

1. Introduction

Parks and reserves are highly valued by the communities in New Plymouth district and have an important role. They contribute to the quality of life of local residents and enhance the visitor experience. The Sports Parks Management Plan has been developed to identify appropriate uses and activities at sports parks within the New Plymouth district and assist with day to day management and decision making. It sets out objectives and policies for the use, development and protection of each park.

For the purposes of the New Plymouth District Sports Parks Management Plan, the definition of a sports park is:

‘A park or reserve owned by New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) that is primarily designed, used, maintained and/or managed to an appropriate standard for winter and/or summer sports codes; and consist of sports (turf) fields and/or courts.’

These facilities are booked out for the use of these sports codes. Many parks have resident club facilities. Some sports parks also include other recreation facilities such as playgrounds.

This document is an omnibus plan that applies to all community sports parks in which New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) is vested as the administering body or has appointment to control and manage under the Reserves Act (1977). It sets out objectives and policies in order to provide guidance to the Council about how these reserves will be managed and developed. Development concepts, which provide a vision for the future of each park or reserve, are also presented in this plan.

All previous management plans for sports parks contained within this plan have been revoked and replaced with this plan.

This plan should be read in conjunction with the NPDC General Policies for Reserves (2006). Where any matter is addressed by this document and the general policies, then the provisions in this document must take precedence. **Figure 1** demonstrates how this document fits in the Council's overall strategic framework.

Key points regarding the way the plan deals with activities and the development of reserve are-

- Where an activity or development is contemplated in this plan, this cannot be taken as a guarantee that it will occur. Decision making on particular activities and future development will take into consideration any requirements under the Reserves Act, Resource Management Act 1991 and Local Government Act 2002 as well as funding availability as determined through the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). Public consultation may also be required, depending on the nature of the activity and the implications for other reserve users, reserve neighbours and the public at large.
- Where an activity is noted as prohibited on a reserve then any proposals for that activity will not be approved unless a subsequent review and amendment of the plan is undertaken, in part or in whole.

- If the plan is silent on an activity, the activity may still be considered. Decisions on whether or not to approve the activity will be weighed against the objectives and policies for the reserve and the general policies on reserves.

This management plan only addresses reserves owned and/or administered by New Plymouth District Council under the Reserves Act 1977.

1.1 Plan overview

Chapter 2	Provides the context within which this management plan has been developed, including national legislation, and plans and policies within Taranaki Region and New Plymouth District.
Chapter 3	Describes considerations particular to tangata whenua in the district.
Chapter 4	Outlines general policies, which apply to all sports parks and reserves.
Chapter 5	Levels of service relating to the development of historic reserves
Chapter 6	Outlines objectives and policies specific to individual reserves.
Chapter 7	Summarises process for plan implementation, review and amendments.
Glossary	
Appendices	

1.2 Management plan objectives

The following are objectives for the Sports Parks Management Plan:

- Satisfy statutory requirements in the Reserves Act 1977 and subsequent amendments.
- Provide a clear set of policies that allow NPDC to manage its park and reserve resources consistent with the purpose of each reserve, both now and into the future.
- Prepare a comprehensive document that deals with all sports parks in an integrated manner.
- Provide the people of New Plymouth District an opportunity to have a say in the management of their parks and reserves by making submissions to the preparation and development of this plan.

1.3 Planning process

The process being followed for development and adoption of the New Plymouth District Sports Parks Management Plan is consistent with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, and as outlined in the Reserves Act Guide (Department of Conservation 1999).

The intention to prepare the management plans was publicly notified in July 2010 and the public were invited to submit comments and information to guide its development. In total 24 comment forms were received. These were used to aid the development of the draft plan, in particular the policies and aspects of the concept development plans.

A second formal consultation period on the draft plans will take place over a three month period. During this time the draft will be made available to the public at a number of locations and formal submissions will be invited. A hearing process will be undertaken at the closure of the submission period for any submitter who wishes to speak in support of their submission.

Amendments will then be made to the draft plans before it is presented to Council for adoption.

2. The Strategic and Planning Context

2.1 Strategic Context

2.1.1 Long Term Plan

The Long Term Plan (LTP) is the overarching planning and policy document for New Plymouth District. It is updated tri-annually and sets out the Council's priorities over the medium to long term to provide for the wellbeing of the district.

The plan sets out the strategic intent of the Council which is currently "New Plymouth will offer an attractive living environment that compares favourably nationally and internationally."

Sports Parks contribute to the strategic intent by providing access to a range of open spaces and facilities for physical activity, sport, and recreation.

Community wellbeing is measured against seven community outcomes which are a key component of the LTP, The community outcomes are-

- vibrant,
- prosperous,
- sustainable,
- secure and healthy,
- skilled,
- together, and
- connected.

The provision of sports parks primarily contributes to the vibrant, secure and healthy, together and connected outcomes, providing spaces for use by the community and supporting the facilitation of sports and recreation opportunities.

The LTP provides a framework for funding and implementation of Council projects and programmes, including policy and planning. Funding for the implementation of this Sports Parks Management Plan will be decided through the LTP process, which will next occur in June 2012.

The following diagram shows the hierarchy of Council planning documents and where this management plan relates to the Long Term Plan.

