



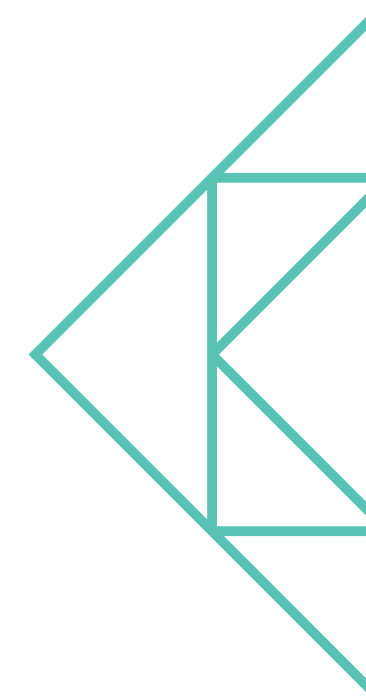
# Sports Facilities Plan

2025

**Dunedin's communities are more active, more often, in sports facilities that are valued and fit for purpose.**

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## 1.0

# Executive Summary

The purpose of the Sports Facilities Plan is to guide the future development of sports and active recreation facilities. This is in response to aging facilities, user expectations, changing demographics and participation trends and the effects of climate change.

**The Plan is designed to:**

- Provide an inventory of critical existing facilities
- Analyse the gap between current facilities and future needs
- Identify future requirements to improve the quality and capacity of sports facilities and associated amenities
- Investigate formal partnership opportunities with potential providers of sports facilities, such as schools, infrastructure providers and private sports facilities
- Provide a prioritised list of recommendations for the development of facilities.

**Drivers for the development of this Plan include:**

- The desire to invest wisely in identified priority projects that will have long-term benefits
- The need to re-purpose, renew or replace an ageing network of existing facilities
- The need to respond to changing demographics and population growth
- Planning for sport and recreation trends that may require new types of facilities and/or new uses of existing facilities
- Understanding expectations of users and user groups
- Avoiding responding to wants, rather than identified needs.

This Plan provides a high-level overview of the current and projected sport and active recreation facility needs for Dunedin. It identifies current priorities and provides an ongoing and robust method to review and prioritise potential projects across Dunedin. More detailed site-specific investigations would need to be undertaken to assess the viability of individual facility projects, once identified.

The scope of the Plan includes the not-for-profit sport and active recreation sector but excludes aquatic sports facilities, which are subject to a separate plan. The research and consultation underpinning this plan has been limited to stakeholder organisations and primarily those groups focused on organised or formal sport (sports codes).

## 2.0

# Issues and key findings

Key issues and challenges identified in the development of this Plan are discussed in more detail below and include:

- Changing sports participation trends
- The need for facilities to be adaptive and flexible for different uses, and to provide for family participation and support
- The poor condition of many of the city's sports facilities, both indoor and outdoor
- Limited capacity of sports facilities, specifically indoor facilities
- Rising cost of living impacting on family budgets and access to recreation.

### Additional considerations

**Access to school spaces:** Many strategies see school spaces as a potential way to gain sport facility space and maximise the use of facilities for the community. This shift requires partnership and collaboration from both the government, school principals, community members, and users to ensure school facilities are accessible and meet physical standards.

**Sedentary lifestyles:** Technology and a sedentary lifestyle are quoted by many strategies as threats to more active communities. Sport facilities and associated programmes are noted as potential solutions to this health issue.

**Multi-use facilities:** Stand-alone facilities for sports are no longer normal for investment. Sports must learn to share space and maximize the opportunity for the sport facilities they have available to them. Sport participation needs are changing, and traditional sports may need to reconsider field time, that may have been historically dominated by one code.

**Increasing female participation:** Female participation is rising in many sports. This increase in numbers not only places more pressure on playing fields and courts but also on changing room facilities. Facilities may need to be modified/ designed to meet the needs of all genders.

**Climate and natural environmental changes:** More frequent adverse weather events, including flooding, heat waves and other weather changes will impact on both indoor and outdoor facilities.

**Increase in casual recreation changes:** Informal/casual recreational activities are growing in popularity. Gym/fitness centres provide an opportunity to undertake activity when it suits individual ability and schedules while subscriptions to formal sports codes are declining. Flexible facilities that can cater for both formal sport and casual recreation are likely to be required in the future.

**Increasing diversity in New Zealand population:** The increasing diversity in the New Zealand population is very relevant to sport and recreation trends as different cultures engage in sport with varying levels of family and community involvement. Facilities need to meet the needs of spectators and families to encourage social cohesion and intergenerational participation.

**Collaboration:** Collaboration between government organisations, communities, schools, and non-profits were noted in several strategies as required for the future of sport.

**From extreme to mainstream:** Lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports are on the rise. Obscure sports are receiving a higher number of participants than seen in previous years. Sports like skateboarding, snowboarding, or ultra-marathons which have only emerged in the last 30 years have become mainstream. Traditional sport must compete with many developing recreational activities.

**Personalised and individualised activities:** Individualised sport and fitness activities are on the rise. This includes individual fitness events such as Sparta, Tough Mudder, marathons, triathlons, Iron Man etc. It also includes sports that catering for a greater range of abilities, genders and ages.

**Modified games, formats and facilities:** Sport and active recreation are evolving alongside busy and fragmented lives. This has led to a change in format to enable shorter games with reduced team members on smaller playing surfaces and providing more flexibility.





## 3.0

# Introduction

This Plan is a high-level tool to identify current priorities and provides an ongoing and robust method to review and prioritise potential future projects across Dunedin. However, it is also essential that detailed, site-specific investigations are undertaken to assess the feasibility and viability of individual facility projects, when identified.

Dunedin faces several challenges that impact the current and future provision of facilities. These challenges need to be clearly defined and addressed to ensure a flexible and fit-for-purpose network of sports facilities that meet future needs.

The scope of the Plan is in the not-for-profit sport and active recreation sphere but excludes aquatic sports facilities, which is subject to a separate Plan. The research and consultation underpinning this plan has been limited to stakeholder groups and those organisations focused on formal sport (sports codes). Engagement included an online community survey in September 2020.

Some sports codes operate casually or 'pay for play'. These are termed recreational, whereas most of the sport and recreation facilities in Dunedin are predominantly used for organised sport.

### 3.1 Why we need a plan

Dunedin City Council (Council) doesn't currently have a Plan for our sports facilities. This means our work tends to be reactive or based on short-term thinking and planning. However, the sporting landscape is evolving, Dunedin's needs are changing, and we need to adapt and plan for the long term.

**Drivers for the development of this Plan include:**

- The desire to invest wisely in identified priority projects that will make the most long-term beneficial impact
- An ageing network of facilities needing refurbishment, re-purposing, replacement or renewal
- Changing community demographics and values, including population growth, an ageing population and changing ethnicities
- Changes to sport and recreation trends, requiring new types of facilities, or new uses for existing facilities
- Increasing expectations of users and user groups
- The risks in focusing on and responding to wants, rather than the priority needs within the city
- Responding to climate change.

The purpose of the Sports Facility Plan is to guide the future development of sports and active recreation facilities for the city.

**The Plan is designed to:**

- Provide an inventory of existing facilities
- Analyse the gap between current facilities and future needs
- Identify future investment requirements and models to improve the quality and capacity of sports facilities and associated amenities
- Investigate formal partnership opportunities with potential providers of sports facilities, such as schools, infrastructure providers, iwi and private sports facilities
- A prioritised list of recommendations for the development of facilities.



### 3.2 Why sport is important

Evidence from a wide range of international and national sources support many of New Zealanders' perceptions, confirming that sport adds value to the lives of individuals and communities. Put simply, sport and active recreation creates happier and healthier people with strong social ties. Whether individuals are personally engaged in sport or active recreation or not, most New Zealanders see the value in sport and active recreation.

When people take part in active recreation, there are a multitude of positive spin-offs for both individuals and the wider community. Active recreation should be seen as a type of capital with the ability to generate value.

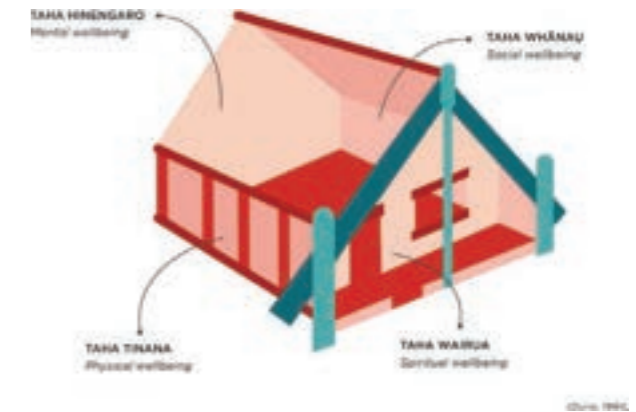
**Social Capital:** Sport and active recreation enables better connected communities through events that foster social contact and exchange of ideas and values. This strengthens a sense of shared identity, trust and inclusiveness

**Human Capital:** Happiness and health are also enabled through sport and active recreation. Participation in physical activity and physical literacy lead to improved mental health, physical health and development of life skills

**Financial Capital:** Participation in sport and active recreation enables regional, national and international events. This has economic benefits for the whole of New Zealand and Dunedin<sup>1</sup>. A 2023 report (Economic Value of Sport and Active Recreation-2023) found that the sport and active recreation sector delivered approximately \$4 billion of direct economic value and approximately \$17 billion in social value

**Hauora – Wellbeing:** Generally, within the te ao Māori, the concept of well-being encompasses the physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual dimensions of health; which is recognised by the World Health Organisation. There are a few ways to view Hauora through a te ao Māori lens. Commonly It comprises taha tinana (physical wellbeing), taha hinekaro (mental and emotional wellbeing), taha whānau (social wellbeing), and taha wairua (spiritual wellbeing).

These four aspects of health are represented in Tā Mason Durie's Te Whare Tapa Whā model.



Tā Mason Durie's Te Whare Tapa Whā model compares hauora to the four walls of a whare, each wall representing a different dimension:

- taha wairua (the spiritual side)
- taha hinekaro (thoughts and feelings)
- taha tinana (the physical side)
- taha whānau (family).

All four dimensions are necessary for strength and symmetry<sup>2</sup>. A whare is used in this model to help demonstrate that all four dimensions are needed for a person to be healthy. If one "wall" is damaged, the whare can't stand; symbolic that if a person has health concerns in one aspect/wall, it can impact the overall health of the other "walls".

Figure 1: Artists depiction of Te Rauone

**Scope**

This Plan focuses on Council's Parks and Recreation Services (PARS) owned sports facilities in the not-for-profit sport and active recreation sphere, but excludes aquatic sports facilities, which is subject to a separate Plan. This Plan does not include a detailed examination of the current supply of facilities owned and operated by other providers.

This Plan provides a blueprint for future sports facilities by understanding gaps in provision alongside other factors, such as sports participation trends and predicted population growth.

<sup>1</sup> sport-nz-outcomes-framework2.pdf (sportnz.org.nz)

<sup>2</sup> Well-being, hauora / Underlying concepts / Health and PE in the NZC (1999) / HPE in the New Zealand curriculum / Teaching in Health and Physical Education (HPE) / Home - Health & PE (tki.org.nz)

## 4.0

# Methodology

The process adopted to produce the Sports Facilities Plan consisted of internal and external research, consultation, and engagement. An important part of the process was to ensure the Sports Facility Plan would be a robust guiding document, and that over time maintains its functionality and relevance to other projects being undertaken.

## 5.0

# Strategic context

This Plan is prepared under the direction of the Councils vision of being 'one of the world's great small cities and the strategic directions set by the Council's eight key strategies and the Te Tiriti o Waitangi the Treaty of Waitangi.

In addition, there are several national level strategies that are of relevance to the Plan:

Document	Vision, goals or objectives	Alignment/relevance to Sports Facilities Plan
<b>Te Tiriti o Waitangi</b>	Dunedin is committed to upholding the key principles of partnership, participation, and protection.	By ensuring mana whenua are key to decision making, from initial planning to the ongoing operation of sport and active recreation facilities.
<b>Te Taki Haruru – Māori Strategic Framework</b>	Recognise the importance of mana whenua, Māori and the Council working cohesively on a shared pathway with a shared direction to achieve and support Kāiāka Ōtepoti , Kāiāka Ora – a thriving home, a thriving village.	By providing public facilities and services that meet the cultural needs, practices and values of Māori.
<b>Dunedin City Council Parks and Recreation Strategy 2017-2027</b>	Dunedin's communities to be more active, more often, spending more time enjoying a connected and valued network of facilities, parks and open spaces.	By setting out various objectives and actions in the delivery of sports and recreation spaces and facilities.
<b>Dunedin City Council Social Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2023</b>	Dunedin is one of the world's great small cities. We are a city with connected people, cohesive communities and quality lifestyles for all.	By providing access to recreation spaces and facilities that encourage physical activity.
<b>Dunedin City Council Play Space Plan 2021</b>	Our play spaces are fully accessible for all ages, abilities and cultures.	By providing a range of recreational opportunities so everyone in our city can be fit, active and have fun.
<b>Te Ao Turoa Environment Strategy 2016-2026</b>	Set the direction for a future safe from climate change impacts. Improve and maintain the health of Dunedin's natural environment Give Dunedin people every opportunity to feel connected to and look after the environment.	By ensuring sport and active recreation facilities support positive environmental outcomes and consider future climate change impacts.
<b>Sport New Zealand Community Sport Strategy</b>	To develop and sustain a world-leading community sport system across New Zealand with three guiding philosophies of being participant focused, system-led and performance driven.	By setting out priority areas to achieve Strategy Outcomes: By developing a love of sport By increasing participation of children between ages 5-18 by 3hrs a week. By increasing connectivity in low participation communities and developing a 3% participation increase in supported projects. By placing greater emphasis on ensuring quality talent pathways exist for participants.
<b>Sport Otago, Otago Regional Profile</b>	Provides a snapshot of trends reflecting the future of play, active recreation and sport across the Otago Region.	By helping inform decisions about what the sport and active recreation priorities may be for the Council.
<b>Dunedin Future Development Strategy 2024-2054</b>	Sets out the future needs for land use in a way that meets growth while protecting our environment, housing needs and economy.	By planning for future new or upgraded major sports facility.

# 6.0

## Community and stakeholder engagement

Broad stakeholder consultation was carried out between May and December 2020.

A total of 65 sports-clubs were identified for interviewing by the Council, which was ultimately reduced to 55 due to some clubs not wishing to participate or clubs having disbanded. The initial method of engagement was via face-to-face interviews at club facilities in and around Dunedin. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on travel and social distancing throughout the months of April and May, alternative methods of engagement using Zoom and an online whiteboard application – ‘Mural’, were utilised.

An email was sent out to sports clubs introducing the project and the project team. A ‘Survey Monkey’ was also attached so that each club could choose a time and date that was suitable for them. A variety of options were offered to interviewees. These options were:

- Zoom, Skype or Teams call with Mural
- Phone call survey with Mural
- Email surveys sent out as a word document.

A total of 45 sports clubs were ultimately interviewed with 10 clubs being unresponsive to calls and emails. Interviews lasted up to an hour with participants being encouraged to take part in the interactive session.

Engagement with the wider Dunedin community took place between 1-30, September 2020. This included an online community survey with hard copies available at Council libraries and at Sport Otago offices. Advertising of the survey included notifications on the Council website on The Edgar Centre’s and Sports Otago’s Facebook pages. Emailed links to the survey were sent to all schools and sports codes and posted on various Facebook groups. ‘Postcards’ advising of the survey were also dropped to 22 locations throughout the city including Portobello, Outram, Waikouaiti, Blueskin Bay and Port Chalmers.

Council’s Treaty of Waitangi Partners, namely Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, were invited to participate in discussions via Aukaha. An outline of the project was presented by Aukaha to both Rūnaka at a hui in late 2020. While no feedback was given, Māori academics at the University of Otago gave feedback that closely aligned with stakeholders in general.

Future revisions of the Sports Facility Plan will incorporate community consultation on service levels and costs of providing the service. This will assist the Council and stakeholders in matching the level of service required, service risks and consequences with the community’s ability and willingness to pay for the service. This information will help in the allocation of resources in the budget.

A total of 17 questions were asked, divided into four sections as follows:

Facilities	
1	What facilities do you currently use?
2	Do you currently own your facility?
3	Do you hold a lease with council?
4	How do you use your facility?
5	Are there any other informal groups that use the facilities other than you?
6	Do you enjoy using these facilities?
7	Are there any issues with your current facilities? e.g. need of upgrade
8	Do you have any plans for future facilities?

Membership	
9	What trends have you seen with your membership? e.g. increasing or decreasing?
10	What barriers are you facing with membership?
11	Do you currently collaborate with any other groups?
12	Are there groups we are missing that should be included?
13	Thinking about future trends do you think Covid-19 will have an impact on your membership or how you currently operate?

Targeted Groups	
14	Are you doing anything to encourage the following groups to join your club? If so, what are you doing? Has it been successful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls/ Women</li> <li>• Boys/ Men</li> </ul>
15	Are you doing anything to encourage the following indigenous and ethnic groups to join your club? If so, what are you doing? Has it been successful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Māori</li> <li>• Pacifica</li> <li>• Asian</li> <li>• Other?</li> </ul>
16	Are you doing anything to encourage the following age groups to join your club? If so, what are you doing? Has it been successful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 65</li> <li>• Under 18</li> </ul>

Anything to Add?	
17	Do you have any questions for us or anything to add?

Additional stakeholders invited to participate included:

- Sports organisations, such as Sport Otago, Parafed and Special Olympics
- Academia and advisory panels
- Maori and Pasifika communities
- Low participation/Low Income communities
- The Youth Council
- Access for All Forum.

It is expected that additional projects recommended as part of this Plan, and future revisions of this Plan will include further community consultation on service levels and costs of providing the service. This will assist the Council and stakeholders in matching the level of service required, service risks and consequences with the community’s ability and willingness to pay for the service.





## 7.0

# Consultation summary

Comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement was carried out in the development of this Plan. The findings of engagement help to illustrate the areas where improvements in service are required and are set out below.

Key findings include:

- There is a need for more indoor space in the city. Participation rates for indoor netball, futsal and basketball are all above national trends in Dunedin, yet Dunedin has fewer facilities than comparable cities
- There is a need to understand the shifting participation landscape and ensure the right groups are prioritised
- The Edgar Centre is a key facility struggling with capacity issues
- Better access to current sports facilities is needed – including public transport
- People want to feel like they belong and be active with their whānau
- Better information is needed about what to do, where to go.

A common theme in stakeholder feedback was the trend away from organised sport and a move to casual or shortened games. Respondents noted they wanted more opportunities for casual sports where they can just turn up and play without the need to book in advance.

While people want to be more active, they struggled to find the time. Families have increasing time constraints and are finding it difficult to balance household, recreational and work needs. Facilities that can accommodate multi-generation activities, such as installing basketball hoops near playgrounds or supporting sports codes to develop programmes that support all ages to participate may be beneficial.

With respect to the provision of indoor sporting facilities, some stakeholders have identified a preference for single larger venues with multiple courts to accommodate their needs rather than a similar level of provision spread across several smaller venues. These stakeholders noted that a single larger venue mitigates logistical challenges and ensures efficiencies of scale from both an administrative and coaching/officiating perspective, as well as limiting any impacts on parents/caregiver who may otherwise need to transport children to multiple dispersed venues.

The age and condition of both the Edgar Centre and the Dunedin Ice Stadium were noted as constraints for the growth of sports using these facilities - neither of these buildings were built for their current use. The Edgar Centre is a converted wool storage facility while The Dunedin Ice Stadium was originally built as an indoor netball/basketball facility. A common theme identified in stakeholder engagement was that while the quality of courts or playing surfaces of the indoor facilities was seen as good, inadequate heating and condensation were issues for both athletes and spectators. Along with court capacity, this was seen as detrimental to attracting national and international events. Changing rooms were also identified as needing improvements as were ongoing structural issues with some buildings. Uncertainty regarding sea level rise further complicates decision making on investing in facilities that may have a limited life span.

# 8.0

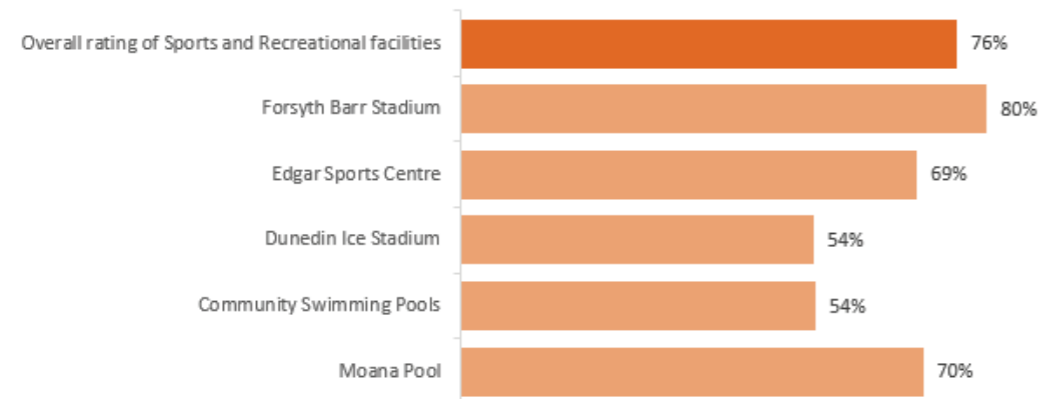
## Residents' Opinion Surveys

The Council has been conducting Resident Opinion Surveys (ROS) since 1994. These surveys are independently developed by Gravitas OPG. They provide a snapshot of how the public perceive Councils' management and provision of services and facilities. The output of these surveys enables the Council to assess the extent to which it has met its performance objectives.

