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With Thanks To

- Northland Basketball
- Northland Badminton
- Whangārei Netball Centre
- Northland Futsal Academy
- Squash Northland
- Northland Volleyball
- Northland Tennis
- Parafed Northland

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Executive Summary

Whangārei District Council (WDC) has identified the need to develop a strategy for the future provision of indoor and outdoor sports courts. This strategy outlines the current supply of courts and assesses this against current and potential future demand. It concludes that while there are generally sufficient outdoor courts, there is a significant under-supply of indoor courts, inhibiting participation in a number of sport and recreation activities.

A critical factor contributing to the under-supply of court space in Whangārei is the low proportion of indoor courts that are owned and operated on behalf of the WDC. There is an over reliance of third-party courts with the expectation that these courts are available for community use. This report has identified that a large proportion of non-council owned or operated facilities are not available for regular community hirers.

1.1 Key Findings of Strategy

Indoor Courts	Outdoor Courts
There are <u>insufficient indoor courts</u> to meet current and future demand.	There are <u>sufficient outdoor courts</u> to meet the demands of sports user group.
Consider a range of strategies to increase capacity, including developing a new 5-6 court indoor venue, in the city, to cater for additional demand.	Ensure that outdoor courts are regular monitored and maintained.
Support the 2 court facility proposed at Ruakaka to cater for growth in the south of the district	Consider the support of additional flood-lighting to increase the capacity of existing outdoor courts.
Consider support of Badminton and Squash venues with deferred maintenance issues provided they instal technology that allows casual, community use of their courts.	Encourage shared use of outdoor courts between existing sports and emerging sports that are looking for space to participate.
Provide leadership for the sporting community in negotiating access agreements with third party court providers.	Develop further casual, outdoor courts as part of parks and playground upgrades, including Oakura and Pohe Island.

1.2 Indoor Courts

The current supply of indoor courts is overly reliant on access to school courts. Technically school courts are considered as part of the wider “network” of courts available for community use. However, gaining consistent access to court space to run community sports competitions has proven to be challenging in most situations. This leaves Whangārei with a limited supply of courts available for the community.

At the same time, predicted population growth will see even greater pressure placed on those courts that are available. The changing ethnic profile of the community will also see a wider range of activities requiring the use of indoor courts. At the same time some sports are reporting significant growth (both nationally and locally) and are currently actively suppressing demand as it cannot be catered for. Team sports in particular are predicting significant growth in the next ten years. While it

is difficult to predict exact growth numbers, analysis of similar sized cities in New Zealand supports the finding that Whangārei requires more indoor courts.

Analysis suggests that the Whangārei district requires capacity of up to the equivalent of 9-10 additional indoor courts. The following table outlines the current and predicted future demand for indoor courts.

	“Active” Population Growth Model	Code Prediction Model	Court Numbers using National Guidelines ¹
Current(2021)	449 teams	449 teams	1 court to 15,683
Future	582 teams	1,021 teams	1 court to 9,000
Percent Change	30%	227%	220%
Current number of available courts	5	5	5
Total number of courts required to meet demand	8	14	15
Additional capacity required	3	9	10

This additional capacity could be gained through the following strategies:

- Covering some of the existing outdoor courts at the Whangārei Netball Centre (WNC).
- Formalise (and incentivise) partnerships with schools and other third party providers.
- Investigate the retrofitting of existing buildings to host indoor courts
- Develop new, fit-for-purpose indoor courts

It is apparent from the analysis that without adding new courts to the existing network, WDC will not be able to meet the demand requirements of participants in the future. WDC should seek to commence the process to develop a 5-6 court venue in the first instance that would be seen as a second “hub” facility for indoor sport users. WDC should also look to support the 2 court facility proposed at Ruakaka to cater for growth in the south of the district

Badminton and Squash both have sufficient specialised courts to meet current and predicted future demand. However, there is significant deferred maintenance in some of these facilities. WDC should look to support this maintenance and in return seek these facilities to utilise available technology to allow casual access to strategically located courts.

1.3 Outdoor Courts

There are enough outdoor courts to meet the needs of sport user groups. The WNC has investigated the possibility of covering some of the courts at Kensington Park. The covering of courts may provide shelter for existing players, but further discussions would need to occur to determine if premier

¹ This is calculated by looking at the “Active” population only (99,000 in 2048) and the number of courts required to meet the 1:9,000 ratio – in this case 11 courts.

grade players, who currently play indoors at Kensington Stadium, would return to “covered outdoor” play. Another significant factor in this is whether the existing netball courts could be re-located with any new indoor court hub developed. This would free up green space at Kensington Park and help to alleviate traffic congestion and parking issues in the area.

There are sufficient tennis courts to meet current and future needs. While tennis has seen a resurgence in Covid times, the long-term trend is one of decline. There may be pockets of high demand pressure, but this should be managed through use of other courts in the network and the installation of floodlights where possible to increase existing courts capacity. WDC should consider the following strategies to maintain the existing network of outdoor courts:

- Maintenance of courts needs to be pro-active and regular. Courts should be free of debris, with clearly marked court lines. Fencing, nets and any hoops need to be durably constructed to minimise the opportunity for vandalism.
- Additional lighting to extend the capacity of outdoor courts, particularly for netball and tennis.
- Investigate use by emerging sports that can operate with equipment (hoops, nets) that can be temporarily placed on the existing courts.
- Casual outdoor courts, for multiple sports, should be considered in further park upgrades and developments to allow a cross-section of activities to occur. Examples already existing in Whangārei, such as recreational volleyball, basketball courts at Pohe Island that encourage informal participation.



New Multi-Use Indoor Courts (Rolleston) 1

2 Introduction

2.1 Background

In 2019 the Whangārei District Council (WDC) in collaboration with the wider recreation and sport sector developed an Active Recreation and Sport Strategy (WARSS). This strategy identified the need to develop *“a detailed courts plan for indoor and outdoor courts. The intent of the plan to be the consolidation / rationalisation of the supply of courts and to maximise the use of retained courts in the future.”*

The Northland Sports Coalition has been advocating for this work to occur for some time and the recent completion of Kōkiri ai Te Waka Hourua– the regional strategy for Play, Active Recreation and Sport, has provided further impetus for the need for the provision of court space to be reviewed.

The provision of indoor and outdoor courts is a fundamental requirement for the identified sporting activities to occur. The Whangārei district has a wide range of courts ranging from small, one court venues in remote parts of the district to large scale, multi-court, multi-use venues. An objective of this report is to understand the network of available courts and determine whether it can provide for current and future sporting needs.

There are a wider range of sports that want to access indoor court space that ever before. A number of emerging sports are gaining momentum in New Zealand. Sports such as Pickleball, Handball, Korfball and Floorball are all seeing increasing participation interest and are therefore competing with established sports for court space.

This report uses a range of models to test various growth scenarios to determine what the likely future demand on court spaces is and what strategies can be implemented to meet this future demand.

2.2 Scope

The scope of this report is limited to indoor and outdoor courts used by the following sports:

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Futsal (indoor football)
- Netball
- Roller Sports
- Squash
- Tennis
- Volleyball

While the scope is limited to these eight activities, it is recognised that many indoor and outdoor courts can be used for a much wider range of recreation and sport activities and this wider use has been considered.

2.3 Methodology

As a result of the recommendation within the WARSS, the WDC has commissioned Recreation, Sport and Leisure Consultancy to undertake this work. RSL has worked with a project steering group (PSG) consisting of representatives from both WDC and Sport Northland. The PSG has met regularly to monitor progress and provide local intelligence on the network of facilities and user groups.

This report has been developed using the following methodology:

- Project initiation
- Stakeholder interviews and follow up correspondence
- Identifying the existing facility inventory
- Selected site visits
- Understanding population and participation data
- Identification of participation trends
- Developing various models of future participation
- Identifying the future facility requirements based on various scenarios
- Identifying gaps in the network of courts
- Providing strategies and recommendations to address gaps or oversupply

2.4 Terminology

By definition a sports court can mean different things to different readers and users. For the purpose of this report when a full-size court is referenced it refers to a court that is large enough for a netball court, with Netball NZ approved run-off between courts. The dimensions of the playing area are 30.5m x 15.25m with a run-off of 3.05m around the playing area. A netball court size is used as it is slightly larger than the next commonly used court, that of basketball. Where other sport courts are referred it is explained in this way (such as a "badminton court", or a "squash court").

Facility Hierarchy refers to the various levels of facility and their ability to host sport, ranging from community and casual play, through to international matches. This concept is discussed in section 7.2.

3 Strategic Context

3.1 Previous Strategies and Plans

There are several previously developed strategies and plans that provide direction for this courts strategy. These are summarised here to provide context and guidance for this report.

3.1.1 Whangārei Active Recreation and Sport Strategy (2019)

Developed in 2019, this strategy provides an overview of the current and future recreation and sport needs for the Whangārei district. The strategy highlighted several areas directly relevant to indoor and outdoor courts:

- Inadequate quantity and quality of indoor sprung floor court space
- Shortage of all-weather facilities such as covered sports courts and active recreation spaces such as for netball and Kapa Haka.
- Shortage of parking at key destinations for recreation and at spot parks, Kensington Park is under the greatest parking pressures.
- Lack of accessible and appropriate amenities needed to support active recreation and sport.
- Lack of good quality change and ablution amenities for sport.

The strategy recommended a hierarchy approach is used to consider facility needs for active recreation and sport at the different levels of participation from community / club through to international level. There was also a call to develop a base level of service for active recreation provision that is to be provided in each identified community in the district.

Other court specific recommendations included:

- Develop a consistent approach and use agreement for use between community active recreation and sport organisations and schools to maximise community use of school facilities, particularly indoor courts.
- Consideration should be given to investment into school facilities where significant long-term community access can be secured through a partnership agreement
- That the WDC develop a detailed courts plan (this document) for indoor and outdoor courts. The intent of the plan to be the consolidation / rationalisation of the supply of courts and to maximise the use of retained courts in the future. The courts plan should consider:
 - The overall network relating to tennis, netball, hockey, basketball and futsal provided by WDC, clubs, schools and others.
 - The future casual 24/7 public court provision.
 - Key, standalone hubs such as Thomas Neale Memorial Park for Tennis.

It recommended the following be addressed:

- Shared use arrangements between codes and schools for outdoor court use.
- Improvements to the quality of shared use surfaces.
- On-going sustainability of standalone and single-purpose centres.
- WDC support provision of additional multi-use covered or enclosed courts subject to evidence of need.

3.1.2 Sport NZ – Indoor Courts Facilities Strategy (2013)

This national strategy looked to provide some high-level guidance on the levels of service provision that were being offered throughout Aotearoa and what were some suggested levels of service. It looked at the make-up of the facilities and compared regions².

The report identified that Northland region had the highest ratio of population to courts in New Zealand as a region (1 court per 53,000, with the NZ average being 1 court per 21,000). Northland also had (and continues to have) a high reliance on non-council owned facilities (83% of facilities were non-council, when compared with approximately 60% nationally).

The strategy provided a high-level guideline on the population per community indoor court. This ratio was 9,000 people per one court. The 2013 strategy identified 3 community courts in the region (more detailed analysis in this current report suggests there are more than three courts available in the WDC area).

3.1.3 Netball New Zealand Facilities Strategy (2011)

This strategy provided a framework for the development of netball facilities in New Zealand at the regional and local community levels. This strategy focused on the demand for grass roots participation and identified that the demand for access to netball courts has a direct relationship to the range of activities offered and the participation numbers within many centres.

The report identified that the numbers of senior/adult teams were remaining steady with an increasing demand for social netball. Demand for indoor netball is also increasing. As more teams start to compete indoors there is an increasing demand and expectation to train indoors.

In Netball North the range of teams per court was 6.3-30.2, while average teams per court was 16.3. The report notes that a centre operating with over 30 teams per court can be considered to be at or above capacity. While a netball centre with fewer than 30 teams per court has potential spare capacity and could be more efficiently used through a more flexible utilisation of the facility across the week.

Analysis of the National Facility Strategy and the region's netball centres indicates that:

- A centre can no longer accommodate all games on a Saturday and is required to play competitions across the week, when there is an average of approximately 20 winter based teams per court.
- A centre can be considered to be running at or near capacity when there is an average of over 30 winter based teams per court.

3.1.4 Whangarei Netball Centre Feasibility Study (2019)³

The Whangarei Netball Centre (WNC) commissioned this feasibility study to determine the future of the courts at Kensington Park. The main conclusions of this study were:

- A high priority expressed by the members is for a covered area where spectators and participants can shelter from the rain. WNC's decision to make this its highest priority is consistent with the survey results.

² Sport New Zealand are in the process of updating this national strategy. It is highly likely that the guidance within this strategy will change. It is anticipated this updated strategy will be available in the middle of 2023.

³ Freeman & Associates (2019 Whangārei Netball Centre Feasibility Study)

- There is a short-term need to upgrade the floodlights and the pavilion, and a need to provide a rubberised surface on the courts and in the longer-term to cover 4 courts to create a multi-sport venue at Kensington Park.
- There is evidence-base need to additional covered court space in Whangārei. Covering 3-4 courts at Kensington Park will met the needs of Netball and other sports which may share use of the space e.g. Basketball, Volleyball, and Futsal.
- The projects are aligned with the WNC's strategic plan, the Park Management Plan, the lease between WNC and WDC, the NZ Sporting Facilities Framework, the National Facilities Strategy for Indoor Sports, the Netball NZ Facilities Strategy, the Northland Sports Facility Plan and the WDC Active Recreation and Sport Strategy.

3.1.5 Basketball NZ (BBNZ) – Indoor Facilities Guide (2014/15)

BBNZ developed this guide, based on the Sport NZ Indoor Courts Facilities Strategy, to identify gaps and opportunities in provision of community indoor facilities for basketball. The guide also addresses the need to develop outdoor 3x3 facilities for the youth market.

Basketball is one of the most popular participation sports for New Zealand youth, and one of the biggest team sports in New Zealand. Based on the NZ Young People's Survey, basketball is the number one "mucking around" sport and recreation activity for young New Zealanders.

The focus of the guide is the gaps in provision of community indoor facilities as they apply to basketball. At a community level basketball's growth is impeded as it relies on territorial authorities and schools to provide indoor facilities and then it competes for this space with a growing number of other indoor sports. In particular badminton, volleyball, gymsports and futsal have been identified as sports that are increasing their demands for indoor space.

As demand from these sports increases, there is also increasing demand from traditional outdoor sports moving indoors, in particular netball. These pressures indicate that the situation is likely to get worse rather than better for all indoor sports. Therefore BBNZ's long-term plan should be directed at securing increased space for playing basketball at a community level.

The Guide outlines some possible strategies for increasing facilities available for basketball which include:

- Increasing access to school courts for community use.
- Modifying and increasing access to outdoor courts such as netball courts, tennis courts and recreation spaces.
- Increased flexibility about court sizes for all levels of the game.
- Increased flexibility about game times for all levels of the game.
- Adapting and redeveloping existing facilities.
- Developing new facilities.

3.1.6 Squash NZ – Facilities Strategy (under development)

Squash NZ is currently developing a facilities strategy. Key drivers for this are:

1. The 2021 squash participants' survey confirmed squash was under-delivering in the provision of warm, clean, quality courts.
2. Population change will potentially drive increased or changed demand for squash facilities.
3. A need to identify how to support clubs to maintain and upgrade their facilities.
4. A need for clear direction on the priorities for investment in squash facilities.

The strategy was not produced at the time this report was finalised.

3.1.7 Squash Northland – Facilities Plan (2022)

Originally developed in 2018 and then updated in 2022, this plan has been developed by Squash Northland to identify the current state and future requirements for the provision of squash courts and ancillary facilities in the region.

The Plan states that the current distribution of squash courts in Northland is adequate (excluding Kerikeri). However, there is a need for additional courts in some areas due to increased demand.

The Plan notes how changes to LED lighting and the conversion to glass back courts both allow for improved quality of provision. The Plan states many clubs struggle to meet repair and maintenance costs, let alone capital development costs.

