the maintenance of parks and reserves is budgeted through the Annual Plan and the Long Term Plan process. The future planning of additional parks and reserves is therefore going to require consideration of the resources to own and operate the asset.
7. The Council is currently facing increasing customer aspirations and expectations for higher levels of service, including provision for individual recreation pursuits such as mountain biking, while minimising the cost to rate payers now and in the future.
8. Currently there are future walkway and cycling connections within New Plymouth identified in the District Plan and the Walking and Cycling Strategy. However, the District Plan does not go far enough to identify and plan for potential future walkways within the District. Connectivity is important because it promotes active transport options between open spaces and destinations (i.e. journey to work, schools, Central Business District etc) and makes open spaces accessible to people within the New Plymouth District. It is therefore considered that planning tools could be better utilised to improve accessibility to and between existing and new open spaces.
9. Within rural areas, marginal strips, esplanade reserves and unformed legal roads are scattered and not easily identifiable by the general public. There are also reserves within New Plymouth that are not subject to a management plan, which means decision making for long term planning of these reserves can be undertaken on an ad-hoc basis.
10. The Council also faces challenges relating to funding and land purchase. Currently land for new parks and reserves are obtained predominately as part of subdivision. The majority of land purchased is for esplanade reserves identified in the current District Plan to create future walkway linkages. Other purchases include neighbourhood parks in future growth areas. Currently the development contributions and financial contributions collected from subdividers and developers are not sufficient to cover all land purchases.

8.2 Open Space Design and Assets

Hard assets can be defined as *‘built tangible fixed assets e.g. paths, benches and signs’*

Soft assets can be defined as *‘including trees, turfs and shrubs’*

Current Level of Service

A ‘secure and healthy’, ‘vibrant’ and ‘connected’ community is of high importance to the New Plymouth District and forms one of the seven community outcomes. Increasingly people are living healthy active lifestyles which include some form of exercise, play, socialising and relaxing as part of

their day to day lives. The 2008 New Plymouth Open Space Survey found the top three things people wanted open space to provide for were walkways, beach access and events/concerts. . To assist people in living healthy lifestyles it is vital that it is easy for people to make healthy choices and access to a range of recreation facilities and opportunities.

In relation to open space design and asset provision the Council currently:

- Prepares and implements an Asset Management Plan ²⁴ which:
 - *Demonstrates responsible stewardship of Council assets.*
 - *Provides the basis for compliance with the Local Government Act 2002, tracking changes in service potential and determining optimal long term-financial strategies.*
 - *Manage the environmental, social and financial risks of parks assets.*
 - *Ensure financial prudence by optimising life cycle activities.*
 - *Assess the demand and key performance indicators for parks assets.*
- Considers the design of open space by developing management plans (in consultation with the community), design guides and strategies such as the Crime Prevention Through Urban Design Principles (CPTED), Path and Tracks Manual, the Council’s Disability Strategy and Code of Practice for Infrastructure and Development.
- Plans for assets such as walkways, skate parks, signage, seating, tables, playgrounds, shading areas, ramps, public artwork, monuments, public toilets to name a few via the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan process.
- Engages with landscape architects to obtain advice on the design of the assets within open spaces.
- Implements the Land Development and Subdivision Infrastructure Standard for new open space developments.
- Implements cycling networks set out in the Cycling Strategy.

Issues:

1. The 2013 Census data has demonstrated that New Plymouth’s population and in particular the ageing population is increasing. For this reason, it is important that recreation and open spaces and the assets within are designed so that they are attractive and pleasant, accessible for all ages and are safe for the community to experience.
2. The provision of play spaces with recreation and open spaces is also a service that the Council carries out. Decisions on the location of play spaces is undertaken in response to community requests through the Long Term Plan process where funding is made available subject to Council approval. While this process does allow the community to have a say in play space projects, there is currently no strategic direction on where play spaces should be located within New Plymouth and their appropriate size and scale. Having a strategic direction would allow the Council to focus their energies and rate payers contribution to priority locations within the district and provide play spaces that meet community needs.

²⁴ New Plymouth District Council (2012). *Parks Asset Management Plan*. Author.

8.3 Facilities

Facilities can be defined as: ‘...essential for providing a place and the built infrastructure required for people to participate in sport and recreation’. Examples include swimming pools, indoor stadia, court space, hockey surfaces, playing fields within sports parks.

Current Level of Service

Facilities are essential for providing a place and the infrastructure required for people to participate in sport and recreation. Facilities also play an important role in providing recreational opportunities, as for a number of people, playing sport is their form of recreation.

Currently the Council plans for facilities by:

- Providing a multi-purpose stadium for indoor sport (TSB Stadium)
- Providing five swimming pool complexes and learn to swim and fitness programmes.
- Provide 11 community halls in urban areas for recreation and leisure.
- Implementing the objectives and policies in our Sports Parks Management Plan which plans for future activities within open spaces. This plan includes specific policies around minimising the number of auxiliary buildings within sports parks, and encouraging sports codes to work towards the ‘sportsville concept’ (see page 14) in each sports park within the district.
- Monitoring use and demand of Council owned facilities e.g. TSB Stadium and Aquatic Centre and District Pools.
- Issuing leases to sports codes under the Reserves Act 1977 and Local Government Act 2002 for the use of Council owned land for sport and recreation activities.
- Planning of projects through the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan process e.g. velodrome, TSB Stadium multi-facility development and Aquatic Centre upgrade.
- Working with community groups to encourage multi-use of existing facilities within open spaces.
- Considering key factors that have an impact on decision making for providing new facilities or those facilities where it is proposed to be redeveloped. Factors that are considered include land suitability (size, terrain, soil type and conflict with infrastructure), availability of land (on the open market or a willing buyer/willing seller basis), cost (land, development, and consideration of existing infrastructure and ongoing costs i.e. having a business plan, liability to rate payers), complexity and risk (consenting processes), and whether it can be integrated into the existing landscape (into amenity values and landscape elements associated with the site).

It is important to note that the Council is not the only provider for facilities within the New Plymouth District. Schools provide facilities including sports fields, hockey turfs, netball courts and basketball courts that are used by sports codes within the New Plymouth District.

In addition to the above core functions the Council is also in the process of transferring the ownership of buildings to sports clubs within the District, which was a decision made as part of the review of the Sports Parks Management Plan that was undertaken on 13 March 2012 when the Council resolved:

‘That having considered all matters raised in the original report (DM 1259545), the Council:

- d) Confirms the intention not to own the buildings listed in Appendix Two and continues the process to transfer them to clubs and organisations that occupy and use them (Option 1.2.1).*
- e) In the event the club or organisation declines to take ownership of a building, the Council will own the building and charge servicing, maintenance and insurance costs of the building to the club or organisation and will stop funding depreciation (Option 1.3.5).*

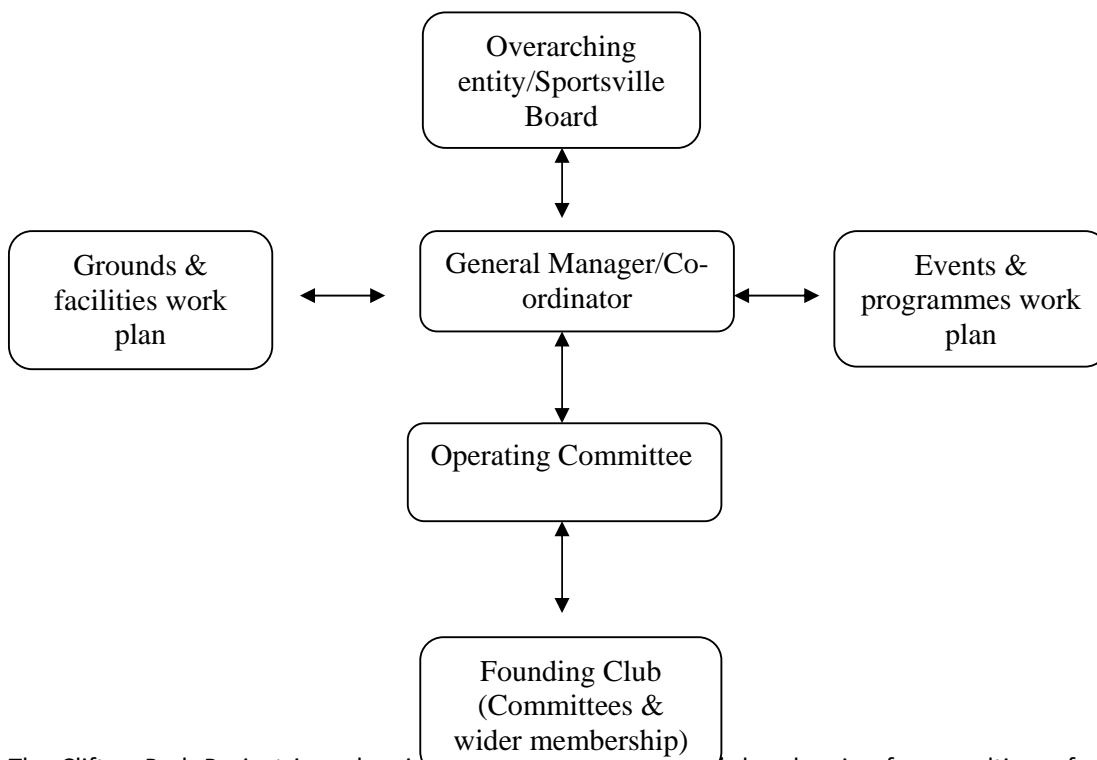
This decision made it clear that for those sports clubs that are not in a financial position to own those buildings, the Council will continue to own the buildings and charge the clubs for the servicing, maintenance and insurance costs of the building, but will not replace these items as renewal activities when required (i.e. roof replacement costs).

The Sportsville Model

The Council also provides support to sports codes to adopt the ‘Sportsville’ model, which encourages sports codes to share either existing or new facilities as set out in the objectives and policies within the Sports Parks Management Plan. Figure 6 demonstrates the framework of the Sportsville concept. Sportsville are partnership initiatives to bring sports clubs in one location together, sharing ideas, resources, knowledge and skills, and boosting sports participation. Sportsville make it easier for sports clubs to:

- Attract new members
- Offer new programmes and community services/activities
- Control operational costs by pooling resources (accounting, membership registration etc)
- Share facilities
- Increases the capability of the clubs
- Increase the vibrancy of communities, by clubs taking ownership of their own facility and providing protection of the long term future of the use of those facilities

Figure 6: The Sportsville Framework



The Clifton Park Project is embracing the Sportsville concept, by planning for a multi-use facility that can be used by different sports codes within the New Plymouth District. A needs analysis was completed with recommendations for governance and future facility development. Steps are being taken for the sports codes within Hickford Park to embrace the ‘sportsville concept’.

Facilities Provision and Management at a National and Local Level

In 2014 Sport New Zealand adopted a New Zealand Sporting Facility Framework which outlines key principles to assist decision making for sports facilities. The principles from this framework have been included in the Draft Strategy.

Over the last 5 years national sporting bodies for some sports codes have prepared National Facility Strategies that set out the direction for facility provision in their code across New Zealand. These are useful for taking a holistic view of the facilities provided, and giving direction to regions about where existing facilities fit into the bigger picture, as well as what additional facilities might be needed in the future. These national facility strategies outline the key population, capacity and demand issues affecting each code and their priority facility needs. National Facility Strategies are also a tool to assist decision making by Council's and other funders.

Other tools have also been made available to the Council for facility decision making, such as analysis prepared by regional sport organisations or research by the Council itself. Sport NZ have provided an overview of the Taranaki Region in terms of supply and demand facility provision, based on the national strategies prepared for each code in the Taranaki Regional Sports Trust Region. In some cases the facility needs identified in the National Facility Strategy will not line up with the local needs analysis. This is likely to be the case where at a local level there is a desire to increase participation, at a level above the national average or position facilities specifically to be able to host regional or national competitions.

The following table in Figure 7 has been prepared for sports with high levels of participation, those with national facility strategies and those where the Council has a significant role in the provision of existing or proposed facilities. The table also sets out the Council's current level of service for facility provision.

