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Submission to the

**CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
DRAFT LONG-TERM COUNCIL
COMMUNITY PLAN
2009 - 2019**

By

**SPARC
Sport and Recreation New Zealand
April 2009**

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Summary of Submission

This submission is made in response to the Christchurch City Council Draft Long-term Council Community Plan 2009-2019.

The key issue facing Christchurch City over the next 10 years is **projected population growth**. The impact of such growth on sport and recreation facilities and assets in the City suggests that it will be important to have integrated, strategic planning and monitoring with prudent development of community assets over the next 10 years. In planning and development of sport, recreation and physical activity, it will be important for the Council to maintain the successful '**partnership and collaboration**' approach with agencies like Sport Canterbury, SPARC and the community.

Projects of Interest

SPARC has identified the following projects of interest within the Draft Community Plan 2009-2019.

- The proposal for the **Edgware Pool** site. SPARC seeks to ensure that the negative effects of the loss of a community pool for sport and recreation programmes are not ignored and that the *Metropolitan Facilities Strategy* and *Aquatics Strategy* outlines a suitable alternative to address the ongoing need for community recreation and sport facilities in the City; and
- **Parks redevelopment**. SPARC supports the objectives of Council and the allocation for sports parks within the next 10 years. The best long-term benefits, cost-savings, and most successful redevelopment over a longer-term, will occur where sports parks in particular are developed in an integrated manner. This means that Council should collaborate with all end users such as clubs and community organisations. Multi-code facilities and the Sportville Model (i.e. all sports in a community would amalgamate or merge to form one sporting hub) Linfield Cultural Recreational Sports Club is good-practice example.

Areas of Council Activities

With respect to the **Recreation and Sport Services and Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways** departments, SPARC supports the Council's commitment to build the capacity of, and lend support to, community-based recreation and sport. SPARC also supports the provision of leisure/recreation opportunities to clubs and organisations through leased space.

SPARC acknowledges these approaches to sport and recreation not only meet the Council's commitment to the *Physical Recreation and Sports Strategy*, but endorses SPARC's own national sport and recreation objectives for the people of Christchurch City and the Canterbury region.

Financial Statements

SPARC considers that significant benefits and well-being can be generated for present and future communities in Christchurch City and the Canterbury region if the Council continues to invest in sport and recreation facilities, and ensures access to them through prudent **maintenance or reduction of fees to sport and recreation facilities**.

Opportunities for Action

SPARC has identified the following **opportunities for sport and recreation action** for the Council to consider within the Draft Community Plan 2009 – 2019. These are:

- encourage more shared use of resource amongst clubs;
- support existing and proposed multi-sport clubs as they develop and grow; and
- continue to support organisations that provide sport and recreation opportunities to the City and its residents.

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1.0 Introduction

This submission is made on behalf of Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC).

SPARC is the Crown entity responsible for promoting, encouraging and supporting physical recreation and sport in New Zealand, as mandated by the Sport and Recreation New Zealand Act 2002.

SPARC provides leadership to the sport and recreation sector and invests both financial and non-financial resources in partnerships with organisations that are best placed in the national, regional and local sport and recreation communities to help achieve its aims. Those key partnerships include: National sport and recreation organisations; Regional sports trusts; and Territorial authorities.

2.0 SPARC

SPARC is developing a new strategic plan to guide its work between 2009 and 2015. Over the next six years SPARC will build on New Zealand's sport and recreation infrastructure to provide opportunities for New Zealanders to participate in sport and recreation every day and get more New Zealanders winning on the world stage.

SPARC's primary focus will be on fostering an environment that gets more New Zealanders participating, supporting and winning in sport and recreation.

SPARC has identified five priorities that will be the backbone of its work:

- Young New Zealanders - helping them to develop a life-long love of sport and recreation;
- Community sport - healthy, sustainable and co-ordinated organisations delivering quality sport to their communities;
- Recreation - healthy, sustainable and co-ordinated organisations delivering quality recreation to New Zealanders;
- High performance success - New Zealand's best talent identified and developed to produce winners on the world stage; and
- Partner capability – organisations that are sustainable, capable and able to deliver results.