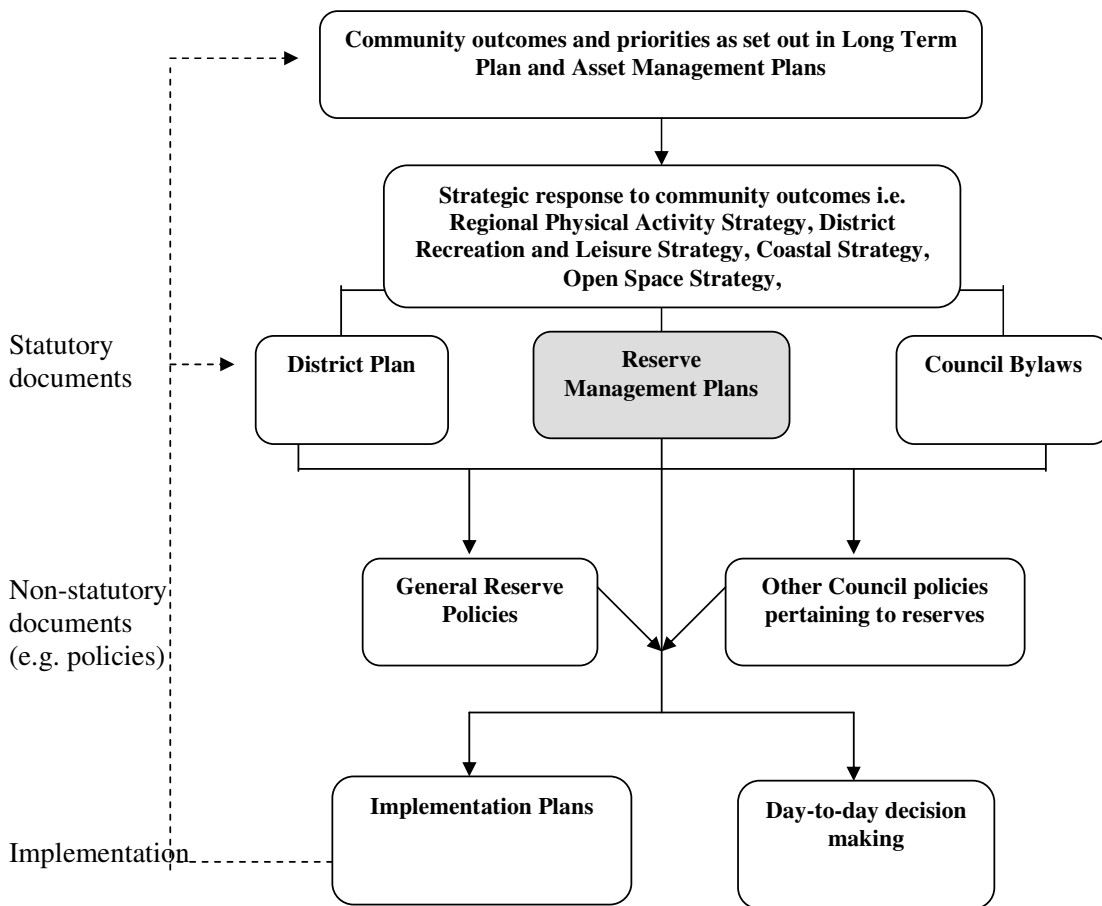


Figure 1: Statutory and non-statutory documents that guide day to day decision making regarding reserves

2.1.2 Council role in Sports and Recreation Provision

The Council plans and maintains 1,440ha of park and reserve land including 24 community sports parks for use by residents and visitors.

In its maintenance of these 24 community sports parks, the Council mows 52 sports fields (based on winter code park layouts). There are also 25 netball and/or tennis courts located within sport parks and large numbers of supporting assets such as seating, car parking, signage and tracks. For these assets, the Council, as part of its asset management practice, assesses their condition and plans for their renewal.

The Council manages 132 community leases, a large number of which are on sports parks. These leases provide for clubrooms or other club owned facilities to occupy these parks. The

provision of these leases assists clubs in the facilitation of their activities and the provision of sports and recreation opportunities.

2.1.3 New Plymouth District Sports Parks Network

There are two types of sports parks within the New Plymouth District –

- First Class Sports Parks – Yarrow Stadium and Pukekura Park Cricket Ground
- Community Sports Parks – those parks included in this management plan (along with the Pukekura Racecourse*)

First Class Sports Parks are those that are primarily used by representative, district and/or provincial grade games. The level of service and facilities provided at these parks is higher than community parks,

Community Parks are those included in this management plan. These parks have a lower level of service compared with the first class sport park venues and are traditionally the home ground of a community sports club and venue for community sport competitions.

*The sports fields at the Pukekura Racecourse are not included in this management plan as they are managed under a local statute – the New Plymouth Recreation and Racecourse Reserve Act 1999 and as such are covered under the New Plymouth Recreation and Racecourse Reserve Management Plan 1993.

2.1.4 Sport and Recreation Trends

As part of preparing the Sports Parks Management Plan sport and recreation trends were considered, national and regional trends are summarised below.

The 2007/08 SPARC Active Communities Survey showed that 76% of Taranaki adults participated in at least one sport or recreation activity per week, this is similar to the national result of 79% (up from 68% in the 1997-2001 Active Community Survey). The survey found that in Taranaki, 38% were members of clubs or centres in order to take part in sport and recreation activities. Between the 1997-2001 survey and the 2007/08 survey, the national percentage of adults who were members of clubs only dropped 1% from 36% to 35%.

The 2007/08 survey showed the 10 most popular activities in Taranaki to be –

- Walking
- Gardening
- Swimming
- Cycling
- Equipment based exercise
- Fishing
- Dance
- Jogging/running

- Tennis
- Tramping.

Direct comparable activity results from the 1997-2001 survey are not available. Given the percentage of club members has remained static and there is an overall increase in active people, a conclusion can be made that formal sport participation is staying constant and the increase in popularity of informal recreation may be a result of previously inactive people becoming active, and/or people becoming more active and choosing to participate in several activities.

A sports market survey commissioned by SPARC in 2011 shows that nationally nearly half of the population has been walking in the last year. The survey also found that individual pursuits continue to be more popular than team based sports.

The 2011 survey found on a national level annual participation rates for sports that require other players, and those that are traditionally played on sports parks in our district, as follows

- Football – 9%
- Cricket – 7%
- Netball – 5%
- Touch rugby – 5%
- Rugby – 3%
- League – 2%
- Softball - less than 1%

Athletics, while not a team sport, was found to have a national participation rate of 4%. The 2011 SPARC survey considered large geographical regions within which Taranaki was considered as part of the ‘Central North Island’.

Within this region participation in team sports is similar to the national levels with

- Football – 9%
- Cricket – 6%
- Netball – 6%
- Touch rugby – 3%
- Rugby - not available
- League – not available
- Softball - not available
- Athletics – 3%

To understand current use and potential future demand trends of sports fields in the New Plymouth District, A District Wide Sports Field Demand Study was completed as part of the preparation of the Sports Parks Management Plan, This study included surveying clubs from various codes who use sports parks. Across the codes, clubs predicted either static membership or some growth in the next 10 years. The Sports Field Demand Study shows that the number of facilities at sports fields and courts within the district meet current demand needs and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The results of the study are included in this management plan as Appendix Two.

Facilities trends

Overall the facilities needs for codes utilising the districts community sports parks remain largely unchanged over the last 10 years.

One trend of note in Taranaki, is that hockey now play entirely on artificial surfaces. There are two artificial hockey turf in Taranaki, one in New Plymouth (on NP Boys High School land) and one in Stratford.

Some minor changes to field size have been implemented across the sports codes. For example in 2009 the size of fields junior and youth football grades was changed. The district's sport parks have been able to accommodate these changes.

An emerging trend in larger cities is the increasing development and use of artificial turf surfaces. Where local authorities are finding the demand for fields is higher than capacity, traditional turf is being replaced with artificial. Artificial turf has the advantage of sustaining far greater use than a soil or sand-based field and can also be played on in most weather conditions.

It is possible that in the future all or specific grades of winter codes may play competition games on artificial fields as the standard within the district, However no indication of this move has been indicated at the current time.

2.2 Legislative and policy context

2.2.1 Reserves Act 1977

2.2.1.1 Administration of public reserves

Public reserves are administered under the Reserves Act 1977. The general purpose of the Reserves Act (Section 3) is to:

- provide for the preservation and management of areas with recreational, wildlife, indigenous flora or fauna, environmental, landscape amenity, natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, biological, geological, scientific, educational, or community value for the benefit and enjoyment of the public,
- ensure, as far as possible, the survival of all indigenous species of flora and fauna,
- provide for the preservation of representative samples of all natural ecosystems and landscape, and
- ensure, as far as possible, the preservation of access for the public to and along water margins.

