

Notice is given that an ordinary meeting of the Saxton Field Committee will be held on:

Date: **Wednesday 6 August 2025**
Time: **9:30am**
Meeting Room: **Tasman Council Chamber**
Venue: **189 Queen Street, Richmond**
Zoom conference link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89547045018?pwd=t90EBf4oLJ4lptt8KaKmQR9xGcFozd.1>
Meeting ID: 895 4704 5018
Meeting Passcode: 222276

Saxton Field Committee

Komiti Whenua Saxton

AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Independent Chair	Mr D Shaw	
Members	Tasman District Council	Nelson City Council
	Cr J Ellis	Cr C Rollo
	Cr B Maru	Cr T Skinner

(Quorum 3 (min of 1 councillor from each members council))

Contact Telephone: 03 543 8400
Email: tdc.governance@tasman.govt.nz
Website: www.tasman.govt.nz

AGENDA

- 1 OPENING, WELCOME, KARAKIA
- 2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Recommendation

That the apologies be accepted.

- 3 PUBLIC FORUM
Nil
- 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
- 5 LATE ITEMS
- 6 CONFIRMATION OF [MINUTES](#)

That the minutes of the Saxton Field Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 14 May 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

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- 9 CLOSING KARAKIA

7 REPORTS



7.1 KŪMĀNU ENVIRONMENTAL - CONSULTATION OUTCOMES FOR THE SAXTON FIELD ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND

Report To:	Saxton Field Committee
Meeting Date:	6 August 2025
Report Author:	Roanna Grover, Governance Officer
Report Authorisers:	Grant Reburn, Reserves and Facilities Manager
Report Number:	RSFC25-08-1

1. Presentation / Whakatakotoranga

Senior Landscape Architect, Kūmānu Environmental, Will Morrison will make a presentation to the Saxton Field Committee on the consultation outcomes for the Saxton Field Accessible Playground.

2. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

1.   Saxton Field Playspace Community Consultation Document July 2025

5



SAXTON FIELD PLAYSPACE

Community Consultation

Prepared by Will Morrison
Kūmānu Environmental
Reviewed BR | July 2025 | Version 01

 **tasman** | Te Kaunihera o
district council **te tai o Aorere**


Nelson City Council
Te Kaunihera o **Whakatū**


kūmānu
ENVIRONMENTAL

Project Vision and Consultation Overview

The vision for an all-inclusive playspace within the 65-hectare Saxton Field Complex has received either strong or widespread support through the Long Term Plans of both Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council. Recognising the importance of creating a space that reflects the diverse needs of the region's growing population, both councils have prioritised this initiative as a key component of their commitment to inclusive, accessible, and community-focused recreational infrastructure.

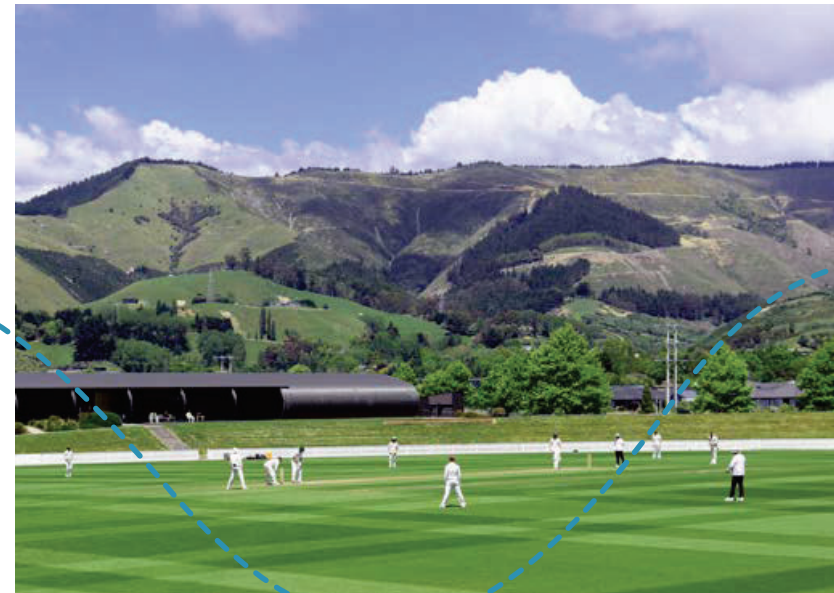
In response to this shared vision, Kūmānu Environmental was engaged to lead the consultation phase of the project and to deliver a robust needs analysis and concept plan for the proposed regional playspace. Kūmānu was selected for its expertise in environmental planning, community engagement, and integrated design approach that reflect both cultural values and practical needs.

The consultation process was intentionally inclusive, collaborative, and culturally grounded. It involved a series of hui with Ngā Iwi o Te Taihū, ensuring that the perspectives, values, and mātauranga (knowledge) of mana whenua were central to the planning process. Engagement extended to a broad range of community groups representing people of all ages and abilities, as well as individuals with lived experience of accessibility challenges.

A key aspect of the engagement involved input from seven local schools, giving voice to children and young people - the primary users of the future playspace which also highlighted educational and social benefits the space could provide. Kūmānu Environmental also worked closely with representatives from a diverse mix of user groups and community organisations, including those focused on disability support, older adults, early childhood development, and active recreation.

These in-depth conversations uncovered both the challenges and opportunities facing various segments of the community. Participants shared valuable insights into the physical, sensory, and social barriers that may prevent full participation in public spaces. Equally important were the aspirations which called for a playspace that goes beyond traditional playgrounds to create a vibrant, welcoming, and stimulating environment - fostering connection, exploration, and well-being for all who use it.

Through this process, Kūmānu Environmental has developed a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs and priorities, which will directly inform the design and development of the concept plan. The regional playspace at Saxton Field is envisioned not only as a destination for recreation, but as a landmark example of inclusive design, environmental sensitivity, and community-led development.



Cultural Values and Environmental Stewardship

During the early engagement hui, iwi representatives shared a unified perspective on the values and principles that must guide any future development within the proposed playspace. Central to their kōrero was the importance of ensuring that the playspace is designed to integrate harmoniously with the whenua (land) and reflects a deep respect for te taiao (the natural environment).

In particular, iwi emphasised the need to honour and protect the ngahere specifically the endemic Podocarp/Broadleaf Lowland Forest which would have once covered the area. These native ecosystems are considered not only ecological taonga but also hold cultural and spiritual significance. Any planting or landscape design must therefore prioritise the restoration, enhancement, and guardianship of these forest types, reinforcing the connection between people and place.

The hui also acknowledged the historical and cultural significance of the Saxton Field location. This whenua has long served as a site of mahinga kai - a traditional place for gathering food and natural resources and an important travel and trade route for tangata whenua. These histories are layered into the landscape and carry forward narratives that shape the cultural identity of the region.

