



Statement of Proposal

Sports Ground Management Plan Review 2025

Introduction

The Dunedin City Council (DCC) is beginning a review of the Sports Ground Management Plan 1999 (The Plan).

This statement of proposal sets out background information, what is being proposed, reasons for the proposal, how submissions on the proposal can be made and how long the consultation period will run for.

Management plans are a requirement under the Reserves Act 1977 (the Act) to ensure proper management of reserves and that they are regularly reviewed. The Plan was last reviewed by the Council in 1998/99. The 2025 review will allow the DCC to respond to the community's feedback, best practice models and changing trends.

Not all of our sports grounds are classified as reserves and therefore not all sports grounds require public consultation under The Act. Regardless of the various sports grounds' classifications, the review will follow the steps set out in Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977. This will maintain consistency with review of Council's other management plans and ensure a robust public consultation process.

Background

Sports ground development in Dunedin began as early as the mid-1800s as early British settlers brought their traditional outdoor games. Initially, low lying swamp land was developed as playing fields, including North Ground (developed by The Caledonian Society), The Oval and Carisbrook. As Dunedin grew beyond its central city in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, suburban areas like Mosgiel, Taieri, and South Dunedin began to establish their own recreational spaces.

The development of these grounds was often community-driven with support from schools, churches, and sports clubs. The use of private land played a significant role in the provision of early sports fields. For example, Jubilee Park (formally Tomlinson Park) was private land before being transformed into a public recreational space in 1887, to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

The Council-owned sports grounds are integral to the city's collective health and social cohesion. Dunedin's sports grounds also contribute to the overall attractiveness and green character of the city.

Council owns and maintains 50 outdoors sports grounds. This includes 156 grass playing fields and 4 artificial surfaces. These are developed, maintained and managed to ensure the city's various sports codes have reliable and equitable access to games and practice times. Sports grounds also provide for recreation opportunities other than organised sports. These are places that are important to local communities for informal recreation, play and provide opportunities for personalise exercise and social contact.

What we're proposing for consultation

Council will use the review process described in section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977. This will maintain consistency with review of Council's other management plans and ensure a robust public consultation process.

The Reserves Act requires Council to give public notice of our intention to review the Plan and invite interested people and organisations to provide feedback.

As well as advertising in the Otago Daily Times public notices section of our intention to review the Plan we will notify media and call for feedback on social media and DCC's website. Parks and Recreation Services staff will be available to discuss the proposal and how submissions can be made.

Have your say

We would like to know what you think about the current Sports Ground Management Plan (1999).

We would also like to know what you think the current sports ground issues are and how these issues might be resolved.

We are interested in your ideas for the future use and management of sports grounds. How do you think this important resource should be protected, enjoyed, and cared for in the future?

Your input will help shape a revised draft management plan, which will be shared for further public feedback in late 2026.

The submission period runs from **2 February 2026 to 2 March 2026**.

How to give feedback

[Fill in the feedback form here](#)

Or feedback forms can be:

- Emailed to: parksconsulting@dcc.govt.nz
- Posted to:
Sports Ground Management Plan 1999
Parks and Recreation Services
Attention: P Christos
Dunedin City Council
PO Box 5045
Dunedin 9054
- Delivered to a DCC service centre or library.

For any queries, please email parksconsulting@dcc.govt.nz

What happens next?

- The submission period is from ***Monday, 2 February 2026 until 5pm Monday 2 March 2026.***
- Parks and Recreation staff will review feedback and prepare a draft Sports Ground Management Plan.
- Later in 2026, the draft Plan will be notified for public consultation, with details about how to make submissions.

Please note: Your name and submission will be made public as part of the DCC's decision-making process. This information will be included in papers available to the public and the media but will only be used for the Sports Ground Management Plan consultation.

Late submissions may not be accepted.

[Thank you for your submission.](#)

Sports Ground Management Plan - Feedback Form

We would like to hear your thoughts on how we could improve our Sports Ground Management Plan. We are interested in what is currently working well, what could be improved, as well as your thoughts on the future use of sports grounds.

The submission period is from **2 February 2026 to 2 March 2026**.

Your feedback

Do you currently use the sports grounds?

- Yes
- No

What activities were involved?

- Team sports
- Training and practice
- Competitions and tournaments
- Casual play
- Fitness and exercise
- Family and social gatherings
- Events and festivals

What do you think are the biggest issues for sports grounds?

(Select as many as you think apply)

- Condition of playing surfaces
- Traffic and parking
- Capacity and scheduling
- Location of sports grounds
- Environmental impact – i.e., water use, chemical treatments
- Rubbish / recycling services
- Signage
- Supporting facilities (changing rooms, toilets, provision for spectators etc.)

How would you like to see Dunedin sports grounds managed in the future?

- More evenly distributed sports grounds throughout the city
- More effective booking systems
- Management of the sports grounds in a sustainable way, i.e., renewal energy for lighting
- Scheduled facility upgrades, i.e., modern changing rooms, spectator amenities
- Improved accessibility for disabled people
- Additional all-weather surfaces and covered courts
- Ability to adapt and cater for emerging recreational trends
- Able to be used for outdoor entertainment / cultural events

Is there anything we have missed? (Please specify - 50 words max)

What do you enjoy most about using Dunedin's sports grounds? (100 words max)

What do you see as major challenges for Dunedin's sports grounds in the future (100 words max)

Do you want us to update you on the next stages of this project?

Yes

No

Your details

If you wish to be kept update on the next stages of this project please ensure you provide your contact details

Name:

Organisation *(if applicable):*

Email address:

Contact phone and/or postal address:

Please note: Your name and submission will be made public as part of the DCC's decision-making process. This information will be included in papers available to the public and the media but will only be used for the Sports Ground Management Plan consultation.

Late submissions may not be accepted.

Thank you for your submission.