A high proportion of squash clubs are located alongside other sporting facilities (most commonly Rugby). The Plan reports potential court expansion at Manaia Squash Club and Mangakahia Squash Club in the Whangārei District area. The clubs identified as needing additional courts in the 2022 plan vary from those identified in the 2018 plan. This highlights the dynamic nature of clubs and how membership numbers can change quickly.

3.1.8 Tennis NZ - National Facilities Guidelines for Tennis (2018)

The National Facilities Guidelines for Tennis notes a growing trend in multi-sport venues

Multi-sport venues potentially offer a cost effective approach for tennis facilities to be sustained within communities, and are becoming more common in New Zealand in partnership with local government. Capital and administration costs for these venues attract more funding than stand-alone tennis courts as the benefits are available to thousands rather than hundreds of regular participants.

The 2014 Active NZ Survey found that:

- Traditional 'club membership' has decreased, replaced with a preference for casual 'pay-to-play'.
- Financial considerations are important, lower income households play tennis half as much as the wealthy.
- Barriers to tennis include equipment and partners.
- The main reasons people play tennis are for enjoyment, fitness and health and social reasons

A 2015 Sport NZ 'Voice of Customer' survey found that tennis club members see "better/more facilities and playing surfaces" as a top area for improvement.

The 2015 Northern Region tennis club member and lapsed member survey found that:

- Location is the most important factor for membership
- Either social and competition motivators also rank highly, for different member profiles
- Facilities are important hygiene factors
- 80% of lapsed members want 'pay for play'
- 75% of members support off-peak 'pay for play'

3.1.9 New Zealand Football – Futsal Facilities Guide (2019)

The Futsal Facilities Guide notes that futsal is one of the fastest growing sports worldwide with international, national and local competitions for age group and adult players. Within New Zealand, the sport of Futsal has grown in popularity with Futsal leagues and competitions now being delivered nationwide. National Futsal competitions have been established for both men and women, and a national men's team (Futsal Whites) and national women's team (Futsal Ferns) are selected to participate in FIFA sanctioned events.

A key issue for supporting the growth of Futsal in New Zealand is gaining access to appropriate venues for both the indoor and outdoor forms of Futsal. Indoor sporting venues are often already at capacity at peak times, do not have appropriate floor markings or surfaces, and can be cost prohibitive to hire. Public artificial pitches that are useful for social Futsal are also experiencing capacity issues at peak times.

New Zealand Football has set the target of 27,000 Futsal players by 2020 and 36,000 by 2025. This is based on the previous growth from 2011-2018 and the recognition that Futsal is a growth strategy for New Zealand Football.

3.1.10 Internal Draft Badminton NZ Strategic Plan 2020-2024

Draft Purpose: Lead the national delivery of positive Badminton experiences by enabling and empowering our communities.

Draft Vision: A vibrant Badminton community enjoying success at every level.

Draft core values: Respect, inclusion, collaboration, courage and excellence.

Draft Strategic Pillars: Leadership, Play to Perform, Engaged Communities.

Summarised Draft Strategic Focus Areas of relevance to WDC:

- Association Capability and Capacity - better regional delivery of badminton leading to membership growth; casual player growth; association structure review.
- Revenue Generation & Financial Sustainability - funds to improve and extend delivery.
- Targeted Participation Groups – Asian, rangatahi, para/disability.
- Facilities and Privatisation – ensure adequate facilities through development of a national facilities plan.
- Play to Perform Pathways – quality fun experiences enabling participation at every level; engaging and enabling performance players.

Facilities are identified as one of the critical issues facing Badminton New Zealand.

Increased facility access will provide opportunities to increase the range of programmes and opportunities delivered, especially in the focus areas of rangatahi, Asian and para/disability.

The SWOT analysis contained in the internal draft strategy identifies the following items which the indoor and outdoor court strategy could contribute positively to:

Weaknesses: facilities, community reach.





Opportunities: collaboration with other sports, regional growth opportunities.

Threats: facilities to meet growth demands.

4 Whangārei District Demographic Profile

It is important to factor in demographic changes in the Whangārei district when predicting future needs for courts. The following section provides a summary of the key demographic factors that will impact on the demand for access to courts. Factors include population growth, growth in various communities of interest, changes in the age make-up of the population, the ethnic profile of the community and rates of disability.

4.1 Whangārei District Demographic Snapshot: 2018-2048

	Demographic Highlight	Impact on Sport and Recreation
	<p>The population of the Whangārei District is expected to grow by 44% between 2018 and 2048, from 94,100 people to 135,600 people.</p>	<p>An increase in the total number of people wishing to participate in court sports</p>
	<p>All communities of interest in Whangārei are expected to experience population growth between 2018 and 2048. Kamo (6,990) and Marsden Point–Ruakaka (6,810) to the south of the City are projected to experience the greatest overall growth.</p>	<p>Future facility developments need to consider where the future population will be and what level of mobility people have to travel around the district to participate.</p>
	<p>The population group aged 65 years and over is expected to experience the greatest growth with an increase of 19,000 people (a 107% increase) by 2048. All other population groups will also experience growth over this time.</p>	<p>More demand for indoor recreation and social spaces by this cohort, along with the types of activities they wish to participate in. A requirement for facilities that are warm, accessible and with good acoustics.</p>
	<p>The population of the Whangārei District is expected to become more ethnically diverse between 2018 and 2043. The proportion of those identifying as European or other is expected to decline from 77% to 73%. At the same time the proportion of those identifying as Māori, Asian and Pacific are all expected to increase; Māori to 43% from 30%, Asian to 13% from 5% and Pacific to 8% from 4%</p>	<p>The participation preferences of various ethnic groups can vary. An example is the higher proportion of people who identify as coming from Asian decent participating in Badminton and what impact this may have on the supply of courts for this sport.</p>

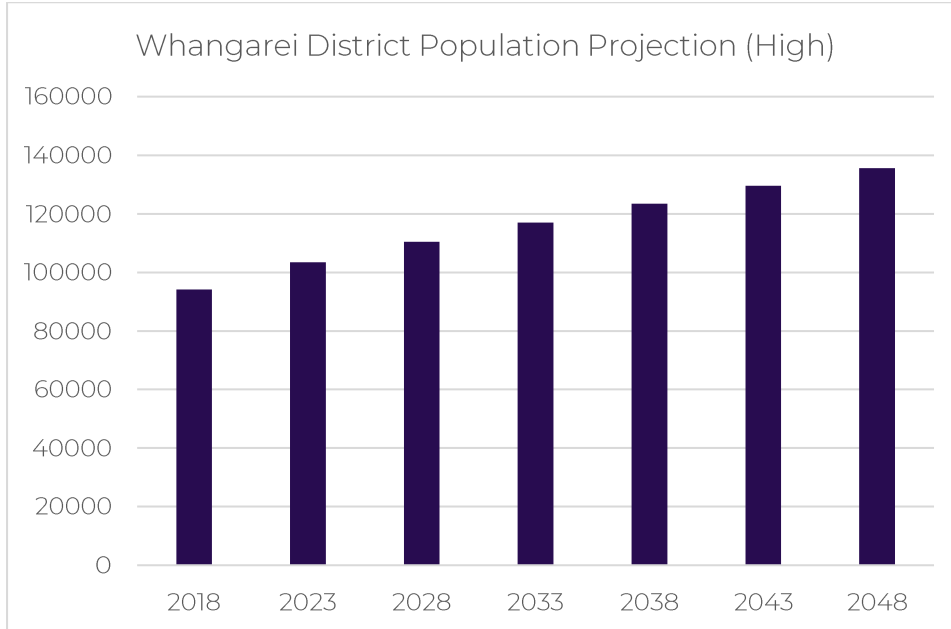
Source: NZ Stat High Projections

4.2 Population Projections

4.2.1 Whangārei District

The total population of the Whangārei District is expected to grow by 44% between 2018 and 2048, from 94,100 people to 135,600 people.

Figure 4.1: Whangārei District Population Projection



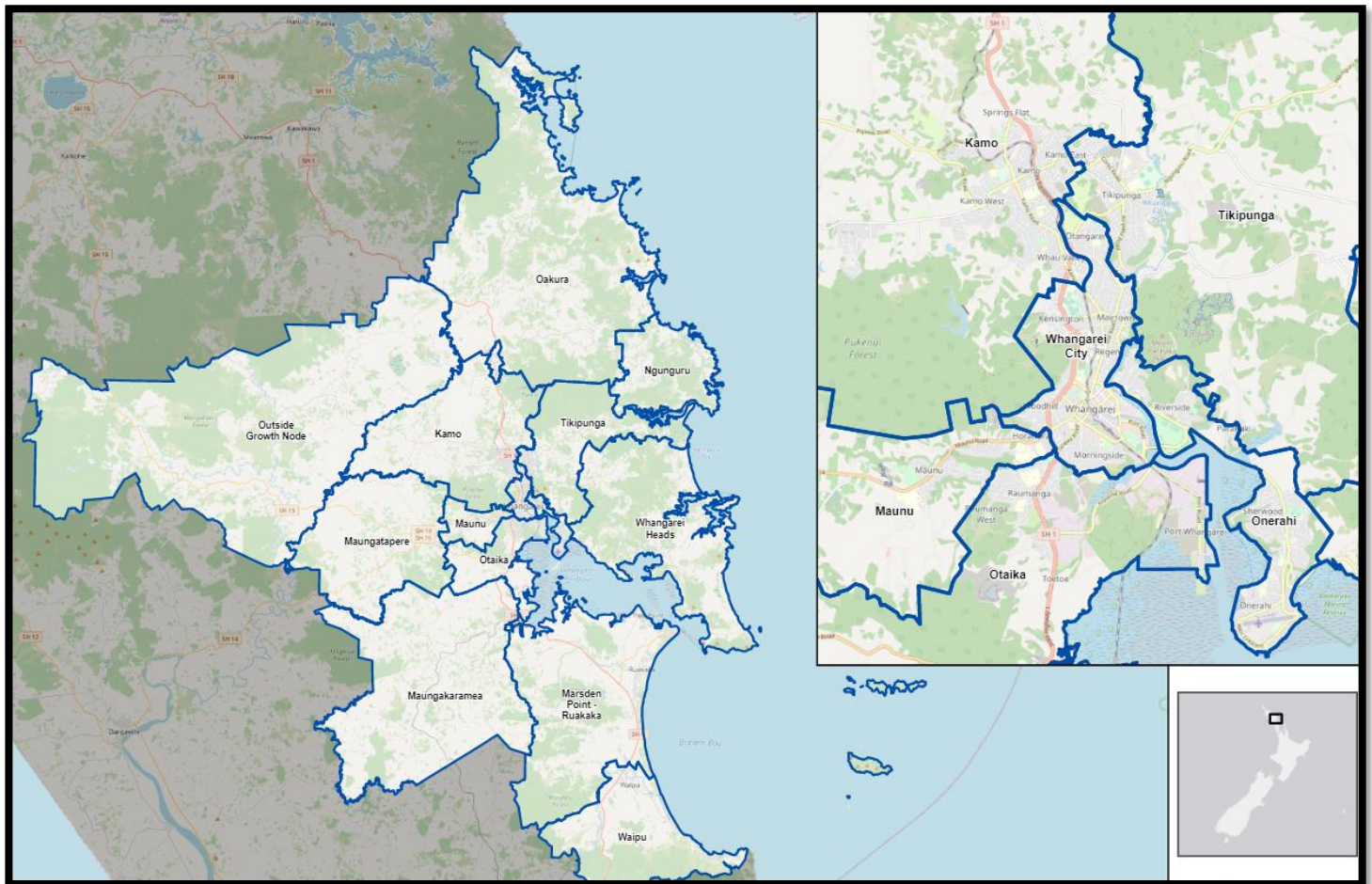
Source: NZ Statistics Census Data – High Projection⁴

⁴ WDC has supplied customised growth model data for 2021-2031. For population projections in out years WDC has requested the use of Statistics New Zealand Census Data – utilising the High Projection models.

4.2.2 Community of Interest - Population Projection

WDC has identified communities of interest that are used to describe various areas in the district for planning purposes. Figure 4.2 below illustrates where these communities of interest are located.

Figure 4.2 Whangārei Communities of Interest



Source: WDC supplied

All communities of interest in Whangārei are expected to experience population growth between 2018 and 2048. Kamo (6,990) and Marsden Point–Ruakaka (6,810) are projected to experience the greatest overall growth.

Tikipunga, Waipu, Whangārei City, Whangārei Heads, are all expected to experience population growth of more than 3,000 people. Table 4.1 below highlights the growth across all communities of interest which should be factored in when determining where any additional court capacity needs to be developed.

Table 4.1: Communities of Interest – Population Growth Projections

Community of Interest	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	Change 2018-2048	% change 2018-2048
Kamo	17910	19460	20590	21680	22760	23840	24900	6,990	39%
Marsden Point - Ruakaka	7100	8730	9820	10890	11910	12920	13910	6,810	96%
Tikipunga	9530	11130	11880	12540	13140	13740	14290	4,760	50%
Waipu	2790	3570	4190	4800	5390	5960	6550	3,760	135%
Whangārei City	14550	15210	15870	16480	17040	17560	18040	3,490	24%
Whangārei Heads	5600	6270	6810	7330	7850	8360	8850	3,250	58%
Maunu	5530	6210	6710	7140	7540	7890	8230	2,700	49%
Maungatapere	3,570	3,920	4,280	4,640	5,000	5,360	5,690	2,120	59%
Otaika	7050	7380	7710	8010	8320	8660	8980	1,930	27%
Onerahi	8870	9210	9550	9870	10180	10460	10730	1,860	21%
Ngunguru	2950	3300	3550	3800	4050	4310	4570	1,620	55%
Oakura	2590	2860	3080	3300	3530	3760	3980	1,390	54%
Outside Growth Node	2,000	2,120	2,300	2,470	2,640	2,810	2,980	980	49%
Maungakaramea	2,380	2,540	2,700	2,860	3,020	3,170	3,320	940	39%
Hikurangi	1,720	1,850	1,930	2,000	2,070	2,150	2,240	520	30%

Source: WDC supplied – High Projections

Note approximately 90% of the population now and in the future will reside within an approximate 30-minute drive to the Whangārei city.

4.3 Age Group Projections, Whangārei District – High

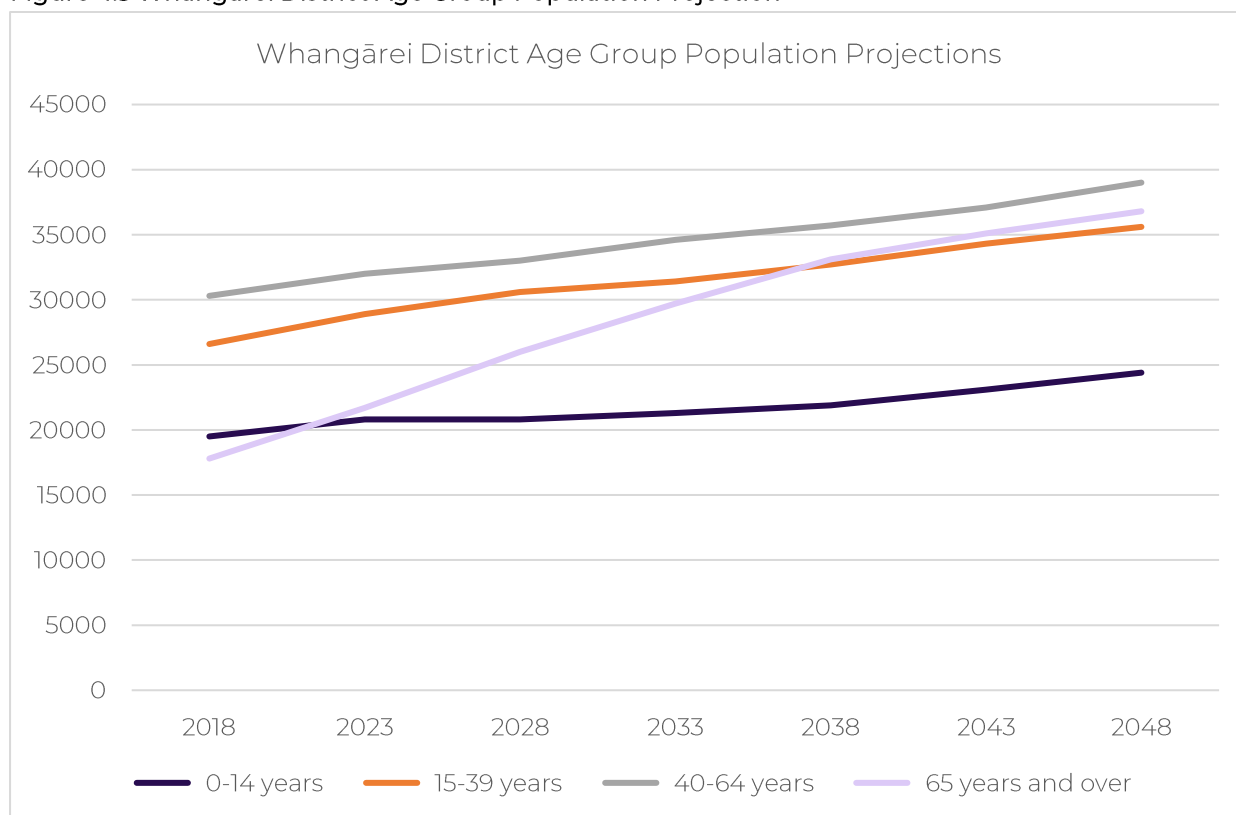
All age groups in the Whangārei District are expected to experience growth in the 30 years to 2048. The group aged 65 years and over is expected to experience by far the greatest growth with an increase of 19,000 people (a 107% increase). All the other age groups are expected to experience steady growth of between 4900 and 9000 individuals (25% to 34% growth) over the same time period. When considering future sporting courts needs in the WDC area it is important to understand the differing use levels of courts by various age groups.