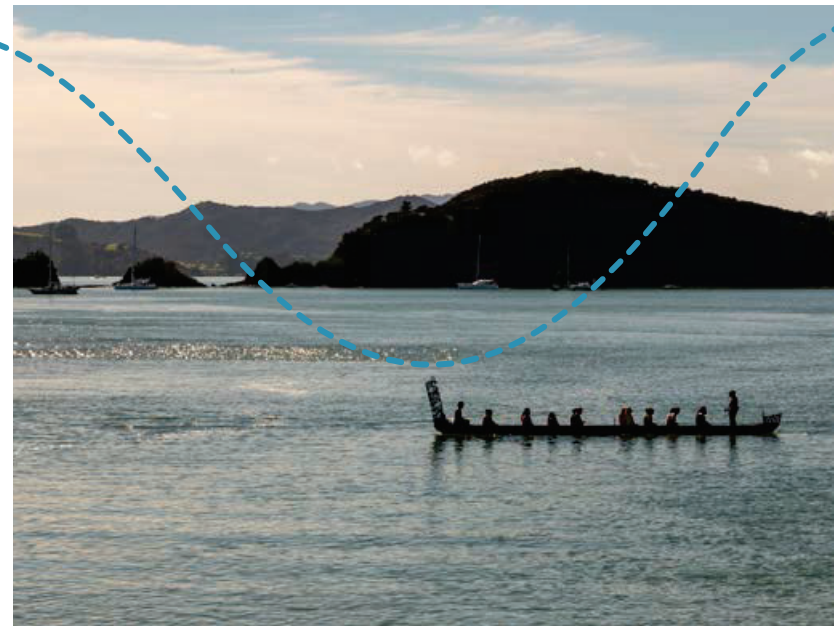
A powerful expression of cultural storytelling already exists within the site through the Saxton culvert artwork, which was referenced to during iwi discussions. This artwork features Tangaroa, the atua (guardian) of oceans, lakes, rivers, and freshwater ecosystems. Tangaroa's depiction is both symbolic and educational, reminding visitors of the delicate balance and interconnectedness of the ecosystems that surround them.

The scales along Tangaroa's body are designed to represent seabirds, signifying life above the water, while the larger fin-like scales honour the Paddle Crab, a species thriving in local waters. Tangaroa's tail curves and fans outward symbolising the Stingray, another important taonga species. These motifs are not simply decorative; they communicate the whakapapa (genealogy) of the environment and express the enduring relationship between tangata whenua and the natural world.

Incorporating these values and narratives into the playspace design is essential to ensure it is not only functional and inclusive, but also culturally grounded and environmentally respectful. This provides a unique opportunity to embed mana whenua perspectives into the fabric of the site, fostering a deeper connection for all who visit and reinforcing the role of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) in shaping the future of this shared space.

Key Messages

- Protect and enhance the whenua, ensuring the natural environment is respected and restored wherever possible.
- Embed a strong sense of place within the design, reflecting the unique cultural, ecological, and historical identity of the site.
- Assign a culturally appropriate name to the playspace, developed in partnership with iwi to ensure it reflects local tikanga and heritage.



Community Aspirations for a Safe and Inclusive Playspace

Throughout the consultation process, community groups consistently articulated a strong desire for a playspace that would serve as a welcoming, safe, and engaging environment for users of all ages and abilities. A key theme was the importance of creating a space where whānau could bring their tamariki and mokopuna, confident in the knowledge that they could explore, interact, and play freely and safely.

This emphasis on safety extended beyond physical design elements to include the emotional and social experience of a space that feels inclusive, respectful, and accessible to all. Many participants noted that this level of inclusiveness is often lacking in existing playspaces across Te Taihū, where design limitations (including perceived security), limited accessibility features, or underwhelming sensory environments leave some children excluded or disengaged.

Community groups all stressed that each user group brings its own unique needs and challenges. Families with neurodiverse children, parents of children with mobility impairments, older caregivers, and those from culturally diverse backgrounds all shared perspectives on how traditional playspace design often falls short in addressing their lived realities.

The collective vision that emerged was for a playspace that will physically accommodate different abilities and support social inclusion, cultural expression, and intergenerational interaction. It should be a place that brings people together, celebrates community identity, and enables equitable access to play, not as a luxury, but as a fundamental right for all.

This envisioned space is more than a playground; it is a community hub, a learning environment, and a safe haven for creativity and connection. Through thoughtful, inclusive design and meaningful community input, this playspace has the potential to model best practice in universal design and become a leading example of what is possible when community equity, empathy, and engagement are placed at the heart of public infrastructure.



Key Messages

- Design for inclusivity by ensuring all spaces are welcoming and accessible to all community members, including parents, caregivers, and grandparents who may have disabilities.
- Improve access infrastructure, such as roadways, parking and kerbing, to ensure safe and easy entry for all users.
- Recognise diverse needs among user groups for example, while wheelchair-accessible tables are essential, they may present challenges for individuals with low vision.
- Ensure the playspace is fully enclosed and secure, allowing parents and caregivers to safely supervise multiple children, including those who are neurodiverse or prone to elopement (“runners”).
- Provide comprehensive family facilities in a centralised location - ideally including fully accessible public toilets, adult and baby change stations, and hoist.
- Incorporate accessible water play features that allow wheelchair users to actively participate in the experience.
- Minimise the use of bark surfacing, preferably eliminating it entirely, and prioritise rubber soft-fall materials to reduce sensory sensitivities and improve accessibility

Insights from Specialist User Groups

Building on the aspirations, Consultation with specialist user groups, including individuals with lived experience of disability, neurodiversity, sensory sensitivities, and access-related challenges, provided detailed insights to further inform the design approach. These conversations highlighted the specific barriers some individuals and whānau face when using traditional playspaces, including inaccessible surfaces, unclear signage, and overwhelming sensory environments.

Importantly, these groups reinforced many of the themes raised by the community - while also offering practical, experience-based suggestions for creating safe, inclusive, and engaging environments. A recurring message was the importance of feeling both safe and empowered within a public playspace- physically, emotionally and psychologically.

Participants expressed a strong preference for playspaces that offered a balance between stimulation and retreat. There was a desire to be “in the thick of it” engaging in play and social activity but also providing quiet corners and calming areas to observe, self-regulate, or step back when needed. This principle of zoned flexibility was consistently raised as essential for inclusive design.

Specialist User Groups also provided thoughtful ideas for maximising impact within a constrained budget. These included using natural landforms and planting to create spatial separation and sensory interest, prioritising multi-use equipment that served a range of users, and embedding tactile or interactive features directly into the landscape rather than relying solely on built structures.

This feedback ensures the final design is grounded in lived experience, practicality, realistic and cost-effective, and responsive to the diverse needs of the community. This input has shaped a vision for a truly inclusive playspace: one where everyone feels seen, supported, and welcome.



Key Messages

- Incorporate elements that support self-regulation, such as spinning poles, swings, and other motion-based equipment that can help individuals manage sensory input.
- Design a variety of movement routes throughout the playspace to allow users to relocate easily, promoting autonomy and reducing overstimulation.
- Include features that offer perceived security, such as elevated platforms and quiet nooks or enclosed areas where users can retreat or “hide” as needed.
- Celebrate all senses by integrating a range of sensory experiences visual, auditory, tactile, and olfactory to ensure the space is engaging and inclusive for all users.

School Group Feedback

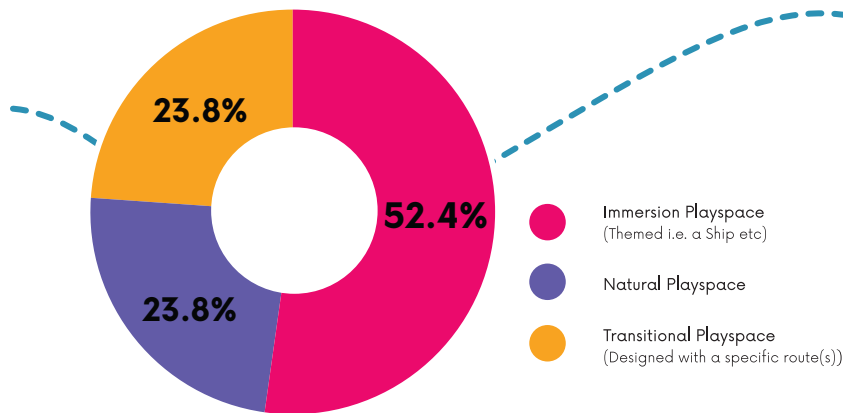
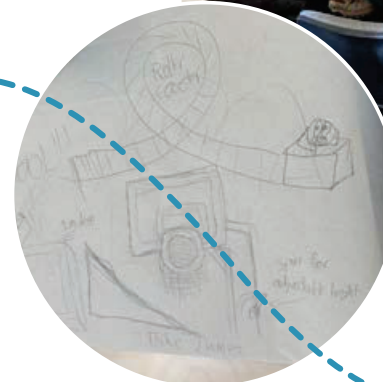
Engagement with local school groups, spanning a wide range of ages, brought forward an energetic and creative range of ideas that highlighted current gaps in recreational opportunities across the Nelson/Tasman region. Students expressed enthusiasm for features that are underrepresented in existing playgrounds and identified key elements they would like to see integrated into the design.

