
APPENDIX TWO

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT SPORT FIELD DEMAND STUDY

PURPOSE

The sports field demand study utilises a demand/supply model to predict sports field requirements and to provide a process to quantify, in terms of hours of use, current and future sports field surpluses or shortfalls.

BACKGROUND

This study into the supply and demand for sports fields has been carried out using the Sports Field Model developed by Longdill and Associates in conjunction with Auckland City Council.

The Sports Field Model has been based on the principles used in the Playing Pitch Model (PPM) developed for Sport England in conjunction with the National Playing Fields Association and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR). The PPM is endorsed by the Department for Communities and Local Government as the appropriate methodology to provide detailed local assessments of playing pitch requirements in all local authorities in England.

The PPM identifies all the teams in an area and calculates how many fields are needed to provide for the games played. The model looks at the number of games a field can sustain and matches this against demand identifying any shortfall or surplus. It also projects future demand taking into account population change and trends in sports participation.

With Sport England's approval, a model has been developed, based on the PPM principles, which calculates field demand in terms of hours of use for both competition (games) and training to reflect the way that New Zealand councils assess field capacity in terms of hours of use per week rather than the number of games that can be played. The demand hours of use per week are matched with the capacity hours of use per week and any shortfall or surplus identified.

Over the four years the model has been in effect in the United Kingdom, Sport England has identified the need to review the model and move from a 'games played' approach to an 'hours of use' approach to ensure a more detailed analysis of actual usage of fields.

The Sports Field Model won the 2008 New Zealand Recreation Association 'Outstanding Research, Policy and Planning' Award. The model has been peer reviewed.

Definitions

- *Sports field* – all grass, artificial turf or hybrid (grass and artificial) outdoor areas recognised as being sports fields or sports training areas and used, or available for current or future use, to the codes being modelled are defined as sports fields for inclusion in the model.

- *Field Capacity* – the hours of play per week a field can take, under normal weather conditions, without sustaining damage that affects its use for the rest of the season or requires undue seasonal maintenance.

METHODOLOGY

New Plymouth District Council included three winter sporting codes in the study using the model provided; rugby, soccer, and rugby league. In addition analysis of cricket, softball and netball was undertaken with information provided from regional sport organisations and individual clubs.

Questionnaires were prepared and sent out to the relevant clubs. The questionnaires assisted in determining demand for training and competitions, within each code, future growth in the various clubs and other issues facing clubs.

The majority of the clubs responded and the completed questionnaires were entered into the model and the total current demand matched against the current supply. This information was carried out in each sub-area on a code-by-code basis.

A list of the sub-areas with the Statistics New Zealand meshblocks and parks they contain is attached as Appendix One.

The outputs from the modelling is the future field surpluses and shortfalls for each code, which were assessed using the following capacity scenario -

Weekend competition:

3.5 hours use per full field Saturday, 1.5 hours use per full size fields Sunday. This is based on 2 hours junior competition on Saturday, 1.5 hours senior competition on Saturday and 1.5 hours senior competition on Sunday.

2 hours use per mini fields Saturday.

Training:

Ten hours per week of training on fields with floodlights and eight hours per week on fields without floodlights. This is based on use over two nights of the week 4pm-8pm for fields without floodlights and 4-9pm for fields with floodlights.

Total capacity modelled for each full sized field per week = 13 hours for fields without floodlights and 15 hours for fields with floodlights.

This capacity scenario was developed using local technical knowledge of the field soil conditions, current use information and comparison with other councils' modelling. To avoid complex modelling, the scenario has been applied across all parks however, due to varying ground conditions in some cases, this capacity may be lower or higher than individual fields currently have.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

1.0 RUGBY

1.1 Club and Team Summary

There are currently nine rugby clubs in New Plymouth district that play on 31 fields, across 11¹ parks. In 2009 there were 21 adult, 24 junior and 51 mini teams within the district. A comparison with 2010 team numbers show there has been little change to this.

1.2 Predicted growth

With Rugby World Cup (RWC) being hosted in New Zealand in 2011, and three games to be played in New Plymouth, the Taranaki Rugby Union is anticipating growth in rugby participation as a result of this tournament and the interest it creates. The New Zealand Rugby Union recognising RWC as an opportunity also and includes leveraging off the tournament as a priority area in its Community Rugby Plan. The Union also recognises however, that the capacity for growth is not as high as it might be for other countries such as Australia, England and South Africa².

As part of the questionnaire sent to the nine clubs the question was asked ‘Over the next five years what changes, if any, do you expect in playing member numbers? The responses are summarised below:

- Three clubs expected their junior teams to increase by 5-10%.
- One club expected its senior men’s team to increase by 10% and another by one team.
- Only one club anticipated a decrease in team members and it was predicted that there could be a decrease of up to 25% in youth boys.
- One club is ‘stacking’ more players into each team than they would have done several years ago. In this case it was the senior thirds grade and due to the fact there were insufficient numbers for two teams.

