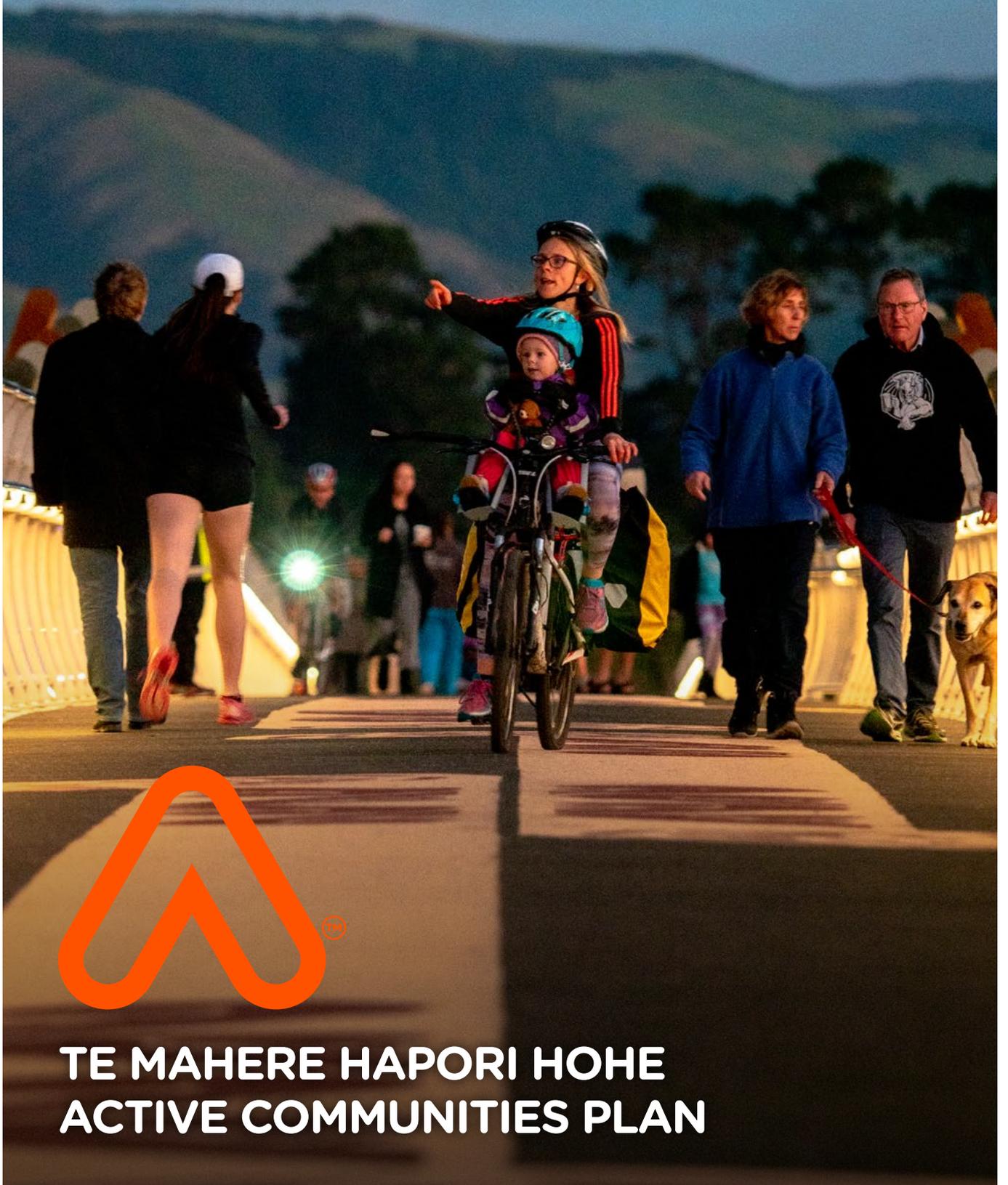


PALMY[®]
2021-31



**TE MAHERE HAPORI HOHE
ACTIVE COMMUNITIES PLAN**

Ahunga rautaki



Strategic direction



He hapori whakahohe: Te ahunga rautaki a te Kaunihera

Active communities and Council's strategic goals

The Palmerston North City Council vision is He iti rā, he iti pounamu Small city benefits, big city ambition. The Active communities plan primarily contributes to the Palmerston North City Council's goal of a Creative and exciting city. The plan describes Council's activities for the first three years of the 2021-2031 10-Year Plan.