2.1 SPARC in Christchurch City

For the Council's reference and information the following table is a summary of SPARC's current investment and interests in Christchurch City/Canterbury region:

Programme	Description	Investment Value
Secondary School Sport	Direct investment in secondary school sports co-ordinators in Region	\$618,000
Regional Sports Trust investment	Support of Sport Canterbury and the various programmes they run on behalf of SPARC (Active Movement, Active Schools, Green Prescription, Coachforce)	\$1.362 million
He Oranga Pounamu support	Investment to increase the physical activity levels of Maori residents	\$144,000
Rural Travel Fund	Funding to help young people (5-19 years) in the	\$9,000

Programme	Description	Investment Value
	Banks Peninsula ward to participate in their local sporting competition where travel/distance is a barrier	
New Zealand Academy of Sport – South Island (ASI)	Investment in the support of high performance athletes, coaches and officials within the South Island, primarily based in Dunedin and Christchurch	\$1.955 million across SI
	Total	\$2.133 million plus ASI investment

It is hoped that these established relationships and programmes will continue to be supported by the Council in the context of its LTCCP, Annual Plans and Community Outcomes processes.

Key Issues

Growth

Given the medium-growth scenario projected over next 30yrs¹ and the Council's objectives for higher density residential/mixed use areas to accommodate 45 percent of the population (compared with 25 percent currently) within the existing urban area by 2041, Christchurch City will face increasing pressure on existing reserves, sports fields and open spaces (including rural areas).

Consequently, appropriate and flexible use of these parks and reserves for sport and recreation throughout the next 10 years will require 'generational' flexibility in order for these spaces to be sustainable into the long-term future.

Growth-related planning and development, particularly in the high growth areas south-west of the City, will require an integrated framework that would include:

- strategic planning around the 'bricks and mortar' sport and recreation assets (achievable through strategic plans such as the *Metropolitan Facilities Plan* and asset management plans);
- the fair and equitable spread of charges and investment over each year of the 10 year plan, for the provision and development of suitable parks, reserves and sports fields; and
- ongoing and long-term monitoring and anticipation of sustainable sport and recreation opportunities and trends of future populations.²

Partnerships – Sport Canterbury

SPARC acknowledges the work of Sport Canterbury – West Coast (SCWC) within Christchurch City.

SCWC provides a variety of programmes and services that encourage people to be physically active and ensure that sporting organisations have the ability to effectively service its members and the wider community.

Active New Zealand Survey

In 2007/08 SPARC undertook the *Active New Zealand Survey – Te Rangahau Korikori o Aotearoa: Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity amongst New Zealand Adults*³.

Findings from the survey indicate that a large majority of Canterbury residents participate in at least one sport and recreation activity at least once per month (89% - MOE 6%). Of those respondents,

¹ Page 24 – growth projections and assumptions

² Particular reference is made to key monitoring documents such as the *Quality of Life Report*, *State of the Environment Report* and *Active NZ Survey: SPARC*

³ <http://www.sparc.org.nz/research-policy/research/national-surveys/200708-active-nz-survey>

34.8% also stated that they are members of a club or centre in order to take part in sport and recreation activity. These findings further endorse the value of the *Metropolitan Facilities Plan* and *Aquatics Strategy*, as noted further in the submission.

3.0 Submission to the Draft LTCCP 2009 - 2019

Challenging economic times mean that communities need to make some hard choices about how they manage and allocate their resources.

However, existing and ongoing investment in sport and recreation is vital to the community because:

- the benefits of retaining (or increasing) current levels of funding in sport and recreation to the Council and the community, are long-term and intergenerational;
- the cumulative benefits of a fit and active community can be measured in all areas of the four well-beings i.e. social, cultural, environmental and economic;
- a fit and active community draws less resources from the Council and other associated agencies;
- investment and spending in areas like sport and recreation during economic recession can contribute to the economic stimuli required – for example, through the construction of sports facilities; and
- communities have consistently assigned a high value to sport and recreation.

It is against this background that SPARC makes the following submission.

3.1 Projects of Interest

Parks Redevelopment

Council is commended for its commitment of \$75 million over the next 10 years for the purchase and development of neighbourhood parks, and the \$36 million proposed for sports parks.

The value of such park redevelopment in meeting the sport and recreation and health outcomes of City residents will depend on the **accessibility** of neighbourhood parks, **their design** and their **flexibility**.

To achieve these outcomes sustainably, it is important that **integrated strategic planning** occurs across the various activity areas of Council over the next 10 years. For example, Council's funding commitment to the development and provision of park redevelopment city-wide, must support the *Active travel* funding objectives of Streets and Transport, as well as City Planning and Development objectives such as safe and accessible park spaces, especially given that the long-term, cumulative benefits are not mutually exclusive.

Metropolitan Sports Facilities 2008

Christchurch City is a leader in the encouragement and development of multi-sport facilities throughout the city. Westminster, Lynfield and Rawhiti are all models of multi-code sports facilities that deliver quality services to members and the wider community. While not a new concept, the cornerstone of such facilities is **collaboration** and a **level of mutual engagement** across different sporting codes.