Table 4.2 Whangārei Age Group Projections

	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	Change 2018-2048	% Change 2018-2048
0-14 years	19500	20800	20800	21300	21900	23100	24400	4900	25%
15-39 years	26600	28900	30600	31400	32700	34300	35600	9000	34%
40-64 years	30300	32000	33000	34600	35700	37100	39000	8700	29%
65 years and over	17800	21700	26000	29700	33100	35100	36800	19000	107%

Source: NZ Statistics Census 2018 Data– High Projections

Figure 4.3 Whangārei District Age Group Population Projection

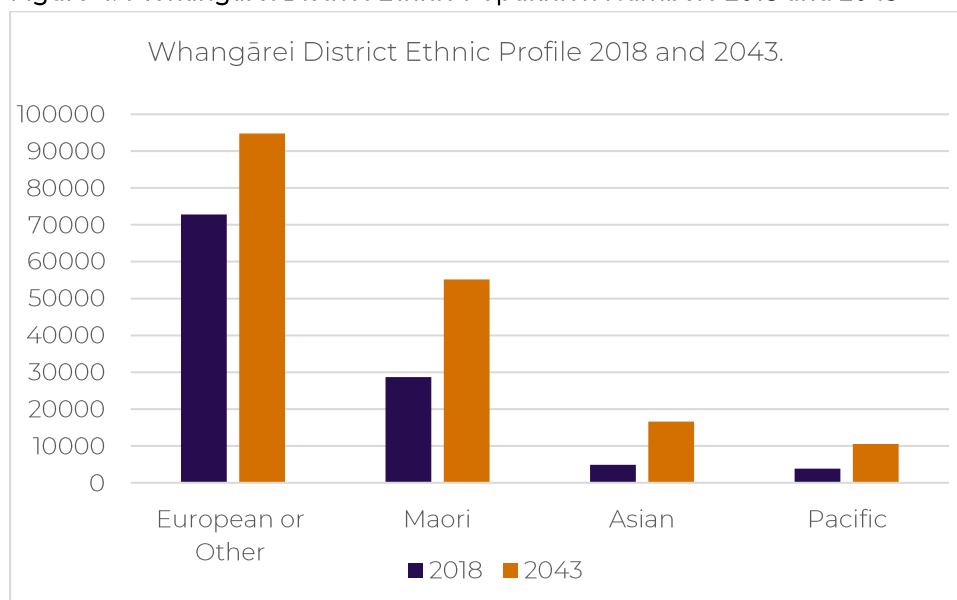


Source: NZ Statistics Census 2018 Data – High Projections

4.4 Ethnic Profile

All ethnic groups are projected to experience a growth in numbers between 2018 and 2048. The population of those identifying as Māori is projected to increase by 6,500 people or 92% while the population of those identifying as Asian is expected to see a significant increase of 241% or 11,730 people. The population of those identifying as Pacific will also experience a big increase, of 176% or an additional 6,730 people.

Figure 4.4 Whangārei District Ethnic Population Numbers 2018 and 2043



Source: NZ Statistics Census 2018 Data – High Projections

The population of the Whangārei District is expected to become more ethnically diverse between 2018 and 2043. The proportion of those identifying as European or other is expected to decline from 77% to 73%. At the same time the proportion of those identifying as Māori, Asian and Pacific will all increase; Māori to 43% from 30%, Asian to 13% from 5% and Pacific to 8% from 4%.⁵ When planning for developments to courts, both indoor and outdoor, the needs and sporting preferences of individuals from a range of ethnic backgrounds should be considered.

Ethnicity data is not consistently captured by all sporting codes, so it is difficult to get detailed information on who participates in which sport in Whangārei. Northland Basketball has collected this data from their participants which demonstrates⁶:

- approximately 36% of participants identify as Māori
- 25% European
- 13% Pasifika
- 12% Asian
- 14% Other

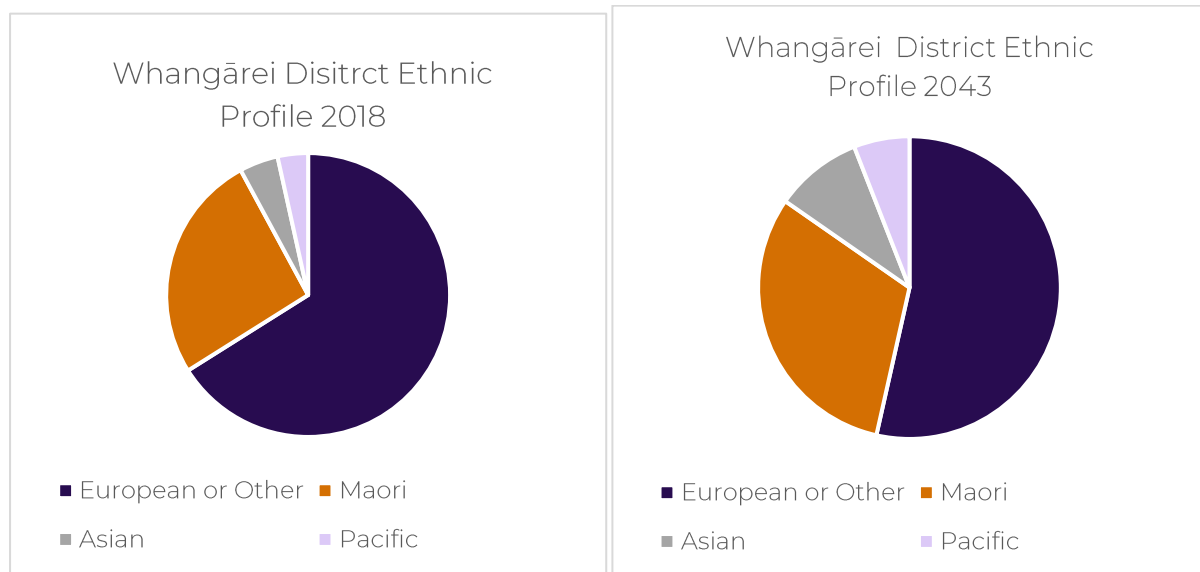
While this does not cover all codes, it highlights the high proportion of Māori participation, when compared to the overall make-up of the Whangārei district in the sport of Basketball. Anecdotal

⁵ Note the ethnic group population proportions add to more than 100% as individuals can identify as more than one ethnicity.

⁶ Northland Basketball Dashboard data February 2022

feedback from codes suggests this may be similar for netball and volleyball, the next two largest codes.

Figure 4.5 Whangārei District Ethnic Profile 2018 and 2043

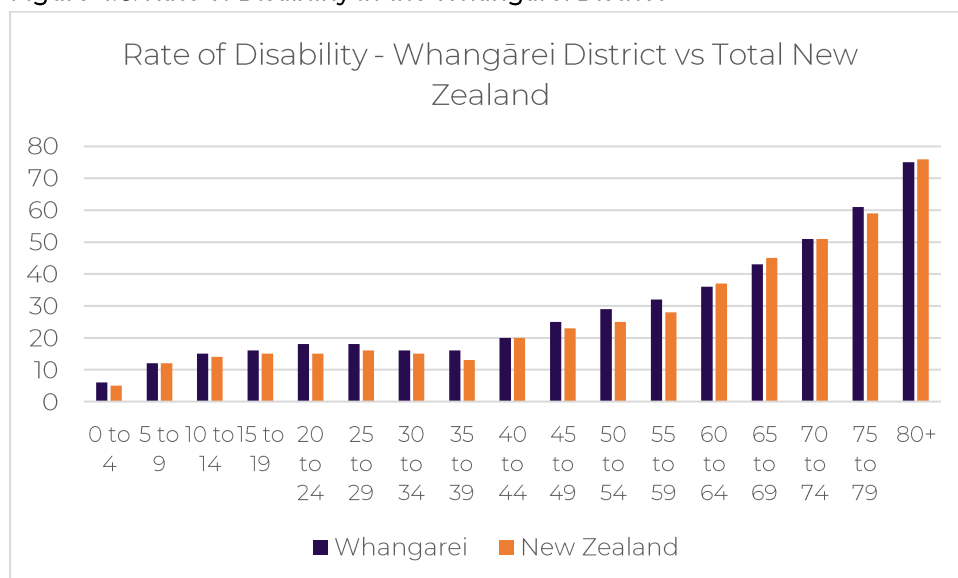


Source: NZ Statistics Census 2018 Data – High Projections

Rate of Disability

The rate of disability is slightly higher in the Whangārei District than for New Zealand as a whole for nearly all age groups. Those who identify as having a disability increases with age and this is another factor to consider when developing or upgrading facilities. Ensuring accessibility will future proof any development WDC chooses to pursue.

Figure 4.6: Rate of Disability in the Whangārei District



Source: NZ Statistics Disability Survey

5 Participation Levels

There is no perfect source of data for participation in the Whangārei area. There is a range of data sets that need to be considered. The participation data sources used are:

- Sport NZ Active New Zealand Survey
- NZ Secondary School Sports Participation Census
- Code reported Participation Trends

5.1 Sport NZ Active NZ Participation Data⁷

The following table outlines the participation levels by young people (5-17 years) and adults (18 years plus) in the Whangārei district. This is based on data supplied through the Sport NZ Active New Zealand survey.

Table 5.1 Sport NZ Active NZ Participation by Code – Whangārei

Activity	% of Whangārei 5-17 year olds	% of Whangārei adults (18plus)
Badminton	3%	3%
Basketball	8%	5%
Futsal	1%	n/r
Netball	7%	5%
Rollersports	n/r	n/r
Squash ⁸	1%	4%
Tennis	3%	6%
Volleyball	2%	4%

When compared with New Zealand, Whangārei has similar proportions of people participating in these activities.⁹

5.2 NZ Secondary School Sports Participation Census

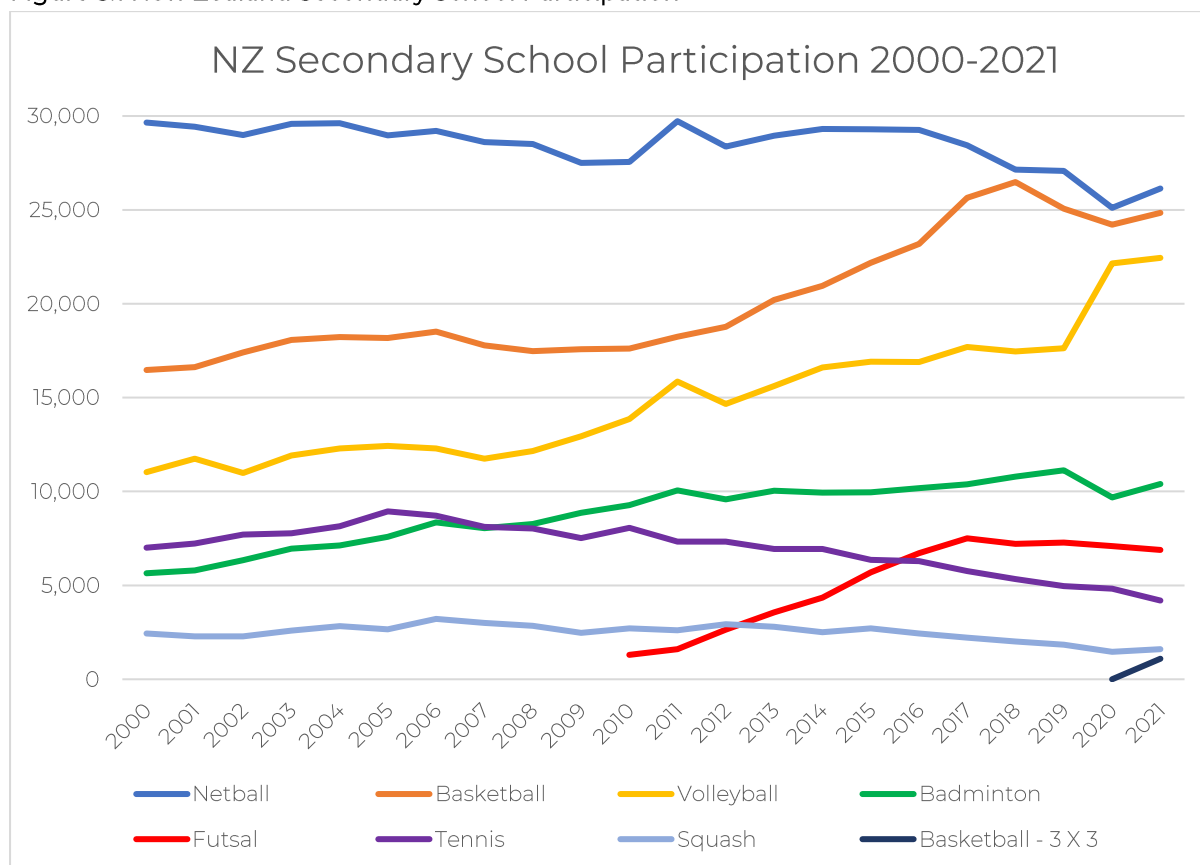
The New Zealand Secondary Schools' Sports Association (NZSSSA) has been collecting secondary school sports participation data for over 20 years. Arguably this data is the best, long-term trend data of sports participation in Aotearoa. The graph below shows NZ wide participation data for the sports identified in this report.

⁷ Supplied by Sport Northland

⁸ Active NZ data records 0% overall for squash participation among 5-17 years olds, however 1% for males aged between 5-17 years old.

⁹ There are no statistically significant differences in participation levels between the Whangārei area and the national participation levels (info supplied by Sport Northland)

Figure 5.1 New Zealand Secondary School Participation



The long-term trend of many of these sports, at a secondary school level, is evident. Futsal, badminton, volleyball and basketball have all experienced high growth rates with participation more than doubling within each of these codes in the last 20 years.

5.3 Participation by Code

The following data highlights the code reported participation in identified Whangārei based court sports.

Providing trend data on participation at the local level has proven to be problematic, particularly with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many sports have been unable to operate their normal competitions in the 2020 and 2021 years. This has significantly impacted on participation levels in the short-term and it is unknown if there will be longer term, ongoing impacts on sport participation.