Ngā tino Priorities

The priorities of Goal 2: A creative and exciting city are:

1. He waihanga i te tāone me ōna wāhi papai mō te katoa

Create a city that has great places for all people
2. He whakanui i te hītori me te kanorautanga o te tāone, me te whakapakari i tōna pai hei kāinga mō ngā ahurea me ngā reo maha

Celebrate the city's history and diversity, and build on the strength of being a city of many cultures and languages
3. He waihanga i te tāone auaha, he poipoi, he whakanui anō i ngā toi

Be a creative city that nurtures and celebrates the arts
4. He whakaū i te rongonui o te tāone hei tāone whakihiihi, he nui ōna mahi ā-rēhia i ngā pō, i ngā mutunga wiki hoki

Develop a national reputation as an exciting city with plenty to do at night and on weekends

5. He whakatenatena i te kori tinana kia eke ki tua atu i hapori kē i Aotearoa

Be one of the most active communities in New Zealand

Te take o te mahere Purpose of the plan

The 10-Year Plan levels of service for this plan are:

- Provide a wide range of accessible and well-maintained play, active recreation and sports facilities to increase levels of physical activity and participation in sport and active recreation and meet a diverse range of local communities. (Note: these facilities are city reserves, suburb reserves, local reserves, sports fields, the Central Energy Trust Arena, walkways and shared paths, and swimming pools)
- Work in partnership with external recreation organisations, and facility providers, to help increase levels of participation in play, active recreation and sport

Ngā hononga ki mahere kē Links with other plans

The actions in the Community facilities plan also contribute to the achievement of this plan. This is because community facilities, such as community centres and libraries, also provide opportunities for communities to participate in active recreation activities (Priority 1, Connected communities strategy).

The actions in the Manawatū River plan also contribute to the achievement of this plan because the Manawatū River provides a great place for people to enjoy a variety of recreational activities (Priority 1, Creative and liveable strategy).

The actions in this plan also contribute to the achievement of the Healthy communities plan and the priority 'to ensure we have a healthy community where everyone has access to healthy, safe, and affordable housing and neighbourhoods'. This is because the provision of a range of accessible play, recreation and sport facilities enable people to be active in their own neighbourhoods and this contributes to better health outcomes. (Priority 2, Connected communities strategy).

Te mahitahi me Rangitāne o Manawatū Rangitāne o Manawatū partnership

Council will work in partnership with Rangitāne o Manawatū and:

- involve Rangitāne o Manawatū early in major active community projects, including the development of parks and reserves
- protect iwi sites of significance
- co-manage some reserves

These commitments will guide the implementation of all aspects of this plan.

Ngā puka Kaunihera e whai wāhi mai ana ki tēnei mahere Council documents that contribute to this plan

The implementation of this plan is shaped by these Council-adopted documents:

- Asset Management Plan – Parks and Reserves
- Auahi Kore Smokefree and Vapefree Policy

- Central Energy Trust Arena Masterplan
- City Centre Framework
- Community Funding Policy
- Dog Control Policy and Bylaw
- Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Sports Facilities Plan
- Naming Rights for Council-Owned Recreational Facilities Policy
- Parks UAV Drone Policy
- Play Policy
- Policy for the Use of Public Space
- Reserve and Walkway Naming Policy
- Reserve Management and Development Plans and Masterplans (prepared under the Reserves Act 1977) – Te Āpiti/Manawatu Gorge, Victoria Esplanade, Memorial Park, Ahimate Park, Manawatū River, Kahuterawa (Arapuke), Ashhurst
- Signs and Use of Public Places Bylaw
- Sun Protection Policy

Te ine i te angitutanga Measures of success

Council will monitor these measures of success and report on these through the City Dashboards:

- Increase in use of parks, sports fields and playgrounds
- Increase in satisfaction of Council's sport and recreation facilities
- Increase in use of aquatic facilities
- Increase in use of Central Energy Trust Arena for community sport and active recreation
- Increase in participation rates in sport and recreation



Kupu whakataki

Introduction

People are generally healthier and happier in places where decision-makers prioritise physical activity. Being active contributes to all aspects of health; te whare tapa whā. The purpose of this plan is for our community to access a range of play, active recreation and sport environments.