1.3 Rugby Competition Field Capacity Results and Discussion

RUGBY COMPETITION	Surplus (+ve) /Shortfall (-ve) 2009 (hours)	Surplus (+ve) /Shortfall (-ve) 2019 (hours)
Oakura, Okato and Surrounds	5.4	2.8
New Plymouth West	15.8	14.3
New Plymouth Central	38.5	38.7
New Plymouth South	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
New Plymouth East	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
Inglewood and surrounds	24.1	23
Bell Block	12.4	11.7
Urenui, Waitara and Surrounds	18.6	18.4

¹ Note this includes Tikorangi Sports Park which is privately owned.

² New Zealand Rugby Union, Community Rugby Plan 2008-2011

-
1. **Oakura, Okato and surrounds area** show the smallest surplus. There are only two parks with rugby fields in this area, Corbett Park and Okato Domain. It is believed this result is not a true reflection on the current situation due to the way in which team numbers for Coastal Rugby Club were treated in the model. Coastal Rugby Club has three home grounds, Rahoitu, Opunake and Okato however the total team numbers needed to be included in the model and therefore the model has assumed all home games are played at Okato. There is some pressure reported on the capacity at Corbett Park with ongoing problems with drainage at this park and the park also being used for junior soccer through the school competition.
 2. **New Plymouth West.** In New Plymouth West Sanders Park and Yarrow Stadium are the only parks where rugby is played. The surplus shown on the table is likely to relate more to Yarrow Stadium (where three fields are regularly available for club rugby), than Sanders Park which is known to be right on capacity over the last two years with the resident club considering options at the nearby Western Park (NP Central) for junior competition games, but have not yet needed to implement this change.
 3. **New Plymouth Central** is showing a large surplus under both scenarios which reflects the five fields available at the racecourse, three fields at Vogeltown Park. New Plymouth Boys' High School currently use the racecourse fields however, their demand has not been captured in this model due to their participation not being part of the community competition and their overall use predominately being school fields throughout the district. Our booking records show that the school currently book all fields for the winter rugby season. If the racecourse is removed from the study a surplus of 6 hours is recorded in 2009.
 4. **New Plymouth South and East** currently does not contain any parks with rugby fields and similarly there are not existing clubs creating demand in these areas.
 5. **Inglewood and surrounds** have a relatively large surplus capacity. This reflects the six full sized fields available at Jubilee/Carnival Parks.
 6. **Bell Block** shows a moderate surplus. There are three fields at Hickford Park currently used for rugby with room to develop further fields if required.
 7. **Urenui, Waitara and Surrounds** has surplus capacity. The parks with rugby fields contributing to this are Pukekohe Domain and Urenui Sportfield (both of which are currently not used for rugby) and the privately owned Tikorangi grounds which is home to the Clifton Rugby Club and has three fields.

1.4 Rugby Training Field Capacity Results and discussion

RUGBY TRAINING	Surplus (+ve) /Shortfall (-ve) 2009 (hours)	Surplus (+ve) /Shortfall (-ve) 2019 (hours)
Oakura, Okato and surrounds	6	-1.3
New Plymouth West	33.5	29
New Plymouth Central	73.5	73.8
New Plymouth South	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
New Plymouth East	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
Inglewood and surrounds	44.5	41.4
Bell Block	23	21.2
Urenui, Waitara and Surrounds	31.5	30.7

The same limitations that are discussed above apply to the training results. Overall there is not considered to be any shortfall in the availability of fields for training however, in some cases clubs will need to carefully programme team trainings to accommodate all teams.

1.5 Other issues facing clubs

A question regarding other issues was included in the club questionnaire. Eight issues that the Council is aware of were indicated along with the 'other' option available for additional concerns. The graph below shows that the greatest issue facing the rugby clubs is lack of funding followed by high maintenance liabilities for clubrooms.

