

Pārekareka:

PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT STRATEGY



NGĀ TAI O MIHI ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Document Version	Council Adopted Document
Date	Adopted 6 November 2024
Authors	Kiri Pope, Richard Lindsay (RSL), Martin Lambert (Otium)

Project Steering Group

Rotorua Lakes Council	Rob Pitkethley, Ange Paget, Kingi Biddle, Mel Rika, Julianne Wilkinson
Te Tatau o Te Arawa	Mariana Vercoe
Sport Bay of Plenty	Duncan Pearce, Larissa Cuff

With Thanks To

All the representatives of Rotorua play, active recreation and sport organisations and community members who attended workshops, hui wānanga and submitted surveys to provide us with the value of your local knowledge and to express your desires for improved community wellbeing in Rotorua through play, active recreation and sport.

About RSL Consultancy

Rotorua Lakes Council engaged RSL Consultancy to prepare the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy.

RSL Consultancy undertakes projects and offers strategic advice throughout Aotearoa to enable community well-being. We support organisations to make informed decisions when it comes to their people, facilities, places and spaces. RSL carries out a range of pre-planning work from needs assessments and feasibility reports to business cases. We also work on a range of organisational strategic and operational projects.

RSL Contact:
Richard Lindsay, 021 2746540, richard@rslc.nz

Disclaimer

Information, data and general assumptions used in the compilation of this report have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. RSL Consultancy has used this information in good faith and makes no warranties or representations, express or implied, concerning the accuracy or completeness of this information. RSL Consultancy is acting as an independent consultant. In doing so, the recommendations provided do not necessarily reflect the intentions of the client. Interested parties should perform their own investigations, analysis and projections on all issues prior to acting in any way in regard to this project.

Mā te pārekareka,
ka wana te hā,
ka rere te mauri,
ka ora te tangata

Through recreation,
the essence is excited,
the life-force is exhilarated,
and people feel alive.



E ngā reo,
e ngā mana,
e ngā iwi maha o te rohe nei,
tēnā koutou katoa.

Piki mai kake mai ki tēnei whakakaohanga
kupu,
ki tēnei kohinga kōrero.

Nei te putanga matua,
te mahere hai whai ki te whakatutuki
i ngā moemoea i kōrerotia
i roto i ngā wiki.

Kia mau, kia ita ki te rautaki
nei e kīa ana ko Pārekareka.

To the many voices,
the dignitaries,
and the many people and cultures of the district.
We greet you all.

Welcome to this collection of thoughts and words
that we have gathered over the last months.

This is the principle outcome which acts as
a guideline to help us realise the dreams that
members of our community have shared with us.

Let us hold fast to this strategy called Pārekareka.

1.0	Introduction	6
2.0	Strategic Context	8
3.0	Aspirations and Advantages	12
4.0	Key Challenges	13
5.0	The Pārekareka Strategy	14
6.0	The Vision	16
7.0	Our Approach	17
8.0	Experiences and Connection	18
9.0	Collaboration and Partnerships	20
10.0	Spaces and Places	22
11.0	Policy and Planning	24



Intent of the Strategy

This strategy and the associated Open Space Network Plan are intended to help guide the approach, programme of work and future priorities for provision of play, active recreation and sport facilities and opportunities across the Rotorua district.

They are intended to guide the direction, investment (through Council's Long-term Plan (LTP) processes), and the work programme for Rotorua Lakes Council. This strategy is also intended to help inform key organisations involved in play, active recreation and sport in Rotorua as to the future priorities and desires of the Rotorua Community.

It will help guide how council will work together, with community partners to improve community-based play, active recreation, and sport outcomes, with an ultimate focus on enhancing community wellbeing.

It is hoped that members of the Rotorua community, and a range of community organisations will support the implementation of the strategy as improved community outcomes will not be achieved by council working in isolation.

This strategy is intended to be a living, breathing document that has the capacity and flexibility to evolve as the needs of the Rotorua community change. To achieve that Rotorua Lakes Council will work with the community to deliver outcomes, ensuring each action is connected to, and focussed on, current community needs. An implementation plan will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it can respond as the needs of the Rotorua community change.