Table 5.2: Code Reported Participation 2022

TEAM BASED SPORTS		
	Current Total Teams	Notes
Basketball	144	Demand significantly suppressed due to lack of court availability
Netball+	235	Excludes independently operated social netball league ⁷
Volleyball	48	Excludes one-off festivals, have-a-go and one-day tournaments
Futsal	40	Team numbers capped due to lack of court space.
Total teams	449	
INDIVIDUAL PLAYER BASED SPORTS ¹¹		
	Current Total Players	Notes
Badminton ¹²	529	Experiencing a significant increase in player numbers, particularly among ethnic minorities.
Squash	516	Relatively stable. Squash NZ strategy encouraging growth.
Tennis	760	Seen a significant rise in membership in "Covid years".
Total players	1805	

⁷The privately run social netball league held at Kensington (McKay) Stadium is capped at a maximum number of 30 teams. It was reported that the league used to have more teams but gave up a night of access to the courts to allow other codes access. The organiser reported receiving 3-5 enquiries per week from interested players / teams that could not be accommodated.

¹¹ No data received from Rollersports

¹² 2021 numbers

6 Planning principles and facility hierarchy

6.1 Principles

Planning principles provide a framework to allow prioritisation where resources are limited. This report is a recommendation from the Whangārei Active Recreation and Sports Strategy (WARSS), and as such these planning principles have been adopted as an overarching guide. The WARSS principles are:

- meeting an identified need and fit for purpose to meet the need
- sustainability – the whole of life costs have been considered
- partnering/collaboration/co-ordination
- co-location and integration
- future proofing – adaptability
- accessibility
- reflecting the community
- activation
- socialisation

6.2 Facility Hierarchy

The following definitions have been used to categorise the current network of indoor and outdoor courts in the WDC area.

It is important to note that a facility categorised as a local level facility may be able to be used as a national or international level facility by other sporting codes. The levels within the hierarchy are not exclusive and a single facility can meet the needs of different levels (for example a regional facility is almost always likely to also meet the needs of a community or district level within the hierarchy).

There are generally accepted levels of facility offering within a hierarchy from local or community level provision through district-wide and regional, to national/international facilities. For the purposes of this report, district-wide and regional levels of the hierarchy have been grouped.

Table 6.1 Facility Hierarchy Definitions

Local	District-wide or Regional	National / International
Low levels of specifications. Often used by multiple codes and other non-sporting uses (such as community halls capable of hosting indoor sports along with community gatherings).	Often seen as the home of particular codes for a region, where participants from across the district and adjacent council areas come to participate. May not have the high specifications to be able to cater for national or international play.	Often more specialised. Meet international or national specifications defined by sporting codes. Higher specifications. Often with larger spectator capacity and potential media capabilities.

When looking at sporting courts, as defined by this report, the following table provides more detail as to the likely requirements of courts at each level of the hierarchy.

Table 6.2 - Requirements by Hierarchy

	Local/Community level	District-wide or Regional level	National / International Level
Courts	<p>Courts may vary in size.</p> <p>The floor surface may vary.</p> <p>Often have multiple court markings for a variety of codes.</p>	<p>Usually developed primarily for sporting activity.</p> <p>Dimensions usually at the appropriate level for senior level participation and even inter-regional competitions.</p> <p>Floor surface usually a sprung wooden floor.</p>	<p>Specifications to meet international sports body requirements.</p> <p>Specific dimensions</p> <p>Space between adjacent courts essential.</p> <p>Ideally court line markings can be for one sport, particularly for televised sport. However, this is relatively uncommon in NZ¹³.</p>
Roof height (if indoors)	Often varies	Ideally to international specifications	To international specifications.
Lighting	For training and local play only (if any lights at all).	Floodlights for training and play up to premier level.	Media level lights to allow for broadcasting.
Media requirements	No fixed media requirements	Live streaming ability desirable	Either permanent set up for plug in media delivery, or the ability and space to set up necessary service.
Change areas	Basic level of provision.		High standard. Often with the ability to create larger change spaces through utilisation of adjoining areas.
Warm Up areas	On court	On court	Separate to playing area, if possible.
Other considerations		<p>Some access to an event / tournament control space for competitions.</p> <p>Meeting spaces for sports officials.</p>	<p>Access to meeting rooms.</p> <p>Separate drug testing facilities.</p> <p>Close proximity to strength and conditioning area.</p> <p>Ticketing capability.</p> <p>Proximity to accommodation / airport.</p>

¹³ Emerging LED lighting for courts is one way of having multi-sport court markings, but only displaying one sport's lines at any one time, controlled by the flick of a switch.

7 Current Network of Courts

The Whangārei district has a range of indoor and outdoor courts to cater for the sports being considered in this report. Some courts are specialised, while others are used by a range of user groups. Figure 7.1 shows the current network of courts in the Whangārei district (for sport by sport maps see Appendix).

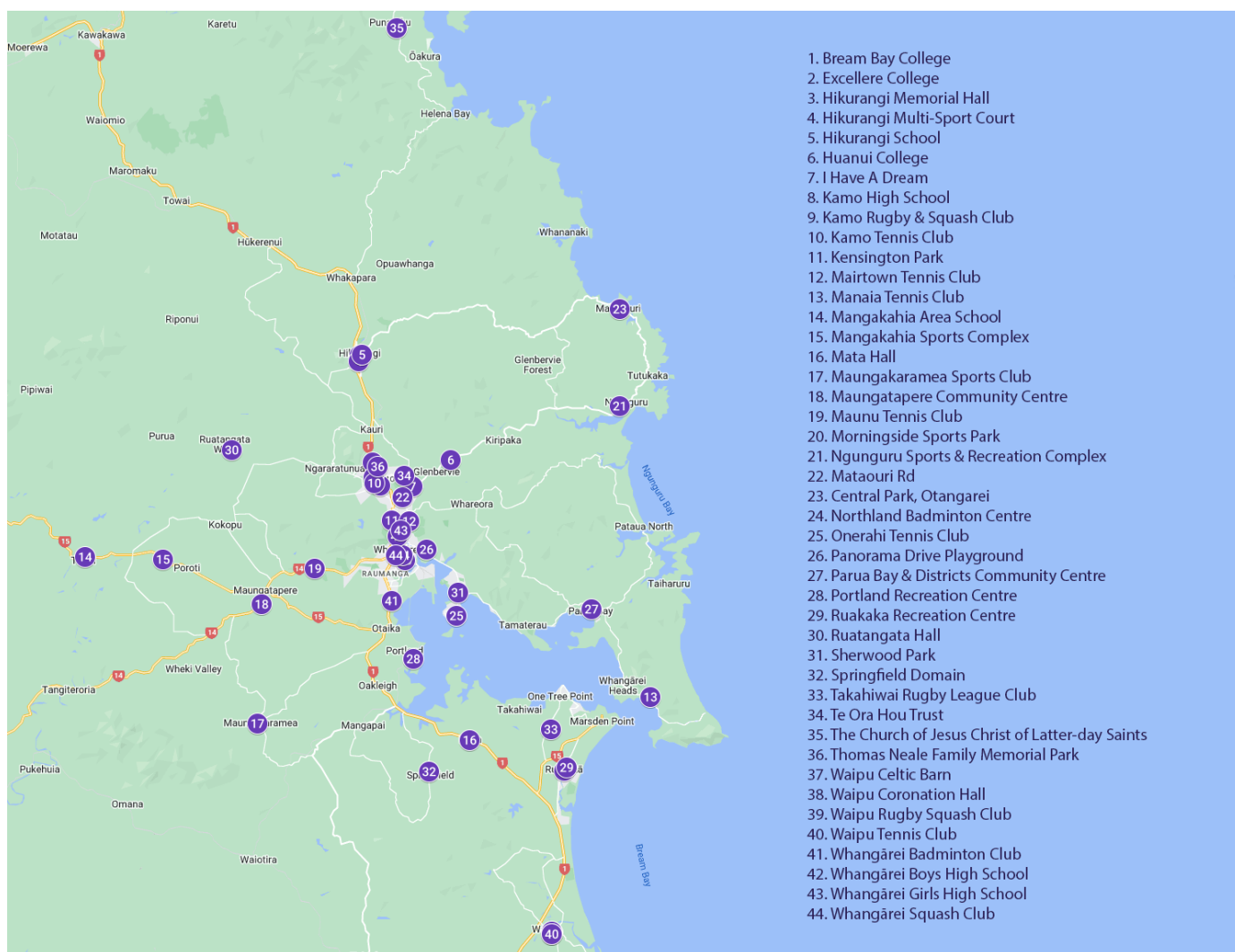


Figure 7.1 Network of Courts - Whangārei district

Kensington (McKay) Stadium is used as the regional facility for many of the sports in the scope of this report. It is the only publicly accessible venue that has multiple courts for a range of sports groups. It also has competing demands to host mid-sized events and concerts that come to the Whangārei district which inevitably displace community sport users. Kensington Stadium was first constructed in 1980 with significant upgrades undertaken between 1998 and 2002. A climbing wall was developed at one end of the courts which has reduced the amount of space for the three community courts that are marked out.

There is no permanently available full size community court for basketball or netball, without re-configuring the Kensington (McKay) Stadium. When the full-size court is used, it drops the capacity

of the venue to a one court venue as the full-size court markings overlap the three smaller courts, rendering them unusable.

Given Kensington (McKay) Stadium is the only council owned facility in the urban area, there is a high reliance on third party courts, particularly education facilities, to cater for demand from community sport user groups.

There are a wide range of outdoor courts also identified within each sports section below.

Table 7.1 Whangārei District Indoor Courts

Facility Name	Sport Users	No. Courts Indoor
Kensington Park	Basketball, Netball, Tennis, Futsal, Badminton, Volleyball, Rollersports,	3
Bream Bay College	Basketball	1
City Rugby Union Football Club ¹⁴	Boxing	1
Excellere College	Futsal	1
Huanui College	Basketball, Netball	1
Kamo High School	Basketball, Netball, Volleyball	2
Mangakahia Area School	Volleyball*	1
Parua Bay and Districts Community Centre	Squash, Badminton, Rollersports*	1
Te Ora Hou Trust	Basketball, Netball, Badminton, Volleyball,	1
Waipu Celtic Barn	Basketball, Netball	1
Whangārei Boys High School	Basketball	2
Whangārei Girls High School	Netball, Volleyball	1
TOTAL		16

The following section outlines the various courts that are available for the identified sports with some commentary around each sport's issues and opportunities as they relate to indoor and outdoor courts. A map of the courts available for each of the identified sports can be found in Appendix 12.2.

7.1.1 Basketball

Basketball has seen rapid growth across New Zealand and Whangārei is no exception. Northland Basketball (NB) is actively suppressing demand due to the inability to access enough court time for the sport. There are a number of basketball opportunities that NB could run but choose not to as NB would ultimately push other sports off scarce court space. There is only one primary school grade, no Year 7 and 8 competition, no B or C grade high school grades, no business house grade and



Te Ora Hou Outdoor Courts

¹⁴ Set up as a Boxing Gym.

limited access for representative trainings.

Basketball uses a range of courts and relies heavily on the use of education owned assets to facilitate the sport.

NB has initiated a programme of increasing the number of backboards in Northland with the 100 hoops programme¹⁵. This has allowed backboards to be installed in areas with a hard surface to encourage casual and informal play.

Table 7.2 highlights the known courts used by Basketball in the Whangārei district. Not all of these facilities are readily available for basketball competitions or training.

Table 7.2 Whangārei Basketball Courts

Facility Name	No. Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Indoor Courts		
Kensington Stadium	3	Regional
Bream Bay College	1	Local
Excellere College	1	Local
Kamo High School	2	Local
Te Ora Hou Trust	1	Local
Waipu Celtic Barn	1	Local
Whangārei Boys High School	2	Local
TOTAL INDOOR COURTS	11	
Outdoor Courts		
Kensington Park	1	Local
Mangakahia Area School	1	Local
Te Ora Hou Trust	2	Local
I have a Dream*	1/2	Local
Morningside Sports Park*	1/2	Local
Central Park, Otangarei*	1/2	Local
No facility name, 970 Matapouri Rd*	1/2	Local
Panorama Drive Playground*	1/2	Local
Sherwood Park*	1/2	Local
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*	1/2	Local
TOTAL OUTDOOR COURTS	8	

* Described as backboard and hoop. Recreational use only.

7.1.2 Netball

Netball predominantly operates from the 16-court venue at Kensington Park. The WNC hires the Kensington Stadium for premier games. There is a social netball league that is also held at Kensington (McKay) Stadium.

¹⁵ NB feedback indicates there will be close to 200 additional backboards installed as part of the project.

The WNC venue at Kensington Park has 12 netball only courts and 4 shared courts that are used for netball in the winter and basketball or tennis in the summer. One of the four council owned courts is also used for basketball.

WNC has completed a feasibility study that investigated providing more shelter through the covering of four outdoor courts along with additional indoor function, social and administrative space. WNC is also interested in providing floodlights to additional courts to expand the availability for teams wishing to train or play mid-week.



Whangārei Netball Centre

Table 7.3 outlines the facilities available for netball in the Whangārei district.

Table 7.3 Whangārei Netball Courts

Facility Name	No. Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Indoor Courts		
Kensington Stadium	3	Regional
Excellere College	1	Local
Huanui College	1	Local
Kamo High School	2	Local
Te Ora Hou Trust	1	Local
Waipu Celtic Barn	1	Local
Whangārei Girls High School	1	Local
TOTAL INDOR COURTS	10	
Outdoor Courts		
Kensington Park	16	Regional
Excellere College	1	Local
Hikurangi multi-sport court	2	Local
Huanui College	1	Local
Kamo High School	2	Local
Mangakahia Sports Complex	1	Local
Ngunguru Sports & Recreation Complex	1	Local
Takahiwai Rugby League Club	2	Local
TOTAL OUTDOOR COURTS	26	

7.1.3 Squash

Squash is played on a specialist court and therefore has different requirements than other sports that use indoor courts. The Whangārei Squash Club is seen as the “regional centre” and has the ability to host national level tournaments. Table 7.4 outlines the available squash courts in the Whangārei district.

Table 7.4 Whangārei Squash Courts

Facility Name	No Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Whangārei Squash Club	4	National
Maungakaramea Sports Club	3	District
Parua Bay and Districts Community Centre	2	District
Kamo Rugby and Squash Club	3	Local
Mangakahia Sports Complex	2	Local
Ruakaka Recreation Centre*	2	Local
Waipu Rugby Squash Club	2	Local
Total Squash Courts	18	

* Unaffiliated, casual use only.

Squash is a club- based activity and the conversion of the Kensington (McKay) Stadium courts to other uses means there are no publicly accessible courts in the city. The installation of computer software can allow club courts to be booked and paid for by the public online. This technology is not used by squash in Whangārei.

There are no doubles courts in Whangārei. Squash doubles has grown in popularity in recent years and to accommodate this modification of the game side walls of squash courts can be moved to make the court wider (approximately 3 singles courts can be adjusted to get 2 doubles courts). If additional courts were to be developed in Whangārei then consideration should be given to a movable wall to create doubles courts.¹⁶

While squash courts are very specialised, they can accommodate other activity, particularly in non-peak times, provided clubs are willing to share the space. This also allows an opportunity to generate additional revenue.



Whangārei Squash Club (source WSC Facebook)

¹⁶ While not confirmed or adopted, initial information within the 2022 National Squash Facilities Strategy indicates on average there should be one squash court per 37-40 members in urban areas and 1 court per 25-30 members in rural areas. Overall there are currently 28 members per court in Whangareia.

There is currently no financial contribution from WDC toward the maintenance of squash courts in the area.

Maintenance issues are identified for most club-based facilities. This is true for squash clubs in Whangārei, most notably the roof of the Whangārei Squash Club needs replacing at significant cost to the club.

7.1.4 Badminton

Badminton, is required to be played indoors¹⁷. Shuttlecocks are light and their flight is easily altered with air movement.

There is a mix of specialist badminton courts, complemented with multi-use courts that can be used for lower-level badminton in the Whangārei district. At a competitive level, badminton requires indoor facilities that have specific light and air-flow requirements. This is reflected in the provision of badminton courts in Whangārei. The Northland Badminton Centre (NBC) has a 6-court purpose-built facility and the Whangārei Badminton Club (WBC) has a 4-court purpose built facility.



Northland Badminton Centre

Other badminton courts are located in multi-use indoor court or community hall venues. Table 7.5 outlines the network of badminton courts in Whangārei.

