



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 NZ's 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 and 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



The Edgar Centre- centralised
administration and scheduling



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