The following national strategies have been prepared by Sport New Zealand for specific codes:

- National Facilities Strategy for Aquatic Sports 2011
- National Indoor Facilities Strategy 2013
- Bike NZ Facilities Strategy 2010
- Bowls 2020 – Securing our Future: A National Facilities Strategy 2013
- National netball New Zealand Facilities Strategy 2011
- New Zealand Football Facilities Strategy – 2010
- New Zealand Rugby League Draft Facility Strategy 2012
- Hockey New Zealand National Facilities Strategy 2010
- Athletics New Zealand Facility Strategy 2010
- National Golf Facility Strategy 2013
- New Zealand Cricket Facilities Strategy 2013

Issues:

1. There are two major facilities that the Council owns and manages including TSB Stadium and the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre. It has been determined that these facilities no longer meet the needs and demands of the community. Currently the size and dual event and community sport use of the existing TSB Stadium is limiting community participation in indoor sports held at the stadium.

Demand for other indoor community sport programmes is also anticipated. Currently there is no Futsal programme offered in New Plymouth, however this is one of the world's fastest growing indoor sport.

TSB Stadium continues to operate at high utilisation with a 'Non-Event' to 'Event' ratio of 36:64. This is unusually high for a stadium of this type, where you would typically expect to see a 50:50 ratio or a higher community sport use. The high 'Event' use continues to negatively impact on the ability of community sport to access the stadium.

There is also increasing demand for indoor pool space for recreational swimming and the Council's 'Learn to Swim' programme.

2. While national strategies are helpful for determining what facilities should be provided at a local level i.e. local sports clubs, it does present a challenge for the Council in determining the location of local level facilities and the costs associated.

There is no strategic framework for determining where facilities should be located within the District for each sports code. Historically the location of facilities for recreation within New Plymouth has been determined on an ad hoc basis, through the LTP process without the support of any kind of planning framework to provide direction for future planning for open spaces.

Strategically planning the location of open spaces and their proximity to other open spaces within the District and the Taranaki Region is important because it has an impact on how people travel to use those open spaces for informal and formal sports.

3. An additional concern is the financial pressures that sports clubs are facing at a community level. The Council's decision to transfer the ownership of buildings to sports clubs is challenging, given they may not be in a financial position to meet the costs of operating and maintaining facilities used for formal and informal sport in open spaces. Due to the increasing costs of servicing, maintenance and insurance the Council now has to increase the fees for sports clubs utilising the buildings that will continue to be Council owned, which is an additional financial pressure for sports clubs. These increasing costs for sports clubs is an issue that the Council needs to acknowledge and provide support to these clubs where possible.

Research shows that this financial pressure is largely due to increasing casualisation of sports, increasing costs of maintenance (health and safety, employees, and facility maintenance) and poor financial management²⁵. Research has also shown that financial vulnerability can be visible in sports where clubs have high debt levels and low liquid and long term reserves (expenditure on administration costs is higher than the revenue that is being generated by membership)²⁶. While it is acknowledged that not all clubs are struggling financially, it is inevitable that those clubs that have signs of financial hardship may suffer with fewer membership numbers, fewer volunteers and even disbandment within local communities.

As a consequence of some sports clubs disbanding the Council have historically been expected to cover the costs of reinstating lease areas, where clubs have been unable to meet the costs, which is a significant cost and burden to rate payers.

4. The affordability and efficiency of facilities within the New Plymouth District is an important consideration when planning for facilities.

One factor contributing to facility use is the cost. Cost of facility use is partly driven by the Council's revenue and funding policy which states that facilities such as the TSB stadium are 60-80% public benefit and 20-40% private benefit. Identifying who benefits from the service is used as a guide to determine how the service or activity is funded. In general terms, for the portion of private benefit a users pays fees and charges system is used, with the remaining portion that

²⁵ Cordery, Carolyn (2012). *Critical financial issues facing grass roots sports clubs*. Chartered Accountants Journal.

²⁶ Cordery, p34.

is public benefit being funded by the whole community through rates. This is under review with a consideration of affordability.

5. At a regional context, there is currently no regional facilities framework in place to assist local authorities in decision making for facilities at a District level. Having a framework would provide clear direction to encourage stakeholder involvement and provide clarity on what the roles of the stakeholders should be in facility provision and management.
6. New or redevelopment of facilities can present the opportunity to rationalise the need for existing assets. There is therefore a need to continue to consider the whole picture in terms of facility use i.e. considering all places that a sports code uses that avoids duplication of existing facilities.
7. The following table sets out the current situation for facility provision in the New Plymouth District, compared with the national, regional and local facility direction for individual sports codes (which are set in national strategies for sports codes, owned by national sporting organisations, with support from Sport New Zealand).

Figure 7: Current Facility Provision Situation

Sports code	Regional/ local facility needs defined in National or Regional Facility Strategy/ or Local Needs Analysis	What is our current situation?
Archery	No national or regional facility strategy	Provision of open space for two archery clubs at King Road and Ngamotu Domain.
Athletics	<p>National: The national strategy recommends that each region needs only one 8 lane synthetic and all-weather track. Strategy concludes that Taranaki has one regional track facility that meets this need at Inglewood TET Stadium at Jubilee Park.</p>	Provision of land for regional athletics stadium at Jubilee Park and provision and maintenance of three sports parks used for community athletics (Clifton Park, Sutherland Park)
Aquatic Sports (Pool based aquatic facilities)	<p>National: The national strategy concludes that provision should be on average 21 persons per square metre of pool space in New Zealand. Taranaki has 9 persons per square metre of pool space and therefore the strategy concludes that no additional pool facilities are required.</p> <p>Local: In 2013 the Council undertook a district wide needs analysis study for aquatic facilities. Results of the review are due to be reported back to the Council in the second half of 2014.</p>	Todd Energy Aquatic Centre provided for in New Plymouth. There are five other local pools within the district including Bell Block, Coastal Aquatics Fitzroy, Waitara pool, Inglewood pool and Okato pool.
Bowls	<p>National: National Facility Strategy recommends maximum of one bowling venue per 18,000 people in a city area (ideally at 3km radius) plus continuation of one venue in communities under 18,000 where viable. Where more than 1:18,000 ratio is existing the strategy recommends steps towards sustainable partnerships to reduce the venue numbers.</p>	New Plymouth city area currently has 8 bowling venues (4 more than the strategy recommends is needed) plus there are an additional 8 bowling venues in smaller communities. Of these venues the Council owns the land that six are built on. The clubs own all facilities and bowling greens.
Cricket	<p>National: National strategy recommends each Cricket Association should develop a facility network plan. This is still to progress in Taranaki.</p> <p>Local: Local sports field demand study concluded that if growth continues in this sport, there may be a need for additional cricket wickets in the next 10 years.</p>	One premier (national) cricket venue provided and maintained at Pukekura Park. Field space provided and maintained for seven grass and 17 artificial community wickets within the district's sports parks.
Croquet	<p>No national or regional facility strategy.</p> <p>Local: At Inglewood the local club has identified demand for a second croquet green</p>	Provision of open space for local croquet greens including New Plymouth and Inglewood.
Cycling sports (BMX, Mountain Bike track and road cycling)	<p>National: National Facility Strategy identifies needs for further development of BMX tracks/Mountain Bike trails through regional cycling strategies. Mountain biking does not require any new facilities, but enhancing existing tracks should be encouraged. Taranaki is not identified as being a possible location for an international standard velodrome or high performance bike hub.</p> <p>Local: The BMX Club have identified the need for a new track.</p>	Provision of land for community/regional/national level cycling sports facilities including mountain bike tracks at Lake Mangamahoe, Lake Rotomanu, Busing Forest and Marfell Park. BMX track at Marfell Park (provision for relocation to Hickford Park) Velodrome and road cycle track at Hickford Park.
Equestrian Sports	<p>No national facility strategy.</p> <p>Local: At a local level, the Taranaki Equestrian Network (TEN Group) have identified the need for bridle trails to be developed within the district.</p>	Provision of land for pony club grounds and arenas at five reserves. A regional/national level indoor equestrian sport facility is located in Hawera.
Football	<p>National: Strategy says that there is sufficient field capacity in Taranaki for at least 10 years with existing field provision. The National Strategy identifies that for the Central Region, a central venue is required to be the 'home of football', that can focus on the development of the game. Awaiting the regional strategy from Central Football to determine regional needs.</p> <p>Local: The 2012 New Plymouth District Sports field Demand Study concluded that there was surplus field capacity for football across all parts of the district. Te Mete Park was identified as possible 'home of football' venue.</p>	There are 28 full size and six mini community fields provided and maintained within our sports parks.
Golf	<p>National: Taranaki is identified as one of the regions with among the lowest population to golf facility ratios in NZ – 1 golf course to every 5,500 people, meaning Taranaki has an oversupply of golf courses. Nationally there is 1 golf course to every 55,000 people. Utilisation of golf facilities is lower in Taranaki (6%) than NZ overall (13%). The strategy recommends more use of a Hierarchy of Golf Facilities Model, transformation of existing facilities, club merges and community hub partnerships to increase sustainability.</p>	Three of the district's eight golf courses are on Council owned land located in Fitzroy, Waitara and Urenui.

Gymsports	Facility Strategy underdevelopment Local: Local need for regional facility previously identified by GymSports Clubs	Provision of space within building on Pukekohe Domain for one of three community clubs in district
Hockey	National: National facility strategy does not identify a need for any additional turfs in Taranaki in the next 30 years. Strategy suggests 600-850 players per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) turf is a sustainable number and 850 players per FTE turf is the tipping point for new turf development. Currently Taranaki has approximately 560 players per FTE turf. Taranaki has two FTE turfs. A key initiative of the strategy is to encourage entry level hockey to be delivered locally on a range of surfaces i.e multi surfaces not dedicated turfs. Regional: Taranaki Hockey Federation's Strategic Plan is to provide a two turf facility in Taranaki, and seek projects where a multi-sport surface could provide places for entry level hockey.	There is no Council role in the provision of hockey facilities in New Plymouth. Currently the only turf in New Plymouth is owned and managed by a trust and located on Ministry of Education land at New Plymouth Boys High School. This turf is capable of hosting regional tournaments.
Indoor Sport (Basketball, Netball, Badminton, Volleyball, Gymsports, Futsal)	National: The National Indoor Facilities Strategy concludes that Taranaki has an oversupply of indoor courts by 4 when purely considering the regulated sized courts benchmark of one court per 9,000 people. However this does not take into consideration facilities that are also event venues or the distance people are prepared to travel for indoor facilities. Local: The 2011 TSB Stadium Needs Analysis (updated 2013) identified demand for additional indoor court space in New Plymouth. The current stadium is at capacity and no longer meets the needs of users. An additional three courts at TSB Stadium is needed to meet needs and allow participation growth in indoor sports and met existing unmet demand.	The TSB Stadium contains three regulation sized indoor courts. In addition, venues that provide courts are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bell Block Hall • Waitara Memorial Hall • Star Gymnasium
Netball	National National Strategy recommends at regional level a network approach is taken to netball centre developments. Strategy recommends each region have access to an indoor multi court venue and that premier competition can be hosted indoors. In 2012 Netball Taranaki had 19 teams per court at Waiwhakaiho Park, at over 20 teams per court the strategy recommends expansion/new courts	A 13 court outdoor venue is provided and maintained at Waiwhakaiho Park. Two, four court outdoor venues are provided and maintained (One at Clifton Park and one at Trimble Park). Three indoor courts at TSB Stadium.
Rugby	No national or regional facility strategy. Local: The 2012 New Plymouth District Sports field Demand Study concluded that there was surplus field capacity for rugby across all parts of the district.	International rugby stadium at Yarrows Stadium, and 31 community turf fields provided and maintained within the district's sports parks.
Rugby League	National: National strategy concludes that access to field provision in Taranaki is surplus and will continue to be in surplus between 2012 and 2021. A training venue is required for the Mid Central Zone. Recommended that Mid Central Zone Rugby League work with Territorial Authorities within the zone to ensure access to multisport training facilities. Local: Local sports field demand study concluded there may be a need for additional fields in next 10 years.	Six full sized community fields provided and maintained
Skatesports (inline and roller hockey/skating)	No national or regional facility strategy.	Provision of land for club owned regional skating rink facility at East End Reserve.
Shooting	No national, regional or local strategy.	Provision of land for shooting facilities
Softball	No national or regional facility strategy. Local: Local sports field demand study concluded there may be a need for additional softball diamond in next 10 years.	Provision of land and maintenance of outfield for one softball diamond.
Squash	No national or regional facility strategy.	Provision of open space for club owned squash facility in New Plymouth, Okato and Inglewood.
Surfing	No national or regional facility strategy. National Coastal Policy Statement identifies Waiwhakaiho and Stent Road as surf breaks of national significance	Provision of open space that enables access to nationally and regionally significant surf breaks including Waiwhakaiho, Stent Road and ...
Surf life-saving	No national or regional facility strategy	Provision of open space for surf life saving clubs at Oakura, East End and Fitzroy.
Tennis	National Facility Strategy underdevelopment. Local: Individual clubs experiencing growth with the installation of two new courts within club owned facilities in the district.	Provision of land for four club owned facilities. Provision and maintenance of community netball/tennis courts in Inglewood and Waitara. Contribution to the development of courts on Ministry of Education land in Oakura.
Triathlon/multi-sport/running	Triathlon New Zealand Strategy underdevelopment	Provision of open space to hold triathlon events.