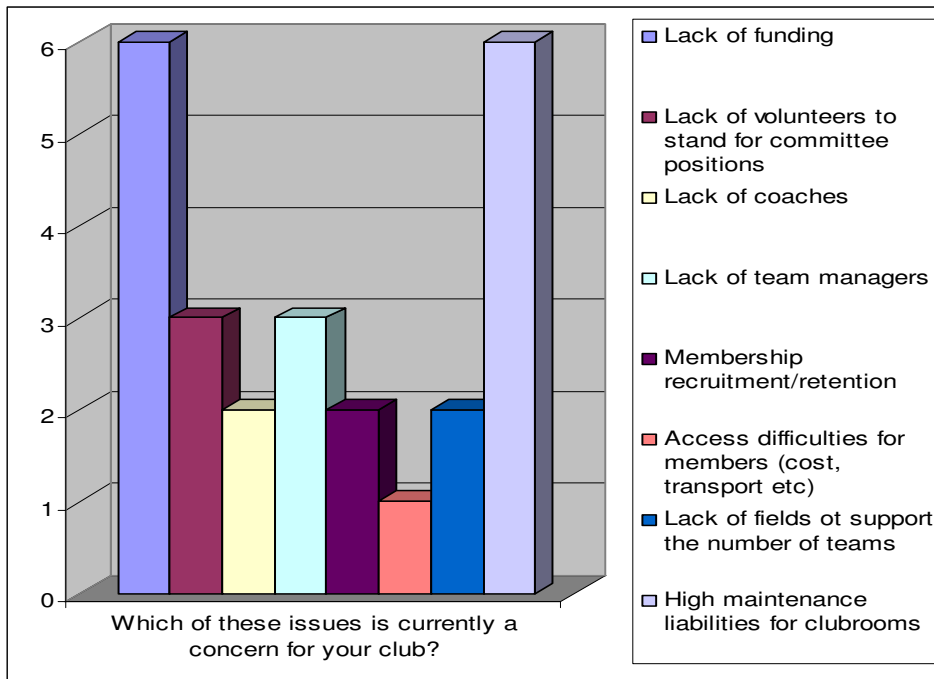


Table One – Other issues facing rugby clubs in the New Plymouth District

2.0 SOCCER

2.1 Club and Team Summary

There are eight soccer clubs in New Plymouth district that play on 28 full sized fields and six mini fields. Seven of the eight questionnaires were completed. In 2009 there were 23 adult teams, eight youth aged 15-17, 20 youth aged 11-14, and 46 mini teams.

2.2 Predicted growth

- One club expected to be able to have a women's team in the future when previously they have not.
- One club expected a 10% increase in players across all age groups.
- One club anticipates girls and women playing to increase by 5% and one predicted to increase their women's team numbers from one to two.
- Two clubs are 'stacking' more players into each team than they would have done several years ago. For one senior mens team it was due to the fact it is just social league so they share the games around the players. The other team didn't have enough players to fulfil an additional full team and were not financially robust enough to run a team.

2.3 Soccer Competition Field Capacity Results and Discussion

SOCCER COMPETITION	Surplus (+ve) /Shortfall (-ve)	Surplus (+ve) /Shortfall (-ve)
	2009 (hours)	2019 (hours)
Oakura, Okato and Surrounds	5.0	5.0
New Plymouth West	23.6	21.1
New Plymouth Central	5.0	5.0
New Plymouth South	15.00	13.2
New Plymouth East	15.50	15.1
Inglewood and surrounds	13.4	12.4
Bell Block	5.0	5.0
Urenui, Waitara and Surrounds	13.7	13.5

1. **Oakura, Okato and surrounds area.** A 5 hour surplus is shown in this area which represents the entire capacity of one of the fields at Corbett Park, which is currently used for school competition. School competition is not captured by this model. There is no senior club soccer played on Council grounds in Oakura or Okato.
2. **New Plymouth West.** A relatively large capacity is seen in this area. There are three parks - Onuku Taipari Domain, Sutherland Park and Lynmouth Park, which combined have eight full sized soccer fields available.
3. **New Plymouth Central.** A 5 hour surplus is shown in this area which represents the entire capacity of the one field available at Pukekura Park. This field has been used in the past by Team Taranaki representative team. From 2011 Team Taranaki will be using Western Park, which is essentially replacing Pukekura Park in this model. There are no other soccer teams or fields located in the New Plymouth Central area.

-
4. **New Plymouth South.** This area shows moderate surplus capacity. Parks that have soccer fields in this area include Merrilands Domain with three fields and Te Mete Park with two fields.
 5. **New Plymouth East.** This area also shows moderate capacity. Parks that have soccer fields in this area include Peringa Park with three fields and Glen Avon Park which has potential for one field and has been used for soccer in the past but is not at the present time. Without this field included in the study there would be a surplus of 10.5 hours per week.

The resident combined sports club (cricket and soccer) at Peringa Park report that capacity is becoming a problem for the club and as part of the consultation undertaken as part of the intention to prepare a Sports Park Management Plan have submitted a proposal showing the development of a new soccer field to the east of the existing fields.
 6. **Inglewood and surrounds.** This area also has a moderate surplus capacity. This reflects the 4 full sized fields available at Karo Park.
 7. **Bell Block.** This area shows a 5 hour surplus which is equal to the capacity of one field. This has been included in the model to reflect that a soccer field could be developed on the open space area next to the softball pitch at Hickford Park but there is currently no demand as no soccer club exists at Bell Block.
 8. **Urenui, Waitara and Surrounds.** This area has a moderate to large surplus capacity. The parks with soccer fields contributing to this surplus are Manukorihi Park with three fields. The one Pukekohe Domain field has also been included in the model. This field is not currently used for any winter sport but could be a soccer or rugby field.

2.4 Soccer Training Field Capacity Results and Discussion

SOCCER TRAINING	Surplus (+ve) /Shortfall (-ve) 2009 (hours)	Surplus (+ve) /Shortfall (-ve) 2019 (hours)
Oakura, Okato and Surrounds	10.0	10.00
New Plymouth West	76.0	72.3
New Plymouth Central	8.0	8.0
New Plymouth South	36.00	33.6
New Plymouth East	29.0	28.4
Inglewood and surrounds	29.5	27.8
Bell Block	10.0	10.0
Urenui, Waitara and Surrounds	40.5	40.3

The same limitations that are discussed above apply to the training results. Overall there is not considered to be any shortfall in the availability of fields for training. New Plymouth Central shows relatively low surplus, with only one field with no floodlights available for training at Western Park. Representative teams have traditionally trained at Merrilands Domain (New Plymouth South) or Peringa Park (New Plymouth East).

2.5 Other Issues Facing Clubs

A question regarding other issues was raised in the questionnaire. Eight issues that the Council is aware of were indicated along with the 'other' option for additional concerns. Each club ticked which issues was a concern to their club. The graph below shows that the greatest issue facing the soccer clubs is lack of volunteers to stand for committee positions, followed by lack of coaches.