Kei hea tātou i tēnei wā?

Where are we now?

Kōrero whānui

General

- People in Palmerston North consider that they have many opportunities to be physically active.¹
- Around three quarters of adults in Palmerston North are active (compared to around 70% for the wider Manawatu Regional Sports Trust region).²
- By the same measure, young people are more likely to be active than are adults (92% of city 5-17 year olds are active over seven days in the city, equal to the level of activity for young people in the Manawātū Regional Sports Trust area).
- Despite these reported participation levels, the Ministry of Health's physical activity guidelines³ are not being met by about 40% of the adult population in the MidCentral District Health Board area, who are also less likely to report meeting the physical activity guidelines than the New Zealand population overall.
- Council is planning for play, active recreation and sport facilities in the city's residential growth areas.

¹ The 2020 Residents' Survey found that 91% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that 'Palmerston North has lots of opportunities to be physically active'.

² This measure looks at any physical activity that was specifically for the purpose of sport, exercise or recreation carried out over a seven day period. This question is asked in the national Active NZ surveys undertaken by Sport NZ. (Note: the Palmerston North percentage is a combined analysis of the 2017 and 2018 Sport NZ Active NZ surveys).

³ 'Physical activity' is defined as doing at least 30 minutes of brisk walking or moderate-intensity physical activity (or equivalent vigorous activity), for at least 10 minutes at a time, at least five days a week. Ministry of Health. (2015). Eating and Activity Guidelines for NZ adults.

Te tākaro me ngā mahi ā-rēhia whakahohe

Play and active recreation

- Over eight in ten (86%) residents are satisfied with Council's overall provision of parks, reserves and open spaces.⁴
- The level of parks provision in Palmerston North has remained steady for the last five years (10.3 ha of parks/ 1,000 people). It is not known, however, if there is equitable distribution of parks, reserves and facilities across the city.
- Council estimates that there are over 3.8 million visits to our parks, reserves and open spaces on an annual basis - that equates to 42 visits per person each year (although this measure excludes children).⁵
- Walking for sport and leisure is the city's most popular leisure activity and Palmerston North has over 100 kilometres of recreational pathways.⁶
- Reserves are categorised as:
 - City reserves – destination facilities due to their unique nature offering several amenity aspects: Victoria Esplanade, Memorial Park, Ashhurst Domain, Linklater Reserve, Manawātū River Park and The Square/Te Marae o Hine; walkways are also included in this category
 - Premier, senior and other sportsfields - these provide unique spaces for the community to take part in recreational activities with a variety of surfaces for different sports/activities
 - Suburb reserves – local reserves that are centrally located within suburbs, are provided to an area of about 1.5 kilometres, and have public toilets, play opportunities, drinking fountains, outdoor gym equipment, and shade provision: Kelvin Grove Park, Takaro Park, Rangitāne Park, Peren Park, Skoglund Park/Edwards Pit Park, Colquhoun Park, Awapuni Park, Milverton Park, Bill Brown Park, Papaoeia Park, Cloverlea Park, Bunnythorpe Domain, Longburn School; new reserves in urban growth areas
 - Local reserves – all other types of reserves that are further grouped into special character, neighbourhood, esplanade, gully, outdoor adventure, nature and ecological links.
- Palmerston North's playground provision

⁴ Palmerston North City Council. (2020). Annual Residents' Survey.

⁵ Based on the findings of the 2020 Residents' Survey.

⁶ Pathways include all tracks, trails and walkways, including surfaced and unsurfaced walkways in natural and urban green spaces.

has remained steady in recent years with 58 playgrounds located across the City alongside other play opportunities in natural areas, in parks and reserves, and on streets.

- Council has a co-management agreement with Rangitāne o Manawatū for Te Motu o Poutoa.
- Council has not completed planning for all City reserves to guide management and development decisions.
- Arapuke Forest Park provides for a range of outdoor recreation activities, particularly mountain-biking and walking.
- Most of the Council's parks and reserves are protected under the Reserves Act 1977 that requires processes for leasing, licences and the grant of easements.

