

A close-up photograph of a brown leather softball glove lying on a dirt field. Inside the glove is a yellow-green softball. Next to the glove are two more yellow-green softballs and a pair of white batting gloves with red and blue accents. The background is a blurred dirt field.

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## Auckland Diamond Sports Facilities Plan 2021

# Document Info & Acknowledgements

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## Acknowledgements

RSL would like to thank the Project Steering Group for assistance and direction in the development of the plan. Organisations on the Project Steering Group included Auckland Baseball, New Zealand Baseball, Auckland Softball, Aktive and Auckland Council.

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# Executive Summary

The purpose of developing the Auckland Regional Diamond Sports Facility Plan is to provide clear direction on future facility development to enable quality diamond sport participation. This report has analysed the quantity of diamonds required to support both sports. The ability for the codes to share facilities has also been an important consideration.

The Auckland Regional Diamond Sports Facility Plan has identified that by 2048:

- There is projected to be a range of 553 to 789 combined diamond sport teams
- Individual participation in diamond sports is expected to be in the range of 8,295 to 11,835.
- It is projected that there will be an increase in the playing age population of 152,900 across the Auckland region.

Analysis indicates that there are sufficient diamonds to meet current demand for softball and baseball. There are some parks nearing or at capacity, while there are other parks that could be utilised more. The ability for the existing network to meet future demand will depend on the level of growth both baseball and softball capture over the next twenty years.

This report recommends that before any new parks are developed, all other options are explored within the existing sports park network.

A diamond sports facilities hierarchy has been developed based on regional, sub regional and local facilities provision. The below table identifies the sports parks that have the potential to be either the regional hub or sub regional hubs for diamond sports. A selection of key local sports parks has also been identified within the report as of a high priority to focus on.

## Preferred Regional and Sub Regional Sports Parks

Regional Area	Park Name
Softball South	Prince Edward Park
Softball North	Rosedale ELE Stadium
Baseball South	Lloyd Elsmore Park
Baseball North	North Harbour Stadium
Sub Regional Hub Area	Park Name
Southern	Prince Edward Park
Central	Mt Roskill War Memorial Park
Eastern	Meadowlands Park
Western	Starling Park
Northern	Metro Park

This report has also identified potential shared use options for baseball and softball. Shared use is seen as a way of:

- Maximising use of existing diamonds
- Catering for the future need in growth areas where there is a shortage of parks
- Ensuring an effective spend of limited sporting budgets

It is anticipated the development of sub regional hubs will become shared or dual use diamond sport parks.

A list of actions for each of the identified regional, sub regional and key local sports parks have been identified and prioritised, with suggested timeframes.

The report recommends:

1. The partner organisations to discuss the findings from this document at the board / committee level and provide formal support for the progression of the project.

2. An Auckland Diamond Sports Working Group is formed to drive the implementation of the plan.
3. The Diamond Sport Working Group adopt the proposed facility hierarchy outlined in the report.
4. A Communications Plan is developed providing consistent messages and outcomes that both baseball and softball organisations can utilise.
5. The Diamond Sport Working Group adopts the recommended strategies to meet the projected future demand:
  - Maximise use of existing diamond sports fields
  - Reprogramming a portion of weekend competition to mid-week evenings
  - Identify any existing non-diamond sport parks that have spare capacity during the summer months
  - Identify any potential non-council sites (most likely secondary schools) where community access could be negotiated.
  - Improve the quality of identified diamonds and associated facilities
  - Optimise the layout of key existing sports parks to increase the number of diamonds.
  - Where possible consider layouts that provide for dual and shared use diamonds, spaces and associated facilities.
6. The findings from the Diamond Sport Facilities plan are presented to the key local boards for support of the implementation of the plan.
7. The findings from the Diamond Sport Facilities plan are presented to key Auckland Council staff for support, implementation and ongoing maintenance of the network.



# 1.0 Background

Active and the diamond sports of baseball and softball have commissioned RSL Consultancy to develop regional facilities plan for diamond sports in the Auckland region.

## 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of developing the Auckland Regional Diamond Sports Facility Plan is to provide clear direction on future facility development to enable quality diamond sport participation. The plan was developed within the Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan<sup>1</sup> context to sustain and grow participation, as well as ensuring that there is an accessible and fit-for-purpose network of facilities that enable physical activity, recreation, and sport at all levels.

The objectives of the Auckland Regional Diamond Sport Facility Plan are to:













- Analyse the spatial distribution and demand for diamond facilities now and into the future, recognising latent demand, population growth, demographic changes, and trends in participation.
- Identify the potential opportunities to respond to the greatest needs for diamond sport facilities (including an indication of scale and cost).
- Investigate and provide recommendations on facility design and specifications to ensure optimised use by diamond codes and shared use by other codes.
- Identify technology and design considerations for facilities that will enable optimised use by and between diamond sports as well as by other codes, which in turn will inform universal design standards for Auckland Council and other stakeholders.
- Prioritise recommendations for future provision of diamond sport facilities.
- Identify the high-performance facility provision as part of the future facility network.

## 1.2 Methodology

The following methodology was adopted for the development of the regional facilities plan.

- Quantify current and projected participation for both diamond sport codes.
- Analyse population growth and demographic trends across the Auckland Region.
- Document the supply and associated capacity of the current network of diamond sport facilities and identify any gaps in provision.
- Analyse participation trends and population trends to provide a spatial distribution of greatest needs.
- Develop a model of provision including provision thresholds and hierarchy of provision.