2.2.1.2 Types of Sports Parks administered by New Plymouth District Council

Lands which are subject to the Reserves Act 1997 are administered for the purposes for which they are held until they are formally classified. Classification is a requirement of the Reserves Act under which reserves are categorised according to their values and uses, in order that they are managed under the most appropriate provisions of the Act. The reserves contained in this plan are classified as recreation or local purpose reserves.

Recreation Reserves

Section 17(1) of the Act states the purpose of recreation reserves are for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.

Section 17 of the Act provides for: -

- Freedom of entry and access to the reserves, subject to other provisions of the Act.
- Management and protection of scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological, or other scientific or indigenous flora or fauna or wildlife to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose.
- Conservation of qualities of the reserve which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the reserve.
- Maintenance of the reserve's value as a soil, water and forest conservation area to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve.

2.2.1.3 Management planning for reserves

Section 41 of the Reserves Act requires an administering body (in this case NPDC) to prepare management plans for all reserves (except local purpose reserves, although they can be included) under its control, management or administration. The purpose of a management plan is to create policies for the management of reserves so that decisions regarding their use and development do not compromise the long term use of the reserve or conflict unduly with other uses. Management plans are required to be under constant review.

A management plan must "provide for and ensure":

- The use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation as the case may require of the reserve for the purpose for which it is classified;
- The reserve's development (as appropriate) to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, for the purpose for which it is classified;
- That the principles set out in section 17 to 23 of the Act that apply to the reserve, are incorporated in the plan;
- Compliance with those principles.

Once a management plan has been approved the Council may exercise certain statutory powers that are conditional upon a management plan being in existence (e.g. the granting of leases, licences and easements over reserve land). These are outlined in the Act itself and in the schedule to the Act entitled *Instrument of Delegation for Territorial Authorities* adopted in March 2004 (see Appendix A).

2.2.1.4 Powers of administering bodies

The powers of administering bodies with regard to reserve management are set out in the Reserves Act. In December 1999 the Minister of Conservation delegated many of the Minister's powers under the Reserves Act to territorial authorities (i.e. district councils). This instrument of delegation was updated in March 2004 by a subsequent Minister of Conservation. It covers 21 sections of the Act and is included in Appendix A.

2.2.1.5 Leases, licences and other agreements

The Reserves Act gives the Council the power to grant licences, leases and other agreements for recreation reserve land as provided by sections 48, 48A, 53, 54, 71, 72, 73, and 74.

Where leases or licences of recreation reserves vested in the Council are proposed under Section 54 of the Reserves Act, the Council is not required to publicly notify proposals if they conform with and are contemplated by an approved management plan (or it has been publicly notified under a successful resource consent process under the Resource Management Act 1991) (Section 54 (2A)).

Where a particular activity is provided for or contemplated in an approved management plan for the reserve or the activity is an existing use and the effects of the use will be the same or similar in character, intensity and scale, the Council has the delegated authority to consent or refuse to consent to:

- The granting of rights of way and other easements (Section 48).
- The granting of a licence for communications stations (Section 48A).
- The granting of leases and licences for specific purposes (Section 54 – Section 54(1A) provides statutory authority also).
- Where it is in the public interest, the erection of buildings for public recreation purposes not directly associated with outdoor recreation (Section 54).
- The granting of a lease where the reserve is not for the time being required or is not likely to be used for the purpose for which it is classified (Section 73).
- The granting of temporary licences to occupy for the purposes of grazing, gardening or similar purposes (Section 74).

2.2.2 Other relevant legislation

Local Government Act 2002

The Local Government Act 2002 provides the general framework and powers under which New Zealand's local authorities operate. In brief, the legislation sets out-

- The purpose of local government and the role and powers of local authorities.
- The structure of local government and the mechanisms for altering the structure.
- Principles for the governance and management of local authorities and community boards.
- A governance and accountability framework for local authorities' involvement in arms-length organisations - council-controlled organisations and council organisations.
- An enhanced framework for consultation, planning, decision-making, financial management, and reporting.
- A range of obligations, restrictions and powers, including requiring local authorities to assess their communities' needs for water, and wastewater and sanitary services, and placing an obligation on local authorities to provide water services to ensure continued public ownership of water services.
- The powers of the Minister of Local Government in relation to local authorities.

Funding levels for new development and maintenance of existing parks and reserves is set through a Local Government Act 2002 document called the Long Term Plan (LTP).

Resource Management Act 1991

The purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), as set out in Section 5, is “to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources”. The RMA provides the statutory basis for the New Plymouth District Plan. It is the Council’s role, through the District Plan, to manage and provide for the many recreational activities that occur within the district in a way which will not result in adverse effects on the environment.

Conservation Act 1987

The Conservation Act 1987 created the existence of the Department of Conservation (DOC) and promotes the conservation of New Zealand’s natural and historic resources. The Reserves Act is listed in the First Schedule as being one of the acts administered by DOC.

Section 6 of the Conservation Act, provides that DOC’s functions include:

- Preserving all indigenous freshwater fisheries, and protecting recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats;
- Advocating for and promoting the benefits of conservation of natural and historic resources generally and the natural and historic resources of New Zealand in particular;
- Preparing, providing, disseminating, promoting, and publicising educational and promotional material relating to conservation; and
- To foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation or tourism where use is not inconsistent with their conservation.

Section 4 of the Conservation Act requires that the Act should be interpreted and administered to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

2.3 Role of other councils / organisations

Taranaki Regional Council

The Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) also has responsibilities that may affect the management of reserves. Regional councils’ responsibilities include

- Developing regional policies on managing natural and physical resources
- Promoting sustainable land management and soil conservation
- Managing freshwater, land, air and coastal resources by developing regional policy statements, regional plans and issuing of consents
- Managing rivers and undertaking river control and flood protection
- Contributing to regional emergency management and civil defence preparedness
- Undertaking regional land transport planning, providing passenger transport services and undertaking harbour management
- Undertaking pest management, and
- Carrying out resource investigation, monitoring and environmental enhancement

2.4 New Plymouth District Council plans and policies

2.4.1 District Plan

The District Plan is a statutory document, carrying legal weight under the Resource Management Act 1991. The plan recognises that open spaces, such as reserves, are valued by the community and require recognition and protection. Open space is defined in the plan as

Parks

Sports Parks Management Plan

New Plymouth District Council

2012

“an area of open land, with or without associated buildings, which fulfils a community desire for aesthetic and/or recreational pursuits”. The District Plan zones such areas, which may occur on public or private land, as Open Space Environment Areas (OSEAs). OSEAs, rules and standards are in place to control activities that have the potential to adversely affect the character of the areas. These rules primarily relate to buildings, advertising signs and other structures erected within OSEAs.

The District Plan also has provisions to protect specific features that occur within reserves, such as historic sites, waahi tapu and notable trees.

Activities within Council administered reserves have to comply with rules set out in the District Plan, primarily with regard to buildings and structures and other developments on reserve land. However, the plan also recognises that reserve management plans are the most appropriate tool for the management of reserves and the effects arising from multiple uses of reserve land¹.