Common across all ages was a strong interest in water-based play such as splash pads or interactive water features that offer sensory-rich experiences, support social interaction, and provide refreshing fun during the warmer months. This feedback highlighted a lack of accessible water play in the region and the opportunity to meet this demand.

Students also supported the inclusion of sporting and active play options within the space, advocating for equipment and layout designs that encourage physical activity, fitness, and social play across various age groups and abilities. A feature across the school groups was of creating an inclusive playspace and meeting the needs of all users.

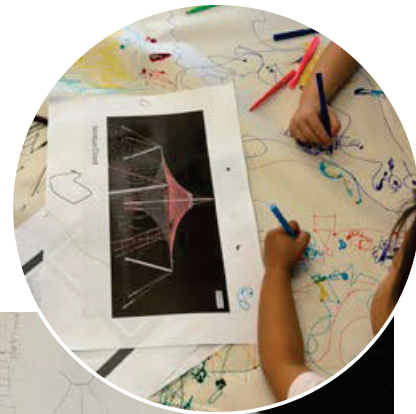
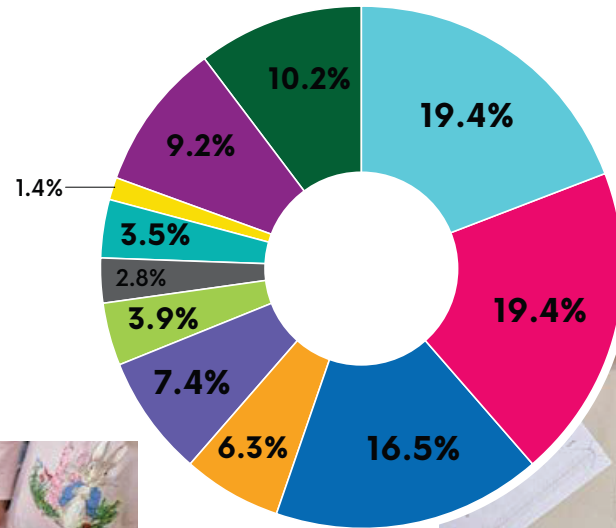
Importantly, many schools also voiced support for embedding local history and cultural identity into the playspace. Students were eager to learn about the stories and significance of Te Taihū, and saw the playspace as an opportunity to explore those narratives in an interactive and visual way. Interpretive features, bilingual signage, and culturally relevant motifs were seen as ways to foster pride and connection with place.

This feedback provides clear direction: the playspace should be not only fun and functional, but meaningful a place of learning, identity, and community cohesion.

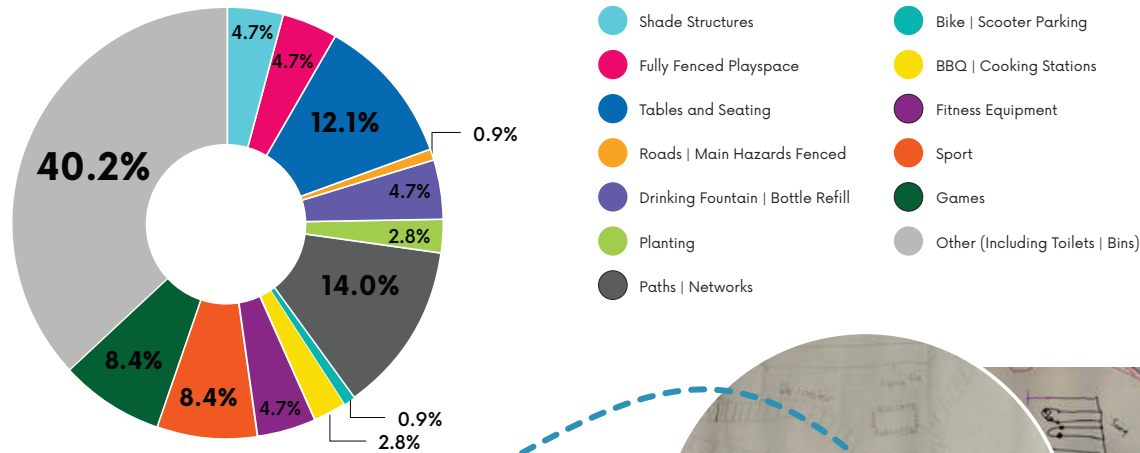


School Group Feedback continued

- Waterplay
- Climbing
- Sliding/Swinging
- Bouncing (tramps)
- Balance
- Spinning
- Tunnels
- Tactile Play Items
- Musical Instruments
- Quiet Zones
- Other (including Flying fox)



School Group Feedback continued



Key Messages

- Tell the narrative of the site, reflecting its history, culture, and natural significance through design elements.
- Design the playspace with an immersive approach, integrating natural play features that encourage exploration and creativity.
- Incorporate native vegetation to enhance the connection to the whenua and support biodiversity.
- Stimulate all the senses by including multi-sensory elements that engage sight, sound, touch, and movement.
- Provide enjoyment for all members of the community, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity across all ages and abilities.
- Feature a large tower with slides as a central, iconic play structure that offers excitement and varied play experiences.

Insights from Older Adults

The residents of Summerset, representing one of the fastest-growing demographics in the Tasman District, contributed key insights to help shape a playspace that supports intergenerational use. Their feedback emphasised the need for well-connected infrastructure and accessible amenities that encourage both use and enjoyment by older adults.

Residents identified the facilities they would most likely engage with, such as shaded gathering spaces, seating areas, well-maintained pathways and low impact sporting opportunities. They expressed a preference for pedestrian-friendly access, cycling routes, and nearby parking to support a range of mobility needs including use of scooters and walking frames.

A significant theme was the value of greenspaces and edible landscaping. Residents noted the enjoyment they derive from the wider Saxton area and advocated for features like fruit trees and native plantings that support biodiversity, food accessibility, and a sense of place.

Their insights emphasise the importance of creating a space that is inclusive across the lifespan where grandparents can accompany grandchildren, socialise, and enjoy nature in comfort and safety.

Key Messages

- **Design Accessible Pathways:** Ensure that all pathways are thoughtfully designed to accommodate mobility scooters, wheelchairs, and other assistive devices, promoting inclusivity and ease of movement for residents of all abilities.
- **Create an Inclusive Playspace:** Develop a playspace that caters not only to children but also the "young at heart," providing engaging and accessible recreational opportunities for people of all ages, encouraging intergenerational interaction and enjoyment.
- **Dog Exercise Area:** The specified location is currently a popular spot where many residents exercise their dogs. Introducing a fenced off-leash dog park nearby - potentially within the underutilised space adjacent to Raine Creek would address community needs and be highly valued and well used.



Online Survey

The results of the online survey clearly highlight the significant gap in the availability of suitable and diverse play spaces across Te Taihū. Feedback from the community reveals a strong demand for more engaging and inclusive recreational environments that cater to a wide range of ages, interests, and abilities.

The play elements identified as most desirable closely align with the feedback received through the school-based consultations. There is a consistent and robust call for the inclusion of key features such as a substantial climbing tower, varied slides, swings, and interactive water play elements. These components are seen as essential to creating a dynamic, challenging, and enjoyable play environment.