Consultation was undertaken throughout the development of the plan and included the following stakeholders.

 Auckland Baseball Association	 Softball New Zealand
 Baseball New Zealand	 Auckland Tuatara
 Auckland Softball Association	 Aktive
 Counties Manukau Softball Association	 Auckland Council
 North Harbour Softball Association	 Sport New Zealand
 Franklin Softball Association	 Auckland Unlimited

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<sup>1</sup> Aktive, Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan 2014 – 2024.

## 2.0 Diamond Sports Regional Overview

### 2.1 Overview

The sports of baseball and softball exist as two separate regional sports organisations with separate governance, management, and delivery structures.

Auckland Baseball is responsible for the management and delivery of all of baseball programmes and competition and events within the Auckland region. Softball currently has three regional organisations that provide the governance for their sport within their region (Counties-Manukau, Auckland, and North Harbour). From 2022 there will be four regional softball organisations with the introduction of Franklin Softball Association.

At a management and operational level, a shared service model exists with Auckland Softball being responsible for the delivery of all softball competitions and programmes for the regions of Auckland Softball, Counties Manukau Softball and Franklin Softball. (A MOU exists which details the roles and responsibilities of all parties). North Harbour Softball provides its own management and operational structure and delivers all competitions and programmes within the North Harbour region.

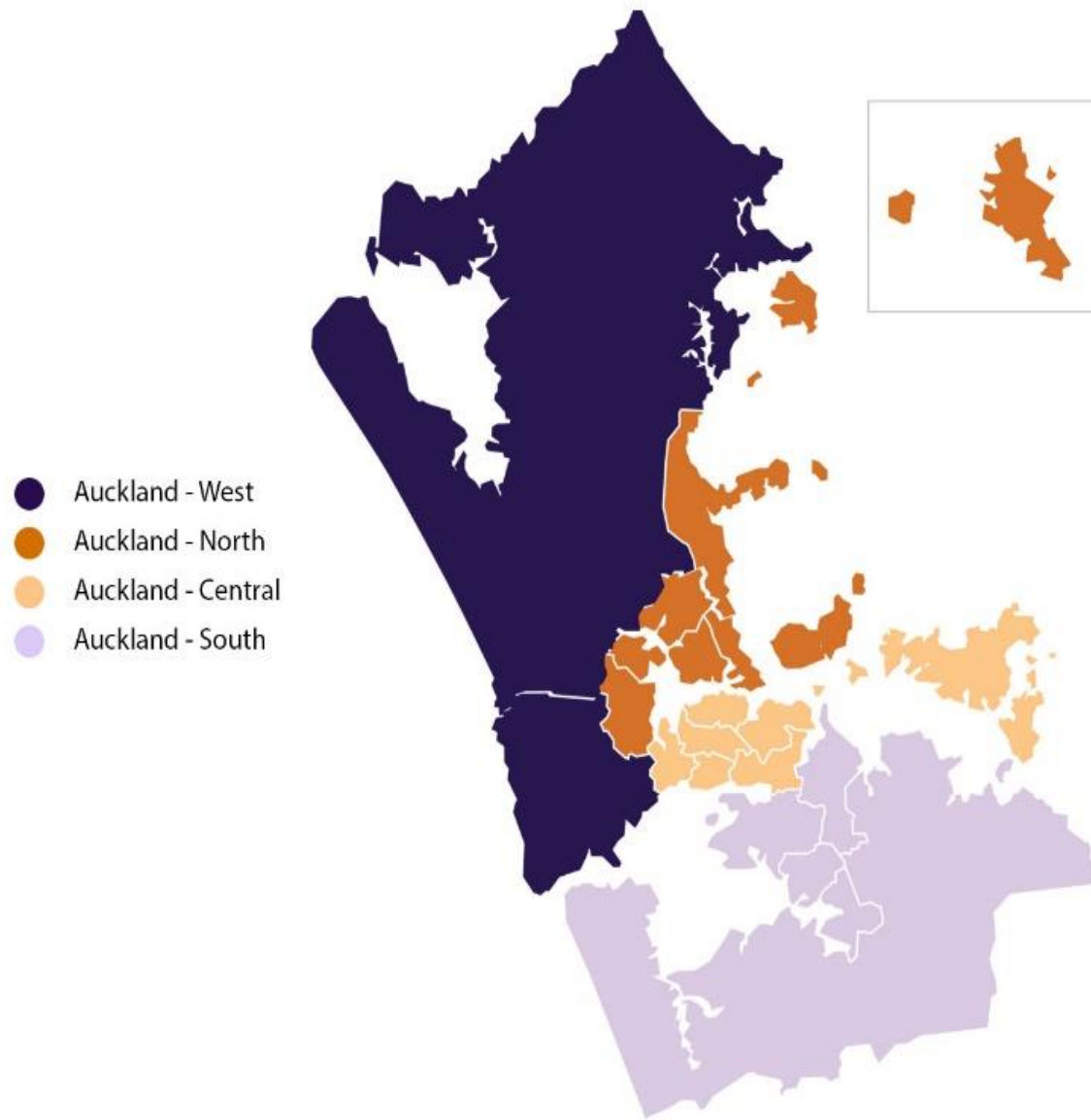
### 2.2 Geographic Spread

The membership of baseball and softball is spread across the wider Auckland region with distribution of membership being as follows:

- Auckland North has a high diamond membership with approximately 144 softball teams and 42 baseball teams.
- In Auckland Central there is significant diamond membership with approximately 150 softball teams and 42 baseball teams.
- In Auckland South (which includes the eastern areas of the region) there is a diamond sport membership of approximately 110 softball and 25 baseball teams.
- In Auckland West there is a diamond sport membership of approximately 39 softball and 13 baseball teams.