It is in this collaborative context that SPARC applauds Council for supporting the continuing development of the Academy of Sport: South Island High Performance Centre at QEII.

The centre is an excellent example of a hub where many sporting codes can come for expert advice, tuition and services. SPARC supports and endorses the level of Council investment not only in the capital development of the Performance Centre, but also the ongoing operational costs, as demonstrating leadership and highlighting the economic and social value such centres have for the wider community. SPARC wishes to see that mutual benefit realised for the life of the Draft LTCCP 2009-2019.

In addition, in 2008 SPARC commissioned research to understand the critical success factors of eight multi-sport clubs (those that have multiple codes sharing administration and or facility resources). The Sportville Model research⁴ is available on SPARC's website <http://www.sparc.org.nz/partners-programmes/active-communities/sportville-model-review> and outlines the critical success factors for successful collaborative sports partnerships. The critical success factors are listed below.

- **Good governance** – sport club partnerships are complex arrangements that must satisfy multiple stakeholders. They require enlightened leadership and a clear separation of governance and sport delivery functions.
- **Clarity of purpose** – the value proposition must be clear, simple and compelling. The benefits of the partnership must be articulated in way that everyone can understand.
- **Formal amalgamations are not always necessary** – a new entity need not replace existing clubs but can instead form umbrella constituent members.
- **Clustering of resources** – the close physical proximity of facilities (fields, courts, changing rooms, café etc) is important.
- **Staged progression** – building trust is essential as sovereign organisations feel their way towards a new relationship. The influence of a respected “project champion” is critical, even where there are willing parties and conditions are favourable.
- **Council support** – partnerships appear to have a greater chance of success if local authorities have supportive policy settings and are prepared to invest

SPARC therefore acknowledges and supports the Council's ongoing commitment to developing the *Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan*, utilising work such as code-by-code national sports strategies, *National High Performance Training Facility Review (SPARC)* and the City's own updated *Assessment into the Health of Sports Clubs in Christchurch 2003 (CCC)*.

The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan is seen by SPARC as a vital Council strategic planning tool for guiding major facility development such as the multi-sport clubs and the Academy of Sport (South Island) and other key facilities, in the next 10 years and beyond.

3.2 Areas of Council Activities

Recreation and Sport Services

SPARC is supportive of what Council is trying to achieve in the next 10 years under the Activity area.

SPARC has a particular interest in ensuring that the Council's offer to build capacity at all levels for recreation and sport in Christchurch and support community-based recreation and sport⁵ is realised through a high level of committed support in accordance with the *Physical Recreation & Sports Strategy*. In addition these objectives will be met through strengthened partnerships with the regional sports trust, Sport Canterbury – West Coast (SCWC) in particular, whom SPARC acknowledges as highly committed experts in community-based recreation and sport in Christchurch and the Canterbury region.

⁴ Burley, 2008: “*Sport Partnership Projects: a review of eight high-profile sport club partnerships*”

⁵ P.112 of Draft Community Plan 2009-2019

Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways

SPARC is also supportive of what Council is trying to achieve with Sports Parks particularly the provision of leisure and recreation opportunities, as well as leased space for clubs to develop sports facilities. This would appear to endorse SPARC's own objectives with the Sportsville Model (see 3.2 above) if delivered under Council's *Metropolitan Facilities Strategy*.

SPARC encourages the Council to consider these objectives holistically and in partnership with SCWC and the sports clubs and organisations community of the City.

3.3 Financial Statement

SPARC considers it important that the Council ensures that any increases in fees and charges, will not create a barrier to people's access to facilities such as aquatic centres, sports fields or children's activity zones.

It is hoped that Council considers the long-term benefits of **maintaining reduced fees and charges** in the short-to-medium term, will lead to increased participation by the community in achieving their own health and well-being outcomes.

SPARC notes and acknowledges the Council's desire through the Capital Endowment Fund, to host such iconic sports events such as the PGA Golf, given that the benefits of hosting such events to the City's economy and well-being are well documented.

4.0 Opportunities for Action

SPARC wishes to recommend to Council the following opportunities for action, which should be reflected in the Community Plan and Annual Plans over the next 10 years:

- encourage more shared use of resources among clubs;
- support existing and proposed multi-sport clubs as they develop and grow; and
- continue to support sport and recreation providers to the City and its residents.

5.0 Conclusion

In the context of the discussion and recommendations above, SPARC supports the Council's Draft LTCCP 2009 – 2019.

SPARC is committed to on-going engagement with the Council over the 10-year planning period to support sport and recreation as a means of achieving community outcomes for your city, particularly the Council's contribution to improving social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing.

SPARC does wish to be heard in support of its submission at a hearing.