Sports Facilities Plan: Council Workshop July 2025



What is the purpose of the plan?

- A planning tool that provides adequate and fair opportunities to participate.
- A living document that records trends and demographic changes that are essential to understanding user expectation and need.
- A planning tool that aids decision making regarding the need for new and updated facilities in response to need and climate change.
- A way to avoid fragmented and reactive investment.







National strategic overview



Sport NZ National Indoor
Active Recreation and
Sports Facility Strategy,
2023

Coastal Otago Places and Spaces Strategy, 2023

DCC Sports Facilities Plan, 2025





2020 Consultation

The Process:

- Initial engagement with 45 sports and recreation groups: Dec 2020
- Covid 19 pandemic required changes to the engagement process.
- An online questionnaire and survey, as well as letter box drops, were used.
- Development of the plan was coordinated with Sport Otago's Coastal Otago Spaces and Places Strategy, 2023.







2025 Consultation

The Process:

- Sports clubs and related organisations, who provided feedback in 2020, were invited to update their views.
- 20 major stakeholders were interviewed face to face.
- 25 other stakeholders were invited via email to attend a series of drop-in sessions.







Key findings.

- There is not enough court space available to accommodate demand.
- School courts have limited ability to address the overall shortage.
- Emerging sports are growing but there is limited availability of court space to accommodate them.
- Sharp drop-off in participation past secondary school age.
- Many facilities are aging and in need of upgrades to meet the needs of all users.
- Rising cost of living is a barrier to participation.





Demographics and participation

- Population at 131,800 (2024 Infometrics).
- Projected at 142,671 by 2043.
- Projected growth in Māori (5%), Pacifica(1%) and Asian (7%) by 2038.
- Over 65 is the fastest growing demographic.
- Otago has a high participation rate with 74% of adults and 92% of young people engaging in regular physical activity.
- Girls in Otago participate more than their male peers. This reverses after 14 years of age.
- Short format and 'pay as you play' sport is on the increase.









Social return of investment

- Sport NZ 2019, estimated that every dollar investment in recreational physical activity returns \$2.12 worth of social impacts. Including.....
- \$9.02bn in health outcomes.
- \$889m in generated income, consumption and wealth.
- \$1.1bn in enhanced social capacity.
- \$3.32bn in increased wellbeing/life satisfaction.

These gains are set against a loss of -\$620m from sport injuries and accidents.









Indoor facilities

Key findings from Sport NZ's National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy, 2023:

- Based on Sport NZs calculations of 1 court per 7800 residents. Using this calculation, 17 courts would be required to meet the national benchmark. DCC currently has 15 courts.
- Demand for court time is compressed between 3:30-8:30pm, adding to the difficulty of accommodating all leagues and competitions.





Outdoor facilities



- Dunedin provided 2.6ha of sports fields per 1000 residents in 2023- this is well above the national average.
- 53 open spaces are categorised as sports parks and provide 113 playing fields.
- Includes 4 artificial, 42 natural turf, 7 sand carpet and 1 specialist fine turf.
- 45% located within the South Dunedin area and future development will be driven by South Dunedin Futures preferred option.
- There have been significant upgrades recently through both council programs and FIFA 2023 Woman's World Cup investment.







Funding and operational challenges

- Volunteering is critical to many club's financial and operational needs.
- Unscheduled practices continue to place pressure on key facilities, such as Logan Park.
- Under investment by clubs places pressure on council to upgrade infrastructure and club rooms.
- Clubs reported that increased operational costs places pressure on subscription costs.









Planning principles

- Accessibility an inclusivity- reducing physical, cultural and gender barriers.
- Environmental sustainability and climate resilience- planning and designing for the best environmental outcomes and operational efficiencies.
- Building enduring partnerships- ensuring the community and stakeholders are involved early and over the duration of projects.
- Meeting evidence based need- understanding shifting demographics, behaviours and trends when planning facilities.
- Optimising benefits- aiming to deliver the best possible community, cultural and economic outcomes when delivering facilities.





Sports hub and spoke model

- A network that operates over several facilities.
- Provides a single point of coordination, economies of scale, improved efficiencies, and shared administration.
- Rationalises access to facilities to meet the need of all levels/grades.
- Takes pressure off the hub by shifting some activities to adequately developed spokes.
- Would likely include upgrades, such as covered courts and resurfacing, to better meet the needs of an all-weather hub and spoke model.



Hub and Spoke example



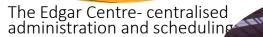
Logan Park



Mosgiel Memorial Gym



Caledonian Gym





Potential covered outdoor courts on Victoria Road



Implementation Plan: 2026-2027-short term

- Undertake a study to assess the feasibility of covered courts to meet projected need.
- Review the commercial use of sports facilities, such as trade shows and large events, to reduce impacts on sport scheduling and damage to grounds.
- Carry out an audit of existing sports facilities accessibility- to identify physical, cultural and gender barriers.





Implementation Plan: 2027/31

- Prepare a program of facility development for inclusion in the 2028 LTP.
- Based on SDF preferred option, ensure there is sufficient access to sports fields and facilities within South Dunedin.
- Undertake a study to assess the need, conceptual framework, potential sites and types of facilities required to develop a hub and spoke model.



Questions