Figure 2.1 illustrates the four geographical boundaries. Appendix 14.1 explains the local boards which fall into each of the four areas.

Figure 2.1: Auckland Diamond Sports Facilities Strategy – Geogrphahical Boundaries





## 3.0 Key Issues and Considerations

The following issues have been considered in this report:

### **Varying quality of the existing facilities network**

The quality of the existing diamond sports park network varies from parks providing significant infrastructure, (for example, full backstops, dug outs, quality diamonds), through to parks with basic infrastructure, (for example, grass diamonds and no backstops).

In addition, basic infrastructure requirements such as backstops, adequate diamond surface and batting/pitching cages (provided to other sports such as cricket with cricket practice nets provided in a number of sports parks across the region) are required to provide more equitably provision across the region.

### **All Weather Playing Surfaces**

The ability to train and play during the summer season (and train during the winter season) is determined by the quality of the diamond provided. The provision of artificial diamond surfaces (across the network of sports parks) would allow the ability to train and play in the event of inclement weather.

### **Mid-Week Play**

Competitions for both baseball and softball are currently delivered during the weekend with the available bookable timeslots nearing or at capacity. There is a desire from the diamond sports codes to reschedule a portion of the weekend competition to a midweek timeslot.

For this to happen, the ability to extend the hours of mid-week use a sports park can provide (to potentially 10pm) will be crucial. The provision of floodlights for use during summer months will be key to allow the delivery of competitions during the mid-week period. The ability to get resource consent for summer use of floodlights will be a key issue to consider on a park-by-park basis.

### **Importance of Social Competition**

Both baseball and softball have experienced membership growth in adult social competitions and teams. This trend which other sports are also experiencing could add demand for adult diamonds in the future and will need to be closely monitored. Each code will need to ensure accurate collection of participation numbers to provide evidence of this trend.

### **All Year Access**

As with most sporting codes the ability for a section of the sport (representative or high performance) to have access to appropriate facilities for training purposes throughout the year is desired. The diamond sports of baseball and softball consider the ability to have access to batting and pitching training facilities and access to diamonds all year round to be essential.

The large majority of sports parks which baseball and softball utilise are multipurpose sports park with winter use being near capacity for a large portion of the network. Baseball and softball's access to sports parks during the winter months for training is limited currently to Lloyd Elsmore baseball fields and Rosedale Park softball stadium.

### **Limited Dual Use or Shared Use Sports Parks**

The differences of larger diamond sizes and outfield dimensions for baseball compared to softball has led to the development of separate sports parks for the codes. However, there is potential for baseball and softball to share the use of facilities, both on and off field, for example junior diamonds and batting cages. In addition, the layout of future sports parks that maximize the available space in which baseball and softball can share should be progressed. There are examples of dual and shared use parks identified within a later section of the report (section 9).

## 4.0 Strategic Context

The strategic alignment of the Diamond Sports Plan has been considered with regards to key Sport New Zealand and Auckland Council plans.

**Table 4.1 Key Auckland Strategic Plans**

Strategic Document	Relevant Outcomes	Alignment to Project
Sport New Zealand – Better Value from New Zealand Sporting Facilities (2014)	<p>The plans framework outlined the following key facility planning principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future proofing</li> <li>• Partnership and collaboration</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Meeting identified need</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> </ul>	The partnership of baseball and softball working together to find facility solutions aligns with Sport New Zealand's direction in this area.
Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan (2017) (ASRSAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 7 – Fit-for-purpose network of facilities – Provide quality fit-for purpose facilities at regional, sub-regional and local levels for informal recreation and sport. · Future priority to prioritise innovative ways to address inequities amongst different recreation and sport activities, access to facilities, funding and participation costs</li> <li>• Action 8 – Facility Partnerships – Facilitate partnerships to make the most of local facilities and resources.</li> </ul>	The hierarchy of diamond sport facilities developed within this report aligns to actions 7 and 8 of the ASRSAP.
Auckland Council Community Facilities Network Plan (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate and coordinate planning across all types of community facilities.</li> <li>• Develop fit-for-purpose, integrated and connected community facilities.</li> <li>• Leverage and support partnerships.</li> </ul>	The focus of a shared or dual use diamond sports network recommended in this report aligns with the 'integrated and connected community facilities' outcomes of the Auckland Council Community Facilities Network Plan.
Local Board Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auckland's 21 local boards each have plans which set out the aspirations and priorities of their local communities.</li> <li>• Local board plans recognise the role recreation and sport plays in building strong and healthy communities.</li> <li>• They particularly note the need for appropriate recreation facilities and services, parks, reserves and access to an open space network.</li> <li>• Many of the actions and initiatives identified within the action plan will occur at a local level and require the support of local boards.</li> </ul>	The Diamond Sports Facilities Plan identifies priority actions at a regional, sub regional and local level. This aligns with the Local Board's focus of a 'need for appropriate recreation facilities and services, parks, reserves and access to an open space network'.
Local Board Sport and Active Recreation Facility Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of local boards have developed sport and active recreation facility plans to assist with prioritising future investment at a local level.</li> </ul>	The findings from the Diamond Sports Facilities Plan will be utilised by the relevant local boards to assist with their prioritisation of future asset development.