Table 7.5 Whangārei Badminton Courts

Facility Name	No. Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Northland Badminton Centre	6	Regional
Kensington Stadium	3	Regional
Whangārei Badminton Club	4	District
Hikurangi Memorial Hall	1	Local
Hikurangi School	1	Local
Mangakahia Sports Complex	2	Local
Maungatapere Community Centre	1	Local
Ngunguru Sports & Recreation Complex	4	Local
Parua Bay Community Centre	2	Local
Te Ora Hou Trust	4	Local

¹⁷ There are some forms of badminton played outdoors, with an adapted, shuttlecock that is heavier.

Facility Name	No. Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Waipu Coronation Hall	4	Local
Total Badminton Courts	32	

Northland Badminton is embracing the use of Web-based access options to open the doors of the facility to casual badminton users as well as other facility hire groups. The Northland Badminton Centre also provides other space which is regularly used by a range of other community groups.

The NBC has significant deferred maintenance issues, including the need to address a leaking roof.

The WBC has a very low membership base, particularly since the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, any additional demand pressures for badminton courts can be met through the existing network of badminton facilities, in particular the courts at the WBC. It is reported that the WBC is investigating technology to open the doors to allow casual users to book court time.

More casual badminton participation can also be catered for at the community level facilities that exist in the Whangārei district.

Badminton has the same court dimensions as pickleball (with a lower net) so there are synergies and this may provide additional revenue for the sport.

7.1.5 Tennis

Tennis is played across a wide range of sites in Whangārei. The regional centre is the Thomas Neale Memorial Park. Public tennis courts are available at Kensington Park during summer months. There is good spatial distribution of tennis courts across the district.

There are some localised demand pressures for tennis courts at a club level. Some clubs have courts that are floodlit, allowing the demand to be spread into the evenings. Other clubs are currently exploring the installation of floodlights for this very reason.



Thomas Neale Family Memorial Park

Pickleball (an emerging sport similar to tennis played with short-handed bats that hit a plastic ball over the net) is being explored by some tennis clubs as a way to further utilise courts and providing

an alternative for participants, particularly older adults. Table 7.6 outlines the network of tennis courts in Whangārei.

Table 7.6 Whangārei Tennis Courts

Facility Name	No. Tennis Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Thomas Neale Family Memorial Park	12	Regional
Maungakaramea Sports Club	3	District
Hikurangi multi-sport court	2	Local
Kamo Tennis Club	5	Local
Kensington Park	3	Local
Mairtown Tennis Club	5	Local
Manaia Tennis Club	2	Local
Mata Hall	4	Local
Maunu Tennis Club	4	Local
Ngunguru Sports & Recreation Complex	4	Local
Onerahi Tennis Club	4	Local
Ruatangata Hall	2	Local
Springfield Domain	2	Local
Waipu Tennis Club	4	Local
Total Tennis Courts	56	

Feedback from Tennis suggests that overall, there are enough tennis courts available to meet demand in the Whangārei district.

7.1.6 Volleyball

The following table outlines the reported network of formal volleyball courts in Whangārei.

Table 7.7 Whangārei Volleyball Courts

Facility Name	No. Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Kensington Park	3	Regional
Whangārei Girls High School	1	Local
Kamo High School	2	Local
Mangakahia Area School	1	Local
Te Ora Hou Trust	1	Local
Total Volleyball Courts	8	

Northland Volleyball reports significant challenges in accessing court space to grow the game. Volleyball also notes that some casual, community level games are played on grass along with the increasing popularity in Beach Volleyball, played on sand courts.

Volleyball has indicated that there is significant suppressed demand due to the lack of availability of facilities. Many participants only are only able to participate in one-off, festival type experiences, where in other parts of New Zealand there is a far wider range of competitions available for primary school, secondary school and adult players.



Whangarei Volleyball (Source: WGHS)

There is the concept of developing additional volleyball courts in the Bream Bay area that would be able to consistently host national tournaments.

7.1.7 Futsal

Futsal (most easily explained as a form of indoor football) has seen rapid growth in New Zealand in the last ten years. In Whangārei, futsal is organised by a private academy, although others play the sport in informal, casual ways.

The futsal academy has invested in a floor surface for Excellere College. This has enabled the sport to gain regular access to this court. However, when compared to other areas in New Zealand with similar population sizes there is clear evidence of suppressed demand.

Table 7.8 Whangārei Futsal Courts

Facility Name	No. Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Kensington Park	3	Regional
Excellere College	1	Local
Total Futsal Courts	4	

7.1.8 Rollersports

No information has been received from Rollersports in the development of this report.

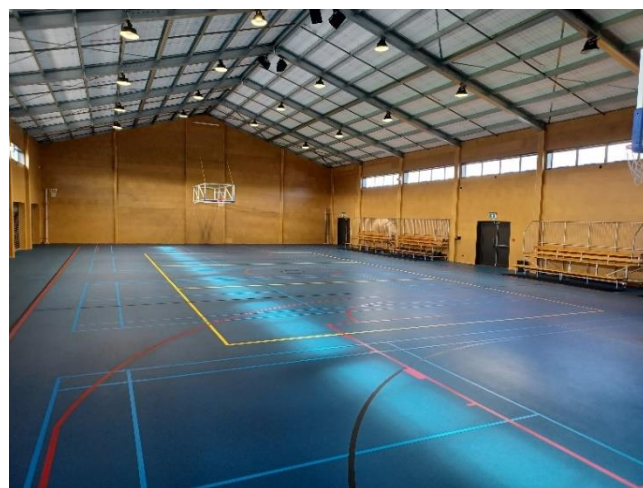
Rollersports includes inline hockey, artistic skating, speed skating and roller derby competitions. Most rollersports activity can occur at multi-use court spaces (indoor or outdoor). Facility operators need to confirm the durability of the floor surfaces they are using to ensure there is no undue damage to courts.

Table 7.9 Whangārei Rollersports Courts

Facility Name	No. Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Kensington Park	3	Regional
Parua Bay and Districts Community Centre	1	Local
Portland Recreation Centre	1	Local

7.1.9 Summary of Indoor Courts

The following table outlines the indoor courts that are available in the Whangārei district. The table shows the number of courts available and then identifies the availability of each court to the community to calculate the total number of “full time equivalent” courts in Whangārei, which provides a more meaningful understanding of the current situation.



Te Ora Hou Indoor Court

Table 7.10: Whangārei District Indoor Courts – Community Availability

Facility Name	Sport	No. Courts Indoor	No. of peak hours / week available for community use	Fulltime Equivalent Courts (assuming FTE = 28 hours peak time availability)
Kensington Park	Basketball, Netball, Tennis, Futsal, Badminton, Volleyball, Rollersports,	3	84	3
Bream Bay College	Basketball	1	6	0.2
City Rugby Union Football Club ¹⁸	Boxing	1	0	0
Excellere College	Futsal	1	12	0.4
Huanui College	Basketball, Netball	1	0	0
Kamo High School	Basketball, Netball, Volleyball	2		0.2
Mangakahia Area School	Volleyball	1		0
Mangakahia Sports Complex	Squash, Badminton	n/c	0	0
Parua Bay and Districts Community Centre	Squash, Badminton, Rollersports	1		0
Te Ora Hou Trust	Basketball, Netball, Badminton, Volleyball,	1	8	0.3
Waipu Celtic Barn	Basketball, Netball	1	6	0.2
Whangārei Boys High School	Basketball	2	14	0.5
Whangārei Girls High School	Netball	1	6	0.2
TOTAL		16	148	5.0

¹⁸ Set up as a Boxing Gym.

Note:

1. The City Rugby Union Football Club Hall is not available for indoor court sports. It is set up as a boxing studio, therefore does not provide any court capacity to the network.
2. The Waipu Celtic Barn is available indoor court spaces but due to location only serve the needs of local level participation and add little to the capacity of the network in Whangārei city.
3. Kamo High School reports not making the indoor courts available for public use, but there are some exceptions which involve community participation, led by those within the wider “school community”. For the purposes of assessing demand, this use is factored in as it would need to be hosted elsewhere if Kamo was not available.
4. Te Ora Hou Trust has indicated it will hire the court out but does not wish to have the facility captured by any particular sports or organisations. This makes it difficult for codes to run regular, ongoing competitions from the venue. Therefore, this facility's capacity is uncertain, however it is assumed community access can be secured for 8 hours per week.
5. The Mangakahia Sports Complex was initially identified as a court available for community use. Sports codes feedback indicates this facility is no longer fit-for-purpose and has been removed from capacity calculations for multi-use court space.

Therefore, while there are 16 courts identified in Whangārei, factoring in the local availability and usability of courts, there is the equivalent capacity of 4.6 indoor courts in Whangārei city. This converts to approximately one court per 20,000 people.

7.1.10 Summary of Outdoor Courts

Outdoor courts form an important part of the wider sports court network. For tennis and netball the vast majority of play and training occurs on outdoor courts. Some other sports can utilise outdoor courts for casual participation.

There are some planned developments that will add to the existing network of outdoor courts if they proceed:

- A hard court planned at Oakura (2023/2024)
- Two 3-on-3 courts and a futsal court are planned at Pohe Island

To ensure outdoor courts remain a viable option for sports the following should be implemented:

- Maintenance of courts needs to be pro-active and regular. Courts should be free of debris, with clearly marked court lines. Fencing, nets and any hoops need to be constructed to minimise the opportunity for vandalism.
- Additional lighting to extend the capacity of outdoor courts, particularly for netball and tennis.
- Investigate use by emerging sports that can operate with equipment (hoops, nets) that can be temporarily placed on the existing courts.

In summary, there are a number of courts, both indoor and outdoor in Whangārei. However, there are very few indoor courts that are available for community use.

8 Future Demand and Supply

8.1 Future Demand for Courts

There are several factors that have been used to establish estimates on future demand on indoor and outdoor courts in Whangārei. These are:

- The demographic patterns of the area, including population growth and the ageing population.
- Assessing suppressed demand, to determine what growth is likely to occur above the rate of demographic change if additional court supply is made available.
- Trends in sports participation, including sports code predictions and what sports are emerging and sports participation habits.

8.1.1 Demographic Changes

As previously outlined in Section 4 the Whangārei District is expected to grow by 44% between 2018 and 2048, from 94,100 people to 135,600 people. Some important points to consider include:

- There is higher use of courts among tamariki and rangatahi along with young adults.
- However, some sports still report large numbers of older adults participating, such as tennis and badminton participation locally and the emergence of pickleball nationally.

Not every person will choose to participate in court sports (for a range of reasons) and there are differing participation levels at various age groups. However, the 0-14 year age group will see a 25% increase; 15-39 years cohort will increase by 34% and the 40-65 years cohort will increase by 29%. Within the 0-65 year age range there will be an additional 21,600 residents (30%).

A 30% increase would be seen as a minimum increase, based on population growth alone, among the age cohorts that make up the majority of the playing age participants. This is reinforced by the higher-than-average participation rates among Māori (who have a younger age profile than the overall population).

When looking at population-based growth in sport participation we look to understand the number of additional people required to live in an area to generate an additional team in a sports code. This is known as a team generation rate (TGR). We use a similar ratio to understand growth in individual based sports (a participation growth rate or PGR).

Without factoring any current demand pressures or other variables this population growth would require an additional 2 indoor courts in the Whangārei metropolitan area by 2048. See table 8.1 for a sport by sport break down.

Table 8.1 Current and future team and player numbers based on population growth

TEAM BASED SPORTS					
	Current Total Teams	Playing Age Population of area (2018)	Current Team Generation Rate (TGR)*	Playing age Population (2048)	Expected teams in 2048 at same TGR
Basketball	144	76,400	531	99,000	187
Netball	235	76,400	325	99000	305
Volleyball	48	76,400	1592	99000	62
Futsal	40	76,400	1910	99000	52
Total teams	449				582
INDIVIDUAL PLAYER BASED SPORTS					
	Current Total Players	Playing Age Population of area	Current Player Generation Rate (PGR)+	Playing age Population (2048)	Expected players in 2048 at same PGR
Badminton	529	76,400	144	99,000	685
Squash	516	76,400	148	99,000	669
Tennis	760	76,400	101	99,000	985
Total players	1726				2237

* additional people required to generate a team

+ additional population to generate another player in individual sports

These population-based growth scenarios for sports show the number of teams increasing from 449 to 582 by 2043 (an increase of 133 teams) and those sports involving individual players increasing from 1,726 to 2,237. This model does not take into account any other growth factors.

However, feedback received from all codes utilising indoor courts is there is currently a shortfall in capacity and demand is suppressed. Therefore, it is also important to factor into any future planning the impacts of suppressed demand. To do this further information is required from codes on anticipated demand.

8.1.2 Predicting future participation using Code Predictions

During the development of this report, it was apparent that there was demand being suppressed due to insufficient court space. This was most evident with basketball, futsal, netball and volleyball. Examples of this included:

- Basketball not running a year 7 and 8 competition or anything other than one primary school competition and very little adult competition. It has been limiting team numbers in competitions as there is no additional court space available.
- Futsal is limiting team numbers in all school agreed grades due to lack of available court space.
- Indoor volleyball is being limited to one regular competition while all other activity occurs as one off events and festivals, often played outdoors on grassed parks and reserves.
- Social netball league actively limiting numbers to 30 teams per term due to lack of available space for additional games.

Sports were requested to provide what they forecast as future participation numbers. This can be a challenging exercise; therefore codes were asked to map out where participation would change and what competitions, trainings and events would occur in the future that do not occur now.

Table 8.2 Code predicted growth

TEAM BASED SPORTS					
	Current Total Teams	Current Team Generation Rate (TGR)*	Potential Number of Teams ¹⁹	% change	Potential TGR
Basketball	144	531	484	327%	204
Netball+	235	325	315	34%	314
Volleyball	48	1592	102	212%	970
Futsal	40	1910	120	300%	825
Total teams	449		1021	227%	
INDIVIDUAL PLAYER BASED SPORTS					
	Current Total Players	Current Player Generation Rate (PGR)+	Player Numbers based on Code Data (2028) ²⁰	% change	
Badminton	450	170	700 ²¹	55%	
Squash	516	148	645	25%	
Tennis	760	101	915	20.4%	
Total players	1726				

+ When compared to other indoor sports, Netball is seen as relatively mature in its participation model. It is the largest participation sport among females in NZ and the growth rate used here is based on WNC supplied data for the last ten years, which shows an average increase of around 3% per year²².

Higher levels of growth are predicted by many sports, when compared with population growth alone. Overall team sports predict a more than doubling of teams using courts.

8.1.3 Predicting court requirements using comparison cities

Another method for determining possible future participation numbers is to look for comparison cities that have a similar population size, but a larger number of available community indoor courts.

Table 8.3 below highlights a number of “mid-sized” population centres in New Zealand, there population and number of community available indoor courts.

¹⁹ The code provided participation figures are based on if they had capacity, what additional programmes and competitions would they initiate. These further highlights suppressed demand.

²⁰ This is seen as an additional five years at the same growth rate as the previous five years.

²¹ Badminton growth is based on initial feedback from the code and national trends. This was updated from 25% over the period to 55%, based on further information supplied by Northland Badminton.

²² WNC membership data supplied indicates adult netball team numbers has gone from 75 in 2011 to 72 in 2022. Over the same time year 1-6 netball teams have grown from 71 to 124. Intermediate teams have remained relatively static (38 in 2011 to 39 in 2022).

Table 8.3 Comparison cities and the population per full sized multi-use indoor court

	Population (2018)	No. Community Indoor Courts	Population / Court
Palmerston North	88,600	17	5,212
Dunedin	133,300	19	7,016
Tauranga	136,700	16	8,544
Lower Hutt	111,800	12	9,317
Nelson/Tasman	103,000	8	12,875
Napier / Hastings	154,300	9	17,144
Whangārei	94,100	5	18,820

Comparison cities with larger numbers of courts still report peak time demand pressures, particularly if the courts also play a role of an events or entertainment centre for concerts and other commercial bookings. This comparison table and feedback from other regions adds weight to the reported suppressing of demand in the Whangārei area and that growth in participation is very likely if additional court capacity is provided.