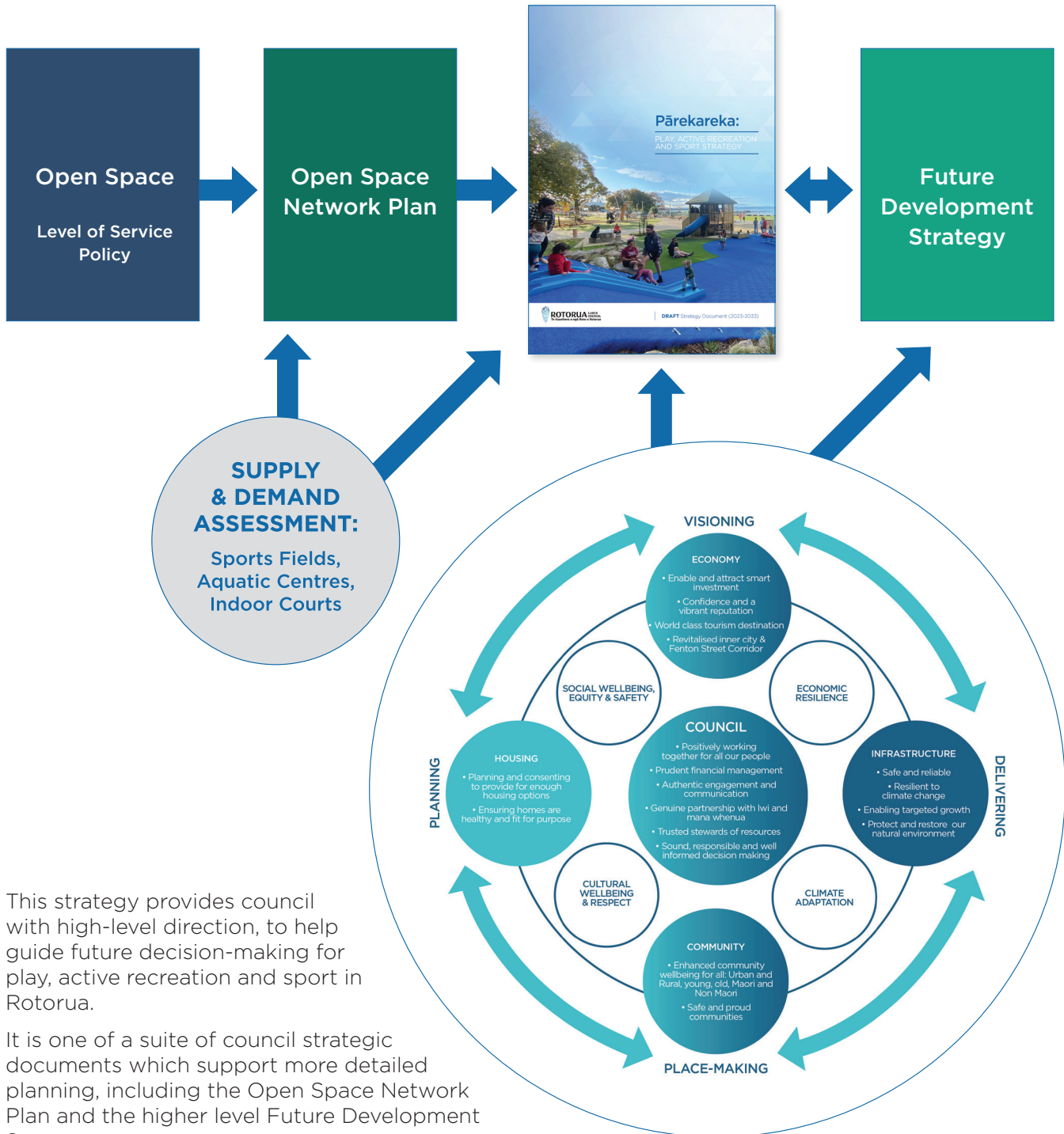
This Document

This document is intended to provide a high-level play, active recreation and sport strategy for Rotorua. It focuses on the key messages and desired future outcomes only. The research and background data that support this strategy, including more detailed information from community engagement, is provided in a separate reference document. The hope is that this strategy document will provide a succinct, easily understood document for the Rotorua community to connect with. Throughout this document, any reference to 'our' means Rotorua Lakes Council.

Strategic Fit

Rotorua Lakes Council's Open Space Level of Service Policy sets out requirements and characteristics for open space quality and quantity across the district. This informed a review of the current open space that is detailed in the Open Space Network Plan that was prepared as part of this work.

We regularly assess the supply of sports facilities across the district, and the demand on these facilities by users, and this has been used to identify gaps in our network and key play, active recreation and sport needs. The Pārekareka prepared has also been informed by the Council's priorities and together these have been used to inform the Future Development Strategy for the growth of Rotorua.



This strategy provides council with high-level direction, to help guide future decision-making for play, active recreation and sport in Rotorua.