Concerns around accessibility and inclusivity were also prominent across the responses. Notably, over 42% of survey participants identified a fully fenced play space as the most important landscape element - highlighting a strong desire for safety, especially for younger children and tamariki with additional needs. This was closely followed by a demand for adequate shade structures, which garnered 33% of the responses, reflecting concerns around sun safety and comfort during warmer months. Additionally, 14% of submitters emphasised the importance of tables and seating, underscoring the need for spaces that support whānau and caregivers to gather, rest, and supervise children effectively.

This feedback reinforces the need for a thoughtfully designed play space that inspires creativity and physical activity and prioritises inclusivity, safety, and community connection.

Key Messages:

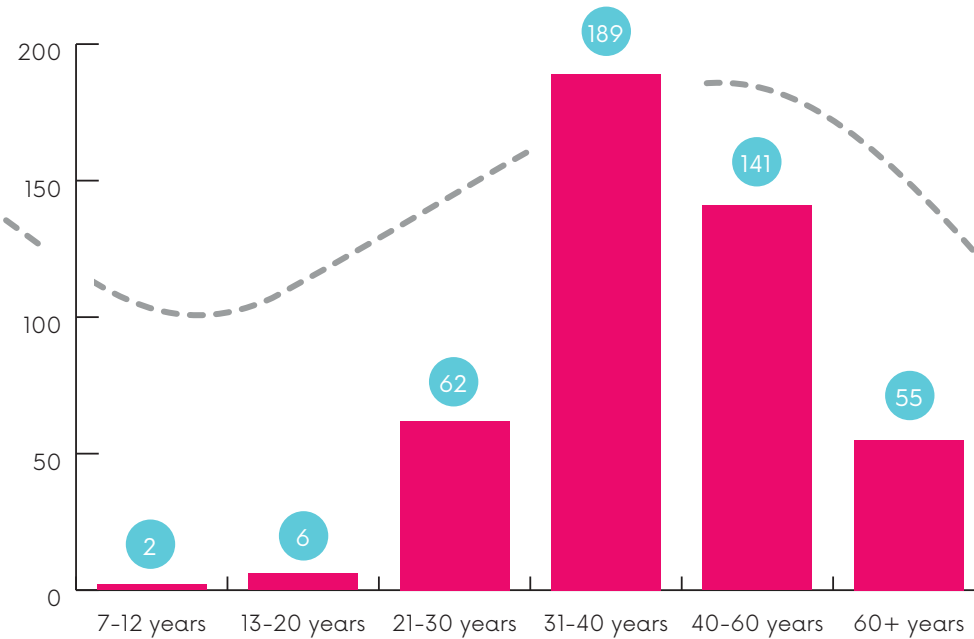
- Prioritise a fully fenced play space to support caregiver confidence and allow tamariki to explore safely, giving parents and whānau the opportunity to relax.
- Design for all ages and abilities, ensuring the space is inclusive and welcoming for every member of the community—from toddlers to teenagers, and caregivers to kaumātua.
- Incorporate immersive and sensory-rich play elements that encourage creative, exploratory, and nature-based play experiences.
- Water play is a key priority—there is a clear call for engaging water features that reflect the region’s climate and enhance seasonal play value.
- Create comfortable, social spaces for observation and rest, including shaded seating areas that enable supervision while fostering community connection.



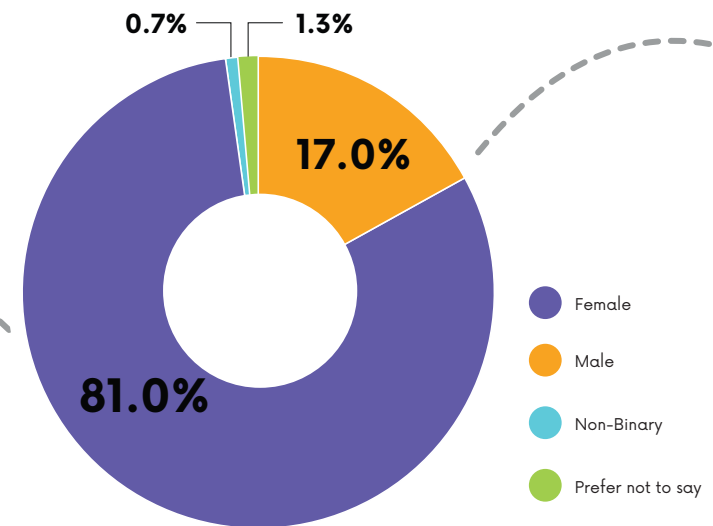
Survey Findings | Submitters Information

[455 RESPONSES]

Submitters Age



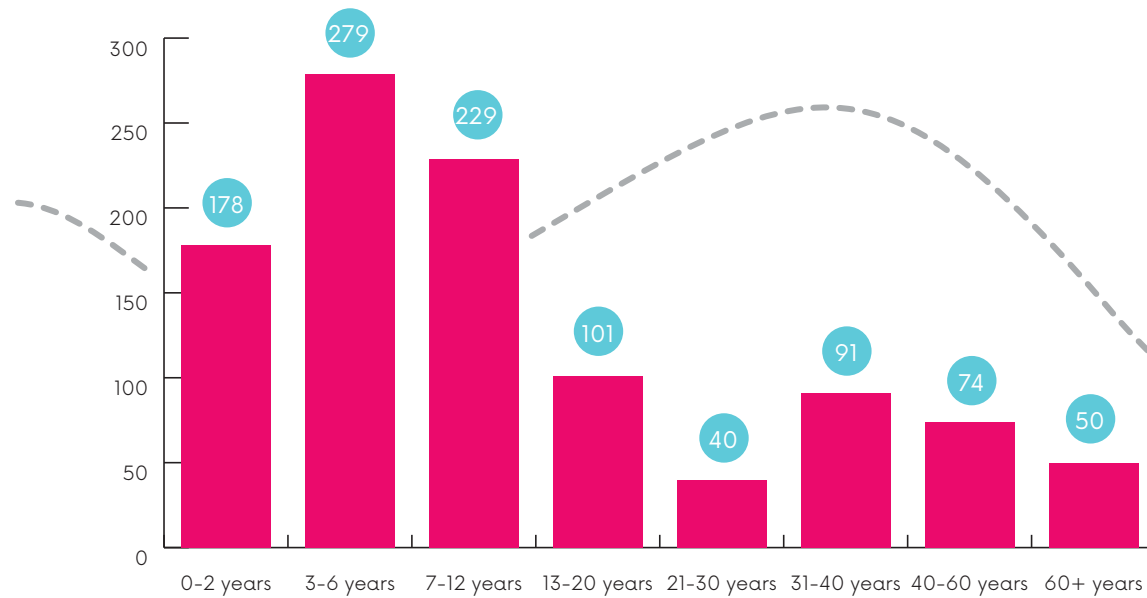
Submitters Gender



Survey Findings | Ages Represented

[455 RESPONSES]

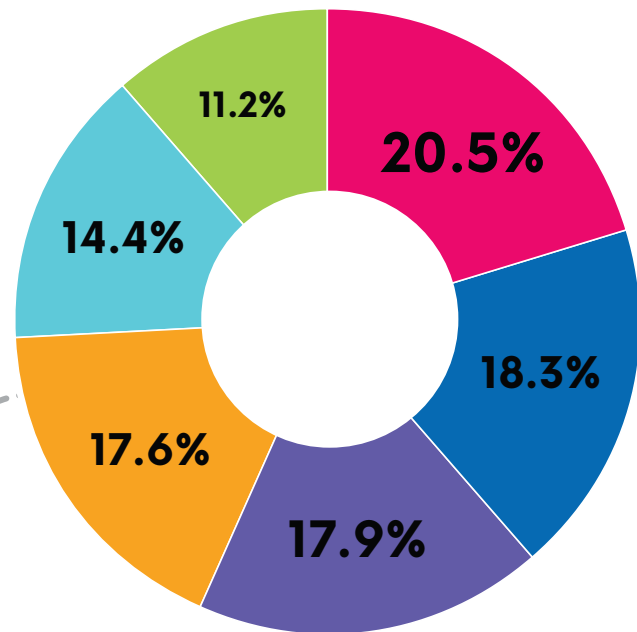
Ages Represented



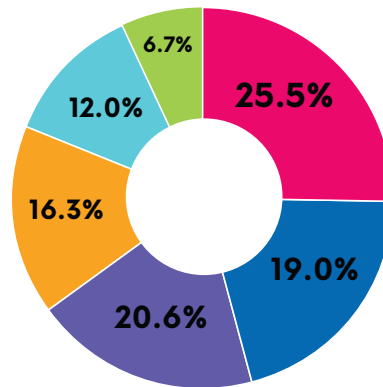
Survey Findings | Preferred Playspace Styles

[455 RESPONSES]

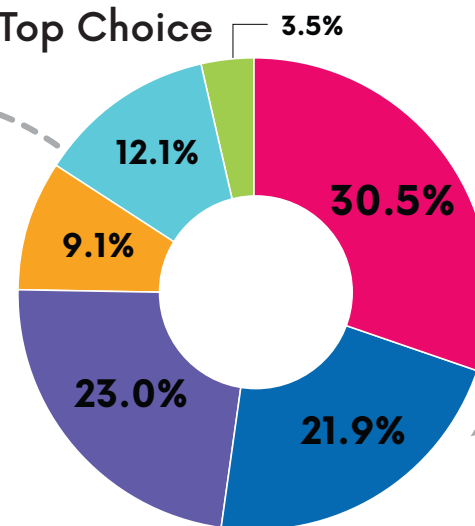
Weighted Rankings



Top Three



Top Choice

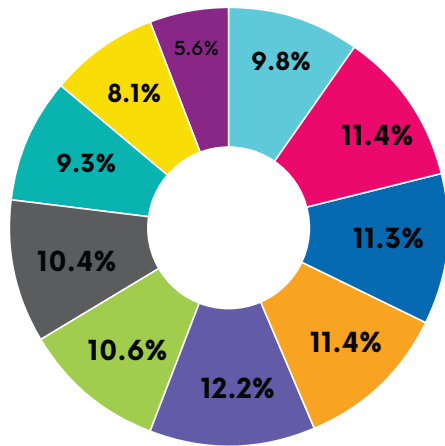


- Immersion Playspace (Themed i.e. a Ship etc)
- Traditional Playground
- Natural Playspace
- Transitional Playspace (Designed with a specific route(s))
- Fitness Focused Playspace (Focus on movement rather than imagination/games etc)
- Māra Hūpara – Traditional Maori Playspace

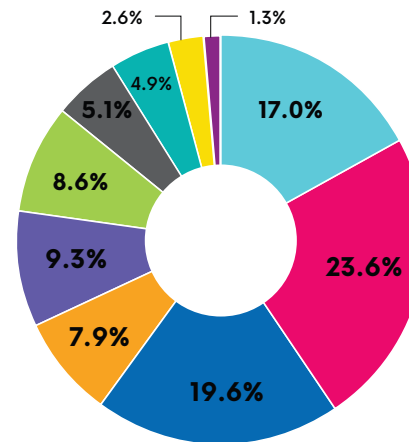
Survey Findings | Preferred Play Elements

[455 RESPONSES]

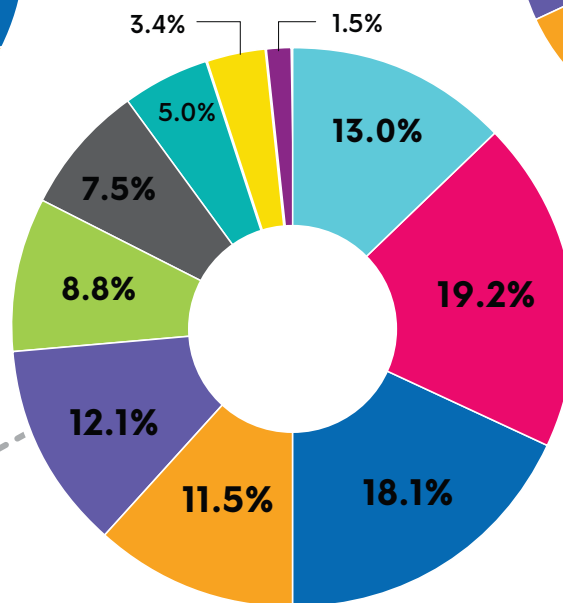
Weighted Rankings



Top Choice



Top Three

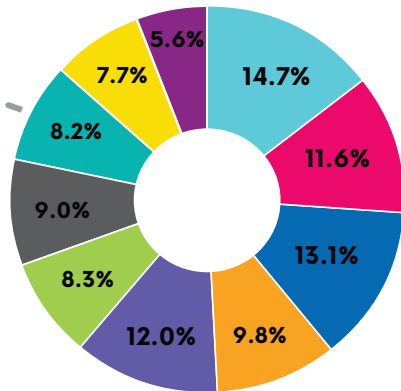


- Waterplay
- Climbing
- Sliding/Swinging
- Bouncing (tramps)
- Balance
- Spinning
- Tunnels
- Tactile Play Items
- Musical Instruments
- Quiet Zones

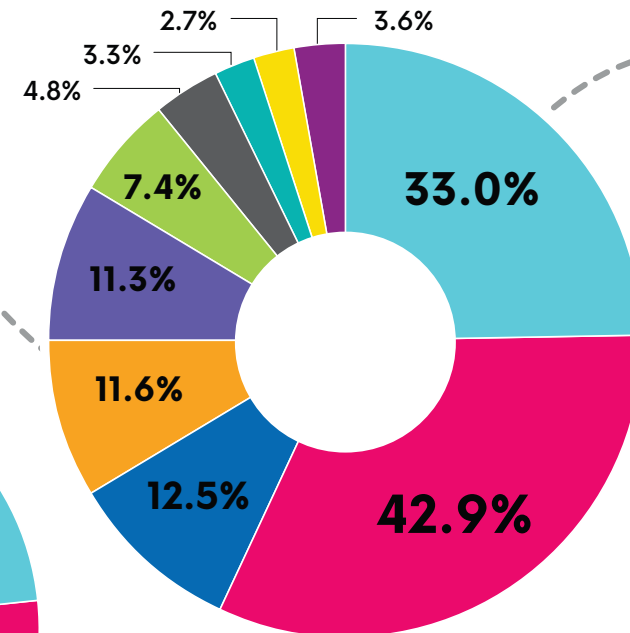
Survey Findings | Preferred Landscape Elements

[455 RESPONSES]

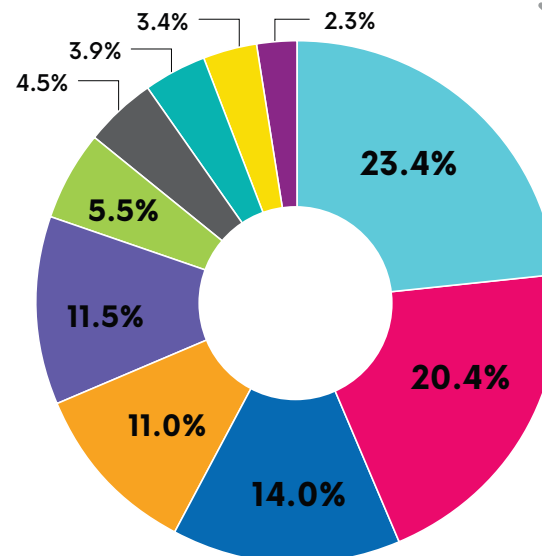
Weighted Rankings



Top Choice



Top Three



- Shade Structures
- Fully Fenced Playspace
- Tables & Seating
- Roads/Main Hazards Fenced
- Drinking Fountain/Bottle Refill
- Planting
- Paths/Networks
- Bike/Scooter Parking
- BBO/Cooking Station
- Fitness Equipment

Conclusion

We extend our sincere thanks to all the organisations, stakeholders, and individuals who generously contributed their time, expertise, and insights throughout this consultation process and continue to advocate for the needs of Te Taihū. Your input has been invaluable in shaping our understanding and approach, and we are deeply grateful for your engagement and thoughtful contributions. This work would not have been possible without your collaboration and commitment to the project.