The existing guidance states the level of provision should be equal to or better than one community available court per 9,000 people²³. This ratio suggests that at the 2018 population of 94,100 there currently should be 10-11 community available courts in Whangārei, where in fact there are only 5 full time equivalent courts (see 6.1.9 for details), including those that are in remote areas. The courts considered in this calculation were courts that can reasonably be expected to be available for community use. This excludes or limits the impact that school courts play in this ratio, as access is currently not guaranteed, and arrangements vary from year to year and code to code.

With population growth expected to climb to 135,600 by 2048, the total number of community available courts should be increased to approximately 15.

²³ The 1 court to 9,000 people ratio includes the total population in the area, not just the anticipated “playing age” population. This ratio comes from the Sport NZ Indoor Courts Strategy (2013). This strategy is currently under review.

8.1.4 Future Indoor Court Requirements

The following table summarises the various participation models that have been used.

8.4 Comparing the percent change of the various growth models 2048²⁴

	"Active" Population Growth Model	Code Prediction Model	Court Numbers using National Guidelines
Current	449 teams	449 teams	1 court to 15,683
Future	582 teams	1,021 teams	1 court to 9,000
Percent Change	30%	227%	220%
Current number of available courts	5	5	5
Total number of courts required to meet demand	8	14	15
Additional capacity required	3	9	10

Given there are currently the equivalent of 5 indoor courts available in the Whangārei area there is identified demand for an additional 3-10 courts. Given the sport codes predictions are close to the nationally accepted guideline of 1:9,000 there is a higher confidence level in the future demand at the higher level of around an additional 9-10 courts. This level of additional courts has the potential to further increase over time particularly if:

- Existing indoor court sports demonstrate sustained increases in participation
- Emerging sports demand indoor court space
- Netball looks to re-locate more of its competitions and trainings indoors.

How this level of provision can be achieved is discussed in section 9.

²⁴ 2048 has been used as the census provided period where future population can be predicted. The code prediction model is based on what level of teams could reasonably be expected if access to facilities was removed. Asking codes to predict approximately 25 years into the future for participation is challenging with too many variables to make this a worthwhile comparison. Hence we have worked with codes to gain an understanding of their participation numbers in a shorter (and some would say, realistic) timeframe.

8.1.5 Future Outdoor Court Requirements

There is no overall national service level guideline for outdoor courts. Therefore this report has relied on code specific supply recommendations, players per court ratios and guidance from other regional strategies that have attempted to quantify court needs. A ten year window has been used to forecast future provision.

Table 8.5 Future Outdoor Court Requirements 2032

	Tennis	Netball
Current Participation	760 players	235 teams
Outdoor Courts	56	26
Current Provision Ratio	14 players / court	9 teams / court
Future Participation	915 players	315 teams
Future Provision Ratio	16 players / court	12 teams / court

There is sufficient supply of outdoor courts to meet current demand as well as significant growth of sports. With Netball NZ's facility strategy identifies a carrying capacity of approximately 30 teams per court, which when applied to the WNC means there is spare capacity to host additional teams.

While there are no clear guidelines on a maximum player to court ratio for tennis the future ratio of 14 players per court (if tennis continues to grow at the current rate) would suggest there is sufficient courts to meet demand, at a district wide level. By way of comparison, a regional strategy developed in Auckland for tennis facilities²⁵ developed a population-based ratio of one court per 2,500 residents. In Whangārei the current ratio is 1 court per 1,680 and this would change to 1 court to 2,421 by 2048.

The NZ Tennis National Facilities Guidelines indicate that location of courts is an important factor to encourage membership. There may be future club based demand pressures that could be met at a district-wide level. Additional flood lighting at popular clubs will also help to spread the demand of courts through a larger period.

Casual outdoor courts, for multiple sports, should be considered in further park upgrades and developments to allow a cross-section of activities to occur. Examples already existing in Whangārei, such as recreational volleyball, basketball courts at Pohe Island that encourage informal participation.

²⁵ Auckland Region Tennis Facilities Strategy (2015)
RSLC

9 Strategies to address demand pressure

There are several key strategies that have been identified to reduce demand pressures. These are:

- Consolidate a “hub and spoke” approach to the courts network.
- Cover courts at Kensington Park
- Formalise partnerships with school providers
- Formalise partnerships with other third party court providers
- Re-schedule activities that can occur in non-court venues
- Re-schedule activities to off-peak times, if possible
- Retrofit existing facilities for additional court space
- Develop new courts

These strategies are further explained below.

9.1.1 Consolidate a “hub and spoke” approach to the courts network.

A network approach needs to be taken when planning for the use of existing facilities and strategies to address demand pressures²⁶. The following table describes the differentiation between hub facilities and spoke facilities.

Table 9.1 A Hub and Spoke Approach

Hub	Spoke
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-courts • Regional provision • Formal competitions • Centralised venues in close proximity to a large portion of the Whangārei population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often single court venues • Localised provision • Casual and informal play, active recreation or sport • Supplementary training venues • Located in communities that may be a distance from the main “hub/s”

Another consideration is how sport is managed at facilities. There are advantages having multiple courts at one site. This aids in the oversight of regular competitions as well as potentially attracting events. Multiple courts also bring a critical mass of players and spectators to a venue which provides advantages in terms of creating secondary spend opportunities and cross-pollination with other codes that use the space (such as junior players observing other sports and wishing to try them out as well). There are also some disadvantages of large scale facilities, particularly if not planned out well; in particular parking shortages.

²⁶ As recommended in the Whangārei Active Recreation and Sport Strategy 2019
RSLC

9.1.2 Covering existing outdoor courts

The Whangārei Netball Centre (WNC) has investigated the ability to cover four of the outdoor courts at Kensington Park. If WNC moved their competitions currently occurring at Kensington (McKay) Stadium to the covered courts this would alleviate some demand pressures on indoor courts.

The previous feasibility study states that “The covered courts that are proposed in this study would provide space for training on Monday to Thursday evenings, competition play on Friday night, on Saturdays and during tournaments. The covered area would be available for other sports to use and for other activities.²⁷” The other users identified were volleyball, basketball, futsal and handball. Given that netball has said they would use the covered courts during the peak times of Monday through Friday evenings and Saturday, the covered courts will not offer much additional capacity for other user groups.

If these courts were covered then arguably the only capacity that would be gained at Kensington (McKay) Stadium would be the time the WNC uses it on a Friday night and Tuesday evening.²⁸ Monday night social netball is unlikely to move and cite the better surface conditions of the Kensington (McKay) Stadium as being a key factor²⁹. Some other key factors to consider including:

- The covering of the existing courts is inconsistent with the Kensington Park Reserve Management Plan³⁰
- The previous study identified a demand from players for off-court shelter as well.
- The impact on view shafts into the park from that area if another structure was erected.
- Whether Premier Netball would want to move back “outdoors”, given they currently play on a superior sprung-floor surface, indoors.
- Investigating the re-location of netball off Kensington Park to a new site, adjacent to any new indoor court venue.
- Car-parking is at a premium at the current site.
- Note the rise in school multi-use areas being covered that can be used for lower-level training, if access can be obtained, although these rarely have lights for night training.

9.1.3 Formalise partnerships with school court providers

A large number of courts in Whangārei are owned by the Ministry of Education and operated by the relevant school. It is logical that WDC looks to partner with schools more formally for community access, after school hours, to courts that are inherently paid for by public money.

Currently sports negotiate their own lease arrangements with third parties. An opportunity exists to explore a collective leasing and allocation process across indoor sporting codes. If lease arrangements we formalised, codes would have greater certainty of planning.

²⁷ Freeman & Associates (2019) P18

²⁸ 15 hours equivalent on Friday night and 2 hours on Tuesday night during the third term

²⁹ Interview with organiser of the independent social netball league.

³⁰ WDC staff feedback

WDC could also consider supporting codes in paying for court hire. There are varying court hire charges across Whangārei. This is inevitable given the diverse ownership and operation of the available courts.

If the cost of some third party courts are a barrier to use for some community sports then the WDC may wish to consider subsidising access into non-council facilities to relieve some demand pressure on Kensington (McKay) Stadium³¹.

9.1.4 Partnerships with third party court providers

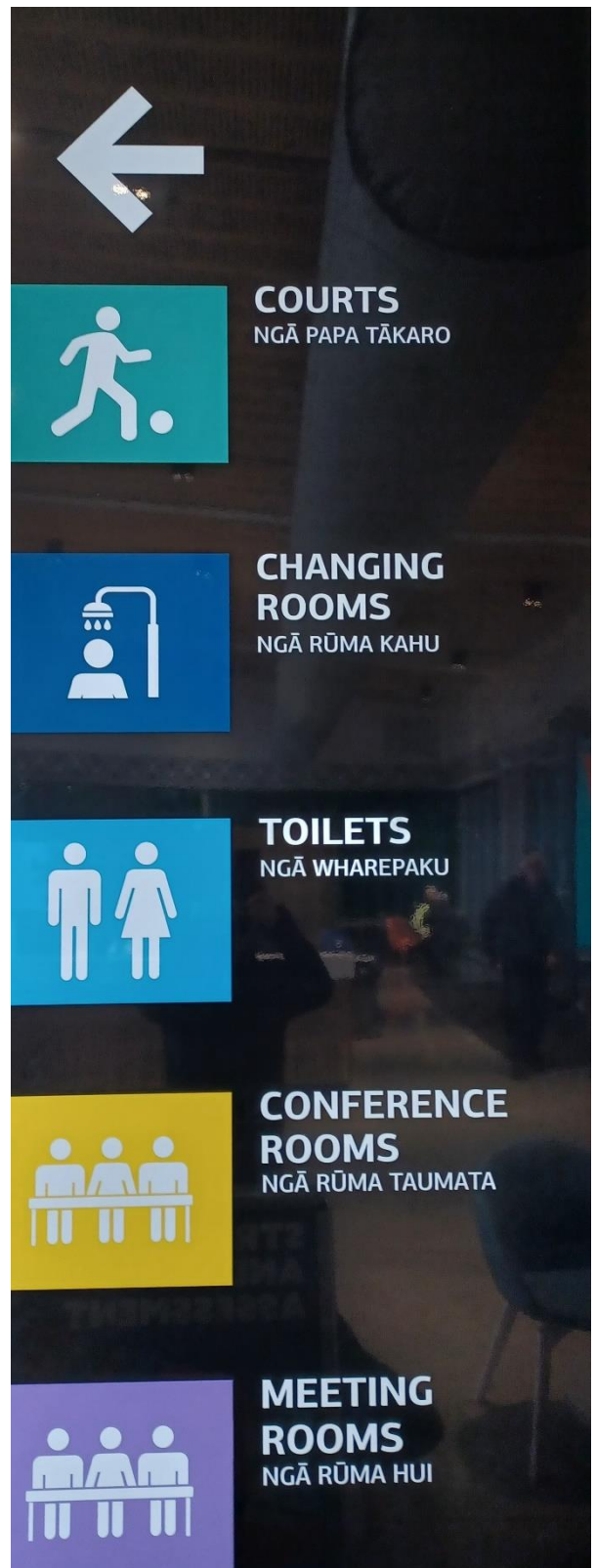
Gaining consistent, ongoing court hire from third party indoor court providers is something that occurs with mixed success.

Te Ora Hou is a community wellbeing agency that has developed a new indoor court facility, and outdoor basketball areas in Whangārei. A formal partnership with Te Ora Hou should be considered where WDC can purchase, on behalf of sports, regular access to the venue for one or two nights per week. Early indications from Te Ora Hou are they are cautious about no one sports code or group “capturing” the court space as their own, so careful allocation of time would be required.

Currently access arrangements are undertaken on a code-by-code basis. An opportunity exists for WDC with the support of Sport Northland to centralise access arrangements with codes. This may offer school Boards of Trustees more confidence in the relationship while at the same time giving comes the opportunity to centrally agree allocation of courts.

9.1.5 Re-scheduling activities for times when courts are available

The ongoing challenge of the vast majority of court venues in New Zealand is that they are under pressure during peak times but are often hardly utilised during off-peak times. It is very unlikely any key peak time users would consider a shift to non-peak times, even with price incentives, given most users are not available to participate during the non-peak times.



³¹ The cost to hire Kensington (McKay) Stadium is \$21.50 / hour, while some other venues in the area have been quoted at up to \$45-\$50 / hour.

9.1.6 Re-scheduling activities that don't require the courts

WDC and Sport Northland should undertake an analysis of peak time use of the Kensington (McKay) Stadium courts to see if there are any activities that could occur at other venues. Of particular importance is what ceiling height do activities require to operate effectively. If there are activities occurring during peak times that could operate elsewhere then they should be encouraged to re-locate so those activities that require a high ceiling can gain more time.

9.1.7 Retrofitting existing facilities to accommodate courts

There are some high-profile examples of large retrofitting projects that have turned large warehouses into indoor court venues. WDC may wish to consider this option if the venue location complements the existing network.

Consideration should still be given to ensuring there is appropriate infrastructure to support indoor sports play. Car parking, appropriate change areas, ventilation and acoustics are all very important elements that provide a good experience for participants and spectators.

9.1.8 Extending the hours of operation for Kensington (McKay) Stadium

The venue currently closes at 9pm on Monday to Thursday and 8pm on Friday. On weekends it closes at 5pm. If it was possible, extending opening hours by a total of 5 hours per week would increase the network capacity by around 0.2 of an additional court³².

9.1.9 Developing new courts

It is proposed that WDC looks to develop a dual hub approach for indoor court provision, with supporting satellite venues. This would mean there would be a focus on formal, sport competitions (and trainings) at the larger hubs (Kensington (McKay) Stadium and one other). These larger venues would allow codes to manage their competitions an efficient manner while also avoiding participants travelling to counter-intuitive venues to compete or train (e.g. scheduling Whangārei city based teams to play in Waipu). These hubs could also provide Whangārei with the capacity of indoor courts to host many of the inter-regional school aged tournaments and festivals.



Consideration has been given to additional courts at Kensington (McKay) Stadium. This option is not seen as feasible given the required footprint and subsequent reduction of open space on the park (which is likely to be inconsistent with the reserve management plan). Additional courts at Kensington would also effect parking and traffic flows in an already congested area.

³² It is acknowledged there may be local restrictions to hours of operations.
RSLC

These larger sized indoor court hubs can be complemented by offering provision at the local level (the spokes) that can meet casual or semi-structured, community sport and active recreation. This would see courts in the wider WDC area having the capability to provide for local level training and informal competitions.

The outcome is to develop one additional large-scale “hub” facility for indoor sports. The size of this hub is dependent upon the ability to secure long-term arrangements for school access, additional to those access arrangements already in place.

Proposed court developments at Ruakaka may help to alleviate some demand pressures, but mainly at a localised level, with regional servicing for some sports such as volleyball.

9.1.10 Summarising the impact of the strategies

A key consideration is the likely level of impact each of these strategies would have on the capacity of the network. The table below summarise the likely full time equivalent courts each strategy would produce.

Table 9.2 Impact of Strategies to Increase FTE Court Capacity

Strategy	Likely Impact	Additional Courts (1 court = 28 hours of peak time)
Formalise partnerships with schools	More consistent access hours across all schools. Possible price consistencies. Every additional 28 hours access will increase the network by around one court	Unknown
Formalise access agreement at Te Ora Hou	WDC enter into access agreement with Te Ora Hou for two nights per week access for community sport	0.2 court
Extend Kensington (McKay) Stadium Hours	An additional 5-6 hours of peak time	0.2 court
Netball develop cover 4 outdoor courts)	Competitive netball would move to the covered outdoor courts and free up approximately 17 hours of court time / week ³³	0.6 court

³³ One term only
RSLC

Strategy	Likely Impact	Additional Courts (1 court = 28 hours of peak time)
Develop additional courts	Look to develop an additional hub facility to cater for indoor court sports – the number of courts is dependent upon the success of other strategies listed here.	5-6 courts
Support the proposed Ruakaka development	Support the 2-court facility proposed at Ruakaka to cater for growth in the south of the district	2 courts

The table above shows that most strategies will gain small amounts of capacity for the network. If each strategy, excluding building new courts, were implemented there would still be a significant shortfall of courts that can only be filled by developing new court spaces (either through retrofitting existing buildings or new developments).