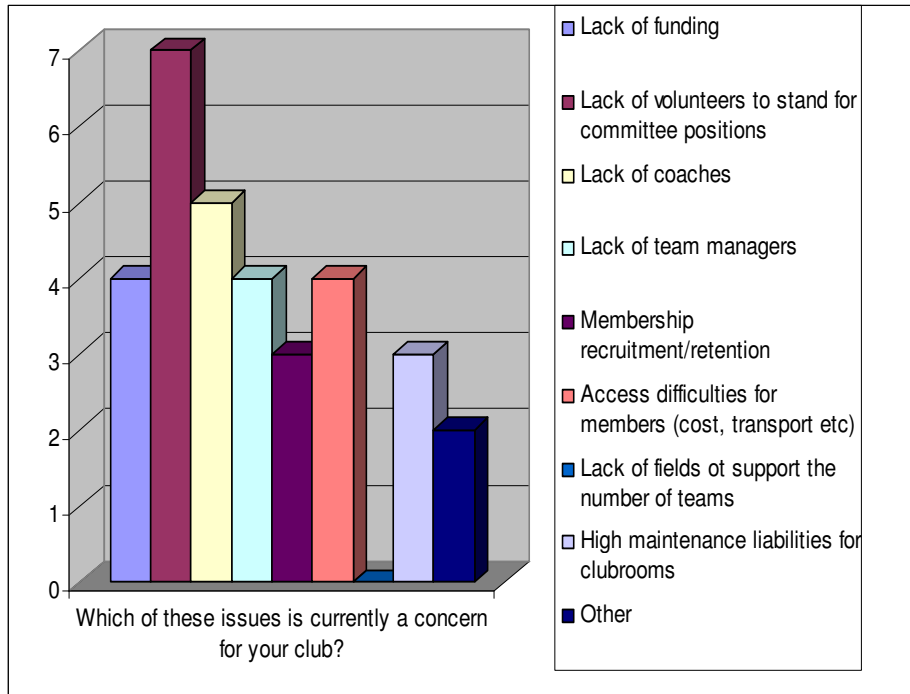


Table Two -Other issues facing soccer clubs in the New Plymouth District

Two clubs made additional comments in the 'Other' section which included:

- Security, vandalism, tagging etc.
- Membership and issues keeping/attracting younger players.

3.0 RUGBY LEAGUE

3.1 Club and Team Summary

There are three rugby league clubs in New Plymouth district that play on six fields. In 2009 within the three clubs there are five adult teams, 14 youth/junior, and eight mini teams.

3.2 Predicted Growth

- One club anticipates increases of 60% in junior teams, 100% increase in youth males and 10% in senior men.
- One club expects an increase of 30% in junior teams, 20% in youth teams, 40% in senior men, and 5% in girls/youth teams.
- One club expects an increase of 40% in senior men's teams.
- Two clubs are 'stacking' more players into each team than they would have done several years ago. For one premier grade team it was due to the fact there were insufficient numbers for two teams. For another club in the district who could not field a team for the 8 and 10 year olds so they played as a combined team.

3.3 Rugby League Competition Field Capacity Results and Discussions

RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION	Surplus (+ve) /Shortfall (-ve) 2009 (hours)	Surplus (+ve) /Shortfall (-ve) 2019 (hours)
Oakura, Okato and surrounds	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
New Plymouth West	6.2	5.1
New Plymouth Central	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
New Plymouth South	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
New Plymouth East	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
Inglewood and surrounds	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
Bell Block	6.15	4.4
Urenui, Waitara and Surrounds	18.4	10.0

1. **Oakura, Okato and surrounds area, New Plymouth Central, New Plymouth South, New Plymouth East, Inglewood and surrounds.** There are currently no league fields nor any demand in any of these areas.
2. **New Plymouth West.** This area has 6.2 hours surplus capacity at the only park with league fields in New Plymouth, Ngamotu Domain. Ngamotu Domain has two fields and is the home to the Western Suburbs League Club.
3. **Bell Block.** This area shows 6.15 hours surplus capacity at the one park in this area, Hickford Park. Hickford Park has one field used for league but room for two if the orientation of the fields was changed. While not identified in this model it is possible a further field could be developed next to the softball diamond.
4. **Urenui, Waitara and Surrounds.** This area has a moderate to large surplus capacity. The parks with league fields contributing to this surplus are Clifton Park with two fields. As with the other two winter codes, the field at Pukekohe Domain has also been included

in the model. This field is not currently used for any winter sport but could be a soccer, rugby or league field.

3.4 Rugby League Training Field Capacity Results and Discussions

RUGBY LEAGUE TRAINING		
	Surplus/Shortfall 2009 (hours)	Surplus/shortfall 2019 hours)
Oakura, Okato and surrounds	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
New Plymouth West	-3.0	-10.3
New Plymouth Central	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
New Plymouth South	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
New Plymouth East	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
Inglewood and surrounds	No fields or demand	No fields or demand
Bell Block	-2.0	-2.9
Urenui, Waitara and Surrounds	2.0	-3.2

All areas show a low or shortfall of capacity for training, with this becoming a more signification problem for the New Plymouth West area by 2019.