This consultation process for the proposed all-inclusive playspace at Saxton Field has revealed a powerful and consistent vision across all stakeholder groups: a desire for a space that is inclusive, safe, culturally grounded, environmentally respectful, and responsive to the diverse needs of the community.

From iwi and specialist user groups to schools, older adults, and whānau across Te Taihū, each voice has added depth, direction, and meaning to this project. These perspectives collectively underscore the importance of universal design principles, which do more than remove barriers, they create conditions for connection, equity, and belonging.

The community's aspirations clearly extend beyond traditional play equipment. They envision a dynamic, intergenerational destination that honours the whenua, reflects the stories and values of tangata whenua, and supports a wide range of physical, sensory, and emotional experiences.

As Kūmānu Environmental moves forward with the concept plan, the voices captured through this extensive and inclusive consultation will serve as a guiding framework. The regional playspace at Saxton Field is not just a community asset it is an embodiment of shared values, collective creativity, and a commitment to ensuring that every person, regardless of age or ability, has the opportunity to play, connect, and thrive in a space that reflects who they are and where they come from.

By centering cultural integrity, community voice, and environmental stewardship, this project has the potential to set a new benchmark for inclusive public space development - not only within the Nelson Tasman region but across Aotearoa.





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Nelson City Council
Te Kaunihera o **Whakatū**


kūmānu[™]
ENVIRONMENTAL

7.2 SAXTON FIELD ACTIVITY REPORT

Report To:	Saxton Field Committee
Meeting Date:	6 August 2025
Report Author:	Roanna Grover, Governance Officer
Report Authorisers:	Andrew White, Group Manager Community Services - Nelson City Council
Report Number:	RSFC25-08-2

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on capital projects, events, and operational activities at Saxton Field.
- 1.2 It is provided to ensure the Committee is kept up to date about developments, activities and issues at Saxton Field

2. Recommendation

That the Saxton Field Committee

1. receives the Saxton Field Activity Report; and

EITHER

2. Directs officers to update the Saxton Field Development Plan to include the cross-country course (shown in Attachment 1 to the agenda report) as a route to be protected from encroachment by other development, contingent upon:
 - 2.1 inclusion in the Development Plan being subject to satisfactory outcomes of engagement with relevant stakeholders having occurred (to be approved by the Nelson City Council Group Manager Community Services);
 - 2.2 an understanding that inclusion will be on a trial basis with a review being undertaken within five years to determine any impacts on turf and users;
 - 2.3 bookings for the course would be required and acceptance would be subject to variables including (but not limited to) other events, weather, turf condition etc.

OR

2. Directs officers to investigate the cross-country course (shown in Attachment 1 to the agenda report) as a potential route for future inclusion in the Saxton Field Development Plan, in order to provide protection from encroachment by other development, noting:
 - 2.1 investigation to include engagement with relevant stakeholders;

- 2.2 any future inclusion in the Development Plan would likely be on a trial basis with a future review to determine any impacts on turf and users;**
- 2.3 bookings for the course would be required and acceptance would be subject to variables including (but not limited to) other events, weather, turf condition etc.**

3. Updates from the last Saxton Field Committee Saxton Oval Media Towers

- 3.1 Good progress has been made by the consultants investigating design options and costings.
- 3.2 Several meetings have occurred led by Veros consultants including discussion with representatives from Nelson Cricket, Central Districts Cricket, New Zealand Cricket, Sky TV and Whisper (content producer for networks).
- 3.3 A two-staged approach to the investigation has been taken with Stage 1 completed in April 2025 (Interim Insights: research/investigation, engagement, needs assessment, high level risks/issues, context, consenting pathway, delivery approach).
- 3.4 Stage 2 is being jointly progressed by Veros and Irving Smith Architects and includes undertaking further investigation and engagement, together with site planning, option development, concept design (including structural and geotechnical input) and developing budget estimates.
- 3.5 At the time of writing this work had not been completed, and officers will provide an update at the meeting.

Radio New Zealand Land

- 3.6 A further report will be presented to the public excluded session of the meeting.

4. Capital Projects

Proposed Regional Skate Park

- 4.1 Engagement has been ongoing with residents on Saxton Road; while some support the development, the majority have expressed concerns about the proposal to locate the facility at Circus Green. Reasons for concern include impacts from noise, light, expected behaviour and a general desire for the status quo to remain.
- 4.2 A range of other options have been explored, but the majority do not meet the necessary requirements for the skate park. CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) is a particular consideration and it is important that the facility has good visibility and natural surveillance (this is reflected in Policy 3.6.2.9 of the Saxton Field Reserve Management Plan: “Developments shall incorporate, where possible, the Ministry of Justice’s *Crime Prevention through Environmental Design* (CPTED) national guidelines”).
- 4.3 An alternative, on Avery Field adjacent to Champion Road, has been identified which has excellent visibility and is in good proximity to toilets, retail and a bus stop. Officers have discussed this location with Suburbs Football and Mainland Football and investigations continue into whether this area would be feasible given the need to find alternative space at

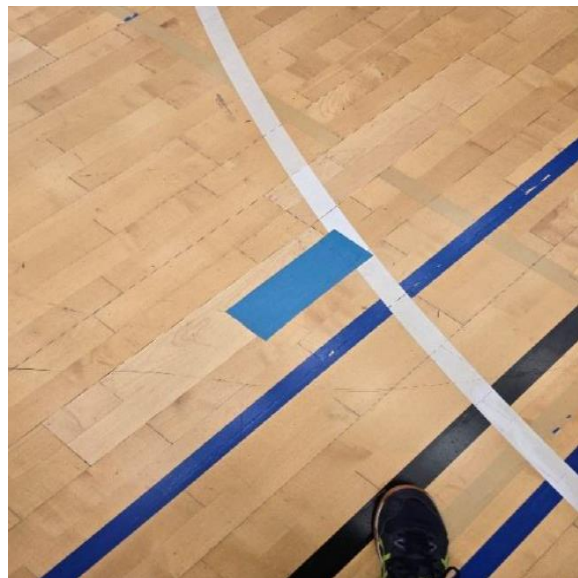
Saxton Field for the displaced playing area. Officers will report back on progress and if this area can be confirmed the Development Plan will need to be updated and some amendments made to future budgets (as Avery Field is owned by Tasman District Council the facility would become a Tasman District Council capital asset).

Inclusive Play Space

- 4.4 This has gone out to public consultation (after consulting with focus groups, iwi, schools, and community groups). The next step is to ask for expressions of interest for a design and build project.