The precise number of new courts cannot be confirmed until long term access agreements and partnerships with schools and third parties can be agreed. However this should not delay the commencement of detailed planning work for new courts.

10 Wider Considerations

Developing additional capacity for court sports will help alleviate some demand pressures. However there are other considerations that should be factored, including:

10.1.1 Supporting the capability of sporting codes

As the network of indoor and outdoor courts grows there will be increasing demands placed on the sporting bodies responsible for overseeing the various programmes and services offered. Priority should be given to build the capability of codes to maximise the use of the future network as well as providing a quality experience for participants, to ensure participation is sustainable.

Some codes are indicating a significant increase in participant numbers. The ability of codes to offer consistent, quality experiences for players, officials and spectators will be important to ensure the sustainability of the larger network of courts.

10.1.2 Accessibility / inclusivity

It is important that the network of courts and the ancillary facilities such as changing and toilet areas are accessible for use, to encourage as many people who wish to participate. The term accessibility should be applied broadly. This not only refers to physical barriers, but also any other type of barrier that inhibits participation. Accessibility to courts needs to be considered through a number of lenses:

- Access within the district (where most people can avoid too much travelling to access community level facilities, while accepting travel may be required to access higher specification courts).
- The ability to get to the courts (preferably on arterial routes with public transport and walking and cycling options).
- The physical accessibility to courts (good parking, safe access to and from courts where universal design³⁴ principles are applied).
- Access to courts that are secured, either through traditional membership rights or through technology systems that “open the doors” to pay-for-play participants.
- Ensuring access to all that want to participate by making each venue as accessible and friendly as possible (such as encouraging programmes and activities that cater for people's religious and cultural sensitivities).
- The court facilities are welcoming to a range of users and accommodates all ages and genders (shade and seating, change facilities, water fountains and other design features allow the experience at the court to be enjoyed³⁵).

³⁴ Universal design policy provides for Universal design is about making buildings accessible to all people of all abilities at any stage of life. It includes people who use wheelchairs or other mobility aids, people with impaired vision and people who are elderly or very young.

³⁵ With acknowledgement for feedback from the WDC Positive Ageing Group (meeting notes 20/05/2022). Further detail has been provided that should be referred to when courts are being upgraded or developed.

Feedback from Parafed Northland confirms that the current network of indoor courts are generally inaccessible³⁶. The current network of courts also inhibits the development of a more diverse offering of activities due to insufficient capacity.

It would be advisable to seek input from disability groups when designing any new court spaces, to ensure accessibility is considered.

10.1.3 Environmental Sustainability

There is a need for sports and facility providers to consider environmental sustainability more closely than ever before. The current Climate Change emergency is calling into question our use of fossil fuels and overall carbon emissions.

The location of the network of courts (and other sports facilities) combined with sports draws that encourage as much local play as practical will minimise participants reliance on vehicles to access venues. That said, there will inherently be a requirement to travel for most competitive sport.

The re-development or construction of new facilities must look at sustainability measures to minimise the carbon footprint of sport.

10.1.4 Seasonally based demand

Traditionally indoor court demand has been higher in the second and third terms of the year (approximately April through to September). Codes have had to elongate their seasons to accommodate as many participants as possible. This has meant some competitions are now run in terms one and four. This is a demand driven change that has ensured usage of courts is optimised during peak hours through the year.

An assessment of the bookings schedule for Kensington (McKay) Stadium illustrates that there may be some capacity in the first and fourth terms, however this is only minimal. A sample of term by term bookings is in Appendix 12.3. This illustrates that the courts are already being used for a large amount of peak time, throughout the year.

³⁶ Interview with Parafed Staff 13 July 2022.
RSLC

11 Conclusions and Recommendations

11.1 Conclusion

This report has identified a current shortfall of indoor court capacity in the Whangārei area. Looking to the future this under-supply of court space will only become more extreme as population growth increases alongside the desire of codes to play more indoors rather than outdoors.

Whangārei is expected to see population growth of approximately 40,000 residents by 2048.

A critical factor contributing to the under-supply of court space in Whangārei is the low proportion of indoor courts that are owned and operated on behalf of the WDC. There is an over reliance of third party courts with the expectation that these courts are available for community use. This report has identified that a large proportion of non -council owned or operated facilities are not available for regular community hirers.

When predicting future demand for courts the following scenarios have been modelled:

1. Population growth model
2. Code predictions of future participation
3. Comparisons of similar sized areas

The following table summarises the findings of these scenarios.

	"Active" Population Growth Model	Code Prediction Model	Court Numbers using National Guidelines ³⁷
Current	449 teams	449 teams	1 court to 15,683
Future	582 teams	1,021 teams	1 court to 9,000
Percent Change	30%	227%	-
Current number of available courts	5	5	5
Additional capacity required	3	9	10

Predicting an exact number of courts required to meet future capacity is challenging as there are a range of variables that may change over time such as population growth rates, along with sports participation rates and trends. However, it is highly likely that future court capacity will need to increase by close to 9-10 courts. This report identifies a range of strategies to increase this capacity including:

- Formalising access agreements with third party court owners
- Re-scheduling some activities away from indoor courts to other community spaces if the specialist nature of an indoor court is not required
- Increasing opening hours in existing facilities

³⁷ This is calculated by looking at the "Active" population only (99,000 in 2048) and the number of courts required to meet the 1:9,000 ratio – in this case 11 courts.

- Retrofitting existing facilities into indoor court venues
- Constructing new courts

An assessment of how much capacity can be gained from these various strategies identifies that unless additional court space can be constructed (either new or through retrofitting existing spaces) then WDC will still have a significant under-supply. Additional court space, if created needs to be done in such a way as to ensure accessibility by all who want to participate. Environmental sustainability should also be considered with any developments.

Specialist courts for squash and badminton have also been considered in this report. While there are enough squash and badminton courts to meet current and future demand, there are significant deferred maintenance issues that need to be resolved. Technology to encourage more casual (or pay to play) participants should also be implemented. The Northland Badminton Centre has already done this and is seeing the benefits of a large casual participant base which further supports the financial viability of the code. WDC should consider financial support of these venues if they make themselves available for casual use.

There is currently sufficient capacity of outdoor courts. Overall, netball and tennis are well served in regard to the number of outdoor courts in the Whangārei district. There will be localised demand pressures when certain clubs increase in popularity. However, like indoor courts, a network approach should be taken to assessing supply and demand. Additional floodlights at some venues will help to spread demand across a wider range of available court hours. The maintenance of existing court venues should be seen as a priority to ensure ongoing access to the network.










11.2 Recommendations

Whangārei District Council should:












- Receive and review this draft report.
- Provide leadership and co-ordination of access agreements between court sports and third party facility providers.
- Support the required maintenance at the WNC.
- Extend the hours of the Kensington Stadium to free up some additional court capacity.
- Continue to take a network approach to the provision of court facilities to ensure accessibility for all.
- Develop an appropriately sized indoor court venue as the second indoor court facility hub for Whangārei (5-6 court venue).
- Consider financially supporting the deferred maintenance issues identified at the WSC and the NBC as two strategically important specialist court venues, if they can demonstrate accessibility for casual users.
- Involve key user groups in any future planning and design of indoor courts, in particular Parafed Northland.












12 Appendices




















12.1 Network of Indoor and Outdoor Courts in Whangārei District Council³⁸






Facility Name	Sport	Indoor Courts	Outdoor Netball Courts	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Badminton Courts	Squash Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Kensington Park	 Rollersports,	3	16	1	3	3		Regional
Northland Badminton Centre						6		Regional
Thomas Neale Family Memorial Park					12			Regional
Maungakaramea Sports Club					3		3	Sub Regional
Whangārei Badminton Club						4		Sub Regional
Bream Bay College		1						Local
City Rugby Union Football Club		1						Local
Excellere College		1	1					Local
Hikurangi multi-sport court			2		2			Local

³⁸ Supplied from the Sport NZ Inventory Tool RSLC

Facility Name	Sport	Indoor Courts	Outdoor Netball Courts	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Badminton Courts	Squash Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Hikurangi Memorial Hall						1		
Hikurangi School						1		
Huanui College		1	1					Local
I have a Dream				1/2				Local
Kamo High School		2	2					Local
Kamo Rugby and Squash Club							3	
Kamo Tennis Club					5			Local
Mairtown Tennis Club					5			Local
Manaia Tennis Club					2			Local
Mangakahia Area School		1		1				Local
Mangakahia Sports Complex		-	1			2	2	Local

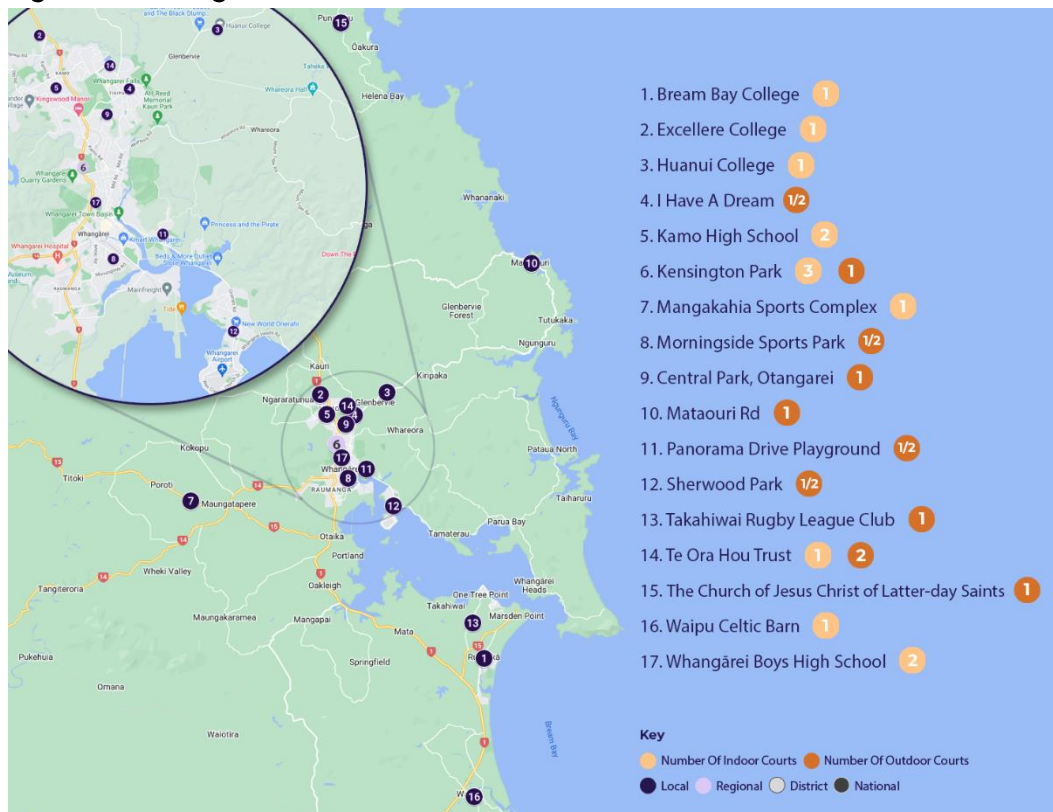
Facility Name	Sport	Indoor Courts	Outdoor Netball Courts	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Badminton Courts	Squash Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Mata Hall					4			Local
Matapouri Hall					1			Local
Maunu Tennis Club					4			Local
Maungatapere Community Centre						1		
Morningside Sports Park				1/2				Local
Ngunguru Sports & Recreation Complex			1		4	4		Local
Central Park, Otangarei				1				Local
No facility name, 970 Mataouri Rd				1				Local
Onerahi Tennis Club					4			Local
Panorama Drive Playground				1/2				Local
Parua Bay and Districts Community Centre	 , Rollersports	1			1	2	2	Local

Facility Name	Sport	Indoor Courts	Outdoor Netball Courts	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Badminton Courts	Squash Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Pataua Outdoor Education and Recreation Trust					1			Local
Portland Recreation Centre	Rollersports	<i>Roller</i>						Local
Ruakaka Recreation Centre	 ,Multi 	2 (proposed)	6 (proposed)				2	Local
Ruatangata Hall					2			Local
Sherwood Park				1/2				Local
Springfield Domain					2			Local
Takahiwai Rugby League Club	  		2	1				Local
Te Ora Hou Trust	    	1	2	2		4		Local
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints				1				Local
Waipu Celtic Barn	  	1						Local
Waipu Coronation Hall						?		Local

Facility Name	Sport	Indoor Courts	Outdoor Netball Courts	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Badminton Courts	Squash Courts	Facility Hierarchy
Waipu Rugby Squash Club							2	
Waipu Tennis Club					4			Local
Whangārei Boys High School		2						Local
Whangārei Girls High School		1						Local
Whangārei Squash Club							4	National
Total Courts		17	28	8	63	28	18	

12.2 Maps of Indoor and Outdoor Court Networks

Figure 12.1 Whangārei Basketball Courts



Note: Northland Basketball report that the Mangakahia Sports Complex is unusable for their sport.