8.4 Supporting the Delivery of Sport and Recreation

As well as providing facilities for sport and recreation, the Council also has an important role in collaborating with and providing support to key stakeholders including sports codes, schools, national sporting organisations, regional sports trusts and regional sports organisations.

Current Level of Service

Currently the Council provides support to key sport and recreation stakeholders by:

- Being a partner (and providing funding) to Sport Taranaki to support people in the community who are involved in sport and active recreation, such as coaches, administrators, volunteers to increase capability and sustainability, and also creating opportunities that support participation in sport and active recreation and pathways for athletes, coaches and officials. The Council provides financial support to Sport Taranaki on an annual basis to help deliver sport and recreation to local communities.
- Supporting community sporting events within recreation and open spaces which help promote community participation in sports and recreation.
- Providing facilities to the community for sport and recreation.
- Issuing concessional leases for community activities within open spaces.

There are a number of players that work together to support sport and recreation at a national, regional and local level including national sporting organisations (NSO's), regional sports organisations (RSO's), regional sports trusts (RST's), territorial authorities (TA's) and schools and sports clubs. The roles of these key players are defined as follows:

National Sports Organisations

- Take responsibility for the health, wellbeing and capability of their regional sport providers and the 'whole sport'.

Regional Sports Organisations:

- Have direct relationships with clubs and schools and are responsible for providing leadership and support to schools, clubs and events (Central Football, Taranaki Hockey, Taranaki Netball, Athletics Taranaki, Taranaki Softball, Taranaki Touch, Taranaki Volleyball etc)

Regional Sports Trusts:

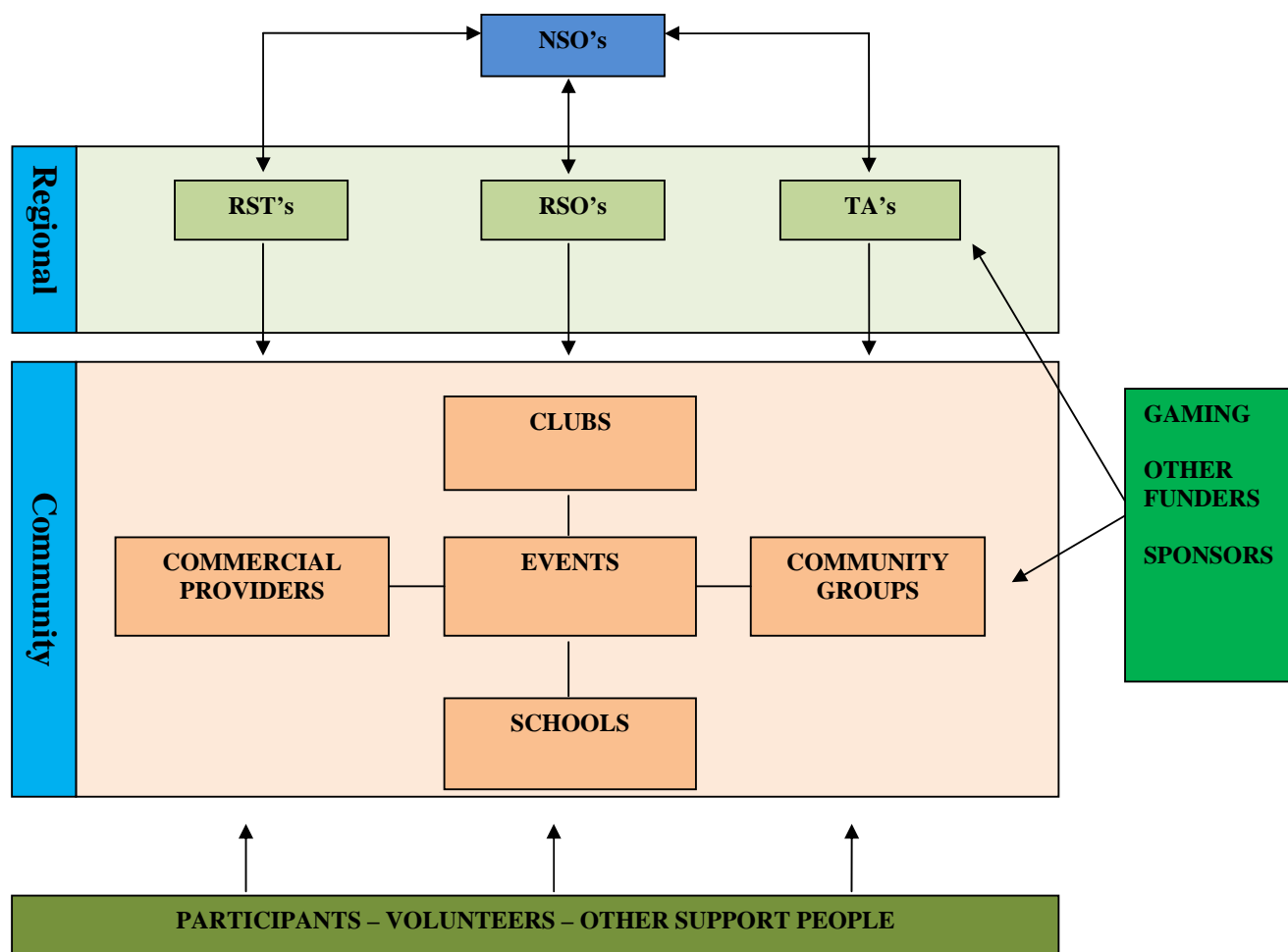
- The only sports trust within New Plymouth is Sport Taranaki. Are centres of influence within sporting communities and can align and maximise regional resources to support the provision of sport in clubs, schools and community events.

Schools and Sports Clubs:

- Create opportunities for participation and deliver key sporting services such as coaching and access to competition directly to participants.

In 2010 Sport New Zealand released the '*Sport New Zealand Community Sport Strategy 2010-2015*' which sets out the key priorities for Sport NZ for the next 5 years and the expectations of national sports organisations, regional sports trusts, regional sports organisations, territorial authorities, clubs and schools. Figure 8 below best illustrates the relationship between these organisations at a national, regional and local level and is described as the 'Community Sport Delivery System'.

Figure 8: The Community Support Delivery System²⁷



Issues:

1. The Sport NZ Community Sport Strategy 2010-2015 highlighted that there is an increasing need for organisations to work more collaboratively to support the recreation and sporting users within our open spaces because:
 - The social environment is changing which has implications on the supply, demand and increased expectation of quality recreation facilities provided by clubs and RSO's. This can result in higher expectations from members, parents and participants;
 - There are economic pressures for participants, clubs, RSOs, NSOs, TAs and trust funders;
 - The needs of participants, providers and funding sources is changing;
 - Social attitudes are changing. Participants are willing to spend less time on leisure because of an increasingly diverse market influenced by individualism, low commitment and user pays. There is also a wider range of recreational activities available for people to choose from.
 - There is greater competition for funding. The funding criteria and policy requirements are stretching clubs' and RSOs capabilities. and there is greater competition for funding; The professionalism of sport is impacting on the 'culture' of sport at all levels.
 - There is a lack of engagement and leadership from national sports organisations in the delivery of sport within their communities; There are greater participation options and increasing competition between codes, clubs, and schools for participants, volunteers, officials and coaches; There is a lack of alignment between national and regional sport organisations, schools and clubs which can result

²⁷ Sport New Zealand (2013). *Sport New Zealand Community Sport Strategy 2010 – 2015*.
 Document name: Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy Discussion Document
 Document Number: 1541900

in variable leadership, guidance and support for community; There is limited collaboration between organisations, leading to competition, duplication and missed opportunities for growing participation and volunteer sport; and There is limited access to resources, tools and guidelines to help with the planning and delivery of sport in communities including trends and changes.

These challenges face the New Plymouth District to varying degrees.

2. Within the Sport NZ Community Sport Strategy 2010-2015, Sport New Zealand has recommended key responsibilities to be undertaken by national sports organisations, regional sports organisations, schools and sports clubs and territorial authorities. Sport NZ anticipates that territorial authorities will take responsibility for:

- *Prioritising the ongoing provision of fields and facilities for community sport (including improvements to existing facilities);*
- *Working with RSTs and RSOs to improve the delivery of community sport;*
- *Providing support for effective community sport delivery;*
- *Continuing to use sport as a tool for community development;*
- *Facilitating public/private partnerships for facility development;*
- *Exploring shared facility opportunities with schools; and*
- *Continuing to manage and invest in community sporting events.*

The challenge is addressing how the Council can provide facilities to meet the needs of the community and importantly provide support to these key organisations.

8.5 Biodiversity

Biodiversity is defined as ‘...the variety of biological life – plants, animals, fungi and even micro-organisms, it describes the diversity of ecosystems on land, in water and in the ocean. It is a term that encapsulates the whole diversity on earth including the diversity within species, and between species, from their genetic diversity to the ecosystems they live in’

Current Level of Service

In 2012, the Council became a signatory to the Taranaki Biodiversity Forum Accord (<http://www.trc.govt.nz/taranaki-biodiversity-accord/>) which sets out a strategic vision, desired outcomes, priorities and actions for biodiversity across Taranaki.

The Council currently fulfils its statutory obligations under legislation that provides for the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity by:

- Preparing and implementing reserve management plans under the Reserves Act 1977;
- Acquiring designated reserves such as esplanade reserves and beautification strips through the implementation of the district plan under the Resource Management Act 1991;
- Complying with regional planning documents under the Resource Management Act 1991, such as the Taranaki Regional Policy Statement, the Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki and the Regional Freshwater Plan;
- Implement strategies that carry out functions of regional plans under the Biosecurity Act 1993 including the Pest Animal Strategy, Pest Plant Strategy and Biodiversity Plans the Biodiversity Strategy;
- Establishing, implementing and reviewing of objectives, policies and methods within management plans to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources of the district; and
- Maintaining indigenous biological diversity within recreation and open spaces.

In addition to the above regulatory functions the Council also:

- Commissions experts and tertiary education to undertake ecological assessments within open spaces.
- Identifying land within New Plymouth that are 'Significant Natural Areas', which are subject to protection provisions within the District Plan.
- Implements TRC actions to protect and keep public wetlands healthy that are of regional significance.
- Provide information to the community about Taranaki and New Zealand's biodiversity by Puke Ariki holding events such as exhibitions, workshops, talks, conferences and making information available online and library resources
- Participates in the Biodiversity Forum which allows people with an interest in the environment to network and share information.
- Holds community events which allow the public to experience the biodiversity within our open spaces e.g Pukekura Park's 'Festival of Lights', the WOMAD Festival, the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival and the annual Guided Walks event.
- NPDC provides a rate remission of 100% for the protection of SNAs and encourages the legal protection of SNAs through the provision of extra subdivision entitlements.

Issues:

1. Biodiversity management in open spaces is undertaken with several different partners including Taranaki Regional Council, Department of Conservation, and community groups that have a focus on protecting biodiversity. In some areas there is an overlap in these partners roles, which can result in ad hoc decision making for biodiversity management. There is an opportunity here to explore whether the Council can work more closely with these partners to share resources and create efficiencies in relation to biodiversity management in open spaces. Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) for example have a role in undertaking riparian planting within esplanade reserves, which is also a Council function.
2. The Taranaki Ring Plain is predominantly cleared and a large part of the Taranaki Ring Plain has 1-2% remaining of indigenous vegetation. It is therefore important that open spaces are provided that protect ecological corridors, potentially in unknown areas that are rich in biodiversity to provide linkages to Mount Taranaki. It is also important to have ecological corridors because it enables the public to experience our natural and physical environment within our open spaces and build a sense of place. Currently the District Plan identifies ecological linkages in particular locations within the district, but there is the potential to create more ecological corridors which could further protect biodiversity values.

There are also Council owned open spaces, that are rich in biodiversity but are not subject to management plans. The Te Henui Domain and the Huatoki Domain are both examples of open spaces that are not subject to management plans. It is therefore considered that there is a need for a planning document that includes these open spaces not subject to management plans and also identifies significant ecological corridors within New Plymouth that have the potential to provide linkages to Mount Taranaki. The recommendations from this planning document could be implemented using plan change processes.

