

**Date:** Wednesday 30 April 2025  
**Time:** 1.00pm  
**Meeting Room:** Kaipātiki Local Board Office  
**Venue:** 90 Bentley Avenue  
Glenfield

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## Kaipātiki Local Board Workshop

### OPEN ATTACHMENTS

#### ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER

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# Kaipātiki Local Board Sports Fields overview

Kaipātiki Local Board – 30 April 2025

Frederic Morin – Senior Maintenance Delivery Coordinator, Parks and Community Facilities

## Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to:

- Provide the Local Board with an overview of the sports fields provision in Kaipātiki Local Board.
- Explain the sports fields maintenance and renovations challenges.
- Present some of our sports fields maintenance improvement strategy.
- Present our recommendations on sports fields investment for the next 3 to 5 years.





# Sports fields overview:

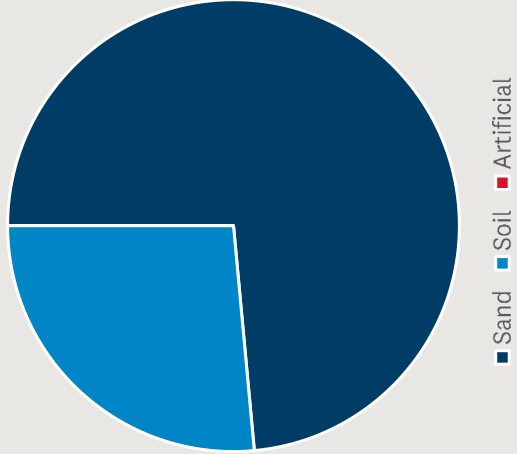
Sports fields numbers / soil types / grass species

Sports fields usages: main clubs / allocations / usages

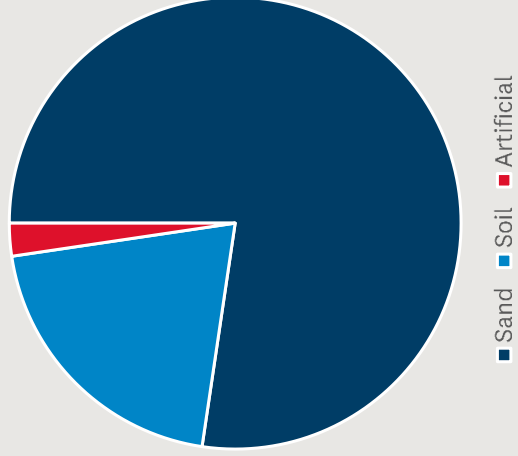
## What sports fields do we have in Kaipātiki ?

- 10 Parks in Kaipātiki for a total of 34 Sports Fields
- 25 sand fields / 9 soil fields
- No artificial field
- 20 fields with lights
- 128 Sports Fields on the North Shore
- 99 sand fields / 26 soil fields
- 3 artificial fields
- 74 fields with lights

Kaipātiki Sports fields



North Shore Sports fields



## Sports fields – Training availability

- Training Hours available: 340h
- Training Hours booked: 387h

### High usage:

- Shepherds Park – 60h training available / 80h booked
- Kaipātiki Park – 30h available / 52h booked
- Greenslade Reserve – 16h available / 22.5h booked

### Low usage:

- Onepoto Domain – 20h available / 2h booked
- Onewa Domain No4, No5 – no bookings
- Stafford Park – 10h available / 10h booked
- Hato Petera College – no bookings

We have a shortfall of training fields in Kaipātiki. Sand fields with lights are overused, good fields with no lights like Onepoto Domain are underused. Soil fields usage is restricted due to poor ground conditions in winter.



## Sports Clubs – Winter Sports

### **Football:**

Birkenhead United AFC – Shepherds Park – Over 1,000 members  
North Rovers FC – McFetridge Park – Over 1,000 members

### **Rugby union:**

Glenfield Rugby union and Sports Club – Kaipatiki Park – around 350 members  
Northcote Birkenhead Rugby Union FC – Harvey Wright – around 230 members  
Takapuna Rugby Club – Onewa Domain – around 650 members

### **Rugby League:**

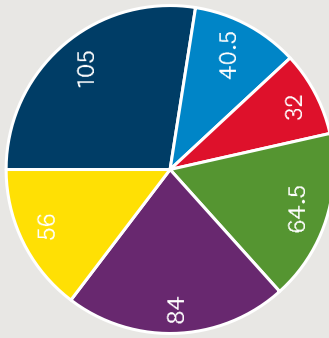
Northcote Birkenhead Tigers Rugby League Club – Birkenhead War Memorial – 220 members





