

Mahere rēhia

Recreation and play plan

2024-2034
Long-Term Plan

Ka aha mātou?
What will we do?

We want Palmerston North to be one of the most active communities in New Zealand.

Being active supports all aspects of health, as recognised in the Māori understanding of te whare tapa whā¹. Our actions can help our communities to be more active and improve well-being and resilience.

We will work collaboratively with others to respond to community needs. We want to offer accessible and inclusive places with opportunities for everyone. Our activities will promote biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem.

¹ Te whare tapa whā is a Māori health model developed by Sir Mason Durie and encompassing taha tinana (physical health), taha wairua (spiritual health), taha whānau (family health), and taha hinengaro (mental health).



Provide community sport and sport-event facilities at Central Energy Trust Arena

What will this mean?

The Arena provides accessible and affordable opportunities for community sport and recreation. Opportunities for communities to take part in active sport and recreation are prioritised over other uses of the Arena.

Specific actions

- Provide sport facilities and services at the Arena
- Support sport-events at the Arena [see **Economic development plan**]

New or one-off actions

- Implement the Arena Masterplan (from year 1), including:
 - Development of a new Arena 5 (multi-use indoor court facility) (years 1 to 3)
 - Consider the redevelopment of the rear sportsfields (Arena 6) (from year 4)

Provide swimming pools and other water-based recreation facilities

What will this mean?

There is a variety of accessible places for communities to swim and take part in water sports and play. There is no cost to swim for children under five.

Specific actions

- Provide, operate and maintain swimming pools, aqua play features (e.g. splash pads and outdoor paddling pools)
- Provide a multi-water sport outdoor facility at Hokowhitu Lagoon

New or one-off actions

- Implement the recommendations of the Aquatic and water-based recreation needs assessment, including to:
 - Carry out a feasibility study for a 50-metre swimming pool (year 2)
- Reduce the environmental impact of the operation and maintenance of Council swimming pools [see **Climate change and sustainability plan**]

Provide city, suburb, and local parks and reserves, sports fields and facilities, walkways and shared paths

What will this mean?

There is a variety of accessible, well-maintained, and affordable places for communities to be active throughout the city. The nature and design of our recreation places reflect our communities' needs and aspirations. Sportsfields are suitable for play and available for use when they are most needed. Communities have access to the support they need to be active.

Specific actions

- Provide city, suburb and local parks and reserves, including sports fields, courts, tracks, changing rooms and facilities, and walkways
- Involve communities in planning and design for all recreation places and opportunities, including opportunities for play, biking and skating, sport, and other recreation
- Support sports organisations to develop facility proposals
- Use the Regional Sports Facilities Plan to guide decision-making on investment into sport and recreation facilities
- Optimise the use of recreation and sports facilities
- Support recreation at Arapuke Forest Park, including through the development of trails with the Manawatū Mountain Bike Club

New or one-off actions

- Identify a suitable location for, and install, a permanent ki-o-rahi field (years 1 and 2)
- Support the development of an artificial turf in partnership with Massey University (year 2)
- Support and fund the development of a covered bowling green (years 3 and 4)
- Support a regional gymnastics facility
- Upgrade sports fields to increase playing capacity
- Support and facilitate opportunities for traditional cultural activities in city, suburb and local parks and reserves
- Assess and minimise the environmental impact of all sport and recreation developments

Support and fund for-purpose organisations and community partners

What will this mean?

Opportunities for sport and recreation are available throughout the city.

Specific actions

- Support community access to sports facilities at Massey University
- Provide funding and support to for-purpose groups and organisations through:
 - Occupancy of Council-owned property
 - Development Subsidy
- Support the community-activation and needs assessment activities of the regional sports trust (Sport Manawatū)
- Support people to take part in sport and recreation through:
 - Active Communities Fund (Sport Manawatū)
 - Community Sport and Recreation Fund (Sport Manawatū)
- Provide recreation equipment-for-hire to for-purpose groups

Provide and promote opportunities for play

What will this mean?

There are opportunities for play throughout the city for people of all ages, abilities, and interests.

Specific actions

- Include opportunities for play in all planning for community and public places

New or one-off actions

- Provide new opportunities for play in community and public places (from year 1) [see **Urban design plan**]
- Assess the equity of opportunities for play for city communities (year 1)
- Provide funding to for-purpose organisations, local communities, and communities of interest through:
 - Strategic Priority Grants (including support for sector-leadership)