3. While reserve management plans have a focus on providing and managing open spaces for recreation, and protecting areas that are ecologically significant from inappropriate land development and subdivision, there is a need to undertake ongoing monitoring of the health of these areas. The health of those ecological areas identified in management plans are currently not monitored, which means there could be uncertainty in how the biodiversity within our open spaces should be conserved and managed in the future. It is therefore considered that there is an opportunity here to build on our existing resources to provide an efficient way of monitoring biodiversity within our open spaces through management plans.
4. With increased population growth, comes an increased expectation that the council will allow for more recreational activities within open spaces to meet the recreational needs of the community, some of

which are rich in biodiversity. There is therefore a need to ensure there is an appropriate balance between allowing recreational activities and not compromising the biodiversity values of open spaces.

5. The District Plan currently includes an Open Space Environment Overlay in urban areas only, and there may be opportunities to explore whether more open spaces could be located within the Rural Environment.
6. The health of our rivers, streams and lakes in open spaces is vitally important as it plays a role in providing ecological niches and habitats of native fish, plant and animal species. The development of land surrounding open spaces can have an impact on the quality of water in open spaces. An example of this is Pukekura Park Lakes where the intensification of the surrounding urban area has had a detrimental impact on the quality of these lakes including large sediment build ups.
7. Often reserves are used to dispose of stormwater into rivers, streams or lakes as part of land development and subdivisions where there is no other alternative stormwater method available, and can cause adverse effects on the environment within the reserve such as scouring, degradation of water quality and harm to ecological habitats. Currently there is limited understanding of what role open spaces should play in stormwater management, and therefore the role of open spaces in stormwater management needs to be defined.
8. There have been discussions historically between NPDC, STDC, SDC, Department of Conservation and private gardeners to promote the 'Taranaki Regional Garden's brand, the purpose of which is to create a more regional approach to celebrating the Taranaki region's significant open spaces, and not just each Council focusing on looking after their own open spaces in 'each district'. There is therefore a need for greater collaboration between the organisations to use this brand to celebrate the District's identity. Open spaces such as Pukeiti and Tapuae Gardens are open spaces that contribute to the identity of the District.
9. There is also an increasing desire from the public to learn more about the biodiversity within our open spaces. This however requires more funding for resources and assets such as story board signage.

8.6 Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage can be defined as:

'...is that which is inherited from past and current generations, cared for in the present and handed on for the benefit of future generations, and includes: Built heritage, Natural Heritage

Current Level of Service

Cultural Heritage is evident in many of our open spaces within New Plymouth and are of significance to mana whenua within the district. Cultural heritage within open spaces can take many forms including built heritage (cemeteries, monuments etc), natural heritage (the natural environment, pa sites, middens etc) and cultural heritage (objects, artefacts and story-telling) and are of significance to Tangata Whenua.

The Council currently manages and protects cultural heritage within our open spaces by:

- Legally protecting waahi tapu sites through the New Plymouth District Plan, preparation and implementation of reserve management plans, policies and strategies and also through partnership arrangements with mana whenua.
- Engaging with mana whenua during the preparation and implementation of management plans and open space development. The Council currently engages with mana whenua through Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's with Ngati Tawhirikura and Te Runanga o Ngati Mutunga), attendance at the Tangata Whenua Forum, phone calls, both formal and informal meetings and attendance at hui.
- Uses local knowledge and resources by engaging local hapu groups to undertake cultural impact assessments for open space developments.

- Holding the annual ‘Guided Walks’ programme event which provides an opportunity for the public to learn about the history and cultural heritage within our open spaces.
- Providing interpretative signage and heritage collections within open spaces to tell stories about cultural heritage.
- Providing information about our open spaces on the internet.
- Maintaining three heritage trails which are an interactive way to inform the public of heritage by linking the heritage through storytelling and location visiting. There are also tours and heritage walks that are run by community volunteers.

Issues:

1. As discussed previously increasing population brings a higher expectation that the Council will provide recreation and open spaces that meet the needs of the community. There are a number of open spaces within the district that are rich in cultural heritage and are of significance to Tangata Whenua and therefore it is important that the Council strikes the right balance between allowing activities within open spaces while not compromising cultural heritage values.
2. It is also unclear who should own cultural heritage sites. While we do already have Historic Reserves within the District that protect cultural heritage sites, there is currently no procedure in place for determining whether the cultural heritage sites should be within Council owned open spaces or be in private ownership. The implications of not having cultural heritage sites within public ownership means that cultural and heritage items are not protected from development. There needs to be a consistent and clear procedure in place to assist the Council and Tangata Whenua in making decisions around who should own cultural heritage sites.
3. While having partnership arrangements with hapu groups builds strong relationships within the Council, there are challenges in engaging with other hapu groups during open space developments due to limited resources of both parties.
4. It is becoming more apparent that there is an increasing desire by the community to learn more about the cultural heritage within our open spaces, which requires an appropriate level of infrastructure. Currently story boards are provided in a few open spaces, but there is a need to provide more signage in collaboration with mana whenua groups to enable the public to learn more about cultural heritage in our open spaces within the District. The popularity of story-telling during the guided walks events within open spaces is increasing people’s desire to learn more about the cultural heritage within open spaces.
5. The council administers many open spaces on behalf of the Crown, who have the underlying title to the land, particularly in rural areas. As the Treaty settlements progress throughout the district, the Crown considers how these properties fit into the settlement. In most cases Treaty settlements include a right of first refusal should the Council recommend that the property be disposed of and any public works offer back processes addressed. The Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) has a policy of seeking Council input into its draft proposals prior to settlements being proposed. As OTS does not undertake consultation with affected communities, this requires the Council to consult before giving a response, at the Council’s cost. If there are a significant number of users or user groups involved consultation can be time and resource consuming.

8.7 Community Identity, Vibrancy and Sense of Place

Sense of Place can be defined as:

‘Individual’s experiences create a memorable visual and physical image of these spaces and are based on a relationship between an area, the individual elements that make up that area, the patterns of use and activities that occur and the interaction with other people in an area’.

Current Level of Service

The diversity and range of open spaces that the Council provides allows for a range of activities that strengthens 'community identity' and 'sense of place' and creates value for the local economy. The Council currently contributes to community identity and sense of place within New Plymouth by:

- Allowing the community to be involved in looking after our open spaces. This is currently achieved by holding community events in collaboration with schools, Tangata Whenua, volunteer groups, other government agencies and community groups that have an environmental focus. For example Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week and in 2013 the Council held a planting day with Moturoa School down by the coastal walkway.
- Providing community events such as the annual TSB Bank Festival of Lights and support for other events such as the ASP Surf Festival, as well as being the host city partner for WOMAD 2011-2013.
- Implementing the Community Gardens Policy, which supports community groups in managing community gardens which are small scale, low investment, neighbourhood communal gardening ventures, where the primary purpose is growing vegetables or fruit (subject to meeting specific criteria).
- Providing community orchards that are available to the public. There are four community orchards within our open spaces that are located at Milne Place Reserve, Bayly Road Orchard, Brois Street (Sheppard's Bush), Barclay Park (Strange Street) in Waitara.
- Having partnership agreements with community groups that allow groups to look after our open spaces e.g Flax Collection at Hickford Park with the Pa Harakeke Group.
- Providing Information to the public on the Council website and through annual Council workshops on how to look after our open spaces e.g gardening tips.
- Engaging in a public consultation process under the Local Government Act 2002 that allows the public to participate in projects occurring within open spaces. In 2013 the community felt a sense of ownership of Hickford Park and the coastal walkway, when open days were held to educate and invite the public to have their say on the options for the coastal walkway extension
- Implementing the Commercial Trading and Events Policy which allows for commercial activities and events within particular open space locations which contributes to vibrancy within New Plymouth. Currently we provide for events, concerts, film and music festivals, weekend markets, recreational and cultural activities in our open spaces.
- Holding events that are recognised on a local, regional, national and international level. Such events include Womad, the Festival of Lights, TropFest, International Rugby Test Matches, competitive first class cricket, Stone Sculpture Symposium, Circuses, Americana and triathlons to name a few.
- Providing walkways and access points to the coastal environment to support public access to the coastal environment and community events.eg New Years carnival at Oakura Beach.
- Preparing and implementing management plans for reserves, sports parks and historic reserves which allow the public to experience a 'sense of place' within the district, and provides an opportunity to preserve and enhance the natural and physical environment.
- Provides subsidies to communities, groups, individuals and organisations within the district as part of the Community Funding Policy.
- Educates children about recreation and biodiversity within open spaces by organising weekly walks with the Parks curator.

Issues:

1. There is also a need to ensure that the open spaces provided within the District attract event providers that bring value to the local economy. It is considered that there is an opportunity to explore better marketing strategies in collaboration with stakeholders such as event providers to promote the adaptability of the open spaces that the District currently offers for events.
2. The increasing engagement in casual sport and recreation is sometimes known as 'pay for play'. These can range from community fun runs to iconic national level trails runs, adventure races and the ITV World Cup Triathlon. These events may be sporadic and use a variety of venues within open spaces at irregular periods. These can provide vibrancy and significant economic value to the District.

The Council has significant assets that make these events possible, but is yet to maximise the opportunities in this growing area. There is no national strategy for these types of informal sports, but they occur on more of a high risk, high reward basis. These events are sometimes the results of a unique concept or opportunity implemented to show off some of the landscape and facilities unique to the district.

3. Having the community involved in taking care of open spaces within the District has the benefits of increasing the public's awareness and sense of place, empowering groups to take pride and have a sense of civic responsibility of open spaces, and can also result in reduced financial costs. Currently the pressures of limited resources, time availability and support means that it is challenging for community groups to actively get involved in looking after our open spaces.
4. There is an opportunity here for the Council to provide support to community groups such as schools, youth orientated groups, biodiversity groups and those groups that have an interest in looking after open spaces, e.g Friends of the Te Henui Group, Friends of the Park etc. Engaging with community groups to hold community events requires Council officers' time and resources.

9 Conclusions

In light of the challenges discussed in this document, the key areas that need to be addressed to plan for and achieve effective management of recreation and open spaces include:

- Having a level of service for recreation and open space and enhancing connectivity between open spaces;
- Having a consistent open space design approach to create safe open spaces that the public can enjoy;
- Providing and managing facilities that meets the needs of the community;
- Supporting the delivery of sport and recreation;
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and cultural heritage within open spaces;
- Ensuring that open spaces cater for activities that create a vibrant place for people to live.

The proposed Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy will address the above key areas and will set out what the Council's Level of Service will be for recreation and open space within the District for the next 30 years.