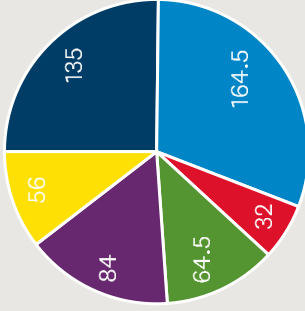
# Sports Clubs Fields Allocations

Hours allocated – Kaipātiki LB



- Birkenhead United AFC
- Northern Rovers FC
- Glenfield Union Sports Club
- Northcote Birkenhead Rugby Club
- Takapuna Rugby Club
- Northcote and Birkenhead Tigers

Hours allocated – North Shore



- Birkenhead United AFC
- Northern Rovers FC
- Glenfield Union Sports Club
- Northcote Birkenhead Rugby Club
- Takapuna Rugby Club
- Northcote and Birkenhead Tigers





# Maintenance and Renovations

Maintenance challenges / Renovations overview / Renovations challenges and solutions

## Sports fields maintenance challenges:

- Increase in fields usages, especially on football fields. Population is growing but sports fields provision is still the same.
- Shortage of lit fields. Training fields with lights are at capacity or overused. High wear areas are struggling to recover, which can lead to field closures.
- Increase in junior trainings: one field was designed to accommodate for 20 to 30 players. However, it gets divided in smaller fields for junior trainings and can see as many as 100 kids training on it.
- Little or no rest time on the fields: football runs programs on the fields all year round. Transition between summer and winter season is almost non-existent which leaves little space for fields renovations. Ideally at least 6 weeks are required between season changes to carry on proper renovations. Renovations are essential to provide maximum field usage and reduce field closures.



## Sports fields renovations overview:

### Spring:

Rye grass fields: Coring, Scarifying, re-seeding, sand top-dressing and fertilising  
 Couch grass fields: Spraying off winter grass, fertilising, rest.  
 Kikuyu fields: rest

### Summer:

Rye Grass fields: fertilising, wetting agent and fungicides application (every 6 to 8 weeks)  
 Couch and Kikuyu fields: Surface aeration and decompaction, Scarifying, sand top-dressing, fertilising.

### Autumn:

Rye grass fields : Surface aeration and decompaction, re-seeding.  
 Couch grass: under sowing with Rye grass, fertilising

### Winter:

All fields: Decompaction, deep aeration (verti-draining), Cambridge rolling



## Sports fields renovations challenges and solutions:

- **Spring and Autumn renovations:**

**Challenge:** Not enough rest time for the fields to recover from the winter or summer season and for our contractor to carry on renovations treatment required.

**Solution:** We are talking to Regional Sports Organisation to fit their season within our renovation program.

- **Couch fields:**

**Challenge:** The transition between winter and summer is delicate to manage. In September, the winter grass needs to be sprayed off. The couch grass is only actively growing in the summer month, which can result in a poor grass coverage for the beginning of the summer season. This is the main reason why some of our fields are looking so bad in October / November (e.g. Mcfetrige Park last year)

**Solution:** Going towards a natural transition rather than a chemical one. We are letting the ryegrass dying off naturally by stressing the grass (limited irrigation, physical treatment like scarifying). Main advantage is that we can keep a good grass cover until the couch is actively growing. Main risk is, in case of a wet summer, we can smother couch grass.





# Sports fields current improvements:

Grass type selection/ soil testing and tailored fertiliser programs

## What type of grass ?

One way to improve our sports fields is to select the right grass species for the intended use.

When selecting grass type for a sports fields we are taking into account the following factors:

- Type of sports that will be played?
- Field usage: low or high?
- Sustainability targets:
  - Reduce water usages;
  - Reduce nitrogen fertiliser application;
  - Reduce agrochemical application;
- Maintenance requirements: low or high?





## Grass types - pros and cons

### Rye Grass

Pros	Cons
Excellent winter recovery	Requires a lot of irrigation in summer
Quick establishment (4 to 8 weeks)	Susceptible to diseases
Good Wear tolerance	Needs more fertiliser than other grass
Lush green appearance	Will struggle under warm and dry weather

### Couch Grass

Pros	Cons
Durable and resilient	Winter Dormancy
Drought tolerant	Requires additional maintenance in winter
Good for high traffic areas	Challenging to transition between winter to summer
Requires less watering and fertilising than other grass	Growth can be affected over bad summer

### Kikuyu Grass

Pros	Cons
Active growth almost all year round	Susceptible to frost
Drought tolerant	Required additional physical treatment
High Wear tolerance	Can become spongy if not maintain properly
Requires less watering and fertilising than other grass	Seeds are making white filament that can disturb line markings



## Our preferred grass choices:

Kikuyu grass is our preferred choice for rugby fields, cricket outfields and football training fields:

- Most of the fields renewal will be resurfaced with Kikuyu grass (e.g. Kaipatiki Park field No1 next summer).
- We are transitioning rye grass fields and some of the couch fields to kikuyu grass by introducing kikuyu seeds every summer: Greenslade Reserve, Birkenhead War Memorial cricket outfield. This process will take 2 to 3 years.

