



**GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ**  
Taupō District Council



STRATEGY CONSULTATION

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# RECREATION & SPORT

## AROUND OUR DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 2023

## WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

If you use our parks, reserves, pools, sportsgrounds or community facilities we want your views. Council intends adopting a Recreation and Sport Strategy that will provide a clear direction for how we will support the wider recreation and sport sector.

The Strategy will set out how Council will:

- Plan, manage and improve community reserves
- Plan, manage and improve community sportsgrounds and facilities
- Support recreation and sports organisations who need a hand.

We want your input into key principles that will guide how we do these things. Draft key principles are set out below.

We are seeking people’s feedback between 9am on Wednesday 22 February and 4.30pm Wednesday 22 March 2023. A hearing will be held on Tuesday 4 April 2023, at 10.15am in the Taupō Council Chamber, for anyone wanting to speak directly to Councillors about their feedback.

### COMMUNITY RESERVES

We have heard from you that reserves are important spaces that people value. We know there are some reserves that could do with improvements. These principles would help guide the review of current reserves, and help us plan to make them better.

#### Have your say

Are these the right principles for our community reserves?

Guiding principles for discussion	
<b>Interact with nature</b>	Council has a role to provide parks and open spaces across the district that provide opportunities for people to get out, get moving or simply get some fresh air and interact with nature.
<b>Providing a reserve network across the district</b>	<p>Council will provide a reserve network across the district, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Most houses in urban areas are within a short walkable distance from a neighbourhood park, which has a basic playground and somewhere to kick a ball around.</li> <li>○ Most houses in urban areas are within a short drive or cycle from a community park. This is a larger play space that supports more activities. It should be a community hub for informal recreation, with a more substantial playground, hard and soft play surfaces (for example, a field with goals, and a hard court for basketball or tennis) and a larger recreation space with supporting amenities such as toilets and benches. Examples are Besley Park, Brice Street Reserve, and Te Kapua Park.</li> <li>○ Bush areas, waterfront reserves and gullies support open recreation, access to our lakes and waterways, play, leisure, walking, cycling and picnicking.</li> <li>○ Safe spaces are available for dogs to be exercised off-leash.</li> </ul>
<b>Enhancing the local environment</b>	Community reserves will be managed so they enhance the local environment.
<b>Inclusive and accessible reserves</b>	Community reserves will be inclusive and accessible so everyone in our community can get out and enjoy them.
<b>Improvement of reserves</b>	Community reserves will be progressively improved to enhance our shared pathway network and connections.

## RECREATION AND SPORT STRATEGY CONSULTATION

<b>Community participation</b>	Local communities will be given the opportunity to participate in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identifying what needs to be improved</li> <li>○ Enhancing community reserves.</li> </ul>
<b>Natural processes for weed management</b>	Weed management will take a long-term holistic approach that prioritises natural processes.

### COMMUNITY SPORTSGROUNDS AND FACILITIES

From our discussions with community groups and sports clubs we know there are some challenges around accessing facilities and competition for space at peak times. We recognise this and have set out principles that would guide the review of current sportsgrounds and facilities and help us identify how to make them better.

#### Have your say

Are these the right principles for our community sportsgrounds and facilities?

<b>Guiding principles for discussion</b>	
<b>Council's role providing facility</b>	Council has a role to provide sportsgrounds and facilities that benefit the community, but we cannot provide absolutely everything.
<b>The sportsgrounds and facilities network</b>	Council will provide a sportsgrounds and facilities network across the district, which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ meets the needs of the community</li> <li>○ supports a wide range of activities for all ages</li> <li>○ supports sports at all levels – from social to competition.</li> <li>○ provides a variety of playing surfaces (e.g. water, grass, concrete, indoor, turf)</li> <li>○ supports events.</li> </ul>
<b>Investment across the sector</b>	Council will support coordinated investment and shared resources across the sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To avoid duplication of services, Council will look to cooperate or partner with other organisations such as schools and clubs to make better use of facilities across the district.</li> <li>○ Council will work with Sport Waikato, the Lake Taupō District Sports Advisory Council, and Tūrangi Tongariro Sports Foundation to ensure investment is made based on sector trends and meet the present and expected needs of the community.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusive, accessible and affordable</b>	Community sportsgrounds and facilities will be inclusive, accessible, and affordable.
<b>Balancing between local sport and events</b>	Access to community sportsgrounds and facilities will be fairly balanced between both local sport and events. For example, setting out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the minimum number of weeks of season that will be provided for local sports seasons (with allowance for wet weather impacts)</li> <li>○ a cap on the number of events per year that will disrupt local competition.</li> </ul>
<b>Community participation</b>	Local communities and users will be given the opportunity to participate in identifying what needs to be improved to meet their changing needs.

