

2017/2018 | Annual Plan

Improving our sport and recreational spaces

Rotorua's active environment and easy lifestyle are important to its residents and we are striving to ensure that there are outstanding places to play throughout the district.

Rotorua Lakes Council's Sport and Recreation Manager, Rob Pitkethley, says there's a range of work on the cards for the district's open spaces/recreational areas this coming financial year.

The proposed 2017/18 Annual Plan has allocated \$4.1m towards projects which will improve sports and recreational facilities.

"We want to create outstanding places to give people a sense of pride in their community as well as providing them with facilities that help them be active and contribute to lifting community wellness and wellbeing," says Mr Pitkethley.

So what's planned for the coming year?

Rugby fields

A new rugby field will be built at Westbrook Park at the bottom of Thebes Street and existing fields will be improved. Lines of sand will be placed into the topsoil to improve drainage and improve the quality of the playing surface.

"This will enable fields to be used more frequently by reducing the need for closures due to wet weather," Mr Pitkethley says.

Hockey

One of the city's two hockey pitches will get a \$500,000 turf replacement.

"The synthetic playing surface on hockey's number two field needs replacing and this is scheduled for the off-season next year. We will also upgrade the carpark at Smallbone Park which services both the hockey and neighbouring cricket facilities."

Forest entrance improvements

Council is considering options for improving high-use entrance point for Redwoods and Whakarewarewa Forest users – Long Mile Road and Waipa. Enhancements being considered for the Redwoods side of the forest trails network could include improvements to Long Mile Road and visitor centre parking and construction of outdoor fitness equipment such as that at Waipa. Meanwhile, at the Waipa side of the forest Council is considering ways to separate mill and forest traffic.

Forest trails

"We're working with the Rotorua Trails Trust which manages maintenance of trails and tracks in the Redwoods and Whakarewarewa forests," Mr Pitkethley says. "The trust represents avid trailblazers of the community including cyclists, walkers and horse riders."

The Te Ara Ahi Great Ride will also be improved and further plans to increase the range of trails across the district will be progressed.



banks to make it more visitor friendly as part of stage one. In stage two, before next season starts, they will have courts that meet national standards with umpire zones. The premier courts will also be re-surfaced with a rubberised product that will help reduce knee, ankle and body injuries," says Mr Pitkethley.



Other planned projects include:

- > Renewing playground equipment across the district;
- > Upkeep of parks and reserves including replacement of damaged fixtures such as seating and tables and upgrading toilet facilities;
- > Upgrade of boat ramp at Acacia Bay, Okareka.
- > New boat ramp at Gisborne Point, Rotoiti.

Puarenga Park discussions

Council will be working with sports field users to look at improvements at Puarenga Park to cater for popular winter and summer codes as well as peak tournament use. "This park is used a lot during the winter with football and summer with cricket, as well as hosting many national tournaments. Lifting the quality of the supporting facilities around the park will make a difference to many users," Mr Pitkethley says.



Netball

Council is working alongside Netball Rotorua to upgrade the sport's Westbrook complex with stage one – expansion, improved embankments and improved drainage – already finished.

"Working with Netball Rotorua, we've changed the layout of the surrounding