The reason for this shortfall is due to almost all teams training twice a week and most up to two hours. In practice the shortfall is not currently creating a problem in the field quality. In Bell Block and Waitara the teams are using areas within sports parks which are not currently developed as fields but are sufficient open space areas for training. At Ngamotu Domain the quality of the fields is such that the training regime is not compromising the capacity.

3.5 Other Issues Facing Clubs

A question regarding issues was raised in the questionnaire. Eight issues that the Council is aware of were indicated along with the 'other' option for additional concerns. Each club ticked which issues that were a concern to their club. The graph below shows that the greatest issue facing the rugby league clubs is lack of team managers.

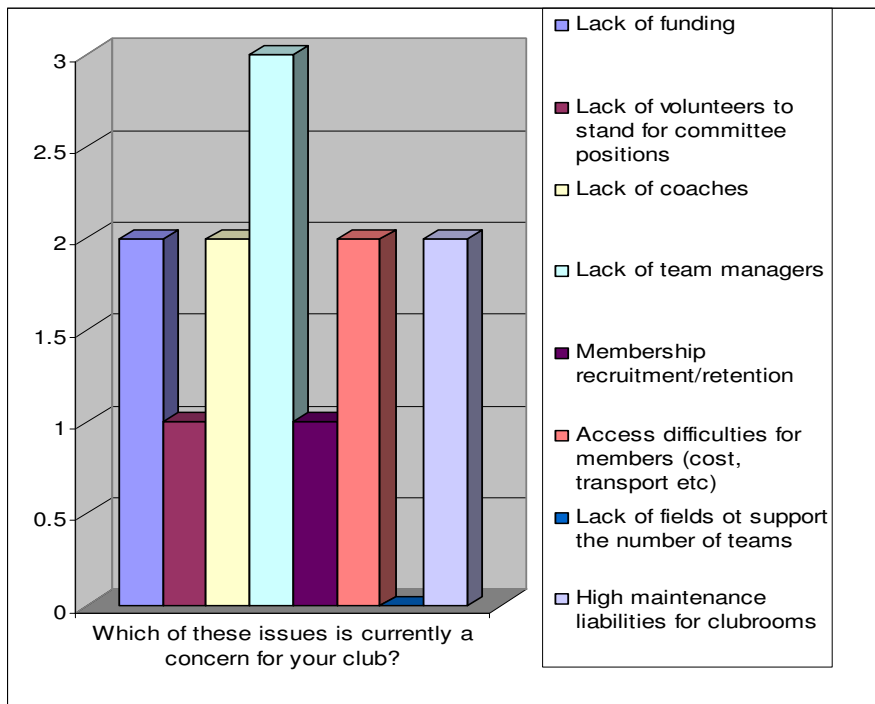


Table Three - Other issues facing League Clubs in New Plymouth District

4.0 CRICKET

4.1 Club and Team Summary

There are thirteen cricket clubs in the New Plymouth District. In the 2010/11 cricket season there were 34 senior teams within these clubs.

These teams predominately play and train on 13 Council-owned sport parks along with some school grounds. Within the 13 Council-owned sports parks there are currently seven grass wickets and 17 artificial wickets established.

Primary and secondary school cricket is organised independently of clubs. In term 4 of 2010 there were 89 junior cricket teams, ranging from year 1 kiwi cricket to year 8 intermediate school level. This grade of cricket plays and trains approximately 60% on schools fields and 40% Council-owned fields.

In term 4 of 2010 there were 20 secondary school cricket teams. This grade predominately plays and trains on school fields.

Junior cricket is not currently looking to establish any more artificial wickets at the present time but would need to if the number increased again.

4.2 Predicted Growth

- When surveyed in 2009 one club expected a 12.5% increase (one additional team) in the senior men age group.

-
- The rest of the clubs felt that the numbers will remain much the same.
 - Four clubs are 'stacking' more players into each team than they would have done several years ago. The reasons for this varied but was predominantly due to work commitments by members with some players not being available every week. For one team it was the cost of having another team versus the cost of subs on just one team.
 - North Taranaki School Cricket reported a steady increase in teams between 2005 and 2009. Over the last two years the numbers have remained static and it is not expecting a significant increase in the short term.

4.3 Cricket Field Capacity Discussion

As discussed in the introduction of this document the Sport Fields Demand Model Toolkit has currently only been developed for winter codes. The structure of cricket with a number of different competitions, i.e. one day, two day, and twenty/20 competitions, means it is difficult to undertake a manual quantitative analysis of the demand versus capacity. Cricket is also different to winter codes in that some of the senior clubs use school fields in conjunction with Council-owned fields and similarly school competition relies on the availability of Council-owned fields more than other codes.

The capacity of cricket fields is also quite different from winter code fields where the ground conditions and impact of winter codes means that a limited number of hours can be played on the fields before the quality of fields is affected. As cricket is played in the summer and the sport does not impact the same on the fields, more hours of competition and training can be undertaken with little affect on the field quality.

The supply and demand considerations for cricket is more around are there enough fields available for all teams to play competition games in the weekend.

Discussions with North Taranaki primary and secondary cricket organiser and Taranaki Cricket Association conclude that there are currently enough fields available for competition and training.