It is one of a suite of council strategic documents which support more detailed planning, including the Open Space Network Plan and the higher level Future Development Strategy.

Sport NZ also provides a number of strategic documents and resources to help guide the future of play, active recreation and sport across Aotearoa.

These have been considered during the preparation of this strategy.

Additionally significant partner strategic plans such as the Te Arawa 2050 Vision have been reviewed to align principles, objectives, approaches and actions identified in this strategy.

This section provides a brief summary of some key data and trends relevant to Rotorua, to provide overarching context. Further detail is provided in the reference document that accompanies this strategy.

2.1 Geography

The Rotorua district is 261,906 hectares within the Bay of Plenty region. Rotorua has an outstanding natural landscape which is unique for its seven geothermal fields and iconic volcanic landscapes. Rotorua has a temperate climate, with average summer temperatures ranging from 22-26°C and winter temperatures from 10-16°C, this helps support play, active recreation and sport opportunities.

Rotorua is unique for its diversity of recreation and open spaces including lakes, rivers and streams, 800 hectares of parks, gardens and reserves and hundreds of kilometres of recreational trails for walking, cycling, running and mountain biking. It is the access that is available to these recreation and open spaces which form part of the district's identity. These natural environmental features are also supported by international standard-built facilities including the Energy Events Centre and Rotorua International Stadium.

2.2 Demographics

Statistics NZ Census data shows Rotorua had a stable population of approximately 65,000 people between 2006 and 2013. It has experienced recent population growth, with the district population reaching 71,877 by the 2018 census. It is forecast to grow to 92,590 in the 30 years to 2050. This is an increase of 14,400 people or (19%).

It is estimated that all population age groups will grow during the 30 years to 2048. The older age groups (over 65 years) are expected to experience the greatest growth, increasing from 14.4% to 28.3% of the population. However, by 2048 the population is forecast to be very evenly distributed, with all age groups comprising a similar proportion of the population.

The population of the Rotorua district is forecast to become more diverse. By 2043 it is estimated that those identifying as European and those identifying as Māori will make up equal proportions of the population. It is also estimated that those identifying as Asian will increase from 10% of the population to 27% and those identifying as Pacific will increase from 6% to 10% of the population.

Currently 7.9% of the Rotorua population has one or more activity limitations. This is higher for the Māori population with 8.8% of Māori experiencing activity limitation(s). Again it is estimated that people experiencing activity limitation will increase over time.

It is important to consider this growing and increasingly diverse population in planning for the future of play, active recreation and sport in the district.



2.3 The Value of Play, Active Recreation and Sport

Play, active recreation and sport have long been valued as key parts of the New Zealand and Rotorua lifestyle. Play, active recreation and sport have a range of benefits for individuals and communities including contributing to physical and mental health and well-being, social connection, national and local pride and the economy.

2.4 Key Trends in Play, Active Recreation and Sport

Over time a number of trends have emerged that challenge the structure, leadership and delivery of play, active recreation and sport in New Zealand and in Rotorua. Some of these trends include:

- Increasing diversity in the range of sport and recreation available
- Increasing awareness of the value and importance of play
- Decreasing physical activity, particularly influenced by the electronic revolution
- Aging built facilities, many of which are no longer fit-for-purpose and the development of multi-use hubs which act as broad community facilities, providing for a range of uses rather than just one sport
- Increasing participation in individual sport and recreation activities, a move to more casual participation and reducing popularity of traditional sport
- New technologies that benefit and encourage participation such as e-bikes, smart watches and online tools
Increasing expectations of participants

These trends, and others, are described in more detail in the reference report.

2.5 Rotorua Participation Trends

The Sport NZ Insights Tool identifies that currently the expected participation for people in Rotorua is as follows:

- The top 5 ranked participation activities are recreation based with walking (50%), jogging/running (28%), playing games (22%), gardening (20%) and individual workouts (19%)
- 25.6% of people are expected to be inactive
- Other popular activities are swimming (15.5%) and cycling/biking (15.4%), group exercise classes (10.6%) and yoga/pilates (8.3%)
- The top ranked organized sport is basketball (2.7%) and rugby (2.6%)

Data from the School Sport New Zealand Census captured in Sport NZ Insights Tool shows that:

- The percentage of Rotorua students involved in sport has declined from 50% in 2013 to 43% in 2021
- 41% of students from low-decile schools (1-3) in Rotorua were involved in sport, compared to 45% of medium decile (4-7) students
- Students at Boys schools are more likely to be involved in sport (44.7%) than those at co-educational (39%) and Girls Schools (36.1%)
- The top 5 school sports by % student participation in Rotorua in 2021 were rugby (10.7%), basketball (5.7%), netball (5.5%), volleyball (5.2%) and hockey (4.7%)
- Other highly ranked sports include football (4.1%), athletics (3.2%), badminton (2.7%) and water polo (1.9%)

2.6 What our community told us

Engagement was undertaken through meetings, workshops, hui wānanga and online surveys.