Couch grass, under sown with rye grass in winter, is our preferred choice for football premier field.

We are not encouraging new rye grass fields, mainly due to the amount of water necessary to keep the fields alive in summer.



## Soil testing and fertiliser programs

We will be using a new turf management program to ensure turf maintenance and nutrition programs are effective and value is maximised. Our objective is to improve grass health and reduce fertiliser input.

- Based on soil testing, fertiliser programs will be tailored for each field to address specific needs or nutrients deficiency.
- Soil samples are currently being collected for trial on 10 fields per Local Board.
- Samples results are loaded in an online program management to analyse data and build an efficient fertiliser program.





# Sports fields investments:

Priorities for the next 5 years+

# The Priorities

Install lights  
on existing  
sand carpets

Upgrade soil  
fields and  
install new  
lights

Renew old  
surfaces

Investigate  
artificial  
surface



## Next 1 to 2 years

**Install  
lights on  
existing  
sand carpet**

### Shepherds Park – Fields No3 and No4

- Double fields usage for football
- Release pressure on overused fields (No5 and No2)

### Onepoto Domain – Fields No1 and No2

- Provide an additional 24h to 32h for football trainings
- Release pressure on overused fields (Greenlade Reserve, Shepherds Park, Kaipatiki Park)



## Next 2 to 3 years

### Upgrade soil fields and sports lights

#### Stafford Park

- Upgrade field to sand carpet
- Install drainage, irrigation and lights
- Double field usage for football and rugby

#### Birkenhead War memorial

- Renew old lights and poles on fields No5 and No6
- Increase field usage for Rugby League



## Next 3 to 5 years +

Renew old  
surfaces

### Shepherds Park - Fields No3, No4, No5

- Field No4 was last renewed in 2012 and is overdue for renewal
- Field No3 and No5 will be due for renewal in 2029

### Harvey Wright - Fields No1 and No2

- Fields No1 and No2 were last renewed in 2011 and are overdue for renewal



## Renew old surfaces

### McFetridge Park

- Last renewal on field No3 was more than 15 years ago.
- Field No4 was last renewed in 2011.
- Field No2 was last renewed in 2014.
- Field No1 last renewal is unknown.







## Shepherds Park – Tennis court

- Transform public tennis court into designated training area for football.
- Pros: will release pressure on grass fields at Shepherds Park.
- Cons: will not be a multi-sports area anymore

## Construct artificial field(s)

- Investigate suitable area.

**Investigate  
artificial  
surface**

## Summary for the next 5 years +

### Project

Shepherds Park – install new lights on fields No3, No4 and No5

Onepoto Domain – install new lights on fields No1 and No2

Stafford Park – upgrade field to sand carpet and install new lights

Birkenhead War Memorial – replace lights and lights poles on Rugby fields No5 and No6

Shepherds Park – renew fields No3, No4 and No5

Harvey Wright – renew fields No1 and No2

McFetridge Park – renew fields No1, No2, No3, No4 over 4 to 5 years

Shepherds Park – transform tennis court into artificial football training fields

Investigate and construct artificial field





Item 3

Attachment B





# Findings and Recommendations from the Parks Accessibility Assessment

Kaipātiki Local Board – 30 April 2025

Sophie Heusel – Parks Project Specialist, Parks and Community Facilities



## Purpose

- To present key findings and recommendations from the accessibility assessments of 5 parks in the Kaipātiki Local Board area.
- To strengthen the Local Board’s understanding of universal and accessible design in parks.
- To confirm a preferred approach to endorsement:
  1. Endorse the full reports, or
  2. Endorse principles of universal design.



## What We Have Done: Parks Assessed

Between December 2024 and January 2025, Parks Advisory undertook accessibility audits on 5 parks in the Kaipātiki Local Board area:

1. Onewa Domain and Smiths Bush Scenic Reserve
2. Onepoto Domain
3. Shepherds Park
4. Marlborough Park
5. Birkenhead War Memorial Park



# Accessibility and Inclusivity Checklist

Through our process we evaluated all aspects of a park visit.



































































































































































































































































































































