A comparison of resident's opinions is shown below:

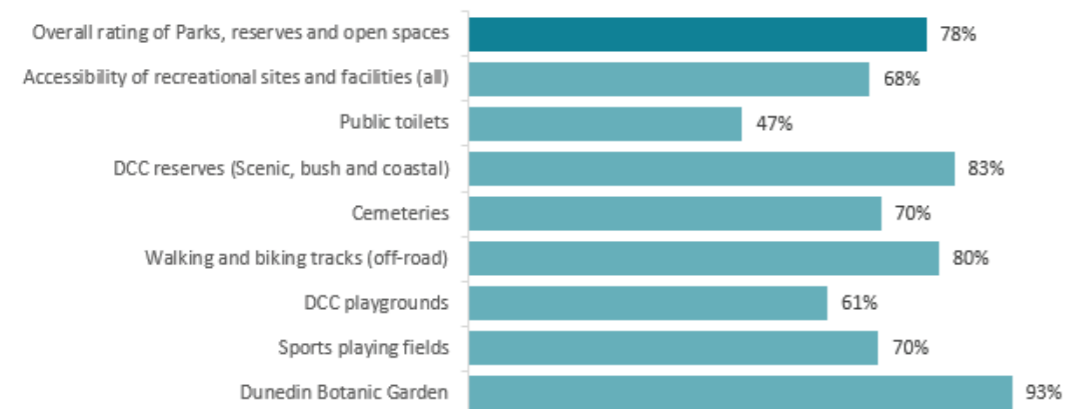
### Sports and Recreation Facilities

Satisfaction Ratings - March 23 (Year to date)



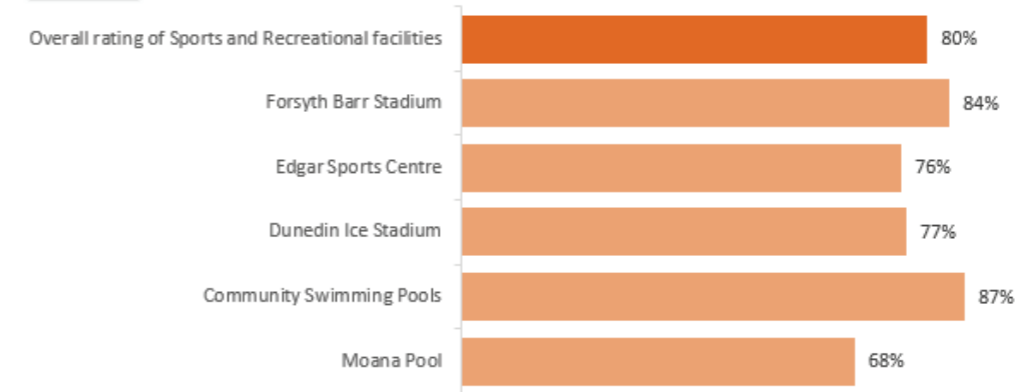
### Parks, Reserves & Open Spaces

Satisfaction Ratings - March 23 (Year to date)



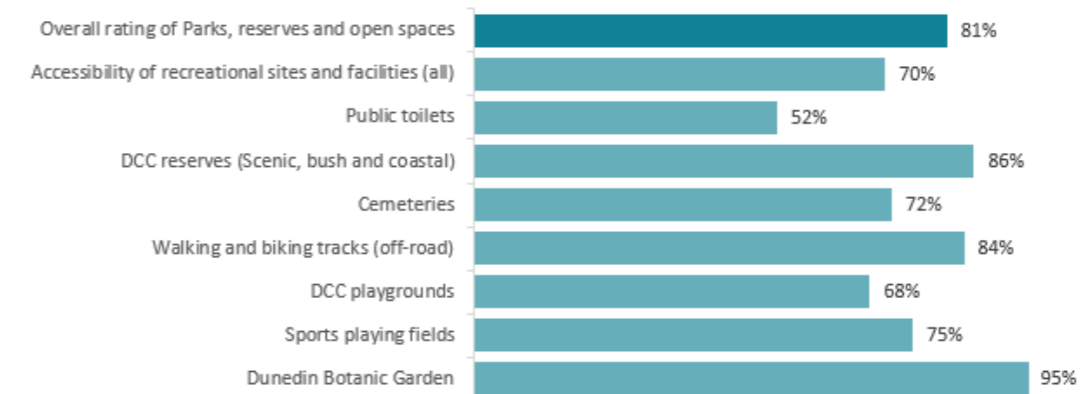
### Sports and Recreation Facilities

Satisfaction Ratings - March 25 (Rolling 3 months) - USERS ONLY



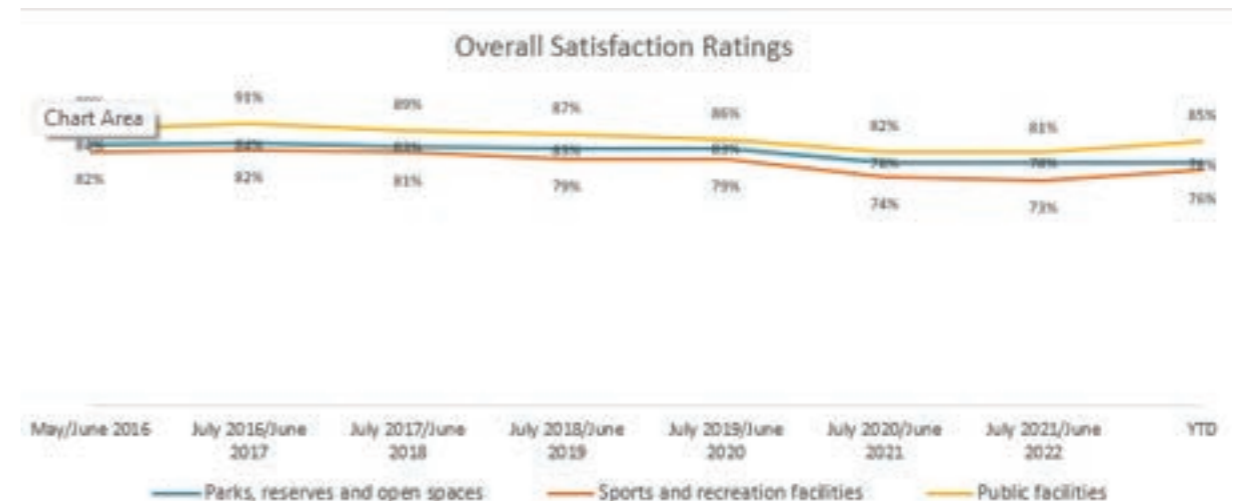
### Parks, Reserves & Open Spaces

Satisfaction Ratings - March 25 (Rolling 3 months) - USERS ONLY



These results (over 2 years) show a 4% increase in satisfaction with the Council's sport and recreation facilities. Of note is the 7% increased level of satisfaction with The Edgar Centre between 2023 and 2025, and a 23% increased level of satisfaction with the Dunedin Ice Stadium.

The above findings are consistent with historic trends and show a slight level of increasing resident satisfaction with both Sport and Recreation Facilities and Parks, Reserves and Open Spaces.



# 9.0 Demographics

Dunedin's population is estimated as 136,000 in 2024 and is projected to grow to 149,500 in 2054.

In 2024, 33% of Dunedin's population was aged 24 and under, compared to 31% of NZ's population.

A 42% increase in Dunedin's 65 years and over population is projected by 2054. This age group accounts for 15.3% of Dunedin's population, this is slightly higher than national figures, however this demographic is forecast to grow significantly. This will be the second highest age group in Dunedin, after those 25 and under.

By age group, Dunedin had a high percentage of residents between 20-24 (11.2%).

A 4% increase in the 25 – 64 age group is projected by 2054.

Dunedin's population is becoming more diverse, and by 2043 the proportions of Dunedin's population that identify as Māori, Asian or Pacific people are projected to increase by 4%, 6% and 1% respectively.

# 10.0 Participation

The 2021 Active NZ Survey: Otago Insights results showed that Otago regions participation rates are relatively high with 74% of adults (18 years and older) and 92% of young people (5-17 years) engaging in regular active recreation. Most of the participation is within non-competitive activities (walking, gardening, yoga etc.).

Active NZ 2023 participation data, Regional Differences 2023, shows that Otago adults and young people still spent more time participating in active recreation (sport and recreation) than all other regions in New Zealand, other than Tasman. The results of the survey showed that Otago adults spent an average of 5 hours per week participating in sports while young people spent an average of 10.7 hours in participation.

Otago secondary school participation rates remain high and are well above national rates at 62% vs 47%, as reported in 2022 by Sport NZ.

Participation rates have generally not fully recovered post Covid-19 in New Zealand. A recent study by Sport NZ (Participation, Funding and Economic Trends Shaping The Sector-2024) found that organised sport in particular has been significantly affected with falling subscriptions. This coincides with rises in the cost of living as households need to prioritise their spending and look for more affordable options to remain active. One noticeable trend is that the participation rates in formal sport for the Rangatahi (18-24yrs) age group are declining. Organisations need to think how they can adapt to ensure the opportunities they provide meet the needs of their prospective participants.