## 5.0 Participation in Diamond Sports

The following section outlines participation in baseball and softball within the Auckland region. Approximate team numbers have been supplied by both the codes to provide an understanding of each sport's participation trends.

The findings from the participation section are utilised within the 'demand analyses' to assist with determining the priority areas for future facility provision. Consideration has been given to the impacts of Covid-19 on membership trends.

### 5.1 Softball Participation

Table 5.1 identifies the participation by teams for softball (by regional association) from 2017 to 2020.

The key findings with regard to participation in softball are:

- There has been a fluctuation in participation in softball from 6,825 (2017) to 6,645 (2020).
- Central and western areas of the region have the majority of team membership (with the majority located within the central area of Auckland).
- There has been an increasing team membership in the northern areas of Auckland.
- The southern area of Auckland (Franklin and Counties) has seen a decrease in team membership for a period of time (but early indications are that participation has increased again in 2021).

**Table 5.1: Softball Participation (Teams)**

Association	2017	2018	2019	2020
Franklin	25	31	25	60
Counties	95	125	108	50
Auckland	235	193	203	189
North Harbour	100	95	133	144
Total Teams	455	444	469	443
Total Participation*	6,825	6,660	7,035	6,645

\*Total participation equates to team membership multiplied by 15 players per team.

### 5.2 Baseball Participation

Table 5.2 identifies the participation by teams for baseball (by clubs) across the region from 2017 to 2020. The key finding of baseball's membership are:

- There has been an increase in participation for baseball from 1,350 in 2017 to 1,650 in 2020.
- Northern areas have the majority of membership.
- The codes report that social adult teams are increasing in popularity
- The eastern and central areas of Auckland have consistent membership in terms of team numbers.

**Table 5.2: Baseball Participation (Teams)**

Club	2017	2018	2019	2020
Howick/ Pakuranga	14	15	17	19
Counties	6	6	6	6
Central City	10	10	11	11
Bayside	10	10	11	11
Waitakere Bears	7	11	15	16
West City	5	6	5	5
Northern Bandits	11	10	10	10
North Shore Baseball	19	19	22	22
Orewa	8	10	10	10
Total Teams	90	97	107	110
Total Participation*	1,350	1,455	1,605	1,650

\*Total participation equates to team membership multiplied by 15 players per team

## 6.0 Auckland Demographic Snapshot

The demographics of the Auckland region are an important element in assisting with assessing the future demand for diamond sports and the potential growth in demand for facilities. The key components of demographics analysis for consideration are:

- Geographic spread of population growth
- Playing age<sup>2</sup> projections and the distribution across the region
- Ethnicity breakdown and distribution across the region
- A full demographic profile of the Auckland Region can be found in Appendix 14.1.

### Auckland Demographic Snapshot



The population of Auckland in 2018 was 1,654,800.



The population of Auckland is expected to grow steadily from 2018 to 2048. A 39% increase is expected resulting in a projected population in 2048 of 2,302,900.



The population of Auckland is ageing. The population of the 65 year plus age-group is expected to increase by 120% between 2018 and 2048.



It is projected that there will be an increase in the playing age population of 152,900 across the Auckland region by 2048 (a 16% increase from 2018).



By 2048 the playing age populations in all four geographical areas are all expected to have increased:

- Auckland North by **53,700**
- Auckland West by **8,400**
- Auckland Central by **48,200**
- Auckland South by **42,600**



The ethnic profile of Auckland is changing. By 2038 the proportions of those identifying as European are expected to be 48%, (56% in 2018), while those identifying as other than European will all increase; Māori 12% (11%), Asian 35% (28%) and Pacific 17% (15%).



The rate of disability in the Auckland region is similar to that of New Zealand as a whole.

Source: NZ Stat

The projected additional 152,900 people of playing age in the Auckland region by 2048 will be a key source of potential new membership and participants for diamond sports. The 37% increase in those identifying as Maori is likely to be a positive for softball as approximately 65% of the current membership of Softball is of Maori heritage. The ability for diamonds sports to engage with the significant increase in the Asian population (67%) will also be key to the growth of both baseball and softball.

<sup>2</sup> Playing age is defined of the age groups most likely to participate in a sport. The playing age for the majority of participants is in the 5 – 39 range. It is acknowledged that there may be some participants who fall out of this range. We note the demographic data used to help predict future participation is from 0-39 (noting that the statistics gathered incorporate 0-39-year-olds).

## 7.0 Current Network

There are a significant number of diamonds across the region with the existing network having a varying level of quality and infrastructure.

There are approximately 104 softball diamonds made up of 72 senior and 34 junior diamonds. In addition, these parks also cater for Tee-ball fields (Tee-ball is for younger participants and can be played in most open areas).

### 7.1 Softball Facilities

The below table identifies the parks that provide softball opportunities and the related senior and junior diamonds.

**Table 7.1: Softball parks and associated facilities**

Venue	Number of Junior Diamonds	Number of Senior Diamonds	Clubhouse Access
<b>North</b>			
Rosedale ELE Stadium		2	Yes
Rosedale Park	11	5	Yes
Stanmore Bay Park	2		
<b>Central</b>			
Ostend Domain	1	1	
Fowlds Park		2	
Mt Roskill War Memorial Park	2	2	Yes
Phylliss Reserve		3	
Warren Freer Park		2	
Keith Hay Park		6	
Royal Reserve		2	
Harold Moody		2	
Simson Reserve		2	
Hamlin Park	2	2	
<b>South</b>			
Meadowland Park		4	Yes
Colin Lawrie Fields	1	2	Yes
Mounfort Park		4	
Te Pane-o-Mataaho-Te Ara Pueru		3	
Swanson Park		2	
Sturges Park		3	
Robert White Park		2	
Mansell Field		1	
Prince Edward Park	6	2	Yes
Ray Small Park	4		
<b>West</b>			
Starling Park	7	3	Yes
Brains Park		2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>72</b>	

### 7.2 Baseball Facilities

There are approximately 18 baseball diamonds made up of nine senior and nine junior diamonds. In addition these parks also cater for Tee-ball fields.

As with the softball parks there is a range in terms of the quantity and quality of ancillary infrastructure on each baseball park such as backstops, dug outs, umpire cages batting/pitching cages. There are limited parks with formal access or partnership for clubhouse access. Table 7.2 identifies the parks that provide baseball opportunities and the related senior and junior diamonds.

Table 7.2: Baseball parks and associated facilities

Venue	Number of Junior Diamonds	Number of Senior Diamonds	Clubhouse Access
<b>North</b>			
Albany Domain	1		
Stafford Park		1	
Victor Eaves Park	3	1	Yes
<b>Central</b>			
Crossfield Reserve	2	2	
May Rd War Memorial Pk	1	1	
<b>South</b>			
Lloyd Elsmore Park		2	
Karaka Sports Park		1	Yes
Drury Domain	1		
Te Puru Park	1		
<b>West</b>			
Starling Park	1		Yes
McLeod Park	1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	



## 8.0 Demand Analysis

An analysis of the future demand for diamond sports has been undertaken to identify the potential growth of teams throughout the Auckland region. This is critical to understand the potential future demand diamond sport will have on future park provision and also related facility provision.

The analysis is based on the data from current team numbers, current and projected playing age population of Auckland region (5 –39-year-olds), current field numbers, and current training and competition hours.

The demand analysis is influenced by the current team number and the playing-age population of the Auckland region.

### Notes about Demand Analysis:

The **Team Generation Rate (TGR)** identifies the ratio of the number of current playing-age population to generate a team. This TGR has then been used to project the future expected numbers. A TGR assumes that all other external factors remain the same (that is it considers the impact of population growth or decline on team numbers).

**Growth Rate:** A number of regional sports organisations are experiencing significant increase in membership (for example basketball and social netball) and have a growth rate of between 1% and 4% which is considered significant. There are also a number of organisations experiencing a decline in membership over recent years. The demand model has included a 1% growth rate per year for both diamonds sports (in addition to growth related to population change) each year until 2048.

### 8.1 Additional Demand Considerations

The demand analysis provides a level of guidance regarding the projected demand based on current data and trends. However, the future growth of a sport can be determined and influenced by a number of additional factors such as:

- Strength of the regional association
- Ability of the sport to promote, generate and sustain programs
- Flexibility of the sport to adapt to sports trends (for example: shorter games, social components, no club affiliation)

The success or failure of the above factors will determine the actual growth or decline of participation for softball and baseball. As a result, the demand model has included a range of percentage increases that provide an understanding of the potential teams, numbers and participants.

## 8.2 Softball Analysis

Table 8.1 below identifies the approximate current softball team numbers and a range of scenarios for the projection of softball teams within the Auckland region by 2048. Data from the previous sections has been utilised for the softball demand model as outlined below.

**Table 8.1 Softball Demand Analysis**

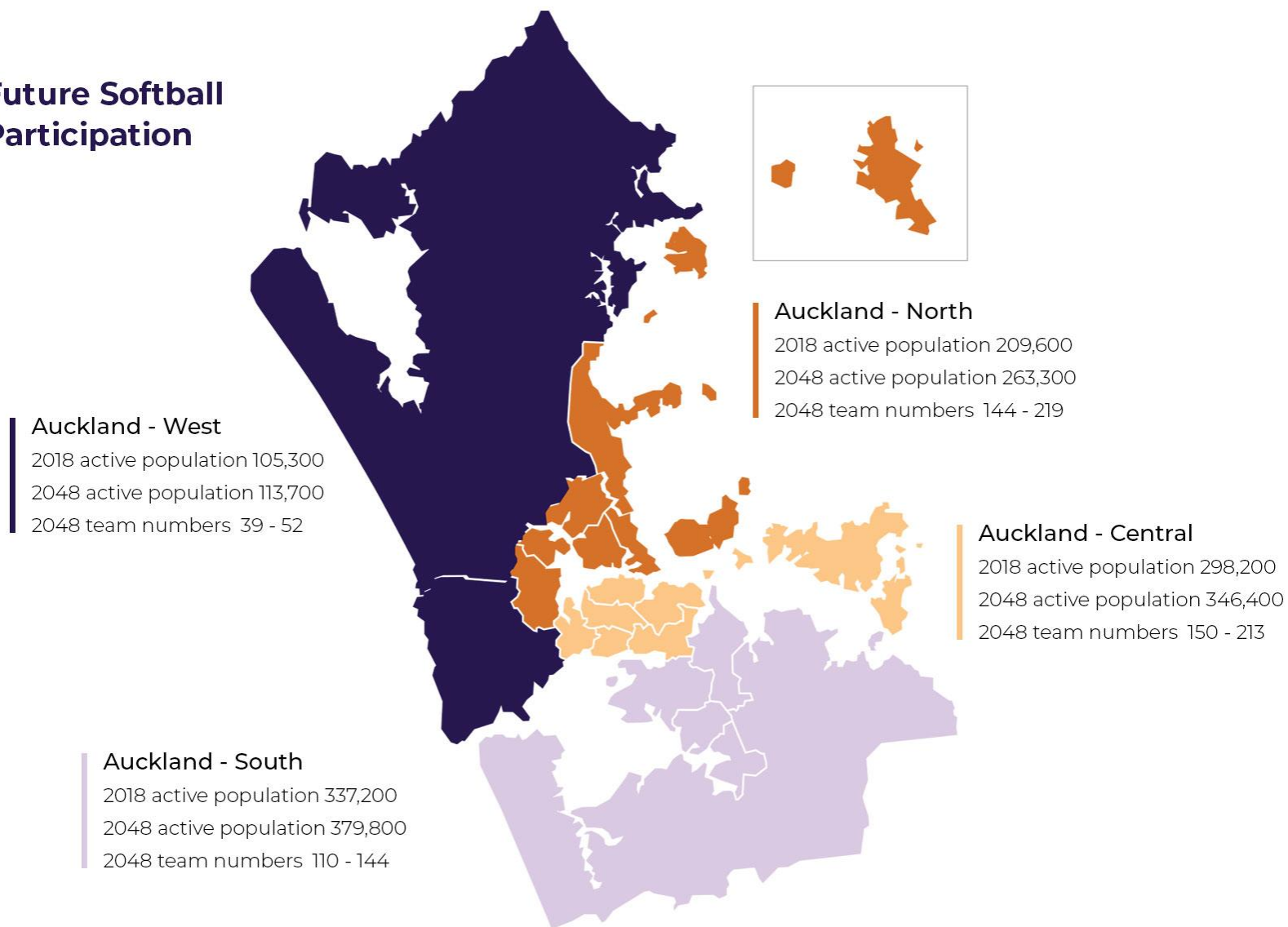
	Junior Teams	Youth Teams	Adult Teams	Total Teams	Playing Age Pop. 2018	TGR	Junior Fields	Senior Fields	Hours of Training	Hours of Competition Use	Total Hours of Use	Playing age Population of area in 2048	Population growth only	Population growth plus 1% growth to 2048
North	72	36	36	144	209,600	1456	14	7	111	857	968	263,300	181	219
Central	75	40	35	150	298,200	1988	4	33	279	700	979	346,400	174	213
South	49	31	30	110	337,200	3065	11	29	293	1147	1440	379,800	124	144
West	19	15	5	39	105,300	2700	14	10	63	414	477	113,700	42	52
Total Teams				443									521	628
Total Participation				6,645									7,815	9,420

The findings of the analysis of the softball demand model identifies that:

- There is projected to be a range of softball team number from 443 to 628 by 2048
- The additional factors that assist in determining actual growth (as identified) should be monitored
- There is a comprehensive coverage of softball diamonds spread across the majority of Auckland region with a gap in the north of the region.

Figure 8.1: Projected Softball Participation

## Future Softball Participation



### 8.3 Baseball Analysis

Table 8.2 below identifies the approximate current baseball team numbers and a range of scenarios for the projection of baseball teams within the Auckland region by 2048. Data from the previous sections has been utilised for the baseball demand model as outlined below.

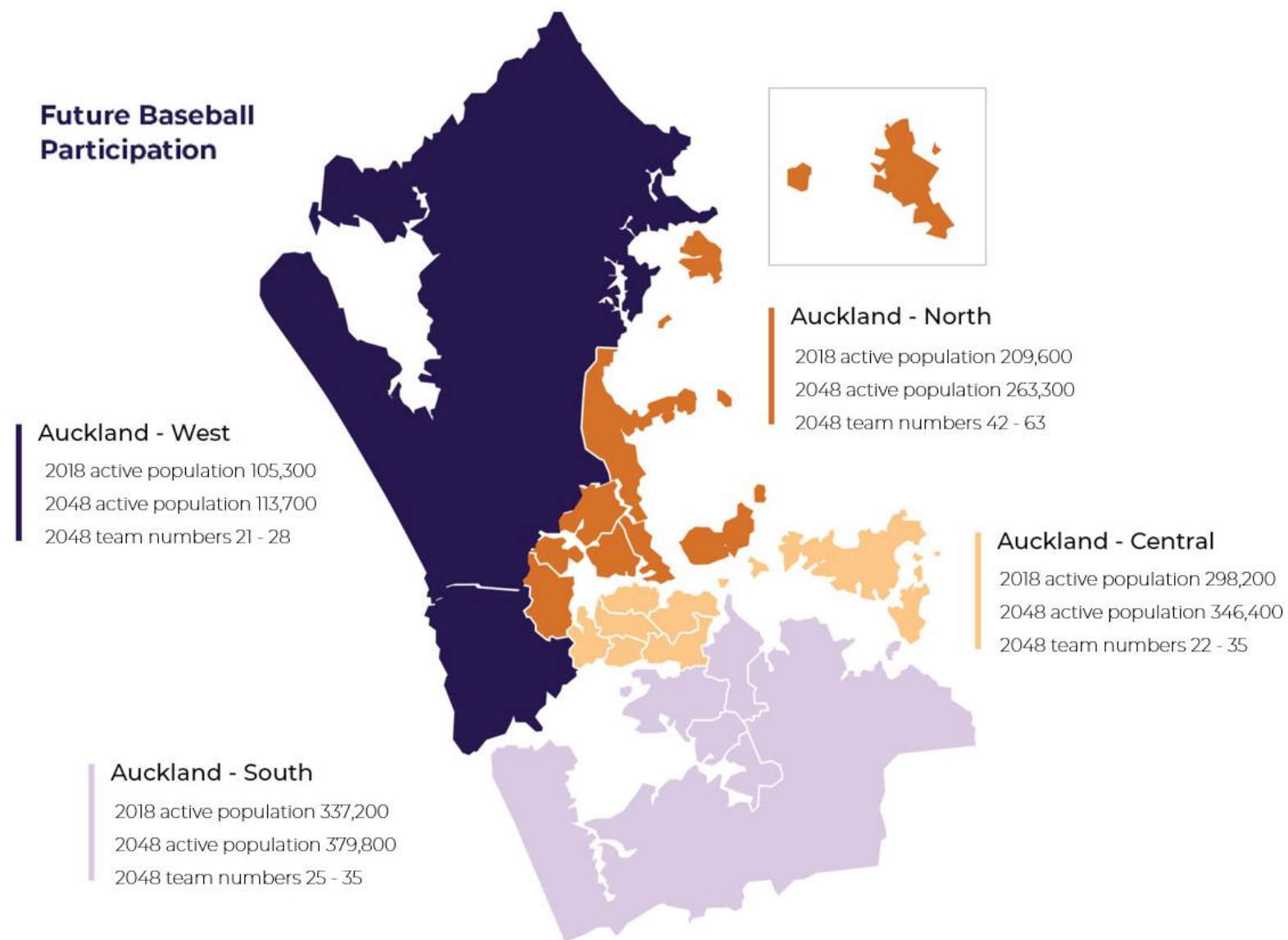
Table 8.2 Baseball Demand Analysis

	Junior Teams	Youth Teams	Adult Teams	Total Teams	Playing Age Pop. 2018	TGR	Junior Fields	Senior Teams	Hours of Training	Hours of Competition Use	Total Hours of Use	Playing age Population 2048	Population growth only to 2048	Population growth plus 1% growth to 2048
North	19	9	14	42	209,600	4990	4	2	99	205	304	263,300	53	63
Central	8	8	6	22	298200	13555	3	3	72	220	292	346400	26	35
South	12	8	5	25	337200	13488	3	3	121	212	333	379,800	28	35
West	11	5	5	21	105300	5014	2	1	64	84	148	113,700	23	28
Total Teams				110									130	161
Total Participation				1,650									1,950	2,415

The findings of the analysis of the baseball demand model identifies that:

- There is projected to be a range of baseball team numbers from 110 to 161 by 2048
- The additional factors that assist in determining actual growth (as identified) should be monitored
- There is a gap in the coverage of baseball diamonds in the southern area of Auckland region. This will need to be monitored and addressed if future demand warrants it.

Figure 8.2: Projected Baseball Participation



## 8.4 Summary of Demand Findings

Table 8.3: Combined Diamond Sports Demand Analysis

	2020 Teams		TGR 2048		TGR + 1% Growth 2048	
	Softball	Baseball	Softball	Baseball	Softball	Baseball
Auckland North	144	42	181	53	219	63
Auckland Central	150	22	174	26	213	35
Auckland South	110	25	124	28	144	35
Auckland West	39	21	42	23	52	28
Individual Sport Totals	443	110	521	130	628	161
Combined Teams Total	553		651		789	
Combined participation	8,295		9,765		11,835	

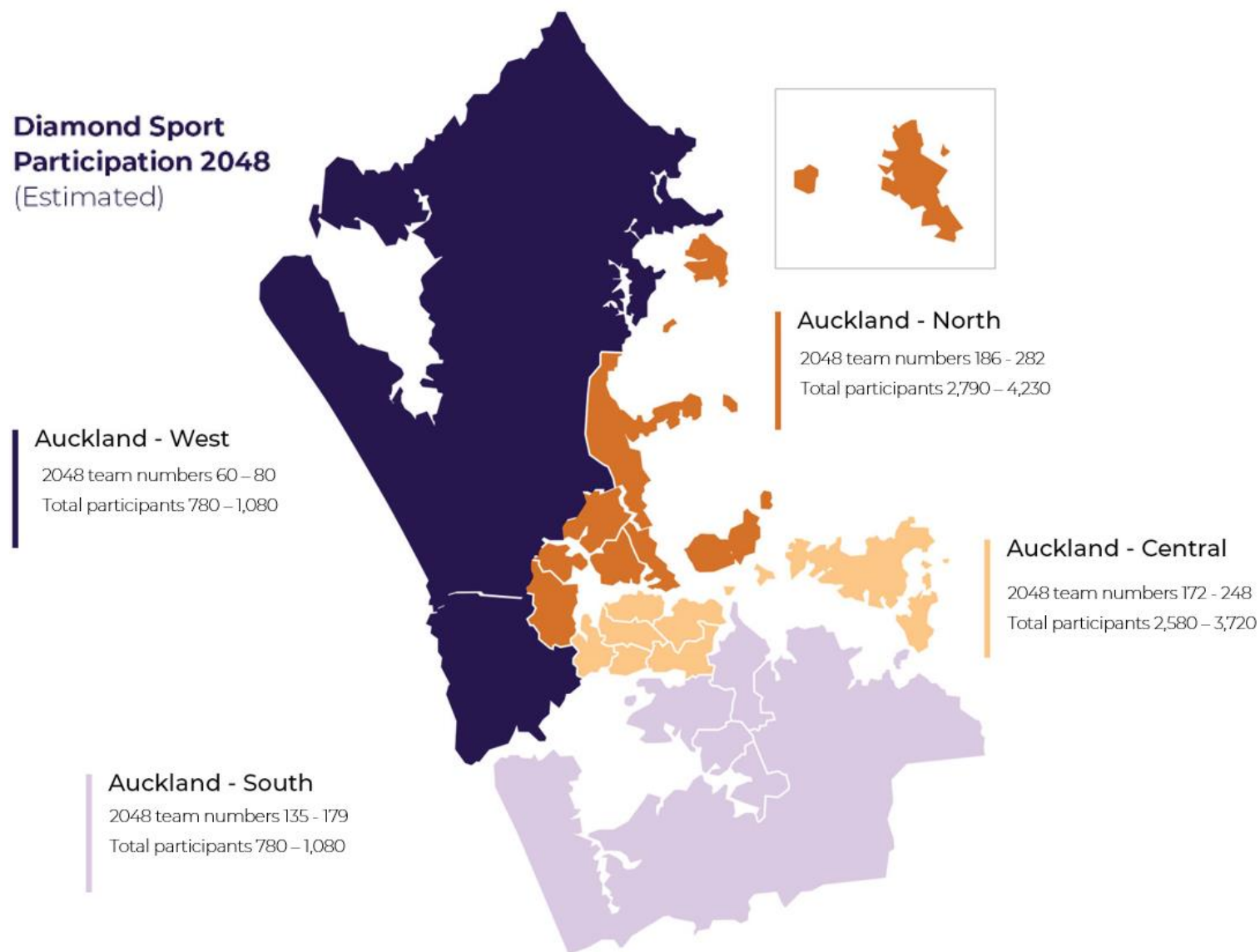
\*Note: Each team is assigned 2 hours of training and 2 hours of competition = 4 hours per team per week