In 2009 North Taranaki Primary School Cricket renovated three artificial cricket wickets at Hickford Park to meet demand with the increase in team numbers. It is not currently looking to install any further wickets but would need to if team numbers significantly increased again.

Potential has been identified for the addition of a further wicket at – Sanders Park, Hickford Park and Manukorihi Park. The Council also has fields that are not used for summer sports for example Onuku Taipari and Ngamotu Domain, where the potential exists for the installation of cricket wickets.

Training demands for cricket are also currently met by the existing school or Council-owned fields. Results from the 2009 survey show that most of the teams do not use a full sized field for training and some senior teams indicated that they only train using cricket nets.

Other Issues facing clubs

A question regarding issues was raised in the questionnaire. Eight issues that the Council is aware of were indicated along with the 'other' option for additional concerns. Each club ticked which issues were a concern to their club. The graph below shows that the greatest

issue facing the cricket clubs is lack of funding followed by membership recruitment/retention.

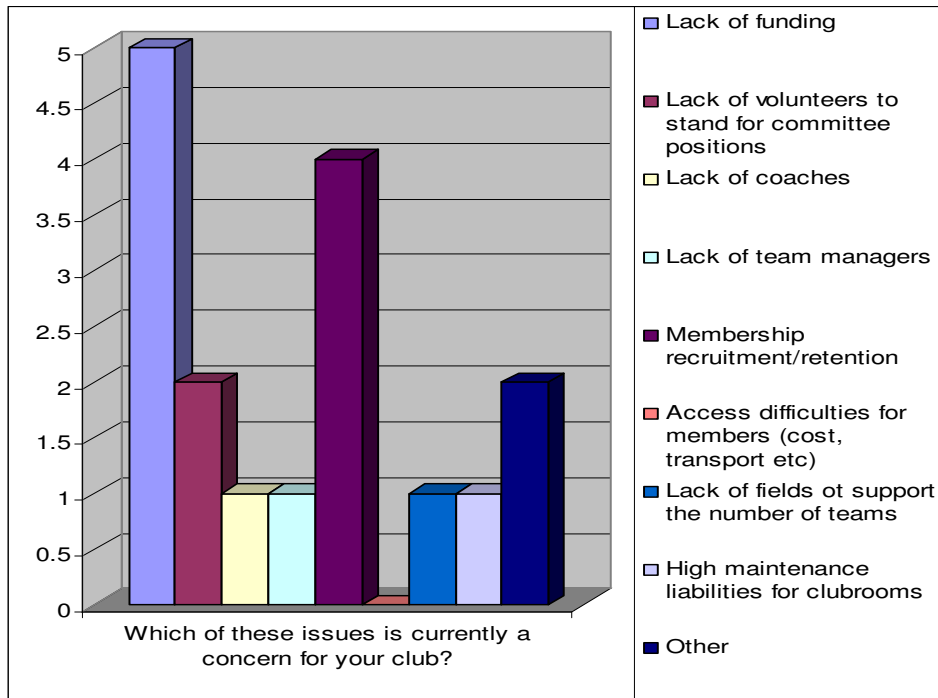


Table Four – Other issues facing Cricket Clubs in the New Plymouth District

Two clubs made additional comments in the ‘Other’ section which included:

- Paspalum coming into ground and the need for regular mowing.
- Funds to run club at breakeven. On-going cost increases from Taranaki Cricket Association, NPDC for Lynmouth, gear etc

5.0 NETBALL

In February 2011 Netball Taranaki provided the following figures regarding participation in Netball in New Plymouth at the Waiwhakaiho Netball Courts

- 2,500 players/umpires per Saturday (this does not include spectators which would count for another possible 500-1,000 per day)
- 550 players/umpires etc per Tuesday night Future Ferns (junior netball) – plus another 500 spectators
- Tournaments (weekends and weekdays) 1,000 plus players and umpires etc – plus spectators
- Summer/Spring league – 300-400 per Tuesday night
- Trainings – approximately 150 people each night of the week

Current use of courts at Waiwhakaiho Park in winter months:

- Saturday – 8.30am – 4.00pm – satellite netball
- Sundays – tournaments
- Monday nights – training (5.30pm – 9.00pm)
- Tuesday nights – Future Ferns and training (3.30pm – 9.00pm)
- Wednesday nights – trainings 5.30pm – 9.00pm
- Thursday nights – 5.30pm – 9.00pm
- Friday nights – free

Current use of courts in summer months:

- Tuesday nights – Spring and summer league netball
- Holiday programmes – all day for a week or two
- Rep academy programmes – every day or evening.
- Rep trials

The Netball Taranaki Board has a vision for Netball Taranaki to be the model netball centre in New Zealand and for Waiwhakaiho Park to be the best park possible given the limitations it has. They have identified that Waiwhakaiho Park can meet the current demand however in the future are likely to need two additional courts. Netball Taranaki has identified a number of projects to bring Waiwhakaiho Park to first class facility (Netball NZ tournament) standard, these have been included in the Sports Parks Management Plan. It is also recommended however, that consideration be given to relocating these netball courts in the future.

Council-owned courts at Clifton and Trimble parks are also used by Netball Taranaki for netball training.

6.0 SOFTBALL

6.1 Club and Team Summary

There are currently two active softball clubs in the New Plymouth District and one school participating in the club competition, with a total of seven senior teams.