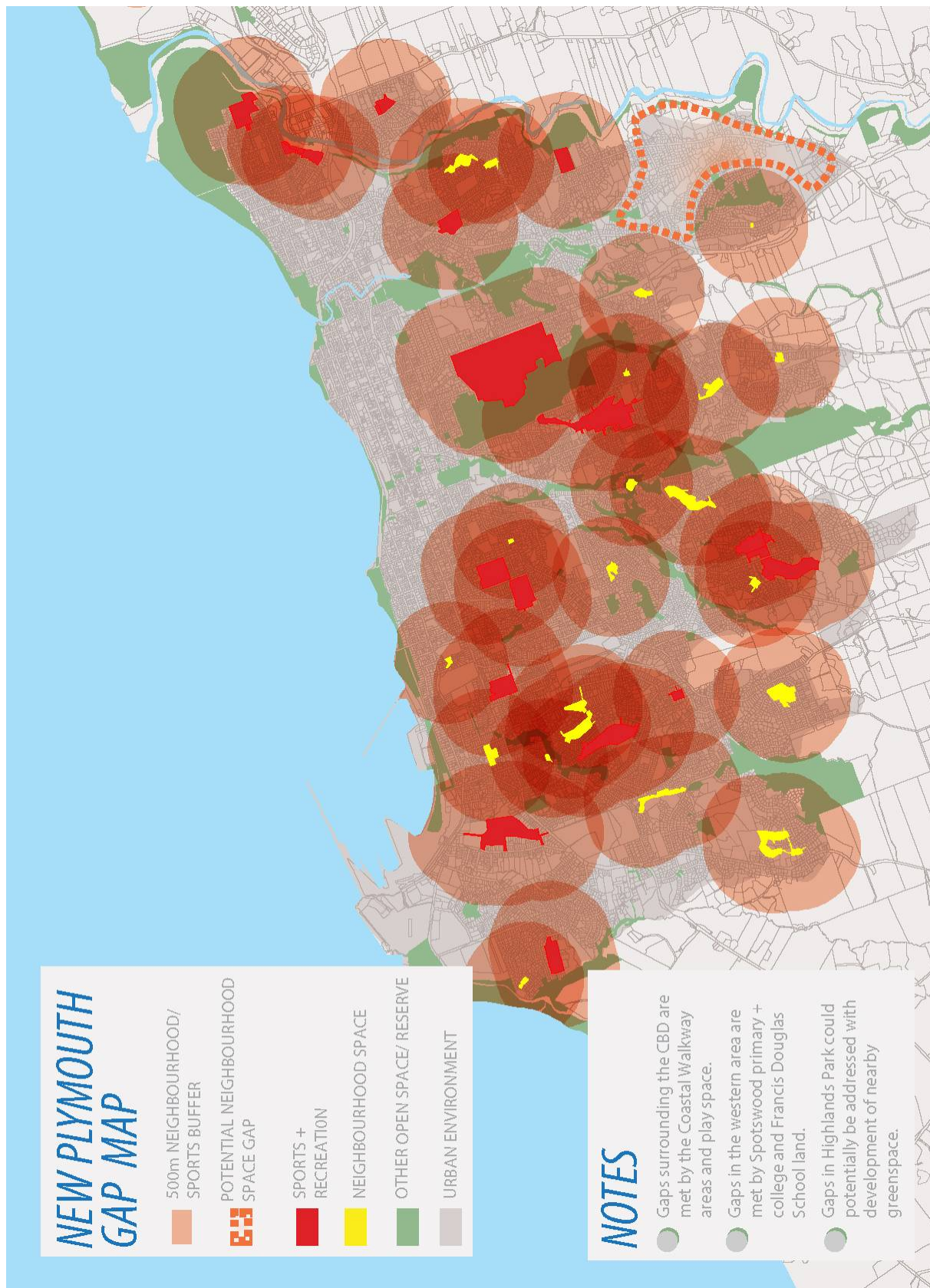
10 References

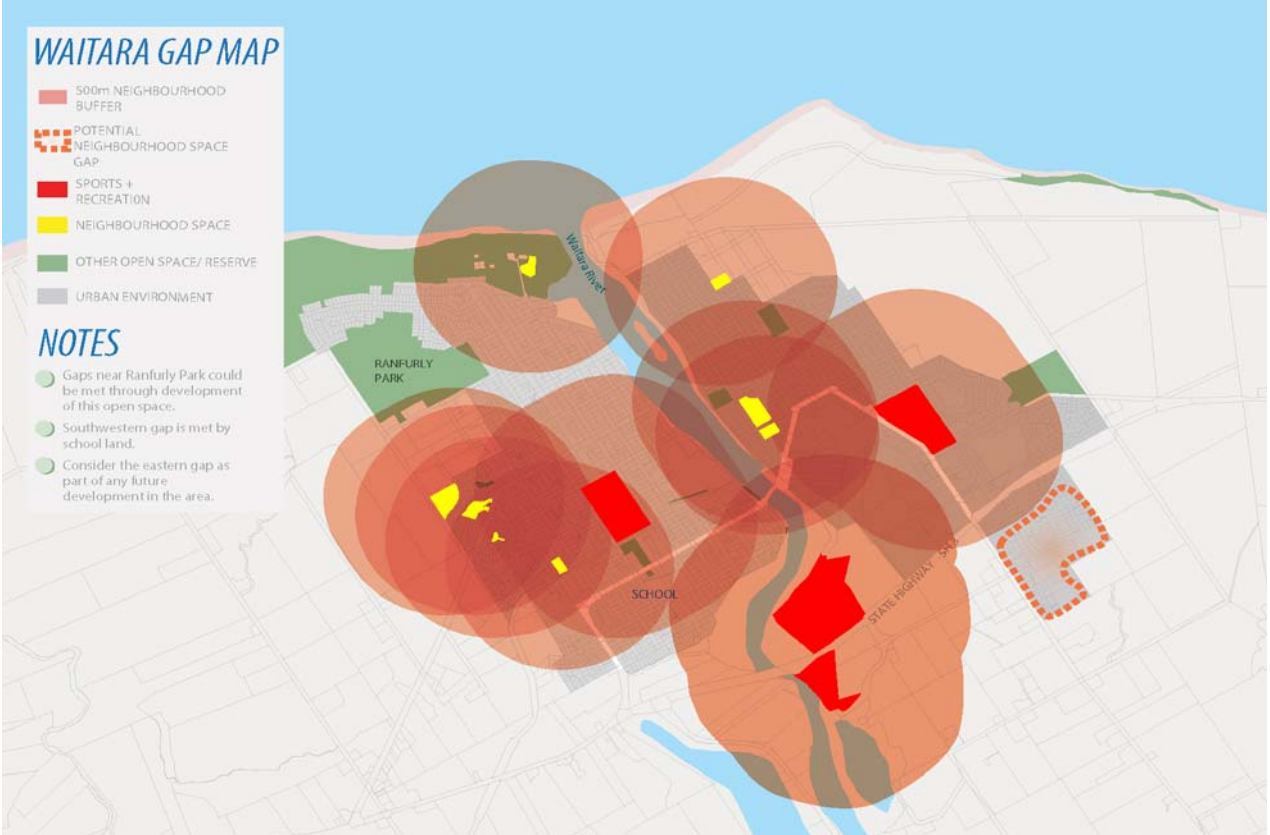
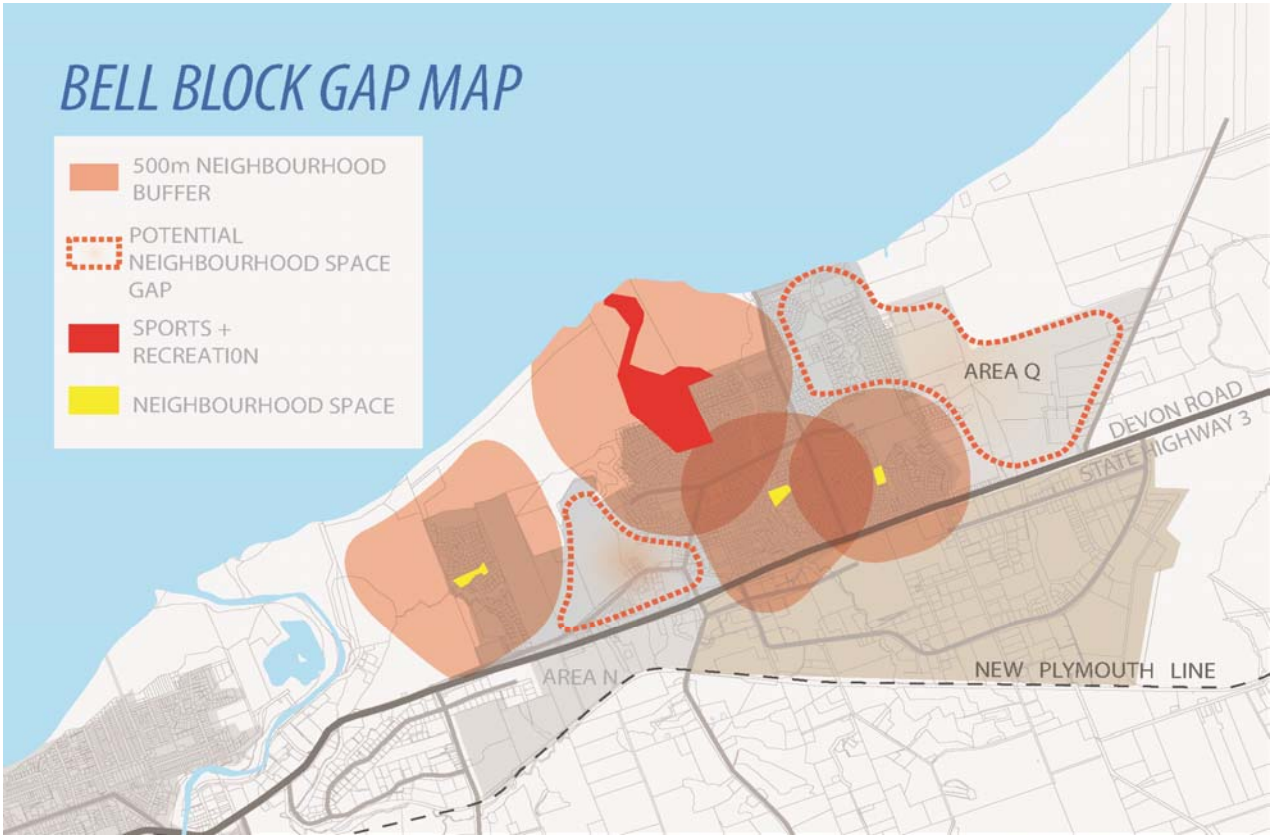
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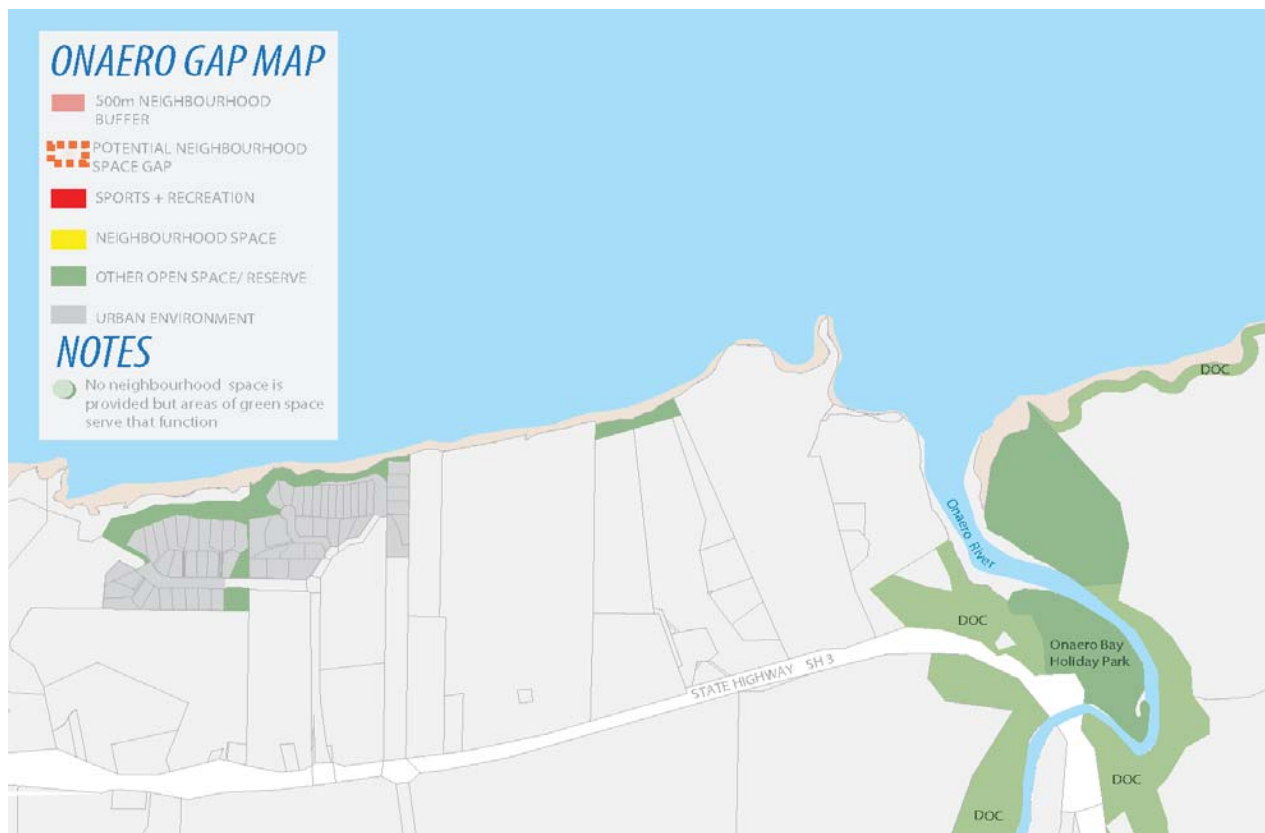
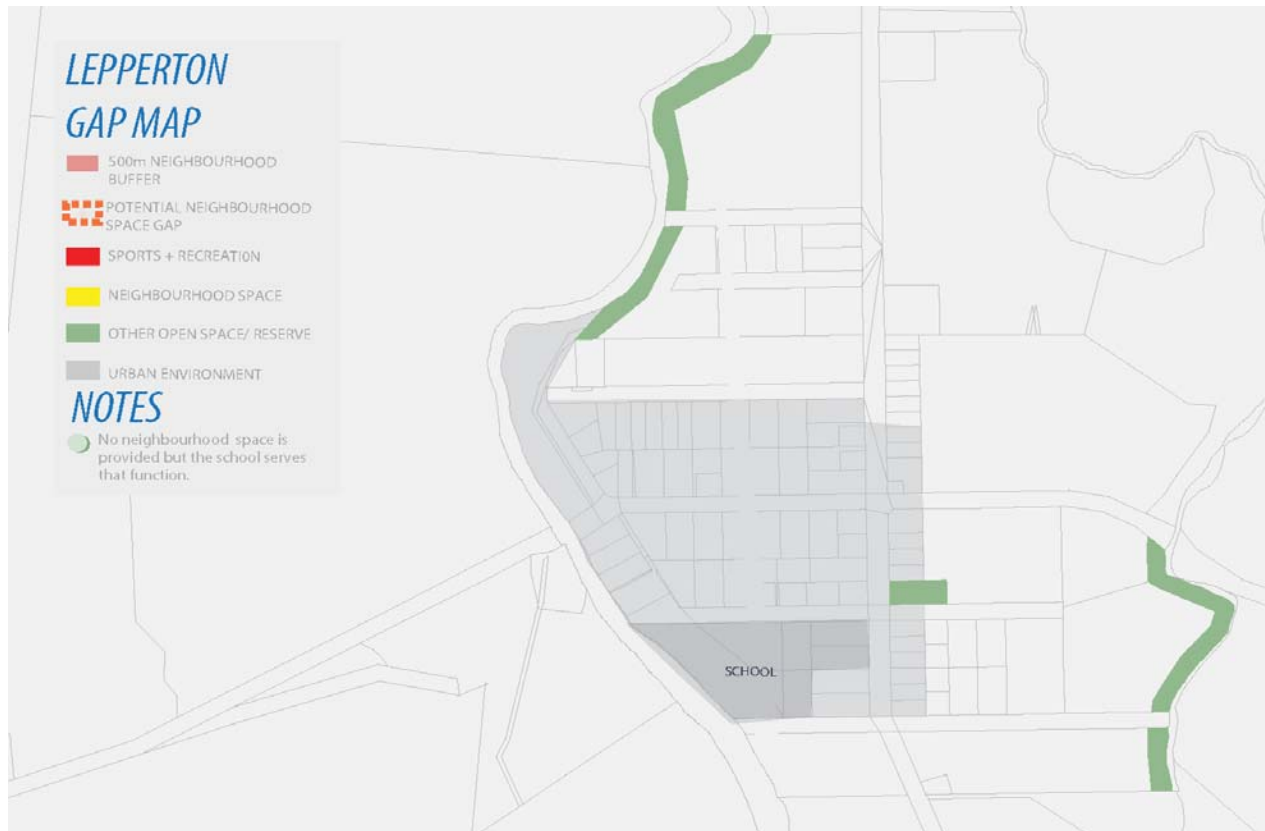
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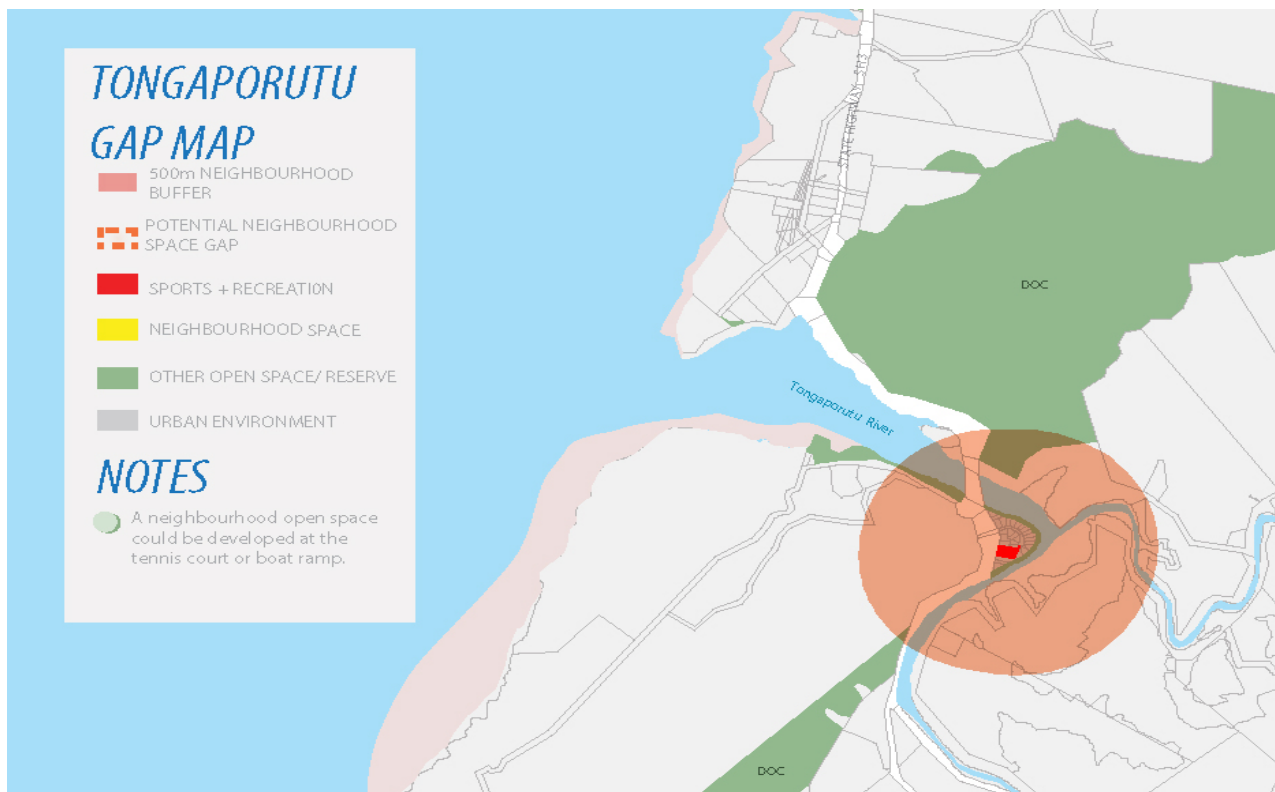
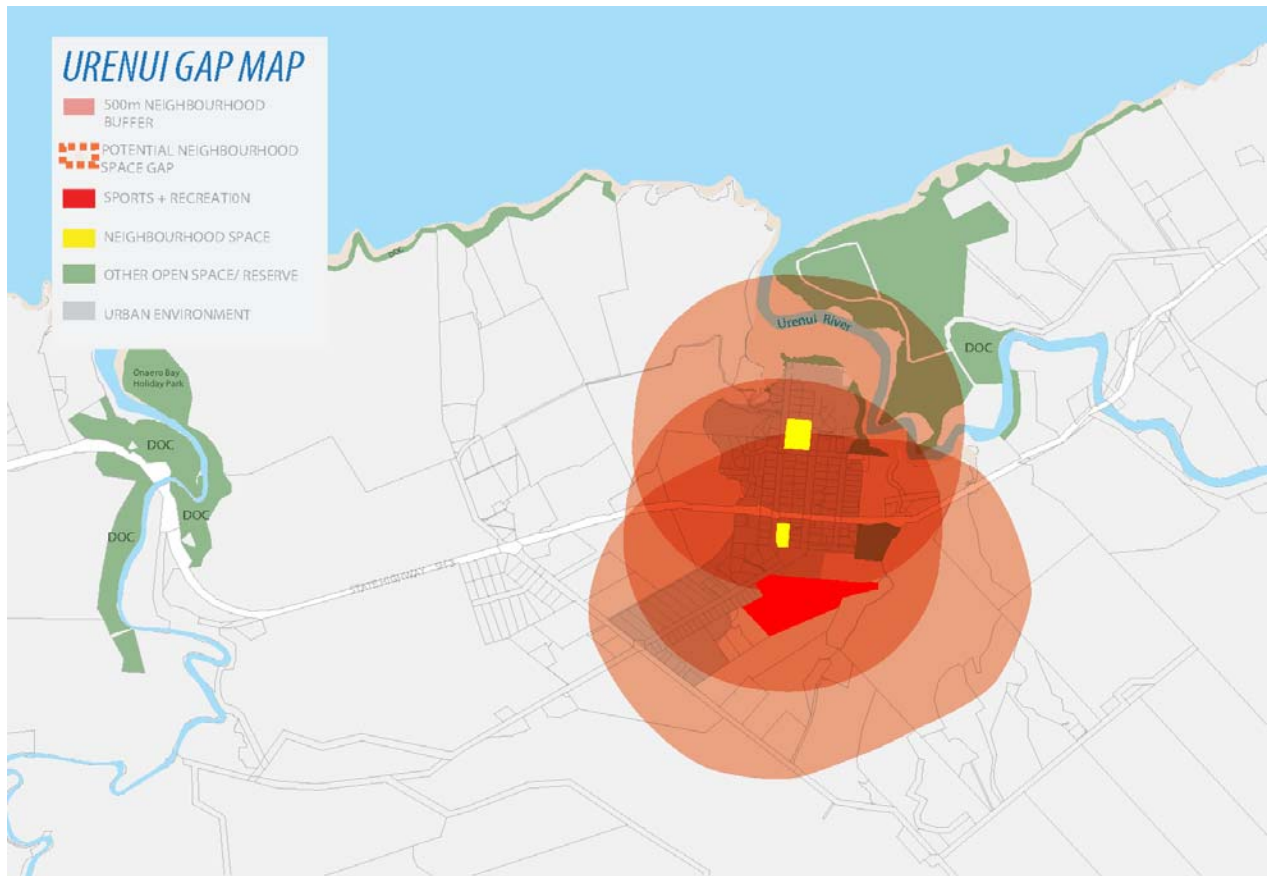
11. Appendices