This provided an opportunity for individual community members and representatives of a wide range of community organisations the opportunity to express what was important to them in play, active recreation and sport in Rotorua.

Opposite is a sample of community comments.

“everyone does their part to care for all our facilities”

“bring back life into Marae”

“activities that link to mātauranga”

“engage the whole whānau (including non-participants)”

“Accessibility not just for physically impaired, consideration for those with intellectual disabilities”

“partnering with communities to build their capability and empower young people”

“Safe environment with activities and play areas for the whole family”.

“community driven projects – communities know what works for them”

“better roads for biking”

“well-being and identity building (through activity)”

“gardens, fruit trees in parks”

DESIRES

What our community told us...

THOUGHTS

“every play experience is a learning experience”

“quality provision & sustainability interlink”

“collaborative approaches to funding”

“social aspects are the key, not physical activity – it is just the vehicle”

“education so all whānau know of the spaces and places available”

“ways we can pull together, how we can share and create hubs”

“Our youth age group is growing, we need to keep up with technology and activities that our children want/require”

“Needs to be better services at the existing playgrounds and spaces. Toilets, lighting rubbish bins, drinking water all need to be provided and maintained”

“kids like to build structures” (allow this)

“lots of families are struggling but we do have easily accessible, free opportunities in outdoor spaces”

3.1 Community Aspirations

- **Kaitiakitanga** – the community actively engaged and contributing to safe, clean, well-used spaces and places
- **Affordable** participation opportunities for all
- **Accessible and inclusive to the whole community** – whanau-friendly open spaces, facilities, and activities where people feel welcome and socially connected (regardless of disability, age, ethnicity, gender)
- **Multi-functional, multi-use** parks and facilities (such as hubs)
- **Improved access to play, sport and active recreation spaces** – including open space, indoor and/or outdoor covered courts, playing fields
- **Well-maintained spaces & places** – making the most of existing facilities
- **Diverse experiences** – across the network of spaces & places
- **Diversity in play spaces** – age-appropriate, natural & built, interactive and innovative
- **More partnerships and collaboration** – sharing the journey and the mahi
- **Improved connectivity** – active & public transport links

3.2 Advantages of Rotorua

- **Te Taiao** – diverse, unique, highly valued, natural assets used and enjoyed by our community including the lakes and Titokorangi
- **Many free or low-cost recreation opportunities** – walking, running, and cycling trails; natural bodies of water for water-based activities
- **Strong cultural values** – providing manaakitanga and Te Ao Māori approaches contribute to our value as a base for high participation Māori sports events such as basketball, rugby league, waka ama and more
- **Central location within the North Island** – helps to attract tournaments, events and recreational visitors. Rotorua is also easy to get around with many play, active recreation and sport destination facilities in close proximity to the centre of the city
- **Services** – Rotorua has a variety of accommodation and hospitality services for our manuhiri (visitors)

NGĀ WEROHANGA MATUA

4.0 KEY CHALLENGES

- **Quality of facilities** - aging facilities and unique environmental conditions contributing to maintenance issues, quality of playing spaces
- **Accessibility of facilities** - proximity, suitability of facilities including barriers to access for those with specific or complex needs such as disabilities
- **Quantity and capacity of facilities** - availability of facilities - particularly courts and covered/all-weather facilities and fields
- **Affordability** - costs of participation and facility hire - for organised groups and individual participants, including communities of need
- **Provision and quality of amenities/support facilities** - poorly maintained or lacking sufficient toilets, storage/change, seating, shade/ shelter and drinking water
- **Sustainability** - ability to resource ongoing operations, programmes and to fund renewal and maintenance of facilities. This is relevant to delivery organisations and asset owners, clubs / active recreation groups and Council
- **Safety** - general perception/concerns about individual safety in open spaces. Specific concerns about damage and vandalism (including to play equipment, facilities and playing surfaces)
- **Lack of volunteers** - including coaches, referees, and administrators
- **Lack of variety of opportunities and programmes that suit our communities' needs** - Including a lack of age-specific play provision (pre-school and rangatahi) and programmes that suit older adults