Figure 12.2 Whangārei Netball Courts

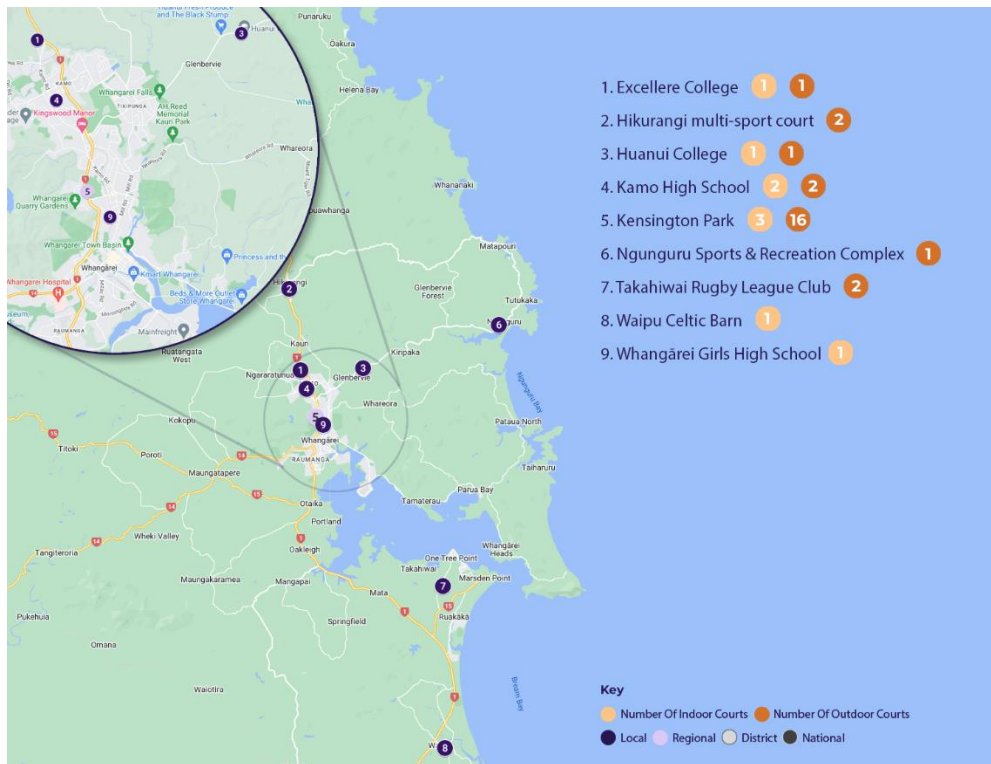


Figure 12.3 Whangārei Squash Courts

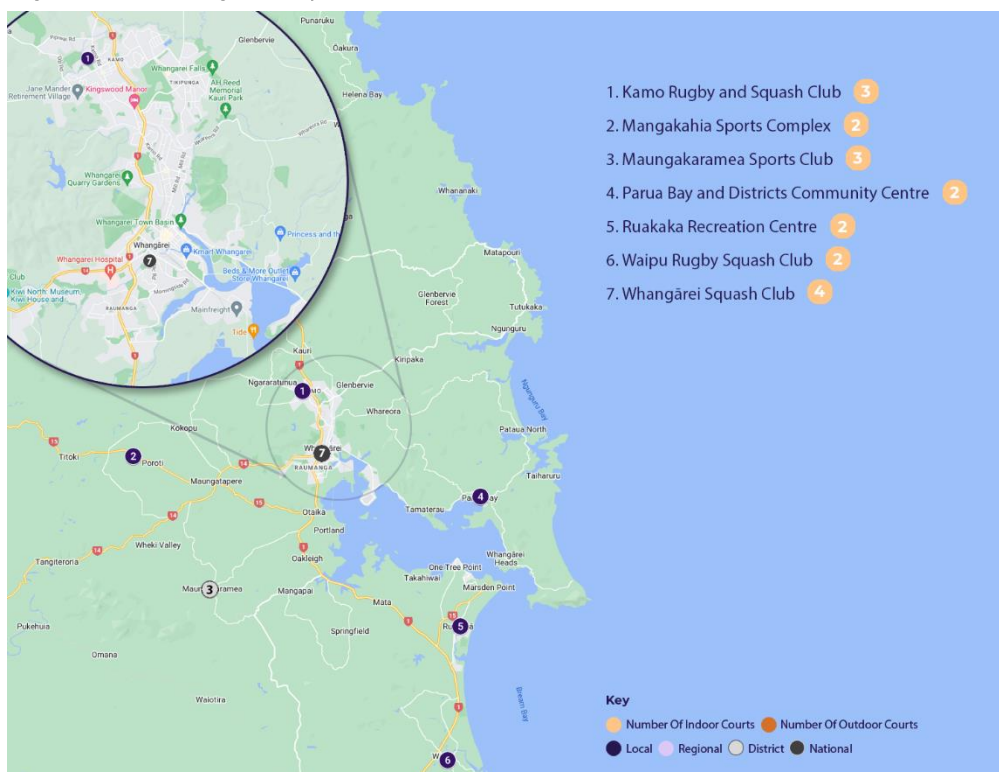


Figure 12.4 Whangārei Badminton Courts

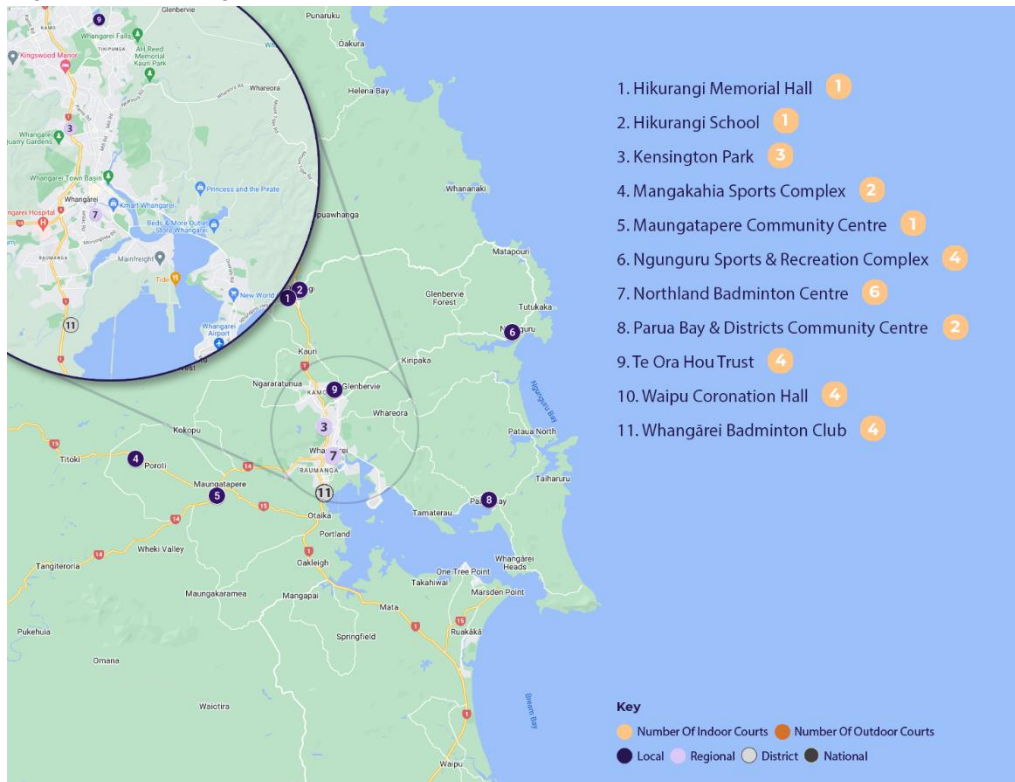


Figure 12.5 Whangārei Tennis Courts

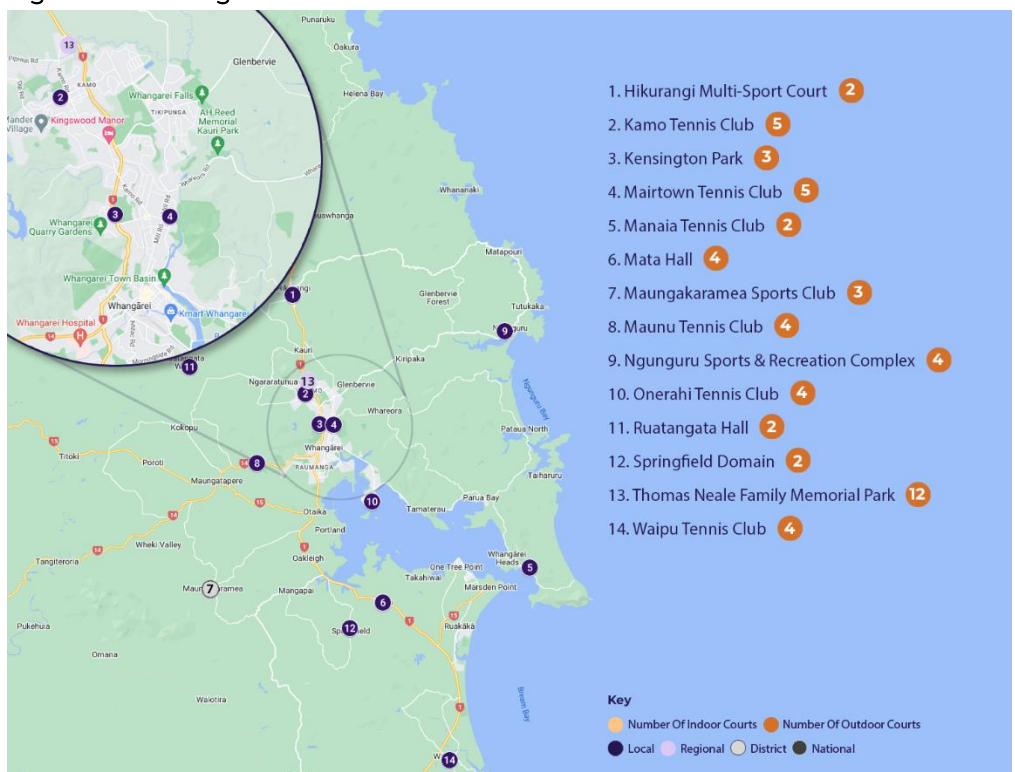


Figure 12.6 Whangārei Volleyball Courts

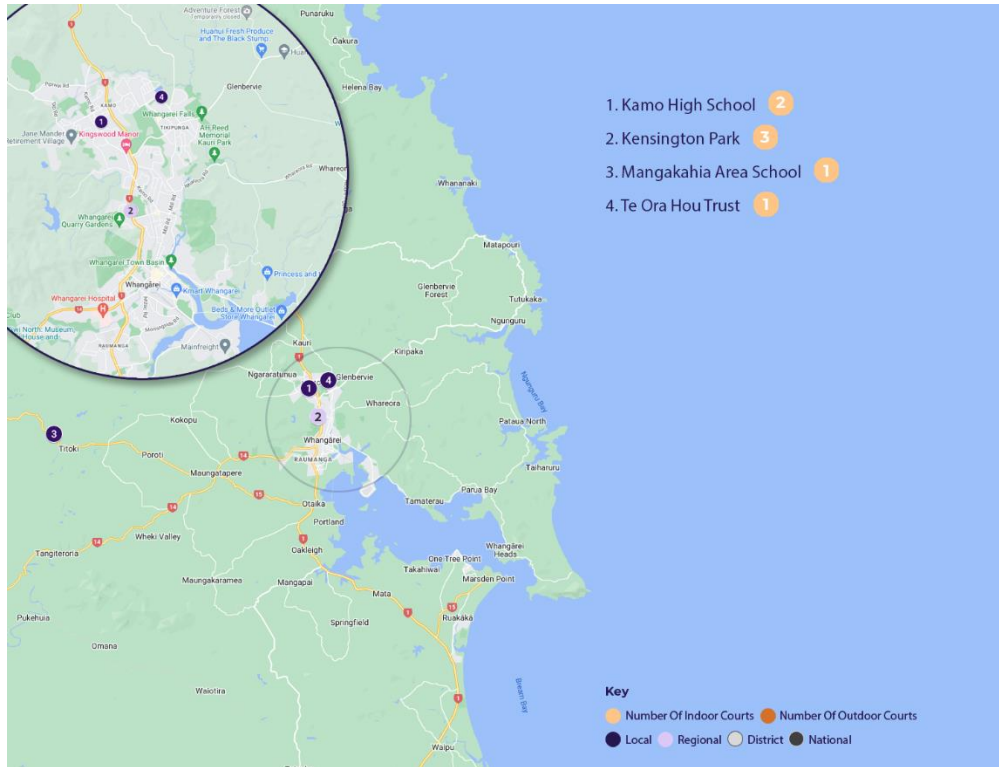


Figure 12.7 Whangārei Futsal Courts

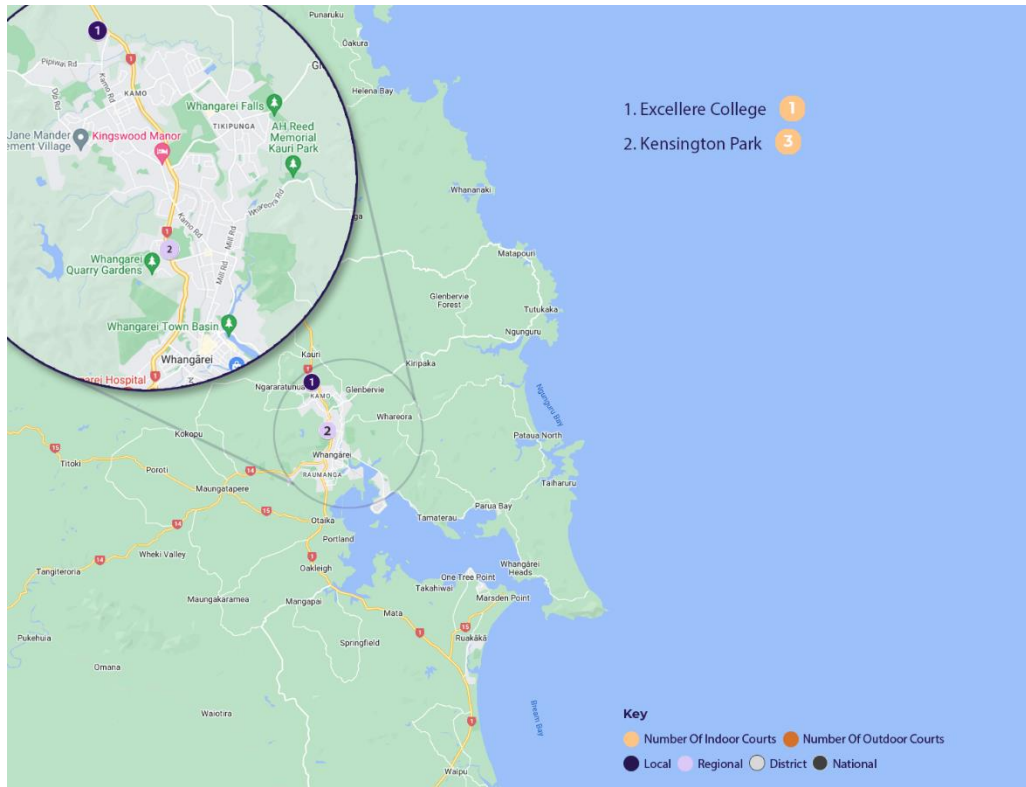
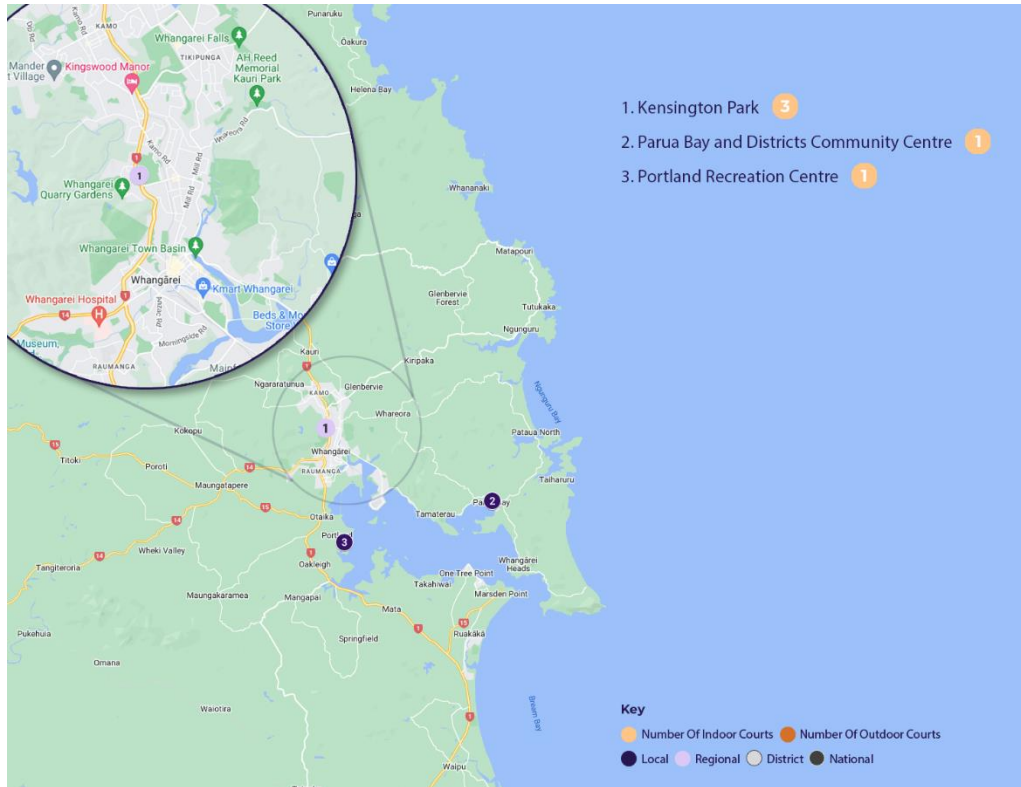
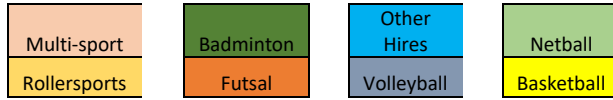


Figure 12.8 Whangārei Rollersports Courts



12.3 Kensington (McKay) Stadium - Sample Schedule Terms One – Four

Actual bookings supplied by Kensington Stadium. Indicating very limited capacity during peak times to allow for growth in indoor court sports. Week-day peak time is circled, to illustrate the time where the majority of the population is able to utilise the courts, excluding weekends.



Term 1

Hours	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday			
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	
6am-7am																						
7am-8am																						
8am-9am																						
9am-10am																						
10am-11am																						
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1pm-2pm																						
2pm-3pm																						
3pm-4pm																						
4pm-5pm																						
5pm-6pm																						
6pm-7pm																						
7pm-8pm																						
8pm-9pm																						
9pm-10pm																						

Term 2

Hours																						
6am-7am																						
7am-8am																						
8am-9am																						
9am-10am																						
10am-11am																						
11am-12pm																						
12pm-1pm																						
1pm-2pm																						
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3pm-4pm																						
4pm-5pm																						
5pm-6pm																						

Document version: Final

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