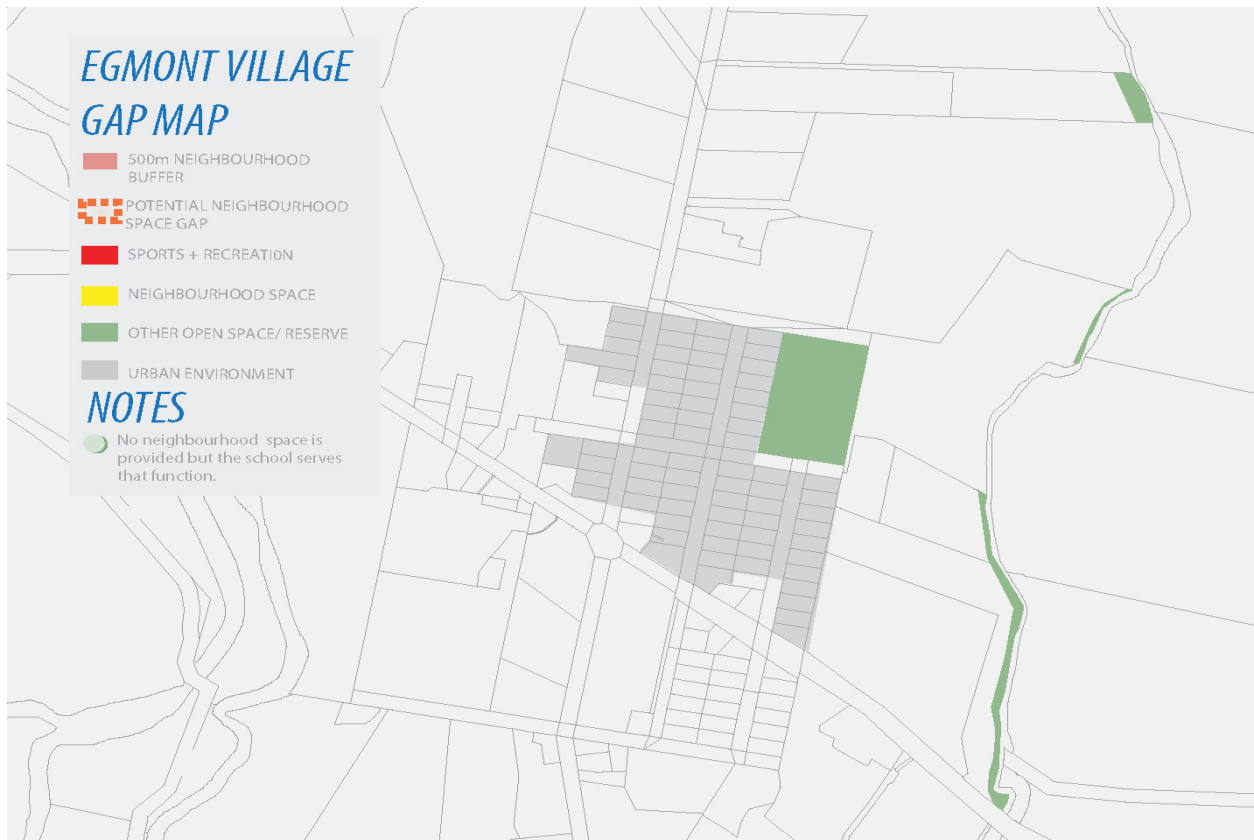
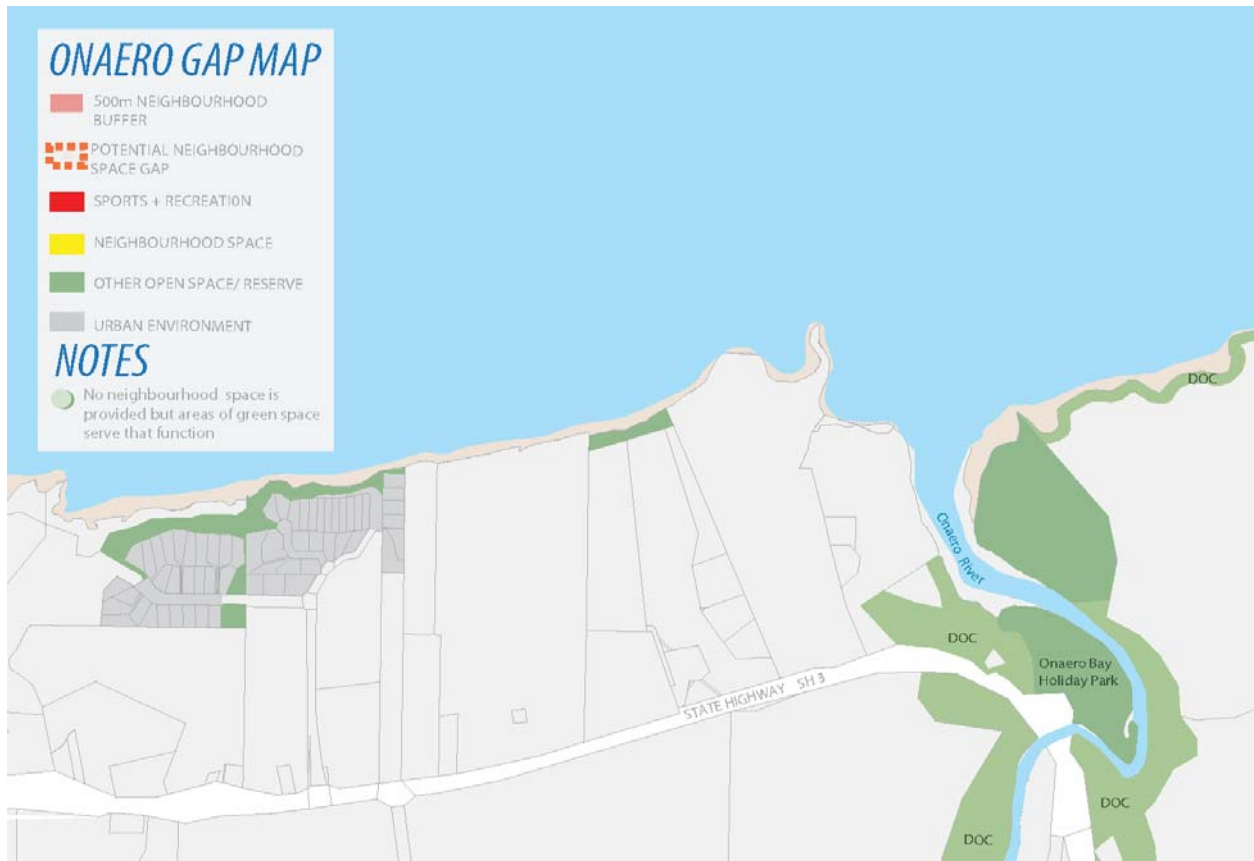
Appendix One: Areas where there are Gaps in Neighbourhood Open space within the New Plymouth District

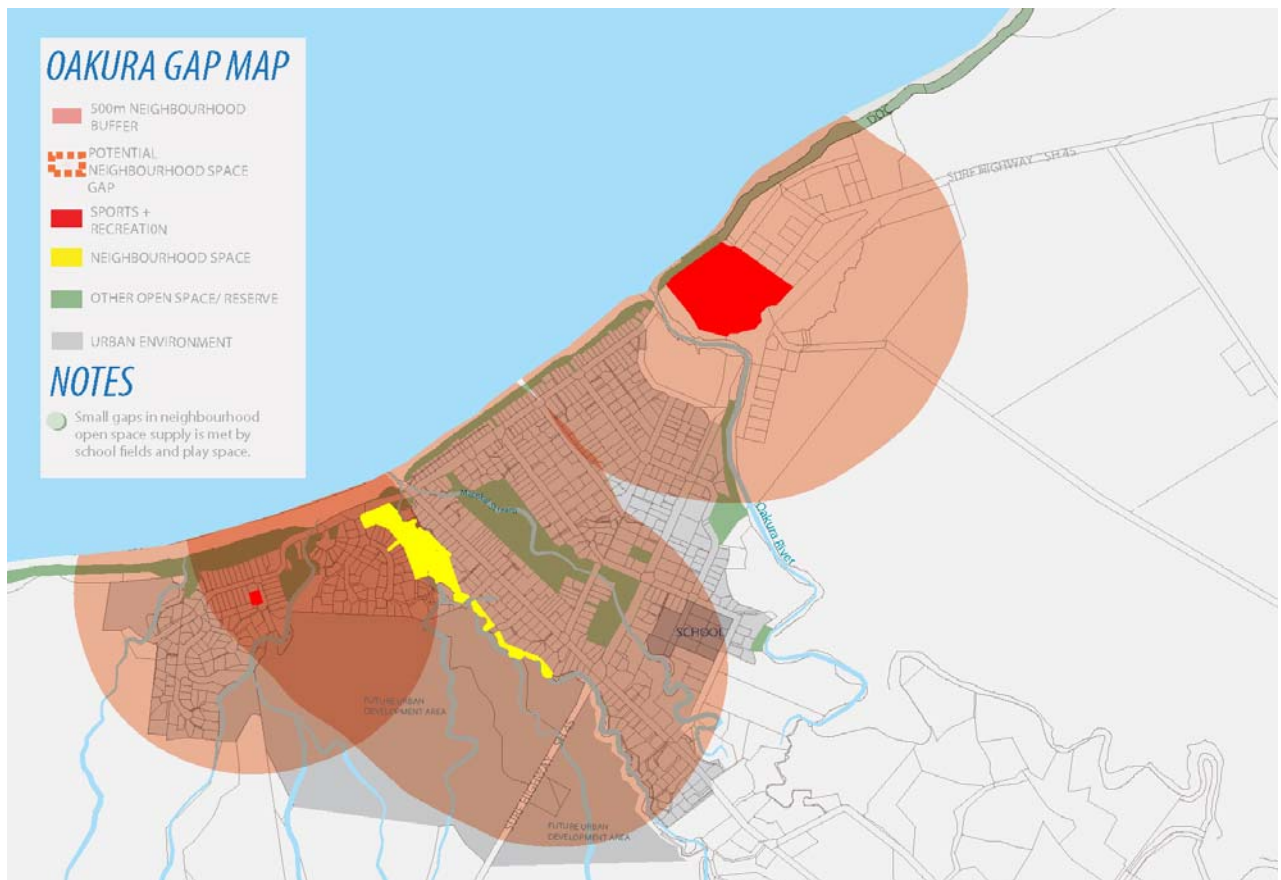
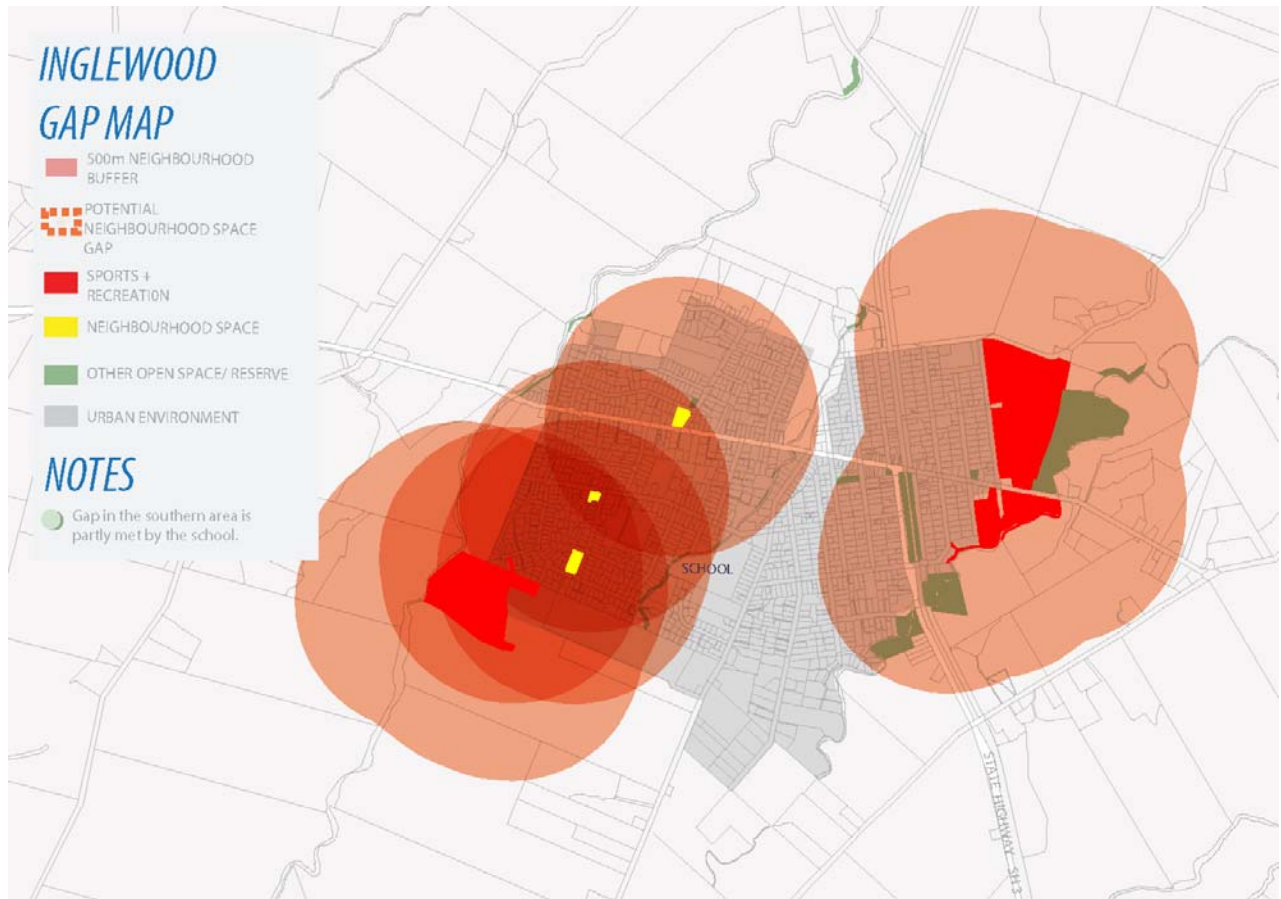


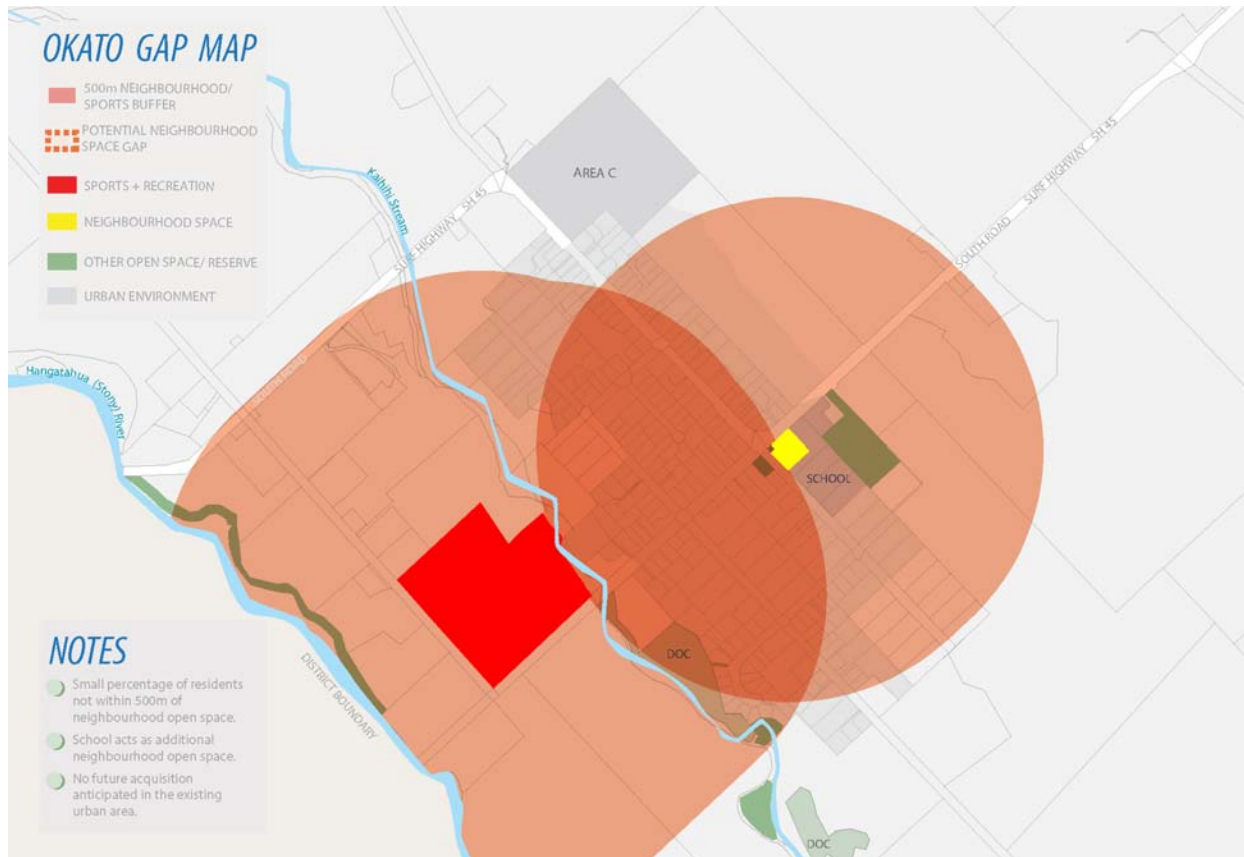












Appendix Two: Existing Open Space Provision within the New Plymouth District Urban Area

New Plymouth District

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	88.37%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	89.86%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	71.12%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	80.26%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	73.94%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	80.43%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	84.26%

New Plymouth

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	99.80%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	99.99%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	83.39%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	92.87%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	92.06%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	98.17%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	99.73%

Bell Block

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	97.96%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	98.47%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	79.03%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	93.61%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	95.83%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	100.00%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	100.00%

Waitara

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	90.80%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	95.71%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	84.75%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	97.29%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	61.33%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	75.40%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	86.47%

Onaero

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	0.00%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	0.00%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	100.00%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	100.00%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	100.00%

Urenui

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	100.00%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	75.95%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	86.71%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	100.00%

Tongaporutu

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	100.00%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	100.00%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	100.00%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	100.00%

Lepperton

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	0.00%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	0.00%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	0.00%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	0.00%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Greenspace	0.00%

Egmont Village

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	0.00%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	0.00%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	0.00%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	0.00%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	0.00%

Inglewood

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	84.08%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	99.29%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	30.15%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	42.04%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	61.43%

Oakura

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	97.88%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	95.76%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	99.70%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	100.00%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	100.00%

Okato

Question	Categories to be included	Percentage
Dwellings within 400m of any open space	All	84.26%
Dwellings within 500m of any open space	All	94.89%
Dwellings within 500m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	92.77%
Dwellings within 700m of neighbourhood open space	Neighbourhood, Sports and recreation	100.00%
Dwellings within 500m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	40.85%
Dwellings within 700m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	65.11%
Dwellings within 1000m of a recreation and ecological linkage	Pathway Networks	92.34%
Total number of dwellings	N/A	

Appendix Three – Summary of Stakeholder Comments

The table below shows the comments that have been made by the ‘Stakeholders’ identified in the ‘Community Views and Preferences’ section of the report. Those stakeholders that have provided input into the draft are:

- Department of Conservation
- Venture Taranaki
- South Taranaki District Council
- Stratford District Council
- Taranaki Regional Council
- Education Taranaki
- Taranaki District Health Board
- Sport Taranaki
- TSB Community Trust
- Taranaki Electricity Trust

There are also ‘other stakeholders’ who have provided input in the Draft including:

- Heritage Taranaki Inc
- Taranaki Disabilities Resource Centre Trust
- Biodiversity Groups
- New Plymouth Injury Safe Trust
- North Taranaki Cycle Advocates
- Living Streets NZ
- NZ Historic Places Trust
- Federated Farmers of New Zealand
- Port Taranaki Limited
- Fish and Game – Taranaki
- Taranaki Chamber of Commerce
- Ngamotu Marine Reserve Society
- Forest and Bird Taranaki Branch
- Grey Power New Plymouth

Key Stakeholders Comments	
Group	Comments
Department of Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned around how we can improve the understanding of biodiversity within our open spaces, connectivity between open spaces, considering of biodiversity in proposed open space developments and maintenance of reserves. • Improved understanding could be through continued summer walks, working with schools close to open spaces, continuing collaborative relationships with other groups to look after biodiversity in our open spaces eg Friends of the Te Henui Group. • Open spaces that are not Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) should be considered in structure plans and subdivisions (strengthening objectives and policies within the district plan for further protection of biodiversity). • DOC should have greater involvement in structure planning with proposed reserves, footpaths etc. • Need more interpretative signage to tell stories between our open spaces to preserve heritage even over territorial boundaries. • Collaborate more on resources for maintenance of parks and reserves. • Need to be careful in opening up new areas to the public in terms of pest management. • Think that community gardens should be driven by 1 person and not the Council.
Venture Taranaki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of population increase and visitor use in the strategy • The availability, location and connectivity of open spaces to recreation events are important. • Needs a more collaborative approach with the Council in regards to marketing.
South Taranaki District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are of the view that there is an oversupply of facilities and open spaces within the district, which can be attributable to having a decreasing population in South Taranaki as more people are migrating to New Plymouth. They would like to encourage sports codes to share sports facilities. • The higher quality of facilities within other parts of the District results in club members or sport participants migrating to other towns e.g. Aquatic pools in Stratford attract club members for Hawera. • Sports fields within the District are currently under utilised e.g. rugby pitch in Eltham. • South Taranaki are preparing a strategy for open space and facilities, and would like to have a focus on enabling more esplanade strips and reserves in the future using structure plans (excluding walking and cycling). • There is currently an under supply of open space for recreational activities such as mountain bike trails. • STDC's proposed strategy may potentially considering state highway infrastructure from district to district to ensure there is consistent signage and public toilets etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want a more co-ordinated and consistent approach with sports field supply and demand. It was agreed that STDC would potentially adopt the National New Zealand Park Categories and be consistent with the level of service provided in New Plymouth. • Concerned that not enough funding is being put into regional facilities by regional authorities (TRC).
Stratford District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Is proposing to do a facilities strategy for indoor and outdoor sports codes. ➤ Are of the view that there is an undersupply of facilities within the Stratford District. Only have 1.12ha of sport ground per 1000 residents. ➤ Cannot accommodate rugby league club in Stratford. Have shared use of rugby ground in the past but it is based on rugby numbers. ➤ The Council handles the bookings of facilities directly with the clubs and have a good handle on current membership numbers of the different codes. ➤ Proximity of sports fields from urban areas is an issue in Stratford District. E.g. Sports clubs are unwilling to use rugby field in Midhirst. ➤ Quality of facilities doesn't match the variety of uses. There is a need for close management and regular consultation with clubs on the use of sports fields/rugby fields. ➤ The Council would like Stratford to be promoted as the 'regional facility' for hockey in Taranaki, given Stratford has the best facility. ➤ The close proximity of soccer grounds to residential areas can result in 'nuisances' such as ball kicking and light overspill. ➤ Are supportive of having a regional approach in open space strategies. Was agreed that the language within SDC's strategy and NPDC's strategy should be consistent e.g. adopt the National New Zealand Park Categories and be consistent with the level of service provided in New Plymouth. ➤ Seems to be a lack of co-ordination between Councils, funding providers and community/domain boards with regards to facility management.
Taranaki Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was agreed that NPDC and TRC could jointly fund a regional possum control/pest management programme?? • There are opportunities to explore how we can celebrate some of Taranaki's most iconic open spaces e.g. Pukekura Park, Pukeiti, Hollard Gardens and Tupare. Showed support to continue to work towards the 'Taranaki Regional Gardens' brand which involves South Taranaki District Council, Stratford District Council, New Plymouth District Council, the Taranaki Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and private gardeners. The purpose of this brand is to create a more regional approach to celebrating the Taranaki region's significant open spaces, and not just each Council focusing on looking after their own open spaces in 'each district'. • There are many different athletics clubs within the Taranaki Region, that are currently under pressure because of increased cost (national and regional affiliation costs) and lowering membership numbers.

<p>Education Taranaki</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel that there needs to be more engagement with public about playground equipment. • Acknowledged that their biggest relationship is with schools. • Encourages the Council to provide better public engagement with the public in consultation on projects. • Need to provide for more walking linkages through subdivisions. • It is important to consider the safety and security of open spaces. • There is a need to consider the ageing population and what that will mean for providing facilities within open spaces e.g. designing materials to suit people of all ages, adult swings? • Would like to see the strategy be monitored regularly to see if the intention of the draft is actually being implemented. • Wondered whether the recreation and open space strategy would have a significant impact on bylaws e.g. public places bylaw. • There are complex barriers to outdoor play for children, making it essential that dedicated play areas that offer children safe and appealing spaces that respond to their needs. • Should ensure that the strategy enhances public knowledge and understanding of play and ensure that a consideration of children’s need to play becomes part of a policy framework for all decisions that affect children’s lives. • The challenge for the Council is to provide the best possible play opportunities and to create play spaces which will attract children, capture their imagination and given them scope to play in different, exciting and creative ways. • The strategy should provide for two distinct strands including: Designing new places for play and making existing play spaces more ‘playable’.
<p>Taranaki District Health Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of recreation and open space is important to enable physical activity, but there is always the challenge of having to comply with safety standards. • It is important to provide more connections between open spaces to help the community be more engaged in physical activity. • There needs to be an equal distribution of recreation and open space. • A framework is needed to monitor and evaluate trends in physical health. Would like to have a joint approach with the Council for funding to undertake more research on the physical health benefits of recreation and open space. • Considers that we should try and aim to be a ‘sustainable city’. • Should use design documents such as IPTED (Injury Prevention Through Environmental Design) and CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles when designing open space developments to prevent injuries. • CPTED principles should be taken into consideration when considering acquisition and/or de

	<p>acquisition of land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition that people who achieve levels of activity consistent with national guidelines halve their risk of fall-related injuries. Falls account for 41% of all injury hospitalisations for New Plymouth district residents. (http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/soph/centres/ipic/docs/rb3.pdf) • The importance of exercise and easy access to open spaces for good mental health – in particular the Wellington Regional Public Health Study that you have already used in your discussion document. Also refer to “Quality or quantity? Exploring the relationship between Public Open Space attributes and mental health in Perth, Western Australia” http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22464220 which discusses the finding that high quality public open spaces have a greater impact on mental health low quality public open spaces • Separation of cycling from motorised vehicles with dedicated cycle lanes through public open space is supported, however shared use between cyclists and pedestrians needs to be carefully designed and planned for to prevent collisions.
Sport Taranaki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like the strategy to consider how we can get more people using the existing facilities that we already have. • Would like to see Yarrows Stadium discussed further in terms of encouraging more community use. • Need to have high performance facilities so New Plymouth retains elite athletes.
TSB Community Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like open spaces to be fluid and adaptable to the changing needs and demographics of the community. • Would like a clearer idea of what the Council’s priorities are for regional and high performance facilities and national v community. • Would like the strategy to be used by TSB to help inform decision making for funding.
Taranaki Electricity Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like the strategy to identify whether facilities are regional or not to assist them in making funding decisions.