“Safety – including infrastructure, lighting, pedestrian crossings, road access, visibility”

“cost to participate is a barrier for some”

“Playgrounds in our neighbourhood are often not fit for purpose for our age range and are all open – nothing undercover so very weather dependent. Some nearby parks don't have toilets which aren't conducive to our group”

More comments from
our community

“The use of gaming devices has widely been noticed. The hope is that our children and grandchildren refrain from staying in their rooms to play games”

“volunteer burnout”

“Rural communities – access for sport and recreation can be hard, difficult to bring into town”

“awareness and access opportunities for high deprivation communities”

Policy & Planning

- Integrated planning approach embeds play, active recreation and sport outcomes

Spaces & Places

- Integrated, sustainable and fit for purpose spaces and places that support a range of participation choices for our community



Principles & Values:

Sense of Place and Connection

We will apply a cultural framework to our approach to creating better



Experiences & Connection

- Improved sense of connection and increased participation through meaningful activity
- Increased inclusivity, diversity and equity of opportunity reflects diversity and changing needs
- Activate our open spaces and maximise the broad range of activities

Collaboration & Partnerships

- Working together effectively, we achieve better participation outcomes
- Our community is actively engaged and involved

er play, active recreation and sport outcomes for our community.




6.1 Our Purpose

Te toioranga o te taiao, o te tangata, me te hāpori.
Koiana te iho o te mahi nei.

The health and wellbeing of our people and our taiao is the essence of what we do.

Our purpose will be achieved by working together with Te Arawa whānau, hapū, iwi and takiwā, embracing Te Ao Māori values and embedding mātauranga Māori in the way we carry out our mahi.

6.2 Our Principles and Values

Sense of Place & Connection 	Te Taiao (The Natural Environment) 	Equity & Inclusivity 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The connection of people and place, past, present and future is integral to providing meaningful opportunities for our people to be active. We recognise the importance of bringing principles from Te Ao Māori to our kaupapa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We value the diversity and uniqueness of te taiao - the natural environment of Rotorua and recognise that it is intimately connected to the wellbeing of our people. We seek to protect te taiao and leave in a better state for the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want all our people to have opportunities to have fun, socialise and enhance their well-being through play, active recreation and sport (regardless of age, ability/disability, gender, or ethnicity). We recognise that affordability, accessibility and diversity of opportunity are fundamental to increasing participation for all our people.





We will focus on 4 key approaches that align with the aspirations of our community. For this play, active recreation and sport strategy we will create an Implementation plan using a prioritised approach and reporting targets to measure our success from the Approach.

Key Approach	Objectives	Community Aspiration
Experiences and Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen connection to place and past to Increase participation and improve wellbeing. Increase inclusivity, diversity and equity of opportunity through play, active recreation and sport experiences that reflect our diverse community and Its changing needs. Activate our open spaces and maximise the broad range of activities available to our communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaitiakitanga Diverse experiences Diverse play spaces
Collaboration and Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve better participation outcomes for our Rotorua community through effective engagement, partnerships and collaboration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More partnerships Affordable opportunities Improved connectivity
Spaces and Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure there are a range of Integrated, sustainable and fit for purpose spaces and places available to support our people to be active in the ways that they choose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to spaces & places Multi-function hubs Well maintained spaces
Policy and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An integrated approach to future policy and planning to ensure that play, active recreation and sport are embedded in the work that we do. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility and inclusivity

8.1 Strengthen connection to place and past to increase participation and improve wellbeing

What success looks like	What we will do
<p>Our kaupapa increases the connection between te tangata and te taiao.</p> <p>We use open space and play, active recreation and sport to share knowledge, teach, learn, develop and tell stories of the whenua.</p> <p>All whānau have opportunities to participate in both competitive and non-competitive physical activity.</p> <p>We are supporting and encouraging by Māori, for Māori provision in our mahi.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incorporate Te Arawa pūrākau-narratives into the development of new open spaces and facilities. b. Identify opportunities to embed mātauranga Māori, whakapapa, pūrākau within play spaces and play opportunities include consideration of creating Māra Hūpara-traditional playground space. c. Identify opportunities to provide physical activity occasions to provide natural and/or cultural resources sustainably through open space design. d. Increase participation programmes offered in te reo me ōna tikanga-te reo and appropriate customs. e. Increase opportunities for participation in traditional Māori sport and games. f. Enhance the role Rotorua plays in providing for sports with high Māori participation, including competitive waka ama. g. Improve whānau access to non-competitive traditional Māori sports including waka ama programmes. h. Identify ways to provide whānau sports days and/or Iwi/ hapū games. i. Identify marae-based play opportunities which increase opportunities for whānau.
<p>We are working with others and support local initiatives to protect and maintain our te taiao in a planned way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a planned approach to enhance and protect local ecosystem corridors and waterways across Rotorua. b. Support community-led initiatives which align with a prioritised approach. c. Identify opportunities to create initiatives for community participation in open space maintenance. d. Identify appropriate sites for the development of maara kai in open spaces.
<p>People are inspired to participate by others and our community has a better awareness of opportunities.</p> <p>Our community actively engages with the existing spaces, places and programmes available for play, active recreation and sport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a Rotorua social media initiative to encourage participation through the use of local people as role models. b. Work with our interest groups to promote and implement have-a-go events / programmes with grass-roots organisations (clubs and providers). c. Identify opportunities for shared information resources to improve community understanding of the available opportunities to be active.

