



Submission to the

**CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2008 – 2009**

By

**SPARC
Sport & Recreation New Zealand**

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Summary of Submission

This submission is made in support of the Christchurch City Council Draft Annual Plan 2008 – 2009.

In making this submission, SPARC supports the Council's commitment to achieving sport and recreation outcomes at the local and community level, as signalled by the 08/09 Annual Plan and the LTCCP.

Proposals 08/09

Projects of Interest

- SPARC is interested in working more with the Council to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Recreation & Leisure Group Activities

- SPARC acknowledges the Council's support for the good work undertaken by Sport Canterbury in the region.

Fees & Charges

- SPARC appreciates the need for the Council to increase fees and charges by up to 4 percent to enable the recovery of appropriate costs for the management and maintenance of sport and recreation facilities. However, SPARC urges the Council to ensure that fees and charges do not create any additional barriers to the community's ability to participate in sport and recreation activities.

Variations to the LTCCP

SPARC understands the proposed amendments to the Community Outcomes are limited to the:

- Development Contributions Policy; and
- Forecast Financial Information (in particular, the assumptions).

SPARC considers these amendments will have little or no adverse impacts on the City advancing the progress of Community Outcomes identified in the 2006-2016 LTCCP.

Introduction

SPARC is pleased to acknowledge by way of this submission, the contribution Christchurch City is making (through its Annual Plan, LTCCP and its strategic planning programme), in acknowledging the importance of sport and recreation as of social and economic benefit for its people and economy. SPARC is keen to see Christchurch City Council's annual planning processes and LTCCP outcomes, continue to recognise this value to the long-term sustainable health and wellbeing of the community.

SPARC's aim is to ensure the delivery of sport and recreation outcomes, including those determined by Christchurch City's community through its LTCCP, are achieved in a holistic and sustainable manner that maximises positive long-term benefits. SPARC can assist in this delivery through *investment* and the provision of *research, information and services* to improve the quality of the services delivered to the people of Christchurch City. SPARC's key investment areas are:

- sport participation;
- active lifestyles;
- high-performance sport;
- community initiatives; and
- education.

Our vision recognises the benefits of partnerships in meeting sport and recreation objectives, including those between national sport organisations, national recreation organisations, regional sports trusts and local authorities. Partnership is in fact key to achieving SPARC's vision for every New Zealander. Hence, SPARC recognises Christchurch City Council as a key partner and contributor to the delivery of quality sport and recreation outcomes in Christchurch City, and contributing to SPARC's nationwide vision to get more people, more active, more often.

SPARC recognises the Christchurch City Council as one of the key partners and contributors, along with other government agencies, to the Government's priority areas of:

- Families – young and old (investing in family and community based physical activity programmes);
- National identity (encouraging New Zealanders to make outdoor recreation part of their day); and
- Economic transformation (increasing productivity through a fitter, more active workforce).

Sport & Recreation Infrastructure

There are over 100 national organisations delivering sport and physical recreation opportunities, with over 10,000 clubs and gyms at a local level. SPARC estimates that approximately 500,000 volunteers support these clubs and organisations.

SPARC recognises the challenges that these sport and recreation organisations are facing, with increasing pressures from:

- a general decline in the numbers of younger volunteers in sports clubs;

- communities looking for more informally organised sport and recreation opportunities rather than joining traditional clubs;
- busier lifestyles and subtle changes in life-cycle processes mean that fewer people have the time to act as coaches or officials; and
- difficulty in attracting and retaining qualified staff into sport and recreation organisations.

Most of these challenges are not new to SPARC. Hence over the past five years, SPARC has developed programmes to support volunteers, coaches, officials and sport and recreation organisations, including:

- undertaking the *New Zealand Sport and Physical Activity Survey* to find out more about what physical activities New Zealanders actually do. This survey is due to be released by the end of 2008;
- encouraging young New Zealanders to be more active through the *Mission-On* campaign that aims to improve the lifestyles of young New Zealanders by targeting improved nutrition and increased physical activity;
- reviewing the outdoor recreation sector to see how we can connect more New Zealanders with the wonderful recreation resources we have in our backyard;
- implementing the *No Exceptions* strategy to increase the participation of people with disabilities in sport and active recreation opportunities;
- implementing the *He Oranga Poutama* programme that develops sport and recreation opportunities in settings relevant and appropriate to Māori; and
- developing *Club Kit*, a resource kit for volunteers with tools on how to establish and run a successful club. SPARC have also researched the contribution volunteers make to sport and recreation in NZ – *Finding & Keeping Volunteers 2006* – enabling better volunteer management practises and experiences.