The District Plan not only considers activities within areas zoned as OSEAs, but also the potential impacts of activities in proximity to OSEAs. Objectives and policies are in place to ensure that “activities within an area should not have adverse effects that diminish the amenity of neighbouring areas, having regard to the character of the receiving environment and cumulative effects”² and that new activities are “sensitive to the elements that define the character of the area in which they intend to locate”³. Rules within the District Plan specify standards to achieve these policies and provide for the application of conditions on resource consents to mitigate adverse effects.

2.4.2 Open Space Strategy (currently under development)

The Open Space Strategy will devise a picture of what the district’s open space network will look like in the next twenty years. The strategy will determine the criteria for retention, acquisition and disposal of open space, a hierarchy of open space and the levels of service that open space requires. It will also review the open space needs of all towns in the district and open space linkages and coastal access in the rural areas. The District Plan, Oakura and Urenui Structure Plans identify future open space opportunities and these will be considered alongside the existing open space network.

2.4.3 Council bylaws and other policies

Day to day operations in parks and reserves are also controlled by the district’s bylaws. Reserve policies should be read in conjunction with the New Plymouth District Council Bylaws 2008, which include the following which specifically relate to parks and reserves:

- Part 2: Animals
- Part 3: Cemeteries and Crematorium
- Part 5: Public Places
- Part 6: Recreational and Cultural Facilities
- Part 7: Signs
- Part 8: Skateboarding

¹ See Policy 8.2 of the Operative District Plan 2005.

² Policy 1.2 of the Operative District Plan 2005.

³ Policy 1.3 of the Operative District Plan 2005.

Part 10: Stock Control
Part 12: Trading in Public Places and Itinerant Traders
Part 13: Traffic

As well as the following New Plymouth District Council Consolidated Bylaws 2010
Part 2: Dog Control

Other policies relevant to the Sports Parks Management Plan

Over time the Council has adopted a number of policies that are relevant to the management of sports parks. The General Policies for Council Administered Reserves provide an omnibus set of policies that apply to all Council administered parks and reserves in the district. In addition, there are a number of individual policies that provide direction to parks and reserves management (listed below).

Unless this management plan specifies an alternative approach to management generally or for specific reserves these policies should be considered where relevant as part of any decision made about a park or reserve.

Boundary Fencing (P00-022)
Advertising Signs on Reserves (P00-023)
Barrier Free District Policy (P01-015)
Reduction to UV Exposure (P04-003)
Memorials in Public Open Spaces (P04-009)
Heritage Trails (P05-017)
District Tree Policy (P06-002)

3. Tangata Whenua and Sports Parks Reserves Management

Background

Taranaki has been settled by humans for approximately 800 years, with the arrival of many waka over the centuries. There are six intertwined iwi groups having rohe in New Plymouth District: Ngati Tama, Ngati Mutunga, Te Atiawa, Ngati Maru, Taranaki, and Ngati Maniapoto. Most iwi trace their ancestry back to the last wave of waka migration, namely Mataatua, Tainui, Tokomaru and Kurahaupo waka⁴.

Much of the coastal land in New Plymouth District was settled by Maori prior to the arrival of European settlers, from the Hangatahua (Stony) River in the south to the northern boundary of the district near Mokau.

The Crown assumed ownership of a large amount of land at the time of European settlement and in later years as the district developed. Over a million hectares of land was confiscated across the country during the 1860 land wars. Subsequently, lands were taken for public works such as the railways and schools. These events disrupted the relationship between tangata whenua and their rohe and the kaitiakitanga, or stewardship, role that they traditionally held with regard to those lands and resources.

Issues related to land ownership are still in the process of being resolved. The Treaty of Waitangi settlement process has given statutory acknowledgement to Ngati Tama and Ngati Mutunga of their relationship to lands and resources with their rohe. Te Atiawa Iwi Authority entered into a Heads of Agreement with the Crown in 1999 and is working towards a Deed of Settlement. Additional settlements may occur in the future as iwi and the Crown address Treaty claims.

Kaitiakitanga

The Mana Whenua Mana Moana document prepared by the Mana Whenua Reference Group in 2005 describes the history and connection of each iwi and hapu group with their rohe. The document notes that “One of the most important issues for tangata whenua is land and land use, whether it is in their ownership, private ownership or local authority ownership. Their responsibilities of kaitiakitanga do not alter”(page 5).

The Mana Whenua Mana Moana document describes kaitiakitanga as follows:

“KAITIAKITANGA in the traditional concept was an obligation and responsibility of tangata whenua to be protectors and caretakers of the tribal estates, interests and resources. This included the ability to put in practice particular protection methods such as rahui. The modern concept of kaitiakitanga is the responsibility on tangata whenua to advocate and practice sustainable development.”

One of the most immediate ways for the Council to acknowledge the kaitiaki role of tangata whenua within their rohe is to provide opportunities for participation in decision-making processes on issues related to the management of land and resources, including reserves owned and/or administered by the Council. Mana Whenua Mana Moana notes that “It is of

⁴ New Plymouth District Council, Tangata Whenua website:
<http://www.newplymouthnz.com/tangata+whenua/history.htm>

utmost importance that any decision regarding land and resources will be of significance to tangata whenua.”

Legislative context

As a partner to the Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti O Waitangi, Maori are given special recognition under the Conservation Act 1987, Resource Management Act 1991 and Local Government Act 2002. All persons exercising powers and functions under these Acts are required to have regard to these matters.

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires that the Reserves Act 1977 be interpreted and administered to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi⁵. This management plan must therefore take into account the principles of the Treaty. The Council must consult with and have regard to the views of tangata whenua before undertaking action and making decisions about reserves for which Council is the administering body. At the same time, any actions and decisions made by the Council for the purposes of managing a reserve must comply with the Reserves Act and be in accordance with the primary and secondary purposes for which the reserve is classified.

The Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 contain requirements to involve tangata whenua in decision-making regarding lands and resources that are within their traditional rohe but outside of their fee simple ownership. Parts 2 and 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 outline principles and requirements for local authorities to facilitate participation by Maori in local authority decision-making processes.

Section 77(1)(c) of the LGA 2002 requires that any significant decision made by a local authority in relation to land or a body of water, “take into account the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga”.

Section 81(1) of the LGA 2002 requires a local authority to:

- a. establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority, and
- b. consider ways in which it may foster the development of Maori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority, and
- c. provide relevant information to Maori for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b).

Tangata whenua considerations in the Sports Parks Management Plan

Tangata whenua have been included throughout the consultation process of developing the Sports Parks Management Plan. Tangata whenua groups/representatives of Nga Mahanga A Tairi Iwi, Ngati Tawhirikura Hapu, Otaraua Hapu and Puketapu Hapu submitted on the Plan and their submissions have been addressed in the above discussion section and in ‘Appendix One - Officer’s response to the draft Sports Parks Management Plan submissions’.

⁵ Crown Law Office opinion is that the Conservation Act 1987 binds the Acts listed in Schedule 1, including the Reserves Act 1977.

Additional information with regard to tangata whenua interests may be added to this plan as new information becomes available.

4. General objectives and policies for management of sports parks

The General Policies for Council Administered Reserves (2006), and other Council policies referenced therein, apply to all of the reserves in this management plan. These policies should be considered, where relevant, as part of any decision made about a sports park.

The following goals, objectives and policies apply to all sports parks.

Table 1 - Summary of Goals and Objectives for all sports parks

Goals	Objectives
Compliance with the Reserves Act 1977	To manage all sports parks in accordance with the classification assigned to them under the Reserves Act 1977.
Sports parks that are suitable for sport and recreation	To provide sports parks that are suitable for the organised and informal sport and recreation that is played at them To effectively manage use of sports parks to meet user demand and needs
Protection and management of natural and heritage features and quality amenity areas	To protect known heritage values To manage, maintain and enhance natural features To provide and manage quality amenity area.
Accessible Sports parks	To ensure sports parks are identifiable and accessible to local residents and visitors. To provide accessible entrances to sports parks that enable less abled people to access the playing field
Safe Sports parks	To manage sports parks so that they are safe for use during daylight hours and evening trainings
Sports parks managed through partnerships	To ensure the community has a sense of ownership over, and is actively involved in the management and development of sports parks through community consultation and partnerships.

Goal 1 – Compliance with the Reserves Act 1977

Objectives

Objective 1- All parks/reserves are to be managed in accordance with their Reserves Act 1977 classification.

Councils as administering bodies are required to classify reserves they administer and manage. Classified reserves are then managed in accordance with the classification given⁶.

Policies

Reserve classification

1.1.1 Each reserve will be utilised and managed in accordance with the Reserves Act provisions pertaining to its classification.

Leases and licences to occupy

1.1.2 Leases and licences to occupy will be established with clubs or other organisations for facilities they own or occupy within sports parks in accordance with the Reserves Act. Specific policies contemplating leases for each sports park are outlined in Section Six of this management plan.

1.1.3 Upon establishment of a new lease or a lease renewal, terms will be included in the lease to reflect the policies and levels of service of this management plan.

Goal 2 – Sports parks that are suitable for sport

Objectives

Objective 1- To provide and manage sports parks, and the facilities within, suitable for the organised sport and recreation undertaken at them

Sports parks are a category of park which require specific management of the surfaces within them to make them suitable for the organised sport and recreation.

In addition a number of other facilities and specialised equipment is required, which in the majority of cases are provided by the resident club or organisation. This section of the general policies outlines the Council's role in the management of sports surfaces and other facilities and responsibilities of the resident club or users.

Occupation agreements are required for the occupation of facilities and structures owned by clubs at sports parks. The policies below outline specific situations and the types of agreements that apply. In addition a table is appended to this plan which outlines all the

1.1.2.1 ⁶ Refer to individual parks in section six of this plan

existing and proposed agreements at each park for various facilities and structure already in existence.

Policies

Turf Management

- 2.1.1 Council will develop and maintain turf and artificial turf surfaces to a level that is fit for purpose.
- 2.1.2 Turf management will be generally in accordance to recommended industry best practice and recommendations from New Zealand Sports Turf Institute.

Courts

- 2.1.3 The Council owns netball courts at Waiwhakaiho, Clifton and Trimble Parks. These courts are managed in accordance with industry best practice including three yearly condition assessments.
- 2.1.4 All other courts will continue to be and managed by the resident club with lease agreements with the Council for their occupation.

Specialised surfaces, infrastructure and equipment (cricket wickets, greens, nets, irrigation)

- 2.1.5 Installation of specialised surfaces and infrastructure will be at the cost of the club or code, with prior approval from the Council.
- 2.1.6 The Council will provide technical advice to clubs in the installation and maintenance of specialised facilities.
- 2.1.7 The Council will provide annual assistance in the renovation and maintenance of the facilities and charge fees for this assistance as per the fees and charges schedule in the Long Term Community Plan.
- 2.1.8 Licences to occupy or leases shall be entered into for all artificial cricket wickets, greens and permanent structures.
- 2.1.9 Irrigation and reticulation for cricket wickets is the responsibility of the resident club including all associated costs. Applications for new and or replacement reticulation must be made in writing to the Council.
- 2.1.10 [Insert new policy number] New cricket wickets and where possible existing wickets shall be located in between winter sports fields. The Council does not provide sports field equipment. Clubs are responsible for the provision of goal posts, goal nets, corner flags, mat covers for cricket wickets, safety fencing of softball diamonds, scoreboard and other required equipment.
- 2.1.11 In accordance with terms and conditions of the venue hire agreement the club is responsible for the removal of all equipment by the end of season and the agreed end date in the agreement from the playing fields and stored in designated storage area identified on the development concept plans.

- 2.1.12 Annual inspection of all equipment and structures (excluding buildings) will be carried out and any defects must be rectified by the club within a defined time period.
- 2.1.13 The Council reserves the right to remove any equipment or structure that they deem to be unsafe and recover the cost of removal from the club.

Marking of Sports fields

- 2.1.14 The Council will allow codes to mark sports fields to approved dimensions and defined locations on sports parks at the cost of the resident club.
- 2.1.15 Materials used for the marking of sports fields must be approved by Council prior to use. Materials that will not be approved include long term weed killers and waste oil and oil by-products.
- 2.1.16 Use of unapproved products may result in the Council seeking reimbursement of the cost to reinstate the damaged turf.

Flood lighting

- 2.1.17 The provision of flood lighting over fields is the responsibility of the club and once installed all flood lights must be owned, maintained and operated by the club
- 2.1.18 Applications for new flood light installation must be made to the Council in writing, including a plan of the proposed floodlights, the likely affects on other users and neighbours, the needs for the lights and how the installation and ongoing maintenance will be funded.
- 2.1.19 Consultation with affected parties and obtaining necessary consents will be the responsibility of the club.
- 2.1.20 The Council will issue Licences to Occupy for all existing and new flood lights outlining the responsibilities of the club in respect of the lights

Changing facilities and Public Toilets

- 2.1.21 It is the Council's intention not to own or provide changing or ablution facilities at Sport Parks (with the exception of one existing changing/storage building at Hickford Park which is used by multiple clubs and community users).
- 2.1.22 The Council will work with clubs to transfer existing Council owned buildings to the clubs that use and/or occupy them.
- 2.1.23 Applications for new changing or ablution facilities will be assessed against the Council's General Policies for Council Administered Reserves and the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977
- 2.1.24 Public toilets will be provided and maintained in accordance with the Council's Public Toilet Strategy.

New clubrooms buildings and facilities

[insert new policy number] New buildings on sports parks will generally be provided and owned by clubs.