8.2 Activate our open spaces and maximise the broad range of activities

What success looks like	What we will do
<p>Our whānau are making the most of the usability of spaces.</p> <p>We have developed fit for purpose open spaces which support a range of play and active and passive uses of open space and ensure that the diversity of our community is represented.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work with community play providers and funders to develop initiatives that increase activation of open spaces using whānau-orientated outcomes and/or play opportunities. This could include resources to support pop-up play opportunities across the district. Provide support infrastructure as identified in the OSNP such as picnic tables, shade/shelter (weather protection), seating for spectators/caregivers, car parking, toilets, drinking water. Work with communities to identify if they have specific needs such as dog-friendly, off-leash open spaces, fitness stations, pump tracks, skate parks.

8.3 Increase inclusivity, diversity and equity of opportunity through play, active recreation and sport experiences that reflect our diverse community and its changing needs

What success looks like	What we will do
<p>We will be actively ensuring equitable outcomes for play, active recreation, and sport.</p> <p>We will be providing improved outcomes for those in most need, strategically addressing age-appropriate play, active recreation, and sport needs, working with young people, to better support their physical activity needs and improving fully accessible participation opportunities for all.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete an equity mapping exercise to draw out disparities in open space and playground/play provision within each Local Catchment area. Implement a planned equitable approach to improving provision of a diverse range of play experiences suitable for each Local Catchment zone as referred to in the OSNP (natural, built, interactive; age and disability appropriate). Identify specific barriers impacting participation such as location and pricing where they are impacting participation opportunities. Work with our interest groups to identify how to effectively provide accessibility features within our play space and reserve developments. Work with our interest groups to develop a prioritised list of spaces and places that need physical accessibility enhancements for people using wheelchairs, prams, mobility scooters and adaptive sport and recreation equipment. Include consideration of access to aquatic spaces including pools, streams and boat ramps, tracks and trails including Titokorangi. Work with communities to ensure open spaces support the participation choices of our increasingly diverse community (age, ethnicity, gender, disability).



9.1 Achieve better participation outcomes for our Rotorua community through effective partnerships and collaboration

What success looks like	What we will do
<p>We will be working collaboratively with Sport Bay of Plenty to the provision of play, active recreation and sport for our community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify mechanisms to enhance relationships between Rotorua clubs/ organisations and Regional Sports Organisations. b. Investigate opportunities for Clubs to share services, systems and resources including the potential for joint contracts for common service needs. c. Co-ordinate advice and appropriate policy to support evidence-based decisions.
<p>We will be facilitating strategic partnerships and increasing collaborative efforts to deliver equitable outcomes for our communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify partnership opportunities to promote and facilitate play experiences within open space. b. Identify partnership opportunities to deliver accessibility outcomes associated with using open space. c. Identify partnership opportunities to deliver combined health and participation benefits such as health or social service awareness campaigns and 'pop-up' clinics alongside existing sport or recreation activities. d. Investigate the need for programmes that will help improve water safety outcomes within natural water spaces (lakes, rivers), particularly for groups with high drowning rates (males, Pacific Peoples, Māori). e. Identify partnership opportunities to improve connections between open spaces through enhancing active and public transport links across Rotorua including incorporation of play on the way opportunities where these can be encouraged. f. Support community-led partnership approaches that provide outcomes for priority groups such as rangatahi.
<p>Our communities have greater community funding opportunities which facilitate strategic funding of initiatives that increase participation outcomes, particularly for those who need financial support to participate and support grassroots organisations to achieve improved asset/facility management outcomes to better meeting community participant needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Investigate a more co-ordinated approach to funding Rotorua based initiatives that align with the priorities of this strategy. b. Investigate the possibility of a 'match' fund for community groups to obtain a contribution (up to a maximum project value) for prioritised amenity facility enhancement projects such as upgrades to toilets, storage, change rooms, drinking water, shade/shelter (weather protection), and seating provision.