Basketball hoops renewal/upgrade

- 4.5 An action from the 14 May 2025 meeting was to report back when Saxton Stadium floor maintenance was due so we can review the decision around fixed or portable basketball hoops.
- 4.6 Officers engaged Hardwood Technology to undertake a condition assessment in June 2025. The report highlighted that the repeated movement and storage of heavy portable basketball hoops are causing cracking and damage, especially in the northeast corner, and that the current maintenance frequency has been insufficient, resulting in visible paint wear and surface deterioration.
- 4.7 Recommendations in the report supported replacing the current portable hoops with ceiling or wall-mounted hoops.
- 4.8 The floor itself has a 30–60-year life expectancy, provided improved practices and timely maintenance was put in place.
- 4.9 A maintenance coat and board repairs are booked for January 2026 and a hard-sand would then be required in January 2029.
- 4.10 Funding for the wall-mounted hoop project is included in the Long Term Plan years 2025/26 and 2026/27. Given the impacts the portable hoops are having on the stadium floor and the other aspects identified in the business case (time inefficiency, health and safety, accessibility, storage) officers recommend this project proceeds as a priority.



Saxton Oval outfield renewal and drainage

- 4.11 A separate report is expected to be presented to the meeting relating to proposed budget changes that would be required to enable the renewal work to proceed.

Saxton Stadium renewals

- 4.12 A number of leaks have been identified in the Saxton Stadium roof. Officers are working with contractors to finalize the scope of required remediation work.

Athletics/Archery Corner

- 4.13 Landscaping works have been completed, and a new section of the shared path has been installed.



Saxton Stadium MOU

- 4.14 A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established in 2009 between members of Saxton Stadium Society (Nelson Basketball, Volleyball, Netball and Table Tennis associations) and Nelson City Council which governed usage of Saxton Stadium. This MOU expired on 1 July 2025.
- 4.15 The MOU addressed topics such as stadium usage, booking conflicts, communication protocols, maintenance, and asset replacement.
- 4.16 Feedback is now being sought from current user groups to determine the best approach to go forward. Options include renewing the MOU with updated terms or transitioning to a general sports facility hire and usage agreement such as those used at other Council venues.
- 4.17 Officers will update the Committee in due course on the outcome of any feedback and proposed next steps.

5. Operational activity

Radio New Zealand transmission infrastructure

- 5.1 During May and June 2025, the Radio New Zealand transmission mast and associated above-ground infrastructure was removed. This is expected to have a positive impact on the future layout of sporting pitches, and officers will investigate the suitability of an artificial cricket wicket for the space.

Proposed cross-country route

- 5.2 Officers, together with the Chair, met Phil Costley from Athletics Tasman in June 2025 to discuss the potential for a cross-country route to be formalized and reflected in the Development Plan. This would serve less as an indication of future development and more as a means of protecting the route from encroachment by other development. The proposal from Athletics Tasman is provided as Attachment 1, which shows the proposed route. Photos showing example locations of the proposed route are shown as Attachment 2.
- 5.3 The proposal is considered to have merit; however, there is a risk that the proposed route could damage the edges of sports fields, grassed areas or amenity plantings.
- 5.4 It is recommended that the route be considered on a trial basis subject to engagement with relevant stakeholders occurring first (e.g. Athletics Tasman, Football, Softball, Archery and turf maintenance contractors) to determine expected frequency of use, participant numbers and impacts on usage and turf surfaces.
- 5.5 Two recommendation options are provided for consideration. One assumes inclusion of the course in the Development Plan is a relatively low risk and provides a more direct process, and the other requires investigation before reporting back to Committee. If the Committee is relatively familiar with the proposed route and potential issues then the first option may be appropriate; if further information is considered necessary then the second option may be more suitable.







Saxton Stadium Management

- 5.6 Community Leisure Management (CLM) has now been managing Saxton Stadium for 12 months. A summary report covering activity over this year has been prepared by CLM and is provided as Attachment 3. CLM facility management staff will attend the meeting and be available to answer any questions if required.

6. Events

- 6.1 23 August 2025: Women and Girls only table tennis tournament
- 6.2 25-31 August 2025: Junior and Senior South Island Basketball Tournament
- 6.3 15-21 September 2025: Home and Garden Show

7. Attachments

1.  	Proposed Cross Country Course Saxton Field - Athletics Tasman - 196698121-66841	27
2.  	Example Photos of Proposed Cross-country Course - NDOC S-196698121-66828	30
3.  	NCC 12 Month Saxton Field Update (2)	35



PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION: DEDICATED CROSS-COUNTRY CIRCUIT ON SAXTON FIELD

INTRODUCTION

At the moment the large green spaces within Saxton Fields are often isolated fields separated by trees, paths and roads which offer limited opportunities for running courses. By providing some suitable links between these large areas we can open the space up for suitable cross-country running courses as well as cyclo-cross and other endurance events.

THE PROPOSAL

As paths, plantings, fences and other sports are added to Saxton Field Sportsgrounds, it is becoming increasingly difficult to design suitable cross-country courses. We would like to ensure a 2km circuit identified as “Cross-country” be set aside to ensure a running course suitable for school, club, regional and national level cross-country can be catered for in an ongoing basis and ensure that as further development takes place, cross-country running will always have a place at Saxton Field.

The general requirement for a cross-country course is a 2-3m wide track, on natural terrain (primarily grass and dirt). It may involve hills, turns, jumps, water filled drains and other such obstacles.

THE DESIGN

A two kilometre cross-country circuit within Saxton Fields designed by Phil Costley.

Phil is a ten-time NZ Cross-country champion. He has competed at five world championships from Kenya, to Switzerland with a best placing of 29th. He is a teacher at Garin College and coaches primary, intermediate and secondary school runners.

- The proposed cross-country circuit utilises areas of little use, particularly in the winter months of the cross-country season.
- The basis of this circuit has previously been used for an Inter-regional competition which was very well received by officials and athletes.
- The proposed circuit is based around the athletics track which will utilise the grounds, pavilion and stored equipment in the off-season.
- While the circuit does impinge on a small section of the outlying area dedicated for softball, however competing in opposite seasons ensures the continued use of these grounds all year round without clashing.
- While archery is not affected by the use of the physical grounds, we have developed a good working relationship with the officials through previous use in both summer and winter seasons.

THE CIRCUIT



S/F The Start/Finish provides flexibility depending on the level of competition. Major competitions require a long wide start straight as shown here, smaller club/school events would not necessarily require this initial straight and could start/finish at various locations around the circuit.

- ① Skirting the outlying softball area (used primarily in summer).
- ② Crossing the tree line to enter the archery area through the gate and ③ over the hill.
- ④ Exit the archery area through the southern gate, the course follows alongside the public walkway.
- ⑤ Once past the bridge, runners cross the path and enter the native plant lined avenue.
- ⑥ Out of the native planting, back across the path and return alongside Harold Nelson Way ⑦ looping around the carpark.
- ⑧ Return inside the fence at the southern entrance to the Athletics Arena and loop around the track on the embankment to the archery area.
- ⑨ Exit the Athletics Arena at the northern entrance side gate.
- ⑩ Through the ditch and through the tree line to complete the loop.

WORK REQUIRED

While the majority of this course is ready for action, there are some areas which will require some work to ensure the entire circuit is runnable.

V – providing a link from the (former) radio mast area to the softball area

This would require the trimming of low branches to allow runners to pass easily between trees

W-providing a link from the softball area to the archery area without using the public path.

By removing the disused bridge, removing stumps and trimming trees, the two natural water filled drains could be utilised as obstacles to run through or jump over.

This would be the major task required to complete this circuit and could be completed by Athletics Tasman if necessary.

X -A narrow gap between the existing carpark and concrete walkway

This area requires a clear passage in both directions and removing/relocating a single tree would be beneficial to provide the necessary width in an otherwise very narrow section.

Y – Z -opening up either end of the “avenue” to provide better entry and exit points.

This would require the removal of two or three small grassy bushes at either end of the avenue.

G -Ideally, a better entrance into the Athletics Arena from the south.

An additional gate would be preferable to avoid unnecessary issues with the hard driveway into the Athletics Arena. While this would not be required to make this circuit viable, it could be a consideration to further improve the circuit once it is established.

FINAL OUTCOME

The completed cross-country circuit would provide:

- An interesting, varied 2km course of uninterrupted running.
- The option of a shorter 1km loop along the dotted short cut within the archery fence.
- A ready-made course suitable for schools to use without planning and easily booked.
- Multiple locations around the circuit for a suitable start/finish line providing variation for runners.
- A course which could be run in either direction providing further variation for runners.
- A spectator friendly course with spectators easily getting to each side of the circuit via the athletics track footpath in front of the pavilion.
- A course with toilets and other necessary facilities on hand.

Example photos of proposed cross-country course



Example photos of proposed cross-country course



Example photos of proposed cross-country course



Example photos of proposed cross-country course







Example photos of proposed cross-country course



One Year In

12 Month Summary

At a glance:

-  36.8% increase in income
-  \$108,673.77 uplift
-  3,395.2 hours booked
-  26.3% increase



Financial Income

We experienced an uplift of \$108,673.77 from the previous financial year — representing a 36.8% increase in revenue in our first year of the contract between the three facilities Saxton Stadium, Netball Pavilion and Saxton Oval Pavilion. This significant growth reflects the continued development across the Saxton facilities, with a strong focus on ensuring that all fees and charges set by Nelson City Council are being accurately invoiced. A key part of this has involved working closely with the sporting codes each month, sharing their usage data ahead of invoicing to confirm accuracy and build transparency.

Saxton Fields Operational Income

Date	Oval	Netball	Stadium	Total
Jul-24	\$1,123.00	\$2,727.00	\$25,495.00	\$29,345.00
Aug-24	\$2,822.00	\$2,749.00	\$37,225.00	\$42,796.00
Sep-24	\$2,262.70	\$3,983.60	\$30,610.49	\$36,856.79
Oct-24	\$5,589.05	\$4,990.60	\$60,503.90	\$71,083.55
Nov-24	\$7,236.80	\$4,621.50	\$30,744.51	\$42,602.81
Dec-24	\$11,934.00	\$2,429.50	\$19,161.20	\$33,524.70
Jan-25	\$2,035.10	\$2,515.50	\$22,922.95	\$27,473.55
Feb-25	\$2,275.70	\$2,173.20	\$21,258.50	\$25,707.40
Mar-25	\$16,773.40	\$3,745.35	\$29,135.60	\$49,654.35
Apr-25	\$3,154.40	\$4,040.15	\$41,651.60	\$44,806.00
May-25	\$3,447.90	\$3,408.30	\$46,843.81	\$53,700.01
Jun-25	\$3,712.60	\$2,891.70	\$36,466.19	\$43,070.49
			Overall	\$403,850.15

Please note, highlighted Oval dates indicate major international cricket.

Brief Summary

The majority of Saxton Stadium's income was generated by our key sporting codes: Nelson Netball, Volleyball Tasman and Nelson Basketball. These were well supported by frequent user groups such as the Saxton Spikers, Nelson Giants and Sports Inclusive, who consistently contributed to facility usage throughout the year. At the Netball Pavilion, regular groups such as Ziblings, GOLD, and Dru Yoga continued to thrive, further enhancing the vibrancy and community engagement within the space. At Saxton Oval, Nelson Cricket, Central Districts Cricket, and New Zealand Cricket remained our highest-yield users, with international and national fixtures proving to be major contributors to revenue and regional exposure. The introduction of Pickleball later on in the year demonstrates our ability to recognise, develop and deliver gaps in the market which has shown new users enter and more importantly, return to the stadium.



One Year In

12 Month Summary

Highlights and Achievements



Key Changes

Improved Cleanliness Standards:

In response to feedback regarding stadium cleanliness, we now work daily with NCS to ensure all facilities are cleaned to a high standard. The stadium reception and mezzanine floor were polished, adding a touch of professionalism. This polish is maintained biannually.

Onsite Kiosk Introduced:

A new kiosk has been launched, offering drinks, hot food, and sports equipment. This has received overwhelmingly positive feedback, enhancing customer experience by allowing them to stay nourished, hydrated, and equipped without leaving the stadium.

Sustainability and Waste Minimization:

New council-coloured bins have been introduced and are securely locked away each night to reduce "other waste." Facility-wide signage has been updated to maintain Saxton Field's branding consistency. In addition, four new hand dryers have been installed, significantly reducing the use of paper towels and waste bin overflow.

New Sport Offering – Pickleball:

Pickleball has been introduced to the stadium, attracting new users and encouraging repeat visits. All sporting codes are carefully invoiced for court usage, ensuring operational efficiency. We are starting to see an increase in booked hours.

Facility Upgrades at the Oval Pavilion (NCC programme):

To uphold our international standards, the oval pavilion changing rooms have been upgraded with four 50-inch 4K TVs (two per changing room). Additionally, the old carpet has been replaced to reflect the premium nature of the Oval Pavilion, one of the region's flagship facilities.

Continued and growing Senior Walking Group:

We have ensured that the continuation and growth of our Senior Walking Group remained a priority. ACC-accredited, we collaborate with Falls Prevention, who generously provide snacks for our group. Our programme includes a structured walk, low-impact workouts, tea and coffee, weekly quizzes, and light refreshments. A highlight of the year is our biannual Seniors Dinner — a special occasion that brings everyone together.



SAXTON SENIORS WALKING GROUP
 TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 9.30AM AT SAXTON STADIUM

\$5 PER SESSION OR \$40 FOR A 10 VISIT CONCESSION.
Bookings are accepted on the 15th day of the session. Booking by telephone on 011 752 2222 or 011 752 2223.

Contact: saxton@nzta.govt.nz for further information.



One Year In

12 Month Summary

Coming soon!



saxton
field

Still to come

Casual Entry Initiative

Our suggestion to introduce a casual entry option has been approved and successfully implemented by the team. This initiative encourages greater use of the stadium during off-peak hours, particularly by smaller groups looking to play sport recreationally. At just \$5.00 to shoot hoops, it offers an affordable and flexible option while also introducing an additional income stream for NCC in the new financial year.

Roof Maintenance

As we approach the first cycle of renewal, NCC, CLM and Nelmac have worked collaboratively to identify key upgrades for the stadium roof. Staff have even had the opportunity to safely access the roof to inspect and assess potential maintenance needs.

Cricket Returns to the Region

We're excited to welcome back the Black Caps and Super Smash cricket to our region. These high-profile events continue to highlight the value of international cricket in Nelson and strengthen our relationship with NZC, Central Districts, and Nelson Cricket.

Introduction of School Holiday Programmes

A great opportunity for additional utilisation during off peak times. CLM to start creating further opportunities within the region.

Facility Upgrades (NCC projects)

CLM have worked hard with NCC to ensure the facility remains a top sporting centre of excellence.

Toilets: Fresh paintwork has been completed and there's potential for the installation of new cubicles to ensure a high-quality finish across all amenities.

Stadium Floor: A full recoat of the stadium floor is scheduled for January, following the identification of some minor damage.

Lighting: A lighting upgrade is forecasted for 2026. This will enhance visibility and enable the stadium to meet international competition standards, particularly for televised or recorded sport.



Come shoot some hoops!



Saxton Stadium casual entry \$5pp



8 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

8.1 Procedural motion to exclude the public

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting. The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

8.2 Main Road Stoke Property Purchase

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.

8.3 R25-370 Saxton Oval Outfield Renewal

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	s7(2)(c)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to damage the public interest.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.