Rēhia ā-wai

Water recreation

- The Council provides Lido Aquatic Centre, Freyberg Community Pool and Splashhurst. Council also provides outdoor pools and water play opportunities for children at the Victoria Esplanade and Memorial Park.
- In 2019/20 there were 459,000 visits to Council's pools: Splashhurst Community Pool (18,650), Lido Aquatic Centre (286,065) and Freyberg Community Pool (154,604).
- Fifty nine percent of residents were satisfied with public swimming pools in 2020, down from 68% in 2019.⁷
- Based on the national benchmarking standard, Palmerston North pools have a satisfactory level of water space provision and this has remained steady for the last five years. There are some peak time pressures experienced at some pools.
- More people are using the Manawatū River for recreational swimming, with Ahimate Beach a popular swimming spot.
- Hokowhitu Lagoon is used for canoe polo and other water-based (non-contact) sports but there are on-going issues with water quality that limit use.

Hākinakina

Sport

- Palmerston North has a good supply of sports fields (1.6 ha of sports fields/1,000 people) and level of provision has been steady for the last five years.
- Council endorses the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Sports Facility Plan (2018) for investment decisions on sports facility development.
- Investigations into a site for an artificial football turf have been undertaken over the last two years in the broader context of overall sports field provision. More suitable training facilities for some outdoor sports codes are needed.
- Sport membership numbers are low compared to people's participation in active recreation activities such as walking and cycling or recreation events (such as Striders' Super 7s). Some sports, such as bowls, are amalgamating their facilities in response to declining numbers of players.
- The Central Energy Trust Arena (CETA) is the City's main multi-purpose hub for organised community and semi-professional sport and recreation activities.⁸ The management and operation of CETA is separate to the wider parks and reserves activity.
- CETA is marketed as the 'sports capital of the region' and hosts several regional and national secondary schools' sports tournaments that generate significant economic benefits (bringing in about \$6 million annually to the city⁹).
- CETA's goal is for at least 80% of use to be for community sport and recreation, rather than commercial use.

Currently, community-use includes:

- Public events (sport and non-sport) where the public attend and may be charged an admission fee. For example, Speedway, Super rugby, Home show, and Big Boys' Toys.
- Community events (sport) where local clubs and associations organise weekly competitions, events or seasons for community participation.
- Community events (non-sport) where organisations/ not for profit/ community groups organise events based around community participation. For example: Rotary Club and church services.

⁸ Thirty-six sporting codes use CETA with speedway, rugby, football, basketball, volleyball, badminton, skating and netball its main codes.
⁹ Sport Manawatū 12 month report (2019/20).



Currently commercial use includes:

- Commercial events—organised by private or commercial organisations for invited guests only, such as weddings, trade shows, or training.
- National sports events—where national sports bodies hold regional, North Island or national sports competitions.
- The development of CETA is guided by a Master Plan. Proposed sports facility developments projects at CETA are identified as the City's priority through the Regional Sports Facility Plan.
- Sixty eight percent of residents were satisfied or very satisfied with the CETA in 2020 (down from 70% in 2019).¹⁰
- The sport sector is under considerable pressure in terms of retention of members, financial pressures and changing societal preferences that have been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ngā rangapū mahitahi me ngā kaitautoko

Partnerships and support

- In partnership with Rangitāne o Manawatū, Council has worked on many projects that encourage and support ngā taonga tākaro opportunities and other physical activities of a Te Ao Māori nature, such as kī ō rahi and waka ama.
- Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa's purpose is to contribute to the wellbeing of everybody in Aotearoa New Zealand by leading an enriching and inspiring play, active recreation and sport system. Its national direction influences the

¹⁰ Palmerston North City Council. (2020). Residents' survey.

activities and priorities of partner organisations such as Council and Regional Sports Trusts.

- Sport Manawatū and Council have a strategic partnership reflected in a funding agreement (reviewed every three years) to deliver a range of activities and services to support Council's strategic outcomes – particularly for everyone to be active.
- Council supports 24 sport and recreation clubs and organisations through lease arrangements at parks and reserves (also see the Community development chapter of the Connected communities plan).
- Council provides direct financial support through grants to some clubs and organisations for park and facility development as well as contributing to the renewal of specialist surfaces at Massey University to ensure continuity of community access.
- Council's Active Communities Fund helps people who are financially disadvantaged to be active (administered by Sport Manawatū).

Aranukunuku whakahohe / korikori

Active transport/ mobility

- Some people are active through active transport (mainly walking and cycling) using a combination of the roading, walkway and shared path networks.¹¹
- Sport Manawatū is funded by Council to support active transport promotion and the deliver the national 'Bike Ready' (cycle skills education) programme.

¹¹ In 2018, 10.2% of people travelled to work by active transport means (walking, jogging, cycling); this has fallen from 16.3% in 2001. The percentage of people travelling to education by active means is higher at 24.2%. Source: New Zealand census.

He aha ngā hiahia hei whakatutuki? What do we want to achieve?

- There is a range of quality play, active recreation and sport environments and facilities throughout the city that enable people to be more active.
- There is equitable access to play, recreation and sport facilities throughout the city.
- There are opportunities to participate in the cultural physical activities of mana whenua and other cultures.
- A Whānau Ora approach is the basis for the co-design of activities.
- People know about all play, active recreation and sport opportunities.
- Play, recreation and sport facility developments benefit from Māori design expertise from the beginning of their development.
- The community is increasingly active.
- Facilities are available, accessible and inviting to all people in the community.
- Rangitāne o Manawatū have opportunities for early involvement in all active communities initiatives.
- Facilities are multi-purpose, where possible.
- Residents are satisfied with our parks and reserves network.
- The City's new residential growth areas support active communities.

He aha ngā mahi e tutuki ai ngā hiahia? What actions will we take to get there?

Ongoing actions	Start date	Involvement of partners
Provide and maintain city reserves, local reserves, sportsfields, Central Energy Trust Arena, aquatic facilities, walkways, shared paths, sport and recreation facilities	All 2021/2022	Central Energy Trust Arena Master Plan Steering Group CLM
Work with other sport and recreation providers and adjoining Councils		Manawatū, Horowhenua, and Tararua district councils Education sector New Zealand Defence Force
Partner with Sport Manawatū to deliver play, active recreation and sport services to meet community outcomes sought by Council including the co-ordination of the Regional Sports Facility Plan ¹² , Active Communities and the Sports Event Partnership Funds Carry out regular monitoring and reporting with Sport Manawatū		Sport Manawatū
Contribute to pre-feasibility or needs assessment work (as required by Council's commitment to the Regional Sports Facilities Plan)		Sport Manawatū Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa
Develop and review Asset Management Plans for Recreation and Community Facilities		
Administer the Reserves Act 1977		Department of Conservation
Apply a Whānau Ora approach ¹³ in the co-design of active community plan programmes		Rangitāne o Manawatū Communities of interest
Prepare a generic/omnibus reserve management plan to cover all reserve categories (not covered by an individual development or management plan)		Rangitāne o Manawatū Department of Conservation
Prepare a development / reserve management plan for Te Marae o Hine – The Square		Heritage New Zealand
Provide sport and recreation opportunities in all of the City's parks and reserves, that are responsive to the needs and views of communities of interest		Communities of interest
Enable long-term community access to the Massey Community Athletics Track and hockey turf facilities		Massey University

¹² Note that the SEPF includes funding for national secondary schools sports events and is included within the Economic development plan.

¹³ Whānau Ora is an approach that supports whānau and families to achieve their aspirations in life. It places whānau at the centre of decision making and supports them to build a more prosperous future. (source: www.tpk.govt.nz/en/whakamahia/whanau-ora/about-whanau-ora).

He aha ngā hiahia hei whakatutuki? What do we want to achieve?

- There is an extensive pathway network that keeps pace with urban and population growth.
- Rangitānenuiarawa¹⁴ and wider Māori cultural heritage values are expressed in city parks through place names, art, signage, and story-telling.
- City reserves reflect their special character and values.
- We better understand the role that community facilities play in meeting the community's play, recreation and sport needs.
- Reserve Management Plans or Master Plans guide the management and development of all City reserves.
- Palmerston North reserves are co-managed by Council and Rangitāne o Manawatū, where mutually agreed.
- Rangitāne o Manawatū sites of significance are developed, protected, and preserved.
- All of our parks are protected, and Council effectively administers the Reserves Act 1977.
- All swimming pools retain high levels of visitation and customer satisfaction.
- Aquatic sport and recreation planning takes account of predicted population growth, wider water recreation needs (including outdoor and natural environments) and trends.

He aha ngā mahi e tutuki ai ngā hiahia? What actions will we take to get there?

Ongoing actions	Start date	Involvement of partners
Deliver the Central Energy Trust Master Plan	2021/2022	Rangitāne o Manawatū Central Energy Trust Master Plan Steering Group Stakeholder groups
Provide swimming pools to meet a range of community needs including free swimming for under 5s	2021/2022	Community Leisure Management Ministry of Education
Extend the walkway/ shared path network and develop new parks in residential growth areas	2021/2022	
Develop and improve walking opportunities through the promotion of new trails, designating links on private land to achieve network continuity	2021/2022	
Provide safe and accessible city reserves	2021/2022	
Promote opportunities to be active	2021/2022	
Carry out drainage and irrigation improvements to existing sports fields (Skoglund Park)	2022/2023	
Council's Play Policy informs Council's operational decisions	2021/2022	
Improve walkways and shared paths to support the City's most popular activity	2021/2022	
Develop and support a mobility scooter service for the Victoria Esplanade and He Ara Kotahi	2021/2022	

¹⁴ Rangitānenuiarawa is the Rangitāne expression of kaitiakitanga, or customary authority and guardianship, and affirms their customary leadership in ensuring the health and regeneration of their tribal rohe.

He aha ngā hiahia hei whakatutuki? What do we want to achieve?

- Facility programming and scheduling of events respond to community needs.
- The use of all community recreation facilities is optimised.
- The city's sports field network is flexible enough to meet changing sports codes participation rates, and participant/user needs.
- The sports sector is sustainable.
- The Regional Sports Facility Plan decision-making investment process guides Council decision-making.
- The main purpose of Central Energy Trust Arena is as the 'sports capital of the region' where community sport and recreation is the highest priority.
- Community needs assessments (and the RSFP decision-making investment process) inform the review of the next Central Energy Trust Arena Master Plan projects.
- There is close collaboration throughout the sports sector.
- Council's support for Sport Manawatū is primarily focused on the goal of a more active community.
- Council supports a variety of clubs, and organisations through consistent and transparent lease arrangements at parks and reserves and community centres.
- Council supports clubs and organisations to carry out work in parks on its behalf (locally-led approaches).
- There is excellent walking and cycling infrastructure in Palmerston North.
- There is a strong uptake of active modes of travel across the entire city on road-based and off-road networks.

He aha ngā mahi e tutuki ai ngā hiahia? What actions will we take to get there?

New and one-off actions	Completion date	Involvement of partners
Carry out a needs-assessment for swimming and other water-based recreation	2023/2024	Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa Sport Manawatū Swimming NZ Manawatū Swimming Swimming and other water sports
Carry out a detailed feasibility assessment for training and competition requirements for outdoor sports codes, including further consideration of an artificial football turf (as required by Council's commitment to the Regional Sports Facilities Plan)	2021/2022	Sports sector Central Football
Plan and build an artificial football turf	2023/2024	Central Football
Review the Palmerston North city - specific aspects of the Regional Sports Facilities Plan	2021/2022	Sport Manawatū RSFP Steering Group
Review the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Sports Facility Plan	2022/2023	Ihi Aotearoa Sport New Zealand
Carry out a preliminary feasibility assessment of indoor court provision in the city (as required by Council's commitment to the Regional Sports Facilities Plan)	2023/2024 (started)	
Map the equity of play, recreation and sport facilities across the city	2022/2023	MidCentral DHB Sport Manawatū Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa
Review the Kahuterawa Outdoor Recreation Plan	2022/2023	
Explore opportunities for the extension of co-management arrangements for other reserves or activities	2021/2022	Rangitāne o Manawatū
Review the Naming rights for Council-owned Recreational Facilities Policy and Reserve and Walkway Naming Policy	2023/2024	
Review the Parks UAV Drone Policy	2023/2024	
Provide opportunities for play in Te Marae o Hine - The Square and the city centre	2021/2022 (started)	Rangitāne o Manawatū
Provide more carparking at Bill Brown Park	2022/2023	
Investigate the feasibility of developing a Chinese garden within Victoria Esplanade	2022/2023	Chinese community
Carry out a feasibility assessment for a covered artificial green for bowls	2021/2022	Bowls groups Sport Manawatū

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Our north arrow draws directly from “North” in our city’s name. An upward arrow perfectly symbolises our ambition for a city that’s smarter, continually growing and evolving, innovating, collaborating and finding enlightened ways to work with nature.