What success looks like

Our mahi will align with national initiatives, approaches and organisations that are important to our Rotorua context.

We will be enabling more effective use of resources through national partnerships and sharing expertise, providing choice, positive and inclusive participation environments for young people and supporting our Home of Indigenous and Māori Sports strategy to improve participation outcomes for Māori.

What we will do

- a. Work with Sport BOP on the delivery of Sport NZ initiatives such as 'Balance is Better' and 'Good Sports'
- b. Work with Te Huinga Tākarao/National Māori Sports Authority to grow Rotorua as the preferred home of Māori cultural sporting tournaments.
- c. Align work with Ihi Aotearoa/Sport NZ Te Pākē and Te Aho Ihi Aotearoa/Māori Outcomes Framework and Activation Plan.



10.1 Ensure there are a range of integrated, sustainable and fit for purpose spaces and places available to support our people to be active in the ways that they choose

The Bay of Plenty Spaces and Places Strategy is adopted as a high-level strategic document including the criteria and evaluation process for project prioritisation (which assists in making investment decisions for the future provision and optimisation of the sport and recreation facility network). Wherever possible, new investment should focus on integrated facilities providing cohesive and meaningful experiences. To maximise the use of facilities, consideration of how spaces can be multi-use should be pursued.

What success looks like	What we will do
<p>Our water-based sport and recreation facilities will be fit for purpose.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incorporate water/land interface improvements and better access to vessel storage, toilets, wash down water, clubroom space into new facility provision and management approaches, in particular at high-use locations.
<p>We will be actively supporting our community facilities to function sustainably and maximise social benefits for the community ensuring fit for purpose facilities, sound investment, improved utilisation, and opportunity for communities to show manaakitanga as hosts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work with our communities to develop a plan which addresses the issues and opportunities within the current network of community clubs and halls. b. Plan new or upgrade existing play, active recreation and sport facilities, ensuring these also support opportunities for social engagement when people are participating.
<p>We will be ensuring resilience and adaptability to climate change in our facility planning processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Undertake climate risk assessments for capital and renewal projects. b. Ensure ways to improve low energy design, energy efficiency and renewable energy is considered in Council provided facilities.
<p>Our communities will have secured access to non-Council owned play, active recreation, and sport assets (current and future) which supports a network of high quality, affordable, geographically accessible facilities, local participation opportunities and programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop formal partnerships with schools, kura kaupapa and kohanga reo - particularly for access to indoor/outdoor courts, swimming pools and play spaces. b. Identify funding for partnership facility enhancements and to secure community use. c. Develop a shared booking system for partnership indoor courts. d. Develop partnerships with schools and learn to swim programme providers to increase access to learn to swim across the district. e. Identify opportunities to increase community access to public conservation land and other private open space assets (such as marae), especially where they can increase opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi for spontaneous, informal, casual play and recreation.

What success looks like	What we will do
<p>The Rotorua Aquatic Centre/ Whare Kahoe will be providing greater participation outcomes across our diverse community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify enhancements to the changing and shower facilities. b. Work with the disability community to improve water access (including support infrastructure) that enables use by those with disabilities. c. Identify adjustments to programming to balance facility use for the broad range of desired community users and uses including water play, casual, recreational swimming, learn to swim and aquatic sports users.
<p>Our city will have adequate community indoor court space to facilitate our communities sporting needs.</p>	<p>Undertake a feasibility assessment to identify the potential of improving indoor court provision by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Repurposing the Energy Events Centre (EEC) to primarily serve community sport (with priority access); b. Developing a new, multi-court community indoor court facility (this could include repurposing a commercial warehouse-type facility); c. Supplementing indoor court provision with multi-use, outdoor covered court provision across the district; d. Working with strategic partners to support Council indoor court provision through formal partnerships with schools including potential for a centralised booking system.
<p>Our existing sports fields will be maximised where feasible to improve current provision.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Undertake a field improvement programme to increase field capacity across the network using improved drainage and securing floodlighting, including Council taking over ownership of floodlights. b. Develop additional dedicated training areas by consolidating competition play on fewer fields and converting training areas to floodlit areas. c. Develop a centralised field allocation and booking system to enable Council to control field access and manage demand across the network. d. Investigate mechanisms to provide additional field capacity, particularly for training through partnerships with schools. e. Analyse feasibility of the management of each sports field and identify opportunities to retire sports fields and improve cost effectiveness across the network. f. Develop and implement a 10 year sports field and facilities improvement programme with management and maintenance enhancement projects across the city.
<p>We will be providing sufficient sports fields, with appropriate social and support amenities that support both community sport and events/tournament use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Investigate surface and site options to provide an additional 3 - 5 sports fields (11 hectares), primarily for winter sport use, including regular community sport and tournaments. Allow for ancillary facilities, buffers and circulation. Include understanding of suitable provision within the key hubs, Western, Central, Ngongotaha and Eastern areas of the city, providing for geographical accessibility across the network and club facility collaboration to support community wellbeing outcomes. b. Investigate the feasibility of an integrated 12 field (6 full size RU/RL fields) touch football venue to support the growth in this high Māori participation sport. c. Investigate site options to provide for an additional 2 ovals (6 hectares) and 4 cricket nets. Allow for ancillary facilities, buffers and circulation. Include understanding of suitable provision within the key hubs, Western, Central, Ngongotaha and Eastern areas of the city.