**SUPPORTING RECREATION AND SPORTS ORGANISATIONS**

Our awesome recreation and sporting clubs add so much to our communities and Council has a role to play in supporting them. Currently council provides support through grants that are distributed by the Sports Advisory Council. These grants help our local organisations with smaller one-off costs but we know they face other challenges. While we cannot do everything, we think these are the best ways that we can help.

**Have your say**

Are these the right principles when it comes to supporting recreation and sports organisations?

<b>Guiding principles for discussion</b>	
<b>Council helping organisations</b>	Council recognises that there are many recreation and sports organisations that provide choices and opportunities that make Taupō district a great place to live. While these organisations will continue to rely on their members and users for their core funding, there are ways Council can help.
<b>Provision of facilities</b>	Council will provide the use of pools, sportsgrounds and facilities at fair cost.
<b>Provision of reserve land</b>	Council will provide reserve land for sports and recreation clubs to lease at a fair cost where we are not making a profit.
<b>Contestable grants</b>	Council will provide a budget of contestable grants for recreation and sports clubs who support the community wellbeing.
<b>Providing advice</b>	Council will provide advice to support clubs to access third party funding and become more financially resilient.
<b>Providing funding</b>	Council will consider providing some funding for large capital investments by clubs where those investments benefit a wide section of the community or have wider community benefits.

**WHAT SHOULD WE FOCUS ON FIRST?**

It will take us some time to invest in making the community’s reserves, sportsgrounds and facilities even better.

**Have your say on what you think we should focus on first.**

We’ve heard previously that Council should look at:

- increasing court space at Taupō Events Centre
- more shared pathways
- more planting in reserves
- accessibility of the waterfront, and major parks and reserves
- improving the tennis courts at Te Kapua Park
- more covered hard-surface play areas in community parks
- shade and seating at community parks
- more off-lead dog exercise areas
- better changing rooms at Owen Delany Park
- rebuilding beaches and reserves damaged by erosion

**Which of these do you think should be an immediate focus?**

**What else should be an immediate focus?**

## NEXT STEPS

### Strategic Direction and Consultation

After getting your feedback, Council will review and adopt the principles as part of the strategy, and areas that Council should focus on first. These will then guide planning for the community's recreation and sport assets.

### Investment Plan

Council will include this in its planning and business cases for new investment as we work through what our next Long-term Plan may look like. Council will consult on its proposed recreation and sport investment plans as part of its Long-term Plan 2024 – 2034.

### How to make a submission

Visit our website

[www.taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay)

Email

[sportandrecreation@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:sportandrecreation@taupo.govt.nz)

Post

Recreation and Sport Strategy  
Consultation  
Taupō District Council  
Private Bag 2005  
Taupō 3352

In person

Submissions can also be handed in at the Council offices in Taupō, Tūrangi and Mangakino

# RECREATION AND SPORT PROCESS



**Consult with community on strategic direction**

**Feb - March 2023**

Key principles to guide planning | immediate focus areas



**Council adopts strategy**

**May 2023**

Adopts key principles to guide planning | Agree on immediate focus areas



**Council develops investment plans**

**Jun 2023 - Jan 2024**

Identify gaps and investment needs | Build business cases  
Improvement and investment over next 3-5 years



**Consult with community on investment plans**

**March - April 2024**

As part of long-term plan 2024-2034 consultation process



**Council adopts investment plans**

**June 2024**

Part of Long Term Plan 2024-2034