## 10.1 Estimated most participated sports in Dunedin schools 2024

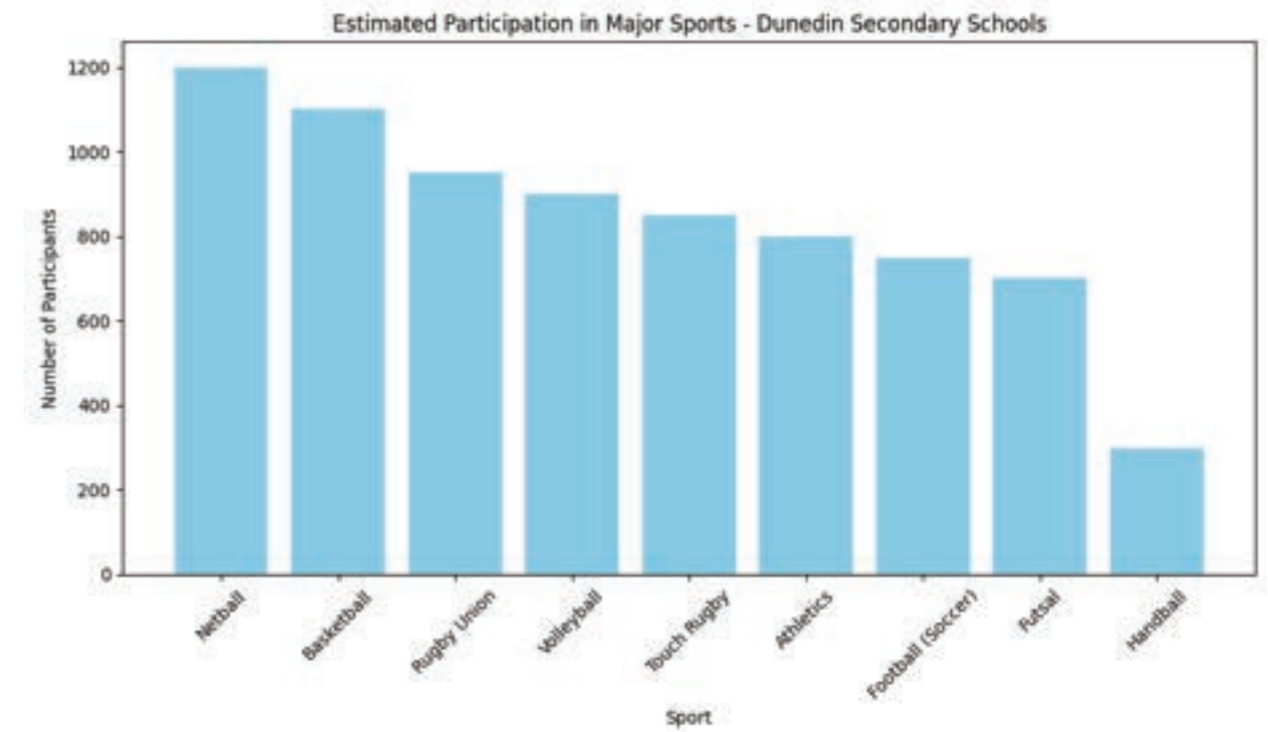


Table 1: Secondary School Participation: Sport NZ Insights 2023 and National Census Data

While adult participation rates are declining nationally, Otago still maintains high levels of participation compared to other centres, with only Auckland and North Harbour having slightly higher rates.

Some sports not identified in the Sports NZ data have been reporting growth, or report that growth would be achievable if other factors were addressed. For example, making improvements to the condition of facilities and providing more court capacity. These sports include futsal, basketball, netball, and volleyball. Gymnastics in Dunedin is a sport which is reporting strong growth, with the Dunedin Gymnastics Academy being the 5th largest gym club, by membership, in New Zealand and the 2nd largest in the South Island.

## 10.2 Secondary school changing participation- trends:

The chart below shows the changes in the number of secondary school students involved in the top ten sports in Otago over the last three years. The chart shows strong growth of futsal, volleyball and basketball.

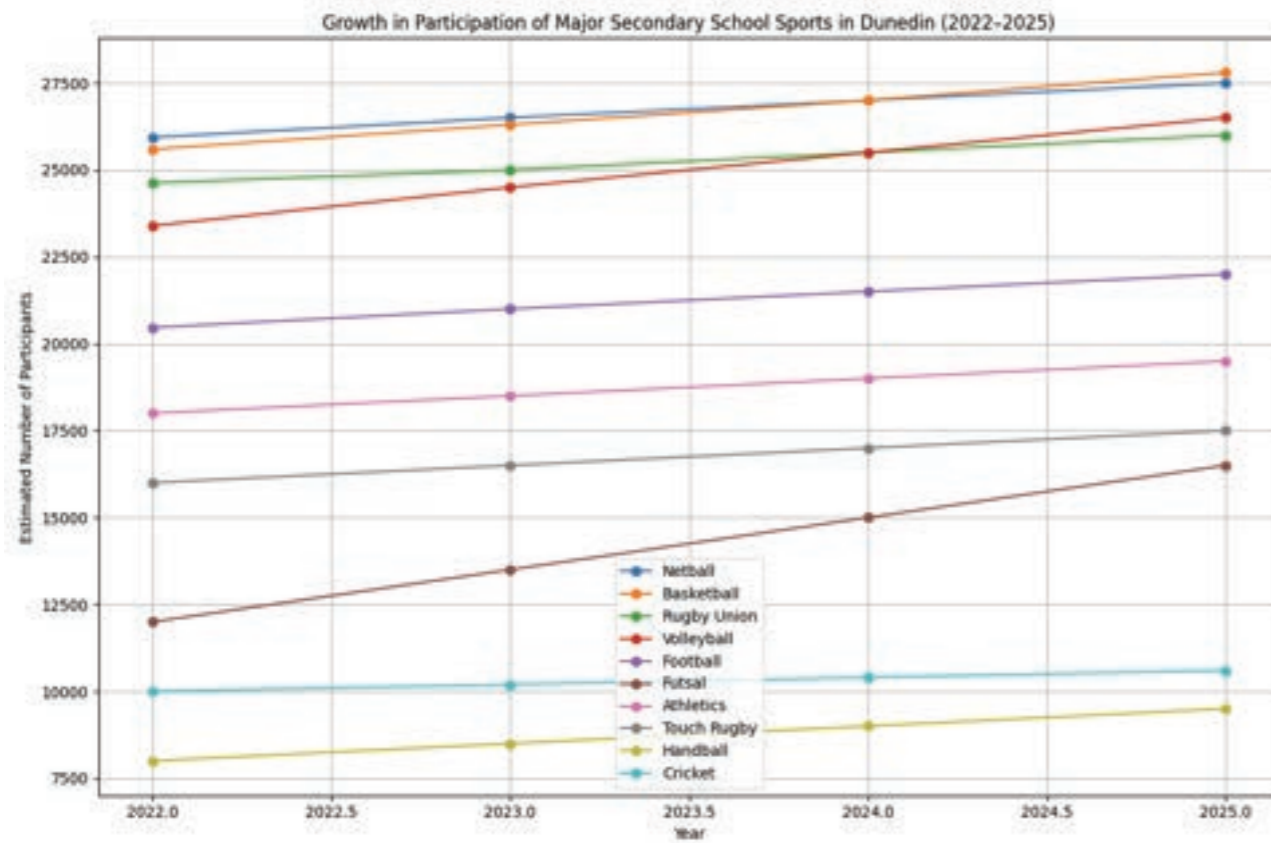


Table 2: Sport Otago: School sport NZ national census 2022 Otago regional insight and School Sports NZ Representation Census 2024

## 10.3 Participation and gender

The following graphic shows that participation rates for Dunedin secondary school students is strongly weighted towards rugby union for males and netball for females. Despite this, there is also strong growth, for both males and females, in basketball, volleyball and futsal.

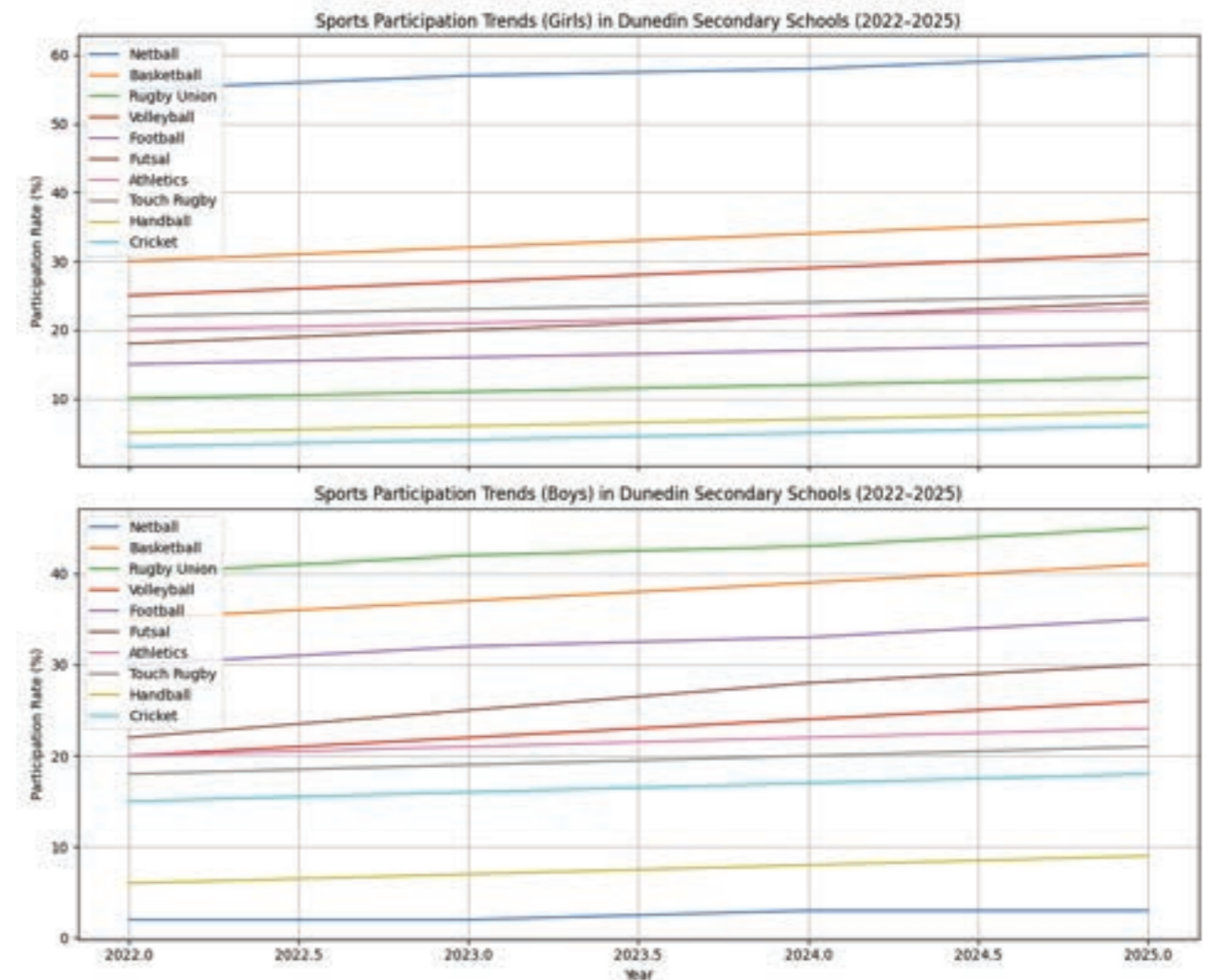


Table 3: School Sports NZ Census Reports 2022-2025.

**Sport NZ, Active NZ: National Participation Trends 2017-2023 Survey: key findings showed:**

- In 2021 there was a 17% gender gap in participation at age 16, this increased to 28% in 2023. The study promoted a case for change with statistics showing disparities between males and females in several areas
- Between the ages of 14-17, there is a notable drop off in participation. This decline is particularly sharp for females, who until the age of 14, participated at a rate higher than their male counterparts. This decline was constant over the whole of the country
- On average females spent 12% less time (between 2017-2023) participating in any given week, compared to their male counterparts. This is despite both young and adult females wanting to participate more
- Other than disparities in participation rates, females were found to be underrepresented in decision making roles including management, coaching and governance. In the fields of high-performance coaching and coaching development, leadership and management, woman feature about half as much as men do however, woman account for over 75% of admin and support service roles
- Media reporting is not always fair and equal. Females and their achievements are less visible, and they are often subjected to stereotyping. The New Zealand Olympic Committee 2015/16 reported that female athletes were 20% more likely to be spoken for by their coach and received about half the coverage of men at the Rio Olympics.
- When surveyed girls (14-17) reported reasons for reduced participation as; fear of being judged, lack of confidence, fear of failure, confidence and body image issues, hormonal changes and time constraints
- Generally, females (18+) surveyed were more interested in the social aspects of active recreation and less motivated by the competitive nature of sports.

Sport New Zealand Active New Zealand Survey, 2015 showed that the decline in female participation is temporary, there is a shift from organised sports to more individualised activities such as walking, running, gym classes, yoga and dance. Nationally, young adult women's (18yr +) participation in active recreation, stabilises to around 60-70% of engagement in weekly activity. This rate was recorded as slightly higher (75%) for Dunedin.

Sport NZ has initiated several programmes to encourage young adolescent females to stay engaged with physical activity. Typically, these programmes focus on socialising, support and friendship.

- **Active As:** A partnership between Sport NZ and 8 regional agencies with a focus on empowering rangatahi through inclusive non-competitive activities
- **Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa:** A Sport NZ initiative that provides funding for community-based programmes
- **Coaching for Impact:** A free coaching programme by Sport NZ aimed at improving young sport experience
- **He Oranga Poutama:** Promotes Māori wellbeing through play, active recreation and sport.

## 10.4 Inclusion of LGBTQIA2S+ people in community sport

Sport NZ has developed 'Sport NZ Guiding principles for the Inclusion of Transgender People in Community Sport'. These are designed to help sporting and other bodies consider and plan for how they can become more inclusive and supportive of transgender people.

In 2018, the University of Waikato completed the first comprehensive national survey on the health and wellbeing (including sport and recreation) of transgender and non-binary people in Aotearoa New Zealand. 1,178 self-identified transgender and non-binary people took part in the survey.

Key findings found that barriers to participation included:

- Fear of discrimination or harassment
- Gendered environments (e.g., changing rooms, uniforms, team divisions)
- Lack of inclusive policies in clubs and schools
- Trans and non-binary people often felt unsafe or unwelcome in traditional sport settings.

These results show that fear of discrimination and concerns about eligibility limit the opportunities of transgender people to have equal access to sports. This is concerning because exclusion from sports negatively affects both mental and physical health.

The wider LGBTQIA2S+ community feel marginalised and do not have equal access to the physical and mental health benefits offered through participation in sports and recreation. Education is needed to reduce barriers such as harassment, discrimination and bullying. Sports codes need to show leadership in the development of policies promoting inclusion. The LGBTQIA2S+ community includes a broad range of physical types, and this adds to the complexity of reducing barriers and providing suitable programs, policies and guidance.



# 11.0

## Current major indoor facilities

Significant facilities include the Edgar Centre, Sunnyvale Sports Centre, and the Dunedin Ice Stadium, along with the Caledonian Memorial Gymnasium and the Mosgiel Memorial Park Gymnasium. Smaller buildings with lease arrangements with the Council (such as club rooms) and large facilities not owned by the Council, for instance Unipol, have not been included in this report. This report focuses on larger council owned facilities that service a range of uses and user groups and are critical to supporting regional and sub regional events. This is not to say smaller venues and venues owned by other entities could not play a part in meeting future needs.

The Edgar Centre is a single level building with a large mezzanine area catering for administration and functions. It provides approximately 16,800m<sup>2</sup> of court space across two indoor areas and provides for indoor sports from local to national events. The facility is owned by Council and governed by the Dunedin Indoor Sports Venues Trust Board (DISVT) and provides for several sports including tennis, netball, basketball, volleyball, futsal, roller derby and handball. The Edgar Centre also caters for other events such as trade shows, exhibitions, and other large scale non-sporting events. Given the increasing pressure on the venue from sports groups alone, there is some tension between commercial events and sports scheduling.

The Edgar Centre has a total of 9 wooden courts and 12 synthetic turf courts. These can be set up to provide a maximum of:

- 12 tennis courts
- 9 basketball courts
- 21 netball courts
- 12 volleyball courts (4 in Arena + 8 in the sports hall)
- 16 football/futsal courts (like netball they can play futsal on all 21 courts if needed).

**The Caledonian Gymnasium** (war memorial) is a multi-purpose recreational facility with a floor area of approximately 806m<sup>2</sup>. The ground floor consists of a large entrance foyer with toilet and changing room facilities on either side. This space is currently set up as an informal boxing and weight training facility. The first floor contains a single basketball court (not full size), office space, self-catering kitchen facilities, storage area and medical treatment facilities along with tiered seating for approximately 320 spectators. Court markings provide for basketball as well as a range of other court games on a sprung wooden floor.

In 2012 a proposal by Council's Parks and Recreation Services to refurbish and redesign the ground floor facilities of the building and upgrade the main gymnasium space on the first floor was set out in a plan prepared by McAuliffe Stevens Registered Architects<sup>3</sup>. A Sport Otago 2012 report also identified that refurbishment of the Caledonian Gymnasium would be beneficial. The report identified an opportunity to add an additional 875m<sup>2</sup> of floor area over the existing car park for rhythmic gymnastics purposes<sup>4</sup>.

**Sunnyvale Sports Centre** is a multi-recreational facility with of floor area of approximately 1600m<sup>2</sup>. The facility is located on reserve land but owned and managed by Green Island Combined Sports Bodies Inc.

The facility has a ground floor that has changing facilities and storage overlooking the playing fields. Squash courts and additional floor area behind this area. The upper level is dominated by a commercial café and office space. Sunnyvale is the home ground to the Green Island Football club and Green Island Cricket club and provides spaces for squash, badminton and bookable training/classes.

**Memorial Park Gymnasium** (Mosgiel) is a multi-purpose recreational facility located in within Mosgiel Memorial Park and on the edge of the Mosgiel Memorial Gardens. The building has a floor area of 957m<sup>2</sup> with space for one basketball court (not full size) and three badminton courts on a sprung wooden floor. The building has a kitchen, meeting room, storage, toilets and changing rooms on a mezzanine floor overlooking the courts. Tiered seating for over 100 spectators is located at the western edge of the courts.

**The Dunedin Ice Stadium** houses both an ice hockey rink and a curling rink. The stadium has seating for up to 1,850 with a large mezzanine area for functions and administration. The building is owned by DCC Property with Ice Sports Dunedin as a tenant. While the facility makes a positive contribution to sport and active recreation, PARS has no active role in managing the Dunedin Ice Stadium.

The Dunedin Ice Stadium houses both the international-sized 'Corinne Gilkison' ice hockey rink and the 'Caversham Trust' curling rink. The stadium has seating for up to 1,850 people. The facility is used for ice hockey, curling, figure skating and public ice skating, and is the home venue of the Dunedin Thunder ice hockey team.



<sup>3</sup> Five Year Plan for Caledonian Gymnasium – 17 June 2020

<sup>4</sup> Sport Otago Report to the Dunedin City Council on the Caledonian War Memorial Gymnasium – Possible Increased Utilisation Options and Opportunities. March 2012.



## 11.1 Capacity and constraints of indoor facilities

Sport NZs, National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy, 2023, provides a tool for evaluating the need for additional indoor courts in Aotearoa. The strategy specifies courts to meet a calculated demand of 1 indoor court per 7,800 residents. This is the minimum level of provision per 7,800 population and is based on a 1 FTE indoor active recreation and sport court. The 1 FTE recommended minimum size for new build single court or converted community court for active recreation and community sport is 34.5m x 18.25m x 7.5m (court area and run off only). A standard basketball court is 28m x 15m and a standard netball court is 30.5m x 15.25m.

There are several school halls and gymnasiums which, in principle, could meet the shortfall in indoor court provision. However, including school courts has both pros and cons. Sports groups using school courts have an opportunity to connect with children and grow their junior teams and minority sports that may not be able to pay for court space elsewhere. Non-school groups have less influence on when they can use the hall and are more likely to be moved if the hall is needed for something else. Another barrier is that school facilities are often not available at times of peak demand (3pm-6pm) meaning they may not add much to the overall network. School courts also require a staff member to be present while the court is in use. This places a significant burden on school staff who may need to be available to supervise visiting teams.

Year	Dunedin projected population	National benchmark	Courts/meet national standards (9x wooden surfaces and 12x turf surfaces)	Surplus/deficit of DCC indoor courts
2020	126,255	16	21	+5
2030	140,035	18	21	+3
2040	142,723	18	21	+3

Table 4: Deficit/Surplus of indoor court provision - Dunedin City Council vs. National Benchmark

Despite the above table, access to indoor court space remains an issue. Some sports reported difficulty securing regular court space. Specific sports identifying this as a major issue included netball, basketball, gymnastics, and futsal, but it is likely a wider issue across all sports relying on indoor space, whether for games or training activities. Interviewees noted that scheduling competitions and programs was difficult because of the high demand from multiple sports groups to have guaranteed court time over a season and within regular time slots. Meanwhile, growing participation increases pressure on facilities and there are new school teams wanting access to court space. This has led to a waiting list for new participants wanting to enter existing programs.

It was noted that it is difficult for Dunedin to attract national sporting events. A common reason cited was the lack of guaranteed indoor court space, particularly rain effected courts at The Edgar Centre. Not only does this reduce visitor opportunities for the wider city it also disadvantages Dunedin teams competing in national events as they need to travel more often and at greater expense than their competitors.

The assessment tool does not allow for variations in participation across regions. Dunedin has a more diverse range of sports compared to smaller regions. For example, futsal has a small number of participants in Waitaki whereas in Dunedin there are approximately 6,000 futsal participants, resulting in a more significant impact on available facilities.

Feedback from Basketball Otago suggested that if all 21 courts at the Edgar Centre were available, every one of those 21 courts would be used continuously with secondary school basketball

games from 4.00pm through to 9.30pm. At present only 9 of the 21 courts are specifically set up for basketball (wooden floors, markings, scoreboards, and hoops) with the remaining surfaces being synthetic carpet. It should be noted that this shortfall in provision excludes school courts and other providers of indoor court space in Dunedin and relies purely on facilities at the Edgar Centre. The courts at the Caledonian and Mosgiel Memorial Gyms are not full-sized courts and are not included.

Of note is that 8 of the 13 sports that are recording growth are traditionally played on wooden courts.

The assessment has not confirmed the availability of indoor courts with the relevant schools (and any other private providers of indoor facilities), and nor has it considered potential opportunities to reconfigure facilities at the Edgar Centre. This could involve increasing the number of sprung wooden floors from the current 9 or moving some sports to alternative venues such as tennis to a possible covered outdoor court at Logan Park. It also does not factor in potential options to increase floor space at existing facilities identified in earlier development proposals<sup>5</sup>.

Clearly there are issues applying the Sport New Zealand Benchmark without undertaking a more detailed and considered review of courts and sport specific needs of Dunedin. Indoor court demand continues to increase. For instance, basketball has seen in Dunedin with team participation grow from 435 in 2016 to 564 in 2022.

A more detailed assessment is essential to identify need for additional future indoor facilities. This should also consider what a network of indoor sports facilities would look like and could include looking at indoor courts other than those owned by Council.

<sup>5</sup> National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy 2023



As noted earlier, gymnastics in Dunedin reports strong growth, with the Dunedin Gymnastics Academy (DGA) being the 5th largest gym club in New Zealand. The nature of this sport is such that sharing indoor space with traditional court-based sports is not ideal due to heavy and bulky specialist equipment, which is time consuming to set up and pack down. That said, there could be opportunities for any future facility to be designed to accommodate additional groups and activity types.

Gymnastics New Zealand's Gymsports National Facility Strategy<sup>6</sup> has developed a hierarchal framework for the provision of gym-sport facilities. The framework seeks to optimise use of available capital and operational resources while also ensuring participants have an opportunity to progress through the more specialist facilities as they become more skilled and advanced in the sport. This strategy identifies criteria for regional hub facilities which includes urban areas with a population above 50,000, multiple gym-sports codes within a facility are supported, the facility is dedicated for gym-sports purposes, with all apparatus and equipment set-up permanently, and long-term security in the tenure provided.

The DGA have worked with the Council's Parks and Recreation team to look at options where such a facility could be located on Council reserve land and are currently investigating the purchase of a building in the city.

<sup>6</sup> Sport New Zealand; Gym Sports National Facility Strategy 2017

## 11.2 Existing sports fields

Dunedin City Council has 53 open spaces categorised as sport and recreation parks comprising approximately 500 hectares. Approximately 45% of this space is located within the greater South Dunedin area. These areas can be configured into several layouts catering to a variety of sports. This includes 2 artificial football pitches, 3 artificial hockey pitches (including Kings High School) 42 natural turfs, 7 sand carpet and one specialist fine turf (Oval cricket), all providing for around 250 weekly games in the winter. In the summer, these playing fields provide for 39 grass or artificial cricket fields, 7 softball diamonds, 10 T-ball diamonds, and 31 touch sevens fields.

In terms of distribution of sports fields, the following is noted:

- Roslyn has the largest total area (in hectares) and largest average park size of Sports and Recreation Parks when compared to the other community profiles. This is because it includes areas of the Town Belt that are available for organised sports

- North Dunedin has the largest total number of sites for sport and recreation
- West Otago has the smallest total area (in hectares), the smallest number of sites and the smallest average park area when compared to the other community profiles. This reflects the rural area, the lower population, and lower demand for this space type
- Otago Peninsula has the largest number of hectares per 1,000 residents, primarily due to it being predominantly a rural area and having a lower population base. Mosgiel has the smallest number of hectares per 1,000 residents reflecting the substantial growth and number of subdivisions.

Mapping the sports fields shows that around 54% of households are more than 400-meters (standard walkable distance) from sport and recreation parks. However, walkable distances are not considered to be an entirely relevant metric considering how fields are distributed across Dunedin. The majority of users are likely to drive to access them.



Figure 1: Sport and Recreation Parks in Dunedin and Mosgiel

### 11.3 Sports fields issues

The key issue identified by stakeholder feedback was the condition of outdoor sports fields and facilities. While there is an oversupply of grass pitches in the City (compared to other cities in New Zealand), the quality of many of these pitches and associated facilities needs to be improved to make these surfaces more efficient. Poor drainage, poor grass cover, limited lighting, and uneven surfaces are sited as problematic. These issues reduce the usable hours of playing surfaces and place added burden on our premier facilities.

Many of the changing rooms around the city are showing signs of wear and need improvement and upgrades. Accommodating increasing numbers of female participation, disabled athletes and members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community needs special consideration.

Stakeholder feedback also identified that more shelter for players and spectators would make many facilities more appealing for spectators and family.

Increasing the service level of selected sport fields in the city will increase the frequency of use of these facilities and, assuming a regular programme of improvements is continued, will result in an improvement in the condition of more fields over time. A strategic and considered approach in determining which fields are most suitable for improvements, using the 'Facility & Space Planning Principles', and the 'Facility Project Evaluation & Decision-Making Criteria', discussed in the Implementation Plan, attached to this Plan, will be necessary.

While there is an oversupply of outdoor sports fields, the quality of playing surfaces and the lack of lighting are key restraints. These conditions mean that while capacity seems to be catered for, the efficiency of some of these spaces is reduced.

Logan Park functions as the city's premiere outdoor facility. Current users of Logan Park are very satisfied with the condition of the facility, but note that there are issues with its capacity, particularly the artificial pitches and

changing rooms due to the park's popularity. Consequently, the facilities at Logan Park tend to be overused and it is difficult to secure space for training or playing.

Anecdotal evidence suggested that additional artificial pitches, other than at Logan Park, would ease the burden on Logan Park. This would also increase capacity for training and decrease overuse of grass fields. Further detailed analysis on the whole of life cost/benefits of additional artificial pitches versus improving and maintaining existing and future natural grass turf facilities is recommended.

Sport NZ produced the following whole of life cost model guide in 2023:

Item	Soil-based	Sand-based	Artificial
<b>Capital cost</b>	\$49,000 - \$120,000	\$210,000 - \$250,000	\$1.2m - \$2.0m
<b>Maintenance cost</b>	\$5,000 - \$10,000	\$10,000 - \$25,000	\$10,000 - \$42,000
<b>Renewal cost</b>	No renewal	\$125,000	\$500,000
<b>Renewal (years)</b>	No renewal	10 years	10 years
<b>Fee per hour</b>	\$0.00 - \$50.00	\$0.00 - \$50.00	\$50.00 - \$125.00
<b>Hours of play</b>	4 to 14	4 to 24	20 to 70

Table 5: Outdoor surfaces cost and maintenance guide.

While the guide highlights the costs of establishing artificial surfaces, it also realises the significant advantages artificial surfaces bring regarding playable hours and the potential of costs to be offset by rental revenue. Further study focusing on the efficiencies of artificial surfaces and the potential to reduce the need for some soil and sand-based fields would be beneficial, particularly in the context of playing fields that may need to be abandoned because of climate change and sea level rise.



## 12.0

### South Dunedin sports facilities

In addition to the Edgar Centre and the Dunedin Ice Hockey Stadium, South Dunedin offers a range of sports facilities. These include two artificial turf surfaces at King's High School; six playing fields at Kettle Park used for both senior and junior rugby and football; six softball diamonds and four additional fields at Hancock Park, also catering to rugby and football; four soccer fields, one junior soccer field, and two cricket pitches at Tonga Park; and three football fields at Tahuna Park.

As demand and usage evolve, consolidating these facilities and playing fields may become necessary. Ensuring the continued delivery of these services will require a coordinated and strategic planning approach.

## 13.0

### Recent sports ground improvements

Since initial feedback on sports fields, several significant improvements have been made to meet the requirements of the 2023 FIFA World Cup as well as general upgrades:

- Caledonian Football Field – new lighting; irrigation and drainage improvements
- Logan Park 1 – playing surface improvements
- Logan Park 6 – lighting, and playing surface improvements
- Mosgiel Memorial Park – new lighting, playing surface improvements
- Tahuna Park – new lighting, playing surface improvements
- Bayfield Park – renew lighting
- Bishops 4 and 5 – rebuild sand carpet
- Bishops – sprinkler system renewal
- Caledonian Park – seating (completed)
- Logan Park (Harbour Terrace) – new lighting
- Montecillo – level playing fields
- North Ground – rebuild sand carpet
- Ocean Grove – level playing fields
- Seddon Park – new lighting and re-leveling
- Sports equipment renewals.



## 14.0 Climate change

According to the joint ORC-DCC report *The South Dunedin Risk Assessment-2025*, over the next 50 years, climate change is expected to significantly impact South Dunedin's sports fields and facilities due to rising sea levels, increased rainfall, and elevated groundwater. As the area is built on a low-lying former wetland, it is particularly vulnerable to surface flooding and coastal inundation. Current assessments show that nearly half of South Dunedin's buildings are already at risk of flooding, with projections indicating this could rise to 70% by 2100.

While a final preferred option for mitigation of the effects of climate change has not been decided, it is likely that sports fields, which require stable, dry ground and good drainage, may become increasingly unusable or require costly upgrades to remain functional. Adaptation strategies being considered include investigating parts of the suburb being redeveloped as wetlands or green spaces that can absorb water, which could mean relocating or redesigning existing sports facilities.

These changes present both challenges and opportunities—while some facilities may be lost or moved, others could be integrated into new, resilient community spaces designed to cope with future climate conditions.

# 15.0

## The Yardstick tool

The New Zealand Recreation Association carry out annual benchmarking of provision along with other metrics for open spaces, including sports fields through their 'Yardstick' tool. Yardstick does not provide metrics for indoor sports facilities.

The Yardstick tools collect and compare both management and user information and produce an annual report on a wide range of information to identify asset provision, costs, service delivery, strategic planning, and asset management best practice. Yardstick do not provide a universally accepted ratio for provision because each Council is different. Councils can, however, compare their provision against the peer group median and historical trends. The peer group for Dunedin included metro Councils such as Wellington City as well as smaller district councils like Waitomo and Gore Districts.

The Yardstick metrics that are relevant to this Provision Assessment are:

- Provision of sports park per 1,000 residents
- Provision of grass sports surfaces per 1,000 residents
- Provision of non-grass sports surfaces per 1,000 residents.

The Yardstick and Sport New Zealand benchmarking tools determine levels of provision at a broad level and more detailed analysis is required to confirm specific provision of facilities.

Provision assessments measure the quantity of sports facilities using data from site audits combined with provision metrics, and geospatial mapping.

Provision metrics guide the amount, type and distribution of sports facilities expected in new greenfield development areas and large brownfield sites. They also provide a framework for analysing provision of existing sports facilities.

### 15.1 Provision of sports parks per 1,000 residents

As of March 2023, Dunedin provided 2.6 hectares of sports parks per 1,000 residents. The Yardstick median in this category for both Dunedin's peer group and New Zealand across all Territorial Authorities is 1.6ha per 1,000 residents.

### 15.2 Provision of grass sports surfaces per 1,000 residents

As of March 2023, Dunedin provided 1.17 hectares of grass sports fields per 1,000 residents. The Yardstick median in this category for both Dunedin's peer group and New Zealand across all Territorial Authorities is 0.88 hectares per 1,000 residents.

### 15.2 Provision of non-grass sports surfaces per 10,000 residents

As of March 2023, Dunedin provided 0.10 hectares of non-grass sports surfaces (outdoor courts) per 10,000 residents. The Yardstick median in this category for both Dunedin's peer group and New Zealand across all Territorial Authorities is 0.37 hectares per 10,000 residents.

This may not represent a true measure of non-grass sports fields in Dunedin however, as the Yardstick data excludes artificial surfaces leased out to other sporting groups, clubs, and organisations, such as hockey and tennis. When all non-grass sports surfaces owned by the Council or on Council land leased to clubs for sports purposes is accounted for, the provision of non-grass sports surfaces in Dunedin increases to slightly more than the Yardstick median for both Dunedin's peer group and New Zealand across all Territorial Authorities at approximately 0.41 hectares per 10,000 residents.

## 15.4 Provision of indoor sports facilities

The total number of indoor marked courts currently available to the listed codes in Dunedin are set out in the table below. The table includes privately owned, school spaces and DCC facilities.

Note these figures do not represent total court numbers but the ability to coordinate access for the various codes.

Sport	Number of indoor courts
Basketball	9
Netball	21
Volleyball	9
Roller derby	1
Handball	1
Indoor soccer (futsal)	21
Tennis	14
Table tennis	Use 6 facilities, including 28 tables at the Edgar Centre (total tables across all facilities is unknown)
Ice rink (hockey, figure skating, free skate, etc.) Dunedin Ice Stadium	2 rinks (1 large, 1 small)
Gymnastics	5 facilities, including the Caledonian Gym and several privately owned buildings
Community halls (marching, martial arts, etc.)	16

Table 6: Dunedin indoor court availability

There are other possible low-cost options to increase court capacity such as reconfiguring existing facilities to meet demand. For example, the Edgar Centre could allocate space for additional wooden courts, installing covers and lights over existing outdoor courts and increasing capacity through redevelopment and improvements to underutilised facilities.



Example of covered tennis courts

# 16.0

## Sports hubs

A trend in sports facility provision is to co-locate and integrate key facilities and sports codes in sports hubs. The benefit of sports hubs is increased economies of scale, shared spaces and services. This can often include provision of administrative space, either co-located with playing fields/courts, or as stand-alone facilities.

In general, stakeholders showed strong support for the concept of sport hub/s particularly along with upgrades of existing facilities as extensions (spokes) of the hub.

Whichever approach is settled on, increasing the level of service of sport fields in other areas of the city is likely to alleviate pressure on Logan Park. As noted above, a strategic and considered approach in determining how to proceed on this, using the Sport NZ 'Facility and Space Planning Principles', and the Sport NZ 'Facility Project Evaluation and Decision-Making Criteria' will be necessary.

An approach used nationally is to consider facility needs that follow a 'hub and spoke' model for sport at the different levels of participation from community club through to international. Generally, the higher up the facility or space hierarchy the more specialised the sport/activity specific provision required. For example, an International and National facility, such as Dunedin's Forsyth Barr Stadium, will usually be more exclusive in its use and less multi-use than a local facility servicing a range of different activities. It is important to recognise that levels within the hierarchy are not exclusive and a single facility or space can meet the needs of different levels, for example a regional facility or space will also likely meet district and local needs.

### Local

A facility or space with the ability to serve the basic sporting and active recreation needs of a particular catchment within a local territorial authority. The catchment will predominantly be drawn from within an individual town or cluster of suburbs within a local authority

### Sub-regional/city

A facility or space with the ability to draw significant numbers of teams/ competitors from neighbouring territorial authorities for either competition or training purposes.

### South Island/regional

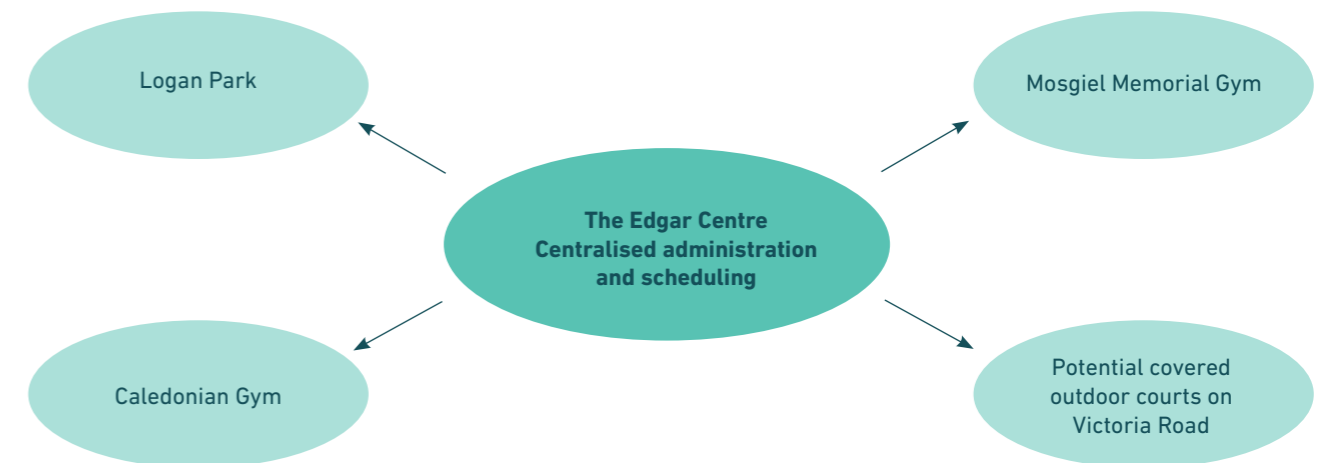
A facility or space with the ability to host South Island and inter-regional competitions and/ or serves as a regional high performance training hub for one or more sports codes.

### National/international

A facility or space with the ability to host international competitions/ events and regional representative competitions (including professional and semi-professional franchise competitions involving teams from outside New Zealand) and/or to serve as a national high performance training hub for one or more sports codes.

An indoor 'hub and spoke' approach for Dunedin could have the Edgar Centre as the 'Hub' with other new or improved facilities acting as 'Spokes'. These spokes can assist with supporting the main centre and help to spread out sport participation across Dunedin instead of putting traffic and court space pressure on one centre. An example of how this facility could operate in Dunedin is shown in the figure below.

## Hub and spoke example



The Edgar Centre provides Dunedin a key service as a major indoor sports facility and is the only place in Dunedin where a true indoor sports hub has been established. This has resulted in high use of the facility with limited ability to take on increased participation from growing sports such as basketball. Ways to alleviate this have been identified including, moving some sports and activities to other facilities<sup>7</sup>. Limitations are further set by competition for prime-time slots. Sports have noted that only having available court time during the day, when sport is not played, or after 9:30pm at night is not suitable for junior divisions.

Indoor 'spokes' could include the Caledonian and Mosgiel Memorial Gyms (sub-regional) although the Caledonian is currently turning away sports groups and Mosgiel Memorial Gym is currently close to capacity on weekdays, particularly over the winter months.

Many areas of Dunedin are not serviced by indoor court hubs, but by a school hall or community centre. These may service some activities, but many sports need more than one or two school courts to run an effective club or league. Larger venues with multiple courts are preferred by most sports bodies as these types of facilities help to overcome several logistical challenges and provide efficiencies of scale regarding administration, coaching and officiating. Larger venues also help to limit impacts on parents and caregivers who may otherwise need to transport children to multiple venues.

The shortage of indoor court space, combined with participation trends, and the immediate need for additional indoor space places pressure on the council. While adding additional facilities is central to improving resilience, there is a lack of detail about how many indoor courts are needed, for what purpose (games or practice facilities), and where the most suitable location for new facilities would be. Further work is required to fully understand how, when and where additional indoor court space should be provided and what a hub model, capable of supporting the great Dunedin area, would look like.

Further investigation will need to include close cooperation with stakeholders to better understand their needs and requirements. This work could look at opportunities for both indoor and outdoor facilities (or a mix) and would consider such matters as the value of co-locating of sports clubs with similar needs, where there are existing relationships and where there are opportunities to foster new relationships.

Examples of this include the relationships many of the City's netball clubs have with rugby clubs and where covered facilities could be provided to allow for netball practice and junior netball games, and where rugby practice could also occur in adverse weather.

<sup>7</sup> Such as tennis to covered outdoor courts at Logan Park and installing additional sprung wooden floors at the Edgar Centre, and moving some sports and training activities to outdoor covered facilities



## 17.0

# Funding and investment

Sport and recreation infrastructure requires maintenance, upgrades, and renewal. Attaining funding for these facilities, which is both expensive and often seen as 'nice to haves,' can be difficult. Limited funding is one of the key constraints for meaningful change for communities and the provision of sports facilities.

Some City Councils have been successful in gaining outside funding for large sporting projects. For instance, Hamilton City Council partially funded their new sporting hub, The Peak, at Rototuna with the Ministry of Education and sporting trusts as partners. New Plymouth and Gisborne District Council gained funding from the 'shovel ready' programme introduced by Central Government.




Having business cases and plans ready for potential funding opportunities may support Dunedin in delivering more value to the sporting community with less overall funding available.

While the long-term health and cost benefits of sport and recreation are well documented, this is an area that still tends to be under prioritised when budgets are being contested.

Sport NZ recently produced a report investigating the economic value of sport and active recreation across Aotearoa, Sport NZ: Social Return on Investment (SROI) For Recreational Physical Activity in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2019. The report considered the economic profile of sport in the broadest sense. It included retail spending through to employment. The key findings are as follows:

## Social Return on Investment (SROI)

For recreational physical activity in Aotearoa New Zealand 2019

 <b>SROI OUTCOMES</b> <b>\$16.81bn</b>		Estimated value in key domains for measuring the impact of sport and physical activity participation in Aotearoa New Zealand based on empirical evidence.	
<b>HEALTH</b> Better quality of life and increased life expectancy Prevention of diseases attributable to physical inactivity	<b>\$9.02bn</b> \$8.34bn \$680m	<b>SUBJECTIVE WELLBEING</b> Increased wellbeing (life satisfaction) adult participants Increased wellbeing (happiness) young people (5-17) Increased wellbeing (life satisfaction) adult volunteers	<b>\$3.32bn</b> \$3.18bn \$56m \$79m
<b>INCOME, CONSUMPTION AND WEALTH</b> Higher output from reduced absenteeism	<b>\$889m</b>	<b>WORK, CARE AND VOLUNTEERING</b> Replacement value of volunteering	<b>\$3.09bn</b>
<b>FAMILY AND FRIENDS</b> Enhanced social capital created by participation	<b>\$1.13bn</b>	<b>SAFETY</b> Increase in the number of accidents and injuries related to sport and recreation	<b>-\$620m</b>
 <b>SROI INPUTS</b> <b>\$7.95bn</b>		The net cost of stakeholders' contribution to provide opportunities for engagement in sport and physical activity.	
<b>HOUSEHOLDS</b> <b>CENTRAL GOVERNMENT</b> <b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>\$2.95bn</b> <b>\$623m</b> <b>\$1.01bn</b>	<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b> <b>VOLUNTARY SECTOR</b>	<b>\$280m</b> <b>\$3.09bn</b>
 <b>SROI RATIO</b> <b>2.12</b>		For every \$1 invested in recreational physical activity, \$2.12 worth of social impacts are generated.	

Sport NZ: Social Return on Investment (SROI) For Recreational Physical Activity in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2019

## 18.0

# Booking and allocation issues

There are examples of codes that historically use the same fields but don't use the booking system and simply turn up. This often leads to conflict with other users who have booked the space and are then pressured to make alternative arrangements. This behaviour is perhaps because there are few consequences for not booking, or because the booking system was not easy to use and administrators avoided it. Groups not booking facilities has an impact on the data that DCC can collect on the use of its sports fields. This can lead to inadvertent overuse and a lack of understanding of community sport needs. Council recently implemented a new online booking system which appears to have resolved some of these problems and will continue to monitor these issues as they arise.

A common theme expressed by clubs was dissatisfaction with how field bookings are allocated. There was a feeling that some of the larger codes are often prioritised over the smaller codes which creates a barrier to growth for codes that are already marginalised. More detailed information on participation rates and trends may allow council to better allocate bookings at the beginning of each season rather than assume the more traditional sports needed a greater allocation of facilities. Any changes to allocation would need to be well supported to ensure all codes were fairly and adequately catered for.

Other codes commented that opening of toilets and changing rooms during competitions was "hit and miss" and has on occasion led to many competitors turning up with no available toilets and nowhere to change. Clubs also commented that they have been penalised when lights have been left on after the allotted time leaving some clubs with an additional charge for the light usage.

Of note is that since this feedback has been received, the DCC has established a new online booking system with positive feedback from sports groups and field users.

## 19.0

# Burden on volunteers

Many of the clubs in Dunedin are entirely volunteer run. Where clubs have a small number of members and volunteers, it is difficult to grow their sport. There are clubs interviewed by the Council that noted they would love to do extra programming for different age groups or different genders but felt they did not have the time to organise this outside of other commitments.

Low membership numbers also contribute to difficulty with finances, including gaining funding. Research carried out in the development of this Plan shows that many volunteers were not only providing their own time administering the club for free, but many of them were spending their own money on ensuring the club stayed open. In most cases, Dunedin clubs and regional associations were not run by a professional but a volunteer. This reality makes running Sport New Zealand or national body programming difficult. Raising funding for facilities was not something the volunteers had time to do.

## 20.0

# Facility and space planning principles

When considering future needs, we must learn from the past and ensure that new facilities are developed in a robust and planned way. The following set of planning principles are based on Sport NZ's National Sport Facilities Framework and are designed to improve future decision making when investing.

**Welcoming and accessible facilities:** Making sure that everyone feels welcomed, safe and able to participate. Experience shows that we still tend to associate 'accessibility' with building facilities that cater for people with physical disabilities. Accessibility needs to consider the young, the old, people from different cultures, people with different values, all genders, and many other groups such as shift workers. Given our goal of ensuring all New Zealanders have access to sport and active recreation, the best outcomes are achieved when we develop facilities in parallel with programmes that consider the diversity within our communities. Facilities must also be geographically accessible with both passive and active transport modes. Cost and subscriptions need to be carefully considered to ensure financial feasibility while not being a barrier to participation. Investigating additional concessions may be an appropriate step to reduce barriers to participation.

**Sustainability and future proofing:** Our facilities need to be environmentally sustainable to maximise community benefits. Consideration of the environmental impacts of new facilities and the operation of existing facilities needs to be a critical consideration. Using environmental best practice should be central to developing facilities that actively offset and improve outcomes- such as design for passive heating/cooling, design to reduce the impacts of outputs such as water and flow paths and design to ensure the ecological health of the surrounding environment. Facility improvements and refurbishments that balance the needs of major and emerging sports, and across rural and urban areas is also a major consideration.

Many sports facilities are underutilised for large periods. Facilities should be designed to enable integration of uses, both from within the sport sector, complementary sectors and the wider community.

Sports trends and the City's demographics are changing. What we need from a facility today is not necessarily what we will need in the future. Given the lifespan of our sports facilities is at least fifty years, they must be as adaptable and functional as possible.

**Meeting an identified need:** A clear evidence base should be developed that outlines the need for any change to the network of facilities. This need should be aligned with relevant strategies and plans (e.g. National Sporting Facility Strategy).

**Partnering and collaboration:** Historically sport and active recreation facilities have tended to be planned and built without sufficient early identification, engagement, collaboration and co-ordination between potential partners (particularly neighbouring Local Territorial Authorities). Better outcomes are achieved when well-co-ordinated, collaborative partnerships are developed with those beyond the traditional sport and active recreation sector, such as education, health, Iwi, and the private sector. Adopting a network approach across a district or region and placing importance on relationship building is essential. This increases the likelihood that the facilities will be used to their full potential, maximising the return on investment in terms of participation and funding.

Often, the best outcomes are achieved by sharing. Experience shows that an effective way of achieving these outcomes is to create new integrated multi-use facilities, or to co-locate with other sport and active recreation, community, and education groups and facilities. Working together with partners, both within and outside Dunedin City, to develop and operate sports facilities will become increasingly important to optimise our network and maintain its sustainability.

**Facilities that deliver wider benefits:** Any facility development should plan to optimise the wider social, cultural and economic benefits. This recognises that sport plays a significant role in the wider community. While the social and cultural benefits of sport are accepted, they are difficult to quantify. The economic benefits of sport and recreation are well documented and building and maintaining capacity to attract and retain major and significant sports events supports this goal.

# 21.0

## Facility project evaluation and decision-making criteria

To implement the Dunedin City Council's Sports Facilities, Plan and ensure that any proposal or priorities are identified and determined in a robust, transparent and fair manner, a series of facility planning criteria have been adopted from Sport NZs Coastal Otago Spaces and Places Strategy, 2023. These criteria recognise that:

- There are generally not enough funds for everything, Council can't afford to keep building individual sport or active recreation facilities or spaces for each community
- In general, Council can't afford to maintain the facilities that we have, let alone build more to meet growing and changing needs
- Council needs to work smarter and prioritise any future investment
- When using these criteria, care is needed to ensure that individual local needs (a smaller community facility) or a large facility that is used almost to capacity by one code are not overlooked.

Given that the Sports Facilities Plan is a higher-level document it is important to recognise that any proposed facility development will need to be tested in more detail. The criteria outlined below should be considered at all levels of evaluation.

The evaluation criteria have been developed to ensure alignment with the key principles described in the Sports Facilities Plan. Two levels of criteria are proposed; firstly, gateway criteria that need to be achieved, before a more detailed assessment would take place using the rest of the identified criteria.

### Gateway criteria:

- The degree to which any existing or proposed facility matches the projected needs of the community within its core catchment area. In the case of facilities with wide utilisation (such as sub-regional indoor facilities), this involves considering all potential users from general recreational to organised sports codes
- The degree of alignment a facility or proposed facility has with national and regional facility strategies

### Level 2:

- The degree to which the existing or proposed facility is operationally sustainable (taking a whole of life approach which looks at operational and maintenance costs throughout a facility's life)
- The potential for operational and/or capital partnerships between multiple stakeholders
- The return on investment (capital and operational) that the facility or proposed facility can generate (measured in terms of community benefit)
- The ability of the facility or proposed facility to reflect international and national best practice in its location, design and operation
- The ability of any development to enhance Dunedin as a centre of sporting excellence
- Alignment with wider strategic documents and plans such as those concerned with urban design and planning, infrastructure development, events strategies and transport networks
- The degree to which demand exceeds supply (once all existing facilities are being run at an optimal operational level) how the facility or proposed facility can meet the identified gap
- The ability of the facility or proposed facility to progress the competitive sporting objectives of Dunedin City.
- The needs identified can only be met through additional provision
- The degree to which a facility or proposed facility compliments/optimises the existing or proposed facility network and builds on the Dunedin City's strengths
- The degree to which the duplication of facilities (from an international to a local level) is avoided.

# 22.0 Implementation Plan

## 22.1 Short Term Implementation Plan: 2026–2027

### Actions immediate and ongoing:

- Undertake a study to assess the feasibility of covered courts to meet projected need
- Work with Sport Otago, Dunedin schools, Dunedin sports organisations and other stakeholders to identify opportunities for the co-location and shared use of sports facilities
- Carry out an audit of existing sports facilities accessibility status to identify physical, cultural and gender barriers
- Develop guidance and/or policy to ensure that growing commercial use of public facilities and grounds does not restrict community use, grass roots development and recreation sports
- Work with the relevant sporting codes and other stakeholders to undertake an audit of existing changing facilities to ensure that they are suitable for use (gender appropriate, fit for purpose and accessible).

## 22.2 Long Term Implementation Plan: 2027–2044

- Produce a feasibility study and a high level concept plan to determine the facility requirements and a timeline for the development of a hub and spoke model for Ōtepoti
- Prepare a program of facility development for inclusion in subsequent LTPs to implement the hub and spoke model for Ōtepoti over the next 30 years.

# 23.0 Tracking progress

We know it's important to do what we say we're going to do. Throughout implementation of the Sports Facilities Plan, we will continue to monitor our progress and keep our community updated on how we're going.

**For advice or information**

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