11.1 Develop an integrated approach to future policy and planning to ensure that play, active recreation and sport are embedded in the work that we do

What success looks like	What we will do
<p>Our planning approach will be integrated and community-led, engaging community, as end users in decisions about provision and design.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify the role that safe footpaths, road crossings and active and public transportation options play in overall access and participation opportunities, particularly for children/families and older people in the provision of open space. b. Investigate consideration of ‘play on the way’ opportunities in the active transport network and provide. c. Enable mechanisms which ensure that local community members, of all ethnicities and including special interest groups, are involved at all stages of planning and design phases of play, active recreation and sport facilities.
<p>Our youth will have well-planned, diverse and fit for purpose opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a youth play activation plan to provide an integrated response to all youth play related recommendations in this strategy. b. Develop this activation plan in conjunction with rangatahi to ensure strategic Youth Play opportunities across Rotorua District are identified and implemented.
<p>The voice of our accessibility community is always considered and incorporated in the design and development processes for new and upgraded facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a Council-wide accessibility policy and ensure that planning for all new developments and facility upgrades provide those with disabilities, parent groups and older adults’ opportunities to have direct input to the design process.
<p>Events on open space are managed more effectively and this is improving experiences and enabling local community use of reserves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improve the balance between access, use and impacts of events with other community needs in high-use, high-profile locations. b. Identify ways Council can best support locally led, community event initiatives with planning, and delivery and compliance barriers (such as health and safety paperwork, traffic management, and public liability insurance).
<p>The presence of harmful substances and advertising in public places no longer occurs and this is helping our community to make healthy choices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work with health agencies such as Te Whatu Ora, local and regional sport and recreation organisations to develop Council policy which supports limitations on alcohol, smoking, vaping occurring on sports fields and reserves, along with fast food advertising in play, sport and recreation spaces.
<p>Our Clubs are operating sustainably by increasing sharing and better use of limited land and facility resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a policy that encourages investment into multi-use sport and recreation hub sites (over single-use facilities where practical).



What success looks like	What we will do
<p>Our open space management plans and policy are supporting and enabling the community to be active and use our reserves in a range of ways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implement changes that may be required to enable natural play experiences – such as identification of appropriate locations for digging, hut building, trees suitable for climbing, stacking rocks and stones Tū kōhatu. b. Provide alternative provision options such as play spaces and natural play options before replacing existing play equipment with new equipment of the same type. c. Review existing facility use levels and asset age to identify opportunities to rationalise expenditure based on equitable outcomes being prioritised. d. Identify opportunities for increased facility sharing and/or sub-tenancy arrangements.
<p>We are providing equitable resourcing and investment in recreation and sports activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop policy which addresses how Council can provide an equitable approach to provision of resources and investment across the broader range of sport and recreation activities considering comparatively the opportunity presented to achieve community wellbeing outcomes .
<p>Our spaces and places provide affordable opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review the Council funding and charging policy framework for different Council operated spaces and places to ensure that there is greater equity across facility and activity types. Consider, where possible opportunities to ensure affordable access options for community users.
<p>The actions within the Open Space Network Plan are implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop Local Catchment Open Space Plans (LCOSP) for each catchment area, integrating the recommendations outlined in this strategy into the detailed LCOSP developed for each catchment. b. Review and update the LOS OS policy so that it has greater focus on performance-based planning. c. Develop a Play Activation Plan.



ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL