

Te Puru Outdoor Basketball Court

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Background

Basketball has gained rapid popularity across New Zealand thanks to the success of the Auckland SkyCity Breakers and the role models provided by Steven Adams and other NBA players. The game has been adapted as a street sport, and is considered highly credible and “cool” by today’s youth.

A youth basketball squad for 11-16 year olds was established at Te Puru in Oct 2014. In response to requests from parents, a junior basketball squad (for 7-11 year olds) was established in Jan 2016, and more recently an adult squad has also now been formed. These squads now constitute over 35 regular players, and the initiative has been recognised by the ABSL (Auckland Basketball) as the Pohutukawa Coast Basketball Club, affiliated with Te Puru.

The issue

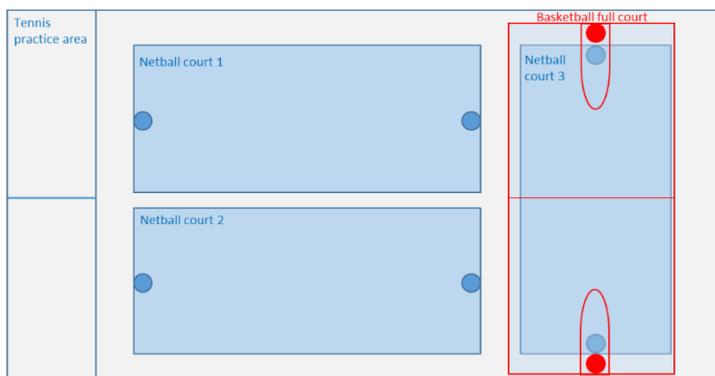
Beachlands and Maraetai have no open-access basketball court facility. The Te Puru main hall offers an excellent court, but there are limited timeslots where basketball can use the facility as it competes with many other sports, and players need to pay a facility hire fee to play. There are old mini-half courts in Beachlands (above Sunkist Bay) and Maraetai (next to the toilets at the west end of the beach), but both are run down and inadequate for training or games.

The current housing development of Beachlands and Maraetai will almost double the population of the Pohutukawa Coast over the next ten years, and the community needs to find methods of accommodating its growing population and catering for its children.

Court Proposal

This paper seeks funding to provide the Pohutukawa Coast with an outdoor basketball facility. This is achievable at minimal cost by utilising the existing court area used by the Netball Club, sharing one of the existing netball courts as a cross-code shared court.

A full basketball court will be established in the area of the third netball court by installing reversible netball/basketball hoops over the area of the third netball court. All courts will be relined, with the third netball court area delineated from the basketball court areas by clearly coloured lines.



This illustration shows the third netball court, shared with one full basketball court.

This arrangement allows for two remaining netball courts with no shared lines.

It concentrates the basketball activity at one end of the court area, allowing for the possibility of both codes being able to use the same court area simultaneously.

The facility could be used by everyone for both formal training and games, and perhaps more importantly, would provide a place where the local youth can meet to play 3-on-3 or “streetball”, and engage in a healthy and social outdoor activity.

Because the netball court area is already floodlit, the court could be used casually all year round, with perhaps more structured training during the basketball season.

Impacted parties

Pohutukawa Coast Netball Club will be impacted. One of their three existing netball courts will have coloured lines for both codes, and the hoops will be reversible. This third court will still be fully-functional as a netball court, and coordinated scheduling of club activities can avoid issues of which code uses the facility when. The proposal has been tabled to their committee, who have expressed their support subject to final details of the revisable hoops used for the full basketball court (to ensure they are workable for netball).

Te Puru Sport Centre have been supportive of the proposal from the start. The Te Puru indoor facility would not be impacted, although in the Summer it is likely that the regular weekly training sessions would be moved outdoors. During the Winter, the indoor training sessions would continue, and I would hope to make more use of the indoor facility by arranging competitive games.

Benefit to the Community

There are several benefits to be gained from the minimal investment required to establish this facility:

- An open-access facility that offers a healthy option for local children and youth to meet, play sport and interact
- An alternative court area for the Pohutukawa Coast Basketball Club to train, relieving the pressure on Te Puru main hall facilities
- A venue that can cater for local competitions and basketball-related events, one that can grow as the community expands.
- Better utilisation of a currently under-utilised resource (the existing netball court area) in an environment where facilities are currently constrained by the building limitations.

Reversible basketball/netball hoops

The following photos were provided by Gymleader via the Downer quote. The construction uses a 100NB galvanised basketball tower with a 1.2m overhang, international-size backboard and Goliath hoop on a steel frame. A heavy duty netball ring is fitted to the back of the post. The unit is held in a ground socket which allows the tower to be easily reversed for netball or basketball. Recent installations of these reversible hoops can be seen at Ormiston College, Flatbush and Takanini School, 39 Takanini School Road, Auckland.



Cost estimate

The following quote received from Downers, sourced from GymLeader (www.gymleader.co.nz), dated 13 July 2016.

Item	Description	Units	Unit cost	Amount
1	Reversible tower with backboards, hoops and ground sockets	2	\$ 2,352.17	\$ 4,704.34
2	Assembly for reversible towers	1	\$ 396.12	\$ 396.12
3	Installation (inc digging holes and installing concrete sockets)	1	\$ 1,092.50	\$ 1,092.50
4	Line marking - full basketball court	1	\$ 603.75	\$ 603.75
5	Line marking - shared netball court	1	\$ 557.75	\$ 557.75
6	Line marking - remark old netball courts	1	\$ 1,673.25	\$ 1,673.25
7	20 x outdoor basketballs	20	\$ 35.00	\$ 700.00
	<i>Sale amount</i>			\$9,727.71
	<i>GST</i>			\$1,459.16
	Total Amount			\$11,186.87