- 2.1.25 As a general policy the Council aims to limit the number of buildings on sports parks to one per park.
- 2.1.26 Applications for new clubrooms buildings on sports parks will only be considered where they are multi use and will be used by more than one group.
- 2.1.27 Buildings will only be permitted on sports parks where the activities of the clubs/groups are of a sporting/recreational nature.
- 2.1.28 The development of new club buildings should cater for the storage of the Club's sports equipment (goal posts, etc) within the single building.
- 2.1.29 Lease of land for new buildings will be subject to consideration against General Policies for Council Administered Reserves and lease provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

Objective Two - To effectively manage and administer the use of sports parks to meet user demand and needs

Policies

Field and court allocation, use and bookings

- 2.2.1 Clubs must apply to the Council for the fields they wish to utilise for their competition and training.
- 2.2.2 Council will allocate sports fields giving consideration to participation levels, user category, and capacity of ancillary facilities, existing clubrooms, park/locality preference, and turf and soil type.
- 2.2.3 Regional Sports Organisations (RSOs) may allocate sports fields or courts for the clubs within their codes, particularly where demand exceeds availability at a particular sports park.
- 2.2.4 Where space/assets have been purpose built for a code, preference of use will go to that code during their normal season. If the space/asset is available for use by other codes/clubs during the season, it will be at the discretion of Council and that code/club may be required to move if the space/asset becomes unavailable.
- 2.2.5 To meet changing needs and demand the Council may reallocate space/assets to a new code. The Council will consult with existing users/codes and will assist in finding them new facilities if required.
- 2.2.6 Any party wishing to use a sports park for a one off event must apply to the Council and consent obtained from resident club where their facilities are proposed to be used. All applications will be assessed and managed in accordance with policies set out in the Council's General Policies for Council Administered Reserves, the provisions of the Reserves Act and the parks bookings system.

2.2.7 Commercial activities will be assessed on a case by case basis in accordance with the Council's General Policies for Council Administered Reserves and will generally only be approved when associated with a community event.

2.2.8 All users will be required to enter into a Venue Hire Agreement at the start of the season, or required period of use.

Fees, Charges, and Closures

2.2.9 Council will charge for the seasonal, casual and club training use of sports parks.

2.2.10 The general principles of fee setting will be established through the Long Term Plan, consistent with the Local Government Act 2002.

Closures and Renovations

2.2.11 Use of sports fields or training grounds may be restricted at Council's discretion e.g. when weather or ground conditions are considered unsuitable and/or excessive damage is likely to occur.

2.2.12 The grounds may be closed in September/October and March/April for renovation subject to weather and ground conditions.

2.2.13 Council will inform scheduled users of Council closures before 12 noon for both school use and for senior use during week days. On weekends Council will inform scheduled users (code representatives) of closures before 12noon on the Friday.

2.2.14 Council will inform the general public of Council closures through the Council's call centre and information posted on Council's website.

Goal 3 – Protection and management of cultural and natural heritage features and quality amenity areas

Objectives

Objective 1 - To protect known cultural heritage values of Sports parks

Of the 24 parks/reserves in this management plan, four contain known waahi tapu pa sites, which are also considered archaeological sites. Heritage and/or waahi tapu located at these parks/reserves are listed in the District Plan and information recorded on the individual park profiles in this plan. It is noted that there may be waahi tapu or heritage sites which are not known to Council located on the sites and that in some cases full assessment of heritage values for particular sites has not been undertaken.

Site works such as excavation, removal of trees, fencing, laying pathways or any activity that would destroy, damage or modify the whole or part of an archaeological site requires

authority from the Historic Places Trust and consent from the Council in relation to waahi tapu sites.

Where features remain these must be managed with a level of protection and conservation that is appropriate.

Policies

Cultural heritage values

3.1.1 Identified areas of cultural heritage value and features on sports parks will be protected, preserved and maintained as appropriate.

Archaeological site management

3.1.2 Archaeological sites are to be managed in accordance with the Department of Conservation's guideline document⁷ and in compliance with the Historic Places Act 1993. The Council will work with individual iwi/hapu and interest groups to develop a protocol regarding the management of vegetation on waahi tapu sites.

Objective 2- To manage, maintain and enhance natural features of Sports Parks

Some of the sports parks in this plan contain significant ecological areas including native bush remnants and streams. Together with other vegetated open space, sports parks can act as ecological corridors for wildlife as well as adding natural character and amenity value to urban areas.

The Council acknowledges the importance of both natural and planted areas and aims to protect and enhance the vegetation and landscape values of sport parks consistent with the classification of the reserve.

Policies

Landscape maintenance

3.2.1 Maintenance of the natural areas, amenity plantings will be carried out in accordance with industry best practice and Council policy including the District Tree Policy 2004.

3.2.2 The Council will replace any trees or plantings that are dangerous, have a notifiable disease or are dead.

3.2.3 The Council will establish and maintain a successional planting programme to ensure the continuation of the park's amenity character and city wide treescape.

Ecological environments

3.2.4 Areas within sports parks which have significant ecological value, such as bush remnants, will be conserved and enhanced where practicable (managed to ensure the area is protected, maintained and enhanced).

⁷ Refer to the Department of Conservation's 'Caring for archaeological sites' as a guideline for managing archaeological sites.

3.2.5 Where a proposal may affect a natural feature of a sports park, research will be undertaken as to the effects and whether the proposal is therefore appropriate in that particular location.

Objective 3- To provide and manage quality amenity open space areas at Sports Parks

As well as being used for organised sport and recreation sports parks are also used for passive recreation including kicking a ball, walking, relaxing and family picnics.

The decision to place amenities within Sports parks is carried out in accordance with the proposed policies outlined below as well as the levels of service in chapter five, however the important aspect is to ensure the amenity area provided are an appropriate quality and the balance between built and open space areas is maintained.

Policies

Park furniture, hard surfaces and barriers

3.3.1 The Council will provide park furniture and facilities that support use of parks (e.g. park benches, picnic tables, walkways/cycleways, information panels and signage).

3.3.2 All park furniture, hard surfaces and barriers shall be designed, constructed and coloured in accordance with the parks hard asset standard manual (Parks Standards Manual 2010)

Shade and shelter

3.3.3 The Council will consider shade and shelter at sports parks on a case by case basis and in accordance with individual development concepts. In general shade will be provided by specimen trees and not built structures.

Boundary fencing

3.3.4 The Council will work with its neighbours to maintain suitable boundary fencing. The contribution made to new boundary fences is set out in the Parks Boundary Fencing Policy.

Goal Four – Accessible sports parks

Objectives

Objective 1

To ensure sports parks are identifiable and accessible to local residents and visitors

It is recognised that sports parks need to be identifiable and accessible to users. A number of aspects can affect accessibility of a reserve including design, permanent or exclusive use,

Parks

Sports Parks Management Plan

New Plymouth District Council

2012

authorised commercial activities, encroachments, grazing and temporary access by construction vehicles.

The policies below outline how the Council will aim to ensure sports parks are identifiable and accessible through appropriate signage and good design, and how other issues that can affect accessibility will be addressed.

Policies

General access

4.1.1 Access to sports parks will be free of charge.

Vehicle access

4.1.2 Vehicle access is provided to off road car parking established on sports parks.

4.1.3 Vehicle access is not permitted on sports fields or surrounds other than on parks where areas of overflow parking has been identified or approval has been given as part of an event.

Walkways and shared pathways

4.1.4 Council will provide walkways and shared pathways into and through sports parks to provide connectivity and ease of access to facilities. Considerations for installation of pathways include:

- a) Ground conditions within the park that make pedestrian or cycle thoroughfare difficult,
- b) The need to provide access to facilities such as changing rooms, particularly during the winter months,
- c) High pedestrian use,
- d) The park has been identified in the New Plymouth District Cycle Strategy or Walking Strategy (currently under development).

4.1.5 Where appropriate new pathways will be developed as shared pathways, catering for both walking and cycling.

4.1.6 Walkways and pathways will be developed in accordance with the Parks Walkway and Pathway Standards Manual

Facilities that support active transport

4.1.7 The Council supports and promotes active and alternative mode of transport to places of recreation including walking, cycling and public transport.

4.1.8 Facilities that support active transport including bike racks will be provided.

Network and utility infrastructure

4.1.9 In accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 the provision of existing, additional and new network and utility infrastructure will be allowed to be installed and maintained at sports parks where it does not impact the use of the reserve in the long term. New network and utility infrastructure will be considered once other locations options have been first considered.

Temporary access for works

4.1.10 Access will be granted on a temporary basis to allow the installation of network infrastructure or access a part of a property which is otherwise inaccessible. Applications must be made to the Council in writing and give particular consideration to the timing of the access and actions to mitigate the impact on users as well as to avoid or mitigate damage to the values of the reserve.

Encroachments

4.1.11 Encroachments by adjacent landowners can restrict the public use and access to part or all of a reserve and in most cases is an unlawful use of reserve land. Encroachments will be addressed on a case by case basis in accordance with relevant legislation.

Objective 2 - To provide accessible entrances to sports parks that enable less able people to access the playing field

Policy

Access points

4.1.12 Where feasible access points to sports parks and associated facilities will be designed to meet national standards and design criteria for people with disabilities.

Goal Five- Safe sports parks

Objectives

Objective 1

To manage sports parks so they are safe for use during daylight hours and evening training where flood lights are present

Predominately sports parks during daylight hours with the exception of fields that have floodlights installed which are used for evening training.

Managing sports parks so they are safe means taking reasonable and practical steps to prevent, reduce or contain the environmental factors which affects people's use of sports parks. It includes preventive measure to reduce accidents. Safe means different things to different people and it is acknowledged that at any one time there may be factors out of the Council's control that may contribute to the level of safety within a reserve e.g. unsupervised.

A number of aspects relating to safety on reserves are covered in the Council's bylaws including the lighting of fires in a public place, use of firearms, animals and disposal of household refuse.

Policies

General

5.1.1 Sports parks will be managed for day use only with the exception of parks where floodlights have been installed by the Club for evening training.

Safe design

5.1.2 Where feasible the development of sports parks will incorporate safe urban design principles including those outlined in the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Guidelines (CPTED).

Directional lighting

5.1.3 The Council will provide directional lighting in areas of high use such as car parks and entranceways

Standard of facilities

5.1.4 A regular inspection programme will be performed so that facilities (that are owned by the Council) on sports parks meet standards of safety, health and condition in accordance with levels of service in the Parks Assets Management Plan.

Animals

5.1.5 The control of animals on sports parks will be managed in accordance with the Council bylaws. The 2010 Bylaw states that dogs are permitted on sports parks (except play grounds) and must be on leads at all times when an organised event is occurring at a sports park.

Goal Six - Sports parks managed through partnerships

Objectives

Objective 1- To ensure the community has a sense of ownership over, and is actively involved in the management and development of sports parks through community consultation and partnerships.

It is important that the New Plymouth District’s network of sports parks is one that the community have sense of ownership over. Local sports clubs and communities are recognised as users and in many cases also neighbours to the parks and reserves in their area and have valuable local knowledge.

Often the local community is very willing to be involved in management of sports parks including decision-making, vandalism reporting and partnership developments.

There are a number of sports clubs and other community groups that have played a part in shaping sports parks. The Council aims to facilitate and encourage community partnership and ensure stakeholders including users, neighbours and tangata whenua continue to be informed.

The Council has existing joint management arrangements with liaison committees for the day to day running and maintenance of parks in its rural areas. The sports parks where this arrangement exists are Okato Domain and Urenui Sportsground. These committees were

previously domain board under the Reserves and Domains Act 1952. When the Reserves Act 1977 replaced the 1952 Act, domain board and the administrative power they had were removed however the Council choose to continue relationships with the committee to assist in the day to day management and maintenance of the parks.

Policies

Consultation

- 6.1.1 Where any significant development or change in management at a sports park is proposed, that is not contemplated in this management plan, community consultation will be undertaken as appropriate or required by legislation.
- 6.1.2 Consultation will be undertaken with the mana whenua of a park or reserve when any change in management is proposed or new development is proposed that is not contemplated in this management plan.
- 6.1.3 All development on sports parks will be done in consultation with the immediate neighbours in order to mitigate any adverse effects.

User meetings

- 6.1.4 An annual meeting will be held with all sports park users to discuss projects, management changes and issues.
- 6.1.5 Meetings with individual park users will be held on a case by case basis as requested by the Council or the users.

Community Partnerships

- 6.1.6 The Council supports and promotes community initiatives with resident, community service groups, stakeholder and tangata whenua to be involved in the management and development of sports parks. The roles and responsibilities of these groups (in relation to the sports park) will be defined on a case by case basis with Council officers.

Rural domain liaison committees

- 6.1.7 In accordance with the polices set out in section 2.2.7 of the Council's General Policies for Council Administered Reserves the Council will maintain relationship with existing rural domain liaison committee, recognising the valuable work they undertake in the day to day management and maintenance of the rural reserves.
- 6.1.8 Formal agreements will be established with these committees clarifying the role of the committee and the Council in the joint management.
- 6.1.9 In the future if there is insufficient membership to continue a domain liaison committee the roles of the committee will be taken over by the Council.

5. Levels of Service

Levels of service are the performance goals of the Council for a particular activity. They provide a common ground upon which the Council can use to guide and drive its efforts.

Three factors contribute to the development of levels of service from a customer perspective, these are - customer expectations, community outcomes and compliance requirements. The relationship between these three factors and levels of service are illustrated in figure 2 below. The customer expectations and the compliance requirements also contribute to the achievement of the community outcomes and corporate goals.

There are costs associated with providing all levels of service. During the development of levels of service costs are also considered and the aspirations of the customers are balanced against the cost of providing the service.

Levels of service outlined in this plan relate to the development of sport parks, i.e. the provision of amenities such as seating, pathways, entrance signs as well as vegetation; and the purpose for which the Council provides these amenities. Along with how values, such as historic and natural that exist at the parks are managed.

The provision of sports parks in terms of the land asset, its location and distribution is determined through the Council's Open Space Strategy (currently under development). This strategy will determine service levels for the provision of all categories of parks and reserves.

The maintenance of sports parks is also determined by levels of service. These are set out in the Parks Asset Management Plan as well as Parks Operations Plans.

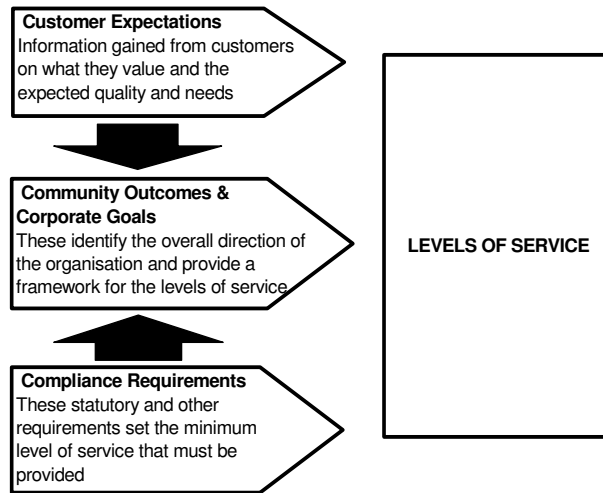


Figure 2 - Relationship between key factors for developing levels of service

Table 2 – Levels of Service: Sports parks

Goal 1 - Compliance with the Reserves Act 1977	
Level of Service	How the Council will deliver the service
Parks and reserves are managed in compliance with the Reserves Act 1977.	The classification of reserves and production of management plans for these reserves will be undertaken as resources permit.

Goal 2 - Sports Parks that are suitable for organised sport	
Level of Service	How the Council will deliver the service
Provision of facilities to enhance and encourage a range of recreation activities, where appropriate.	See table 3a on following page for how the Council will achieve this level of service and compares this with the recreation industry standard.

Goal 3 - Protection of cultural and natural heritage features in sports parks and reserves,	
Level of Service	How the Council will deliver the service
Cultural heritage is protected.	Barriers will be installed where appropriate to prevent damage to historic features. Vegetation will be planted in sports parks appropriate to location and in consideration of the heritage values of the site.
Natural heritage is protected.	Areas of bush remnants are sustained through the control of pest animals and plants that threaten the viability of the bush remnant.

Goal 4 – Accessible sports parks	
Level of Service	How the Council will deliver the service
Sports parks are identifiable and accessible	Naming signage will be installed in accordance with the development concepts to provide easily identifiable parks. Directional signage and symbology will be added to ease accessibility and way finding.
Provide accessible entrances to sports parks	Access points will be designed to meet national standards and design criteria for people with disabilities.

Goal 5 - Safe Sports parks	
Level of Service	How the Council will deliver the service
To manage sports parks so they are safe for use during daylight hours.	Design, planning and management processes to include Ministry of Justice crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles. At minimum facilities and amenities on sports parks will be inspected annually against current safety standards.

Goal 6 - Sports parks managed through partnerships	
Level of Service	How the Council will deliver the service
To ensure the community has a sense of ownership over, and is actively involved in the management and development of sports parks through community consultation and partnerships.	Appropriate community consultation undertaken with partnership opportunities encouraged and facilitated

Table 2a – How the Council will provide facilities to enhance and encourage recreation activities (from Goal 2 in Table 2 above)

FACILITY	INDUSTRY STANDARD LEVEL OF SERVICE* FOR COMMUNITY SPORTS PARKS	NPDC LEVEL OF SERVICE
Playing surface	Level, even, no deformations, predominantly weed free with a continuous cover of turf. Premier, high, medium or low standards could be specified depending on the catchment hierarchy and intended grade of use.	Adopt industry standard – levelling of some fields identified in development concepts
Transport provision	Developed off street car parking where possible, with hard paving. Size of car park will be dependent on site usage (or as appropriate determined by District Plan requirements). Rooding, with hard paving for access for clubrooms and maintenance purposes, etc.	Adopt industry standard – the development concepts for individual sports parks propose a number of car park improvements.
Public Toilets	Standard quality toilets to be provided on site - either standalone or as part of clubrooms or changing facilities. May only be accessible during times of sports play. May be combined with changing rooms. No public toilets on leased sites.	Public toilets are provided in accordance with the Council’s toilet strategy – in general the Council will not provide public toilets at sports parks. Toilets for sports park users are to be provided by the club as part of other club owned facilities
Changing rooms	Provision for changing rooms to be provided as part of clubrooms and pavilions where possible.	It is the Council’s intention to not provide changing rooms, where necessary these are to be provided by the clubs as part of club owned facilities.
Tracks and paths	Provided for access to all buildings. Tracks and paths may be provided around the perimeter of the park to provide for all weather walking opportunities and also linkage routes where appropriate. Path/kerb/gates designed to cater for accessible use. Paving type will depend on usage level and/or park character.	Adopt industry standard
Furniture and structures	Standard quality furniture, fencing and structures provided.	Adopt industry standard– design standard

	Lighting may be provided around car park/clubroom areas. Fitness trails may be provided.	manual is in place for hard assets.
Floodlighting	Provision of floodlighting by sports clubs permitted. (Subject to resource consent requirements).	Adopt industry standard– clubs are required to seek Council approval for installation of lighting and enter into a licence to occupy.
Visitor information	Standard name and control signage.	Adopt industry standard
Tree planting	Opportunities to establish specimen trees as appropriate to the site and location will be maximised to provide shade for spectators and shelter. Typically these will be on the boundary to create sense of enclosure and shelter and to minimize impact on the areas used for sports fields.	Adopt industry standard
Gardens	Little or no garden development.	Adopt industry standard
Recreation facilities	Other recreation facilities such as playgrounds and youth facilities may be provided, especially if the park also provides for dual Local or Community /Suburban function.	Playground and other play spaces such as skate parks provided in accordance with district wide play spaces strategy (to be developed
Buildings	Provision for the development of buildings e.g. clubrooms to be minimised through joint ventures and shared use. However some specific sites may be utilised solely or intensively for recreation facility buildings.	Adopt industry standard – this allows for clubs to provide buildings such as clubrooms on Council-owned sports parks. Council will not provide clubrooms or other buildings.
Drainage & irrigation	Field drainage and irrigation will be provided on sports fields where conditions and intensity of use require this.	Adopt industry standard
Artificial surfaces	Provision of artificial playing surfaces to meet specific sports code demand and/or cater for intensive levels of use.	Adopt industry standard

- In 2010 the New Zealand Recreation Association initiated a project to develop a set of industry standard levels of service for the New Zealand Parks and Recreation industry. The industry standard levels of service in the middle column of the above table are from the NZRA's 'National New Zealand Park Categories and Levels of Service' dated June 2011.

6. Individual Sports Parks – Management Objectives and Development Concepts

This omnibus plan provides direction for the management of 24 sports parks administered by New Plymouth District Council (NPDC). The general policies in **Section 4 and 5** apply to all of these reserves. This section outlines specific management objective and development concepts for each reserve. If there is inconsistency between the general policy and the reserve-specific policy, the reserve-specific policy will take precedence.

The development concept plans have been prepared for each reserve (excluding those reserves that are small or have limited development potential). Funding for the various aspects of development concepts is conditional on decisions made as part of the Long Term Plan process. An implementation plan will also be prepared as part of this reserve management process. This plan outlines the priority order in which reserve development will be implemented once the funding is made available.

The mana whenua associated with each reserve are noted. For some reserves there is more than one group with historic and cultural connection to the area.

This section first includes a map showing the location of the all sports parks included in this plan. The section is then divided into localities, generally ordered from west to east across the New Plymouth District, Each area has a map in front of the individual sports parks showing the location of the parks within the locality.