The findings of the analysis of the combined softball/ baseball demand model identifies that by 2048:

- ☞ There is a projected range of 553 to 789 combined diamond sport teams.
- ☞ Total diamond sport participation numbers are projected to be in the range 8,295 to 11,835.
- ☞ Auckland North will have a projected range of 186 to 282 combined diamond sport teams.
- ☞ Auckland Central will have a projected range of 172 to 248 combined diamond sport teams.
- ☞ Auckland South will have projected range of 135 to 179 combined diamond sport teams.
- ☞ Auckland West will have a projected range of 60 to 80 combined diamond sport teams.



Figure 8.3: Projected Combined Diamond Sports Participation














## 8.5 Considerations to Meet Demand

Analysis during the development of this report indicates that there are sufficient diamonds to meet the current demand for softball and baseball. There are some parks nearing or at capacity, while there are other parks that could be utilised more. The ability for the existing network to meet future demand will depend on the level of growth both baseball and softball capture over the next twenty years.

This report recommends that before any new parks are developed, all other options are explored within the existing sports park network.

To meet the projected future demand a number of strategies to maximise the network are identified below:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Maximise use of existing diamond sports fields ensuring that the current network of parks is utilised.   |  Optimise the layout of key existing sports parks (for example Mt Roskill War Memorial Park) to allow for additional diamond sport users.  |
|  Re-programme a portion of weekend competition to mid-week evenings to reduce the demand pressure on parks for weekend play. The use of floodlights will be required in some instances. Resource consent constraints pertaining floodlights will need to be considered. |  Where possible consider layouts that provide for dual and shared use diamonds, spaces and associated facilities for baseball and softball.  |
|  Identify any existing non-diamond sport parks that have spare capacity during the summer months and work with Auckland Council to understand their ability to cater for future baseball and softball needs.  |  If projected demand increases occur, then the areas of greatest future demand (northern and central areas of the region) will require the development of additional diamond sports focused parks.   |
|  Identify any potential non-council sites (most likely secondary schools) where community access for diamond sports may be able to be formalised.   |  There are two new baseball diamonds currently being constructed in Albany and Hobsonville Point (in the northern and western areas of the region). They are due for completion within the next 12-months. This will cater for any short to medium term demand pressures in that area. |
|  Improve the quality of some of the diamonds and associated facilities to allow for an increase in use by softball and baseball.  |  There is also a planned diamond for the central Auckland region that should be developed as a dual use or shared space facility.  |
|  Provide a consistent quality maintenance programme for the diamonds across the Auckland region.  |   |

## 9.0 Shared Use Considerations

A key component of the Diamond Sports Facility Plan is to understand the potential to provide shared use facilities for both softball and baseball.

The key facility differences between baseball and softball is the length of the pitching mound and bases, size of the diamond and the dimensions of the outfields.

**Table 9.1: Baseball and Softball Senior Dimensions**

Baseball Specification	Softball Specification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pitching 18.4 metres</li><li>• Base 27.4m</li><li>• Outfield 100m</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pitching 14.02 metres (fast pitch) and 15.24m slow pitch</li><li>• Base 18.29m (fast pitch) and 19.81m (slow pitch)</li><li>• Outfield 76m (fast pitch) and 91.44m (slow pitch)</li></ul>

A potential outcome would be where a facility component, for example diamonds and ancillary infrastructure like battling cages could be utilised by both codes

### 9.1 Sharing of Diamonds

The ability for softball and baseball to share diamonds would have many benefits including:

- Maximise use of existing diamonds
- Meet the