6.2 Competition

In the 2010/2011 season Bell Block Marist Softball Club had two senior women's teams and two senior men's teams; Spotswood United Softball Club had one senior women's and one senior men's teams. New Plymouth Girls' High School had one senior women's team.

Taranaki Softball Association is currently working to establish a junior league which it hopes to have started by next season.

All club competition is currently played on the district's only skin diamond at Hickford Park.

In the future the association would like to install a second diamond at Hickford Park; this would accommodate for any increase in teams and also assist with hosting tournaments.

Currently when tournaments are hosted, temporary diamonds are established on the main Hickford Park playing fields.

6.3 Training

Spotswood United currently trains its teams at Yarrow Stadium (Ground 4) or Westown School. Bell Block teams don't currently train due to a number of shift workers in the team however they do meet early before play begins on Saturdays.

CONCLUSIONS

Overall the results show that on a district-wide and district-area unit basis there is sufficient supply of turf sports fields to meet the current and future demand of those sporting codes included in the analysis. In some cases modifications will be needed to utilise the future supply. For example areas within sports parks that are not currently used for fields but have the potential to be were included in the analysis. Likewise for cricket, parks where there is potential for establishment of further wickets have been identified. These specific considerations are recommended to be included in the draft Sports Parks Management Plan and are outlined further below on a code-by-code basis.

Rugby

Results show that all Council-owned rugby fields across the district currently have some surplus capacity for rugby competition and training. When predicted population growth and trends in code growth are included in the analysis model, surpluses of varying but slightly lesser degrees are also shown in 10 years time, 2019.

The areas showing the smallest rugby field capacity are Oakura, Okato and surrounds and New Plymouth West. In Okato this result is likely to be due to the model assuming all Coastal Rugby Club home games are at this park, when they are actually spread across three parks (two in the South Taranaki District). In Oakura itself, the one rugby field at Corbett Park is known to have low capacity due to the poor drainage.

In New Plymouth West, the fields at Sanders Park are known to be right on capacity over the last two years, particularly in regards to junior competitions on a Saturday morning.

Soccer

Results show that all Council-owned soccer fields across the district currently have some surplus capacity for soccer competition and training. District areas showing low capacity are Oakura, Okato and surrounds, along with Bell Block which both currently have no senior competition demand. In both cases however there is a field available or area for one or more to be established if the demand arose in the future.

The Peringa Combined Sports Club has reported problems with the capacity of fields at Peringa Park. Discussion with the club have found that these problems are linked to the quality of the field's surfaces at present and the lack of renovations that have been carried out over the past few seasons due to the overlap of code competitions. At this time it is not recommended that the Council develop a new field at Peringa Park but instead work with the

club and sports associations to look at programming of competitions and renovations to improve the quality and overall capacity of the fields.

Rugby League

Results show that all Council-owned rugby league fields across the district currently have some surplus capacity for rugby league competition. In regards to training all areas where league is played, are currently showing some shortfall in training capacity. Currently this shortfall is not creating problems as the quality of the individual fields is such that they are able to cope with the level of training or in other cases the demand in this study is not a direct reflection on what occurs in practice with some of the teams currently using adjoining open space at sports parks that are not developed as fields.

Cricket

Discussions with North Taranaki primary and secondary cricket organiser and Taranaki Cricket Association conclude that there are currently enough fields available for competition and training. If the number of people playing cricket, particularly junior cricket, increases in the future then there will be a need for additional cricket wickets to be installed. This analysis has identified parks where there is potential to establish new wickets and these are listed in the recommendations below.

Netball

The Netball Taranaki Board has a vision for Netball Taranaki to be the model netball centre in New Zealand and for Waiwhakaiho Park to be the best park possible given the limitations it has. Analysis undertaken by Netball Taranaki on its current demand for courts has identified that while the current courts meet its needs at present, within the next 10 years at least two additional courts will be needed in a centralised netball location such as Waiwhakaiho Park. There is no opportunity identified at Waiwhakaiho Park to accommodate any additional courts and therefore it is considered appropriate that the need to relocate the courts in the future be identified as part of the Sports Park Management Plan.

Softball

All competition softball in the New Plymouth District is currently played on the district's only permanent skin diamond located at Hickford Park. The Taranaki Softball Association is looking to increase participation in the sport and would like to establish a second skin diamond at Hickford Park in the future.

Training is also undertaken on the Hickford Park diamond as well as at other sports parks and school fields. An established diamond is not essential for training.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are presented as an outcome of the sports fields demand analysis. These recommendations have been incorporated into the Council report and/or the draft Sports Parks Management Plan for consideration by the Council:

General

- a) **That the district wide and district area unit approach presented in this study for the provision of sports fields is appropriate for the New Plymouth District and that this be included as a principle of the Sports Park Management Plan.**

Rugby

- b) **Corbett Park be included in the draft Sports Parks Management Plan allowing options for improvements to the field drainage to be considered.**
- c) **The Oakura Recreation and Community Facility Study (currently being undertaken) be treated as a submission to the draft Sports Parks Management Plan, which will include options for future sports park development in the Oakura Village Area.**