However, over the next few years SPARC will undertake to focus particularly on other challenges, **in partnership** with territorial authorities, interest groups and business communities. For example, strengthening outdoor recreation networks, as well as developing links between sport and recreation organisations and the commercial sector.

SPARC in Christchurch City

Our partners in Christchurch City are the Christchurch City Council, Sport Canterbury and the New Zealand Academy of Sport located at the QEII Park.

Initiative	Fund Value	Partners	Timeframe
<u>He Oranga Poutama</u> Two Kaiwhakahaere employed to service the Mainland area to get more Māori, more active, more often.	\$144,000 per annum	He Oranga Pounamu	Annual contract
<u>Support to schools through Sport Fit</u>	\$585,000	52 secondary	Annual

Initiative	Fund Value	Partners	Timeframe
A number of secondary schools to assist with Sport outcomes within schools		schools in the Sport Canterbury region.	contract
<u>Active Communities investment</u> Active Canterbury project – to increase physical activity by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing tools for better marketing and planning; and • improving data collection, planning, evaluation and programme design 	\$450,000	Christchurch City Council and key partners including: Sport Canterbury, Partnership Health Canterbury, Heart Foundation, and the Cancer Society	June 2005 – June 2008
<u>Rural Travel Fund</u> Ten councils within the South Canterbury /West Coast boundary receive funding to offset travel costs for isolated 5 to 19 year old participants attending sport and recreation events and activities, many of which take place in Christchurch City.	\$91,000	Buller ,Grey, Westland, Ashburton, Banks Peninsula, Mackenzie, Selwyn, Waimate and Waitaki District Councils	Annual contract.
<u>Academy South Island Performance Centre</u> Access for carded athletes to the New Zealand Academy of Sport services.	\$1.4m (whole of South Island)	New Zealand Academy of Sport – South Island	Three year contract
<u>Sport Canterbury</u> Regional sport and physical activity facilitation	\$1.3m	Sport Canterbury	Three year contract

SPARC is encouraged by the Councils' and their partners' work developing the tools for physical activity providers under the *Active Canterbury* brand. The collaborative approach of this project has resulted in the development of strong sector

relationships and high standard tools. SPARC encourages the Council to continue providing this service to community groups.

SPARC recognises your regional sports trust, *Sport Canterbury*, as experts in the areas of sport development and physical activity. SPARC investment in *Sport Canterbury* aims to increase the physical activity levels of people within Canterbury and ensure more Cantabrians participate in sport and recreation and the activities that support and deliver sport and recreation.

SPARC acknowledges the good work that Sport Canterbury carries out in the region.

The NZ Academy of Sport is a strategic partner of SPARC and it is particularly encouraging to see the strong relationship between the Council and New Zealand Academy of Sport confirmed through the Council's commitment to the high performance centre of excellence at QEII Park.

Recreation & Leisure Activities

SPARC supports the Council's Recreation & Leisure Group's Activity Objectives for 2008/2009.

Supporting Strategy Framework

Christchurch City's sport and recreation outcomes appear to be well supported by a strong strategic framework. SPARC is encouraged by this fundamental approach and wishes to offer support to the Council's implementation of those strategies via:

- partnership on key recreation and sport projects;
- provision of advice and services; and
- information and network resources from SPARC's national programmes.

SPARC is keen to see the Council get to the action planning and implementation planning phases of these strategies and policies.

SPARC has a special interest in working with Christchurch City Council on the following two projects.

Strategy/Policy Document	SPARC participation status	Level of Support - SPARC
Assessment into the Health of Sports Clubs in Christchurch 2003. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key partnership programme through RST – Sport Canterbury. 	Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research – <i>Finding & Keeping Volunteers 2006</i>. • <i>ClubKit</i> programme resources.
Draft Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan 2007 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic approach (including urban design and transport considerations) to facilities 	Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPARC is actively supportive of this approach. • Advice, information and research.

Strategy/Policy Document	SPARC participation status	Level of Support - SPARC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning, for long-term sustainability (at least 20 years). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NZ Sport and Physical Activity Survey updated data, to be released in late 2008. Alignment with the proposed National Facilities review. Alignment with the national High Performance Training facility review.

SPARC recognises the *Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan 2007* as an important element in the strategic framework for the delivery of sport and recreation in the region. Hence, SPARC is keen to continue the working relationship established with the Council through the development of the draft document. In particular, SPARC is interested to align this work with other national work.

Fees & Charges

SPARC is concerned that any proposed increases in the fees and charges for the use of aquatic services, parks and reserves facilities and sports-grounds should not create unnecessary barriers to the community's participation in sport and physical recreation.

SPARC accepts increases in fees and charges are necessary, and support Council's efforts to limit any increases to a minimum.