Soccer

- d) **With consideration of the district wide approach to sports field provision the Council not pursue development of a further sports field at Peringa Park.**
- e) **In accordance with the general policies processed in the draft management plan, the Council continue to work with the club to improve competition programming and management of existing fields at Peringa Park.**

Rugby League

- f) **The option to develop a further league field at Hickford Park be contemplated in the draft management plan.**

Cricket

- g) **Identify in the draft management plan parks where there is potential for additional cricket wickets to be established including**
- **An additional wicket at Sanders, Hickford and Manukorihi parks.**
 - **New wickets at Onuku Taipari and Ngamotu domains (there are currently no wickets at these parks).**

Softball

- h) **The option to develop a new softball diamond at Hickford Park alongside the current diamond be contemplated in the draft management plan.**

Netball

- i) **Identify in the draft management plan the future need to relocate the Waiwhakaiho Netball Courts and indicate that a suitable location for relocation is likely to be an undeveloped part of Hickford Park.**

DISTRICT AREAS AND FIELDS – WINTER CODES

District Areas	Statistics NZ Meshblocks	Parks with Rugby fields (number of full sized fields in brackets)	Parks with Soccer Fields (number of full sized fields in brackets)	Parks with League Fields (number of full sized fields in brackets)
1. Oakura, Okato and surrounds	Kaitake, Oakura, Okato and Omata	Okato Domain (2), Corbett Park (1)	Corbett Park (1)	
2. New Plymouth West	Barrett, Fernleigh, Moturoa, Spotswood, Westown, upper Westown, Marfell, Lynmouth and Frankleigh	Sanders Park (3), Yarrow Stadium (3)	Onuku Taipari Domain (3) Lynmouth Park (2), Sutherland Park (3)	Ngamotu Domain (2)
3. New Plymouth Central	NP Central, Mt Bryan, Welbourne, Kawaroa, Marsland Hill and Struan Park	Vogeltown Park (3), NP racecourse(5)	Pukekura Park (1), which in 2011 will be replaced by Western Park (1)	
4. New Plymouth South	Carrington, Merrilands, Highlands Park		Merrilands Domain (3), Te Mete Park (2)	
5. New Plymouth East	Glen Avon, Fitzroy		Peringa Park (3) Glen Avon (potential for 1 field)	
6. Inglewood and surrounds	Inglewood, Kaimata, Egmont Village	Carnival/Jubilee Park (6)	Karo Park (4),	
7. Bell Block	Bell Block, Lepperton, Paraite, Mangaraka, Bowden	Hickford Park (3)	Hickford Park (1)	Hickford Park (2)
8. Urenui, Waitara and surrounds	Urenui, Okoki-Okau, Waitara East, Waitara West	Pukekohe Domain (1), Urenui Sportfield (1), Tikorangi (3 private fields)	Pukekohe Domain(potential for 1 field), Manukorihi Park (3)	Clifton Park (2), Pukekohe (potential for 1 field)

SUMMER CODES

District Areas	Statistics NZ meshblocks	Parks with Cricket Wickets (number of wickets currently established in brackets)	Parks with Netball Courts
1. Oakura, Okato and surrounds	Kaitake, Oakura, Okato and Omata	Corbett Park (1 artificial)	
2. New Plymouth West	Barrett, Fernleigh, Moturoa, Spotswood, Westown, upper Westown, Marfell, Lynmouth and Frankleigh	Sanders Park (1 artificial), Lynmouth Park (1 grass), Sutherland (1 grass, 2 temporary artificial)	
3. New Plymouth Central	NP Central, Mt Bryan, Welbourn, Kawaroa, Marsland Hill and Struan Park	Vogeltown Park (2 artificial), NP racecourse (3 artificial), Western Park (1 grass), Pukekura Park (1 grass)	Waiwhakaiho Park (13 courts)
4. New Plymouth South	Carrington, Merrilands, Highlands Park	Te Mete Park (1 artificial)	
5. New Plymouth East	Glen Avon, Fitzroy	Peringa Park (1 grass, 1 temporary artificial)	
6. Inglewood and surrounds	Inglewood, Kaimata, Egmont Village	Karo Park (1 artificial, 1 grass)	Trimble Park (5 courts)
7. Bell Block	Bell Block, Lepperton, Paraite, Mangaraka, Bowden	Hickford Park (3 artificial)	
8. Urenui, Waitara and surrounds	Urenui, Okoki-Okau, Waitara East, Waitara West	Manukorihi Park (1 grass, 2 artificial)	Clifton Park (4 courts)

Age groups applied to Sports Park Demand Study

New Plymouth District Age Groups		
SOCCER	Mini Junior Mixed	U (Under) 6, U7-U8, U9-U10
	Youth Mixed	U11-U12, Y (Youth) 13
	Youth Mixed	Y 15-17
	Adult men/women	18+
RUGBY	Mini	U6, U7, U9, U10
	Junior	U11, U12, U13, U15, Youth Girls, Youth U16-U19
	Adult men/women	
RUGBY LEAGUE	Mini	U6, U8
	Mod	U10, U12
	Junior Mixed	U12, U14, U16
	Adult mixed, reserve grade, premier reserve, premier grade	
CRICKET	Junior Primary	Ages 5-11
	Secondary	Ages 11-17
	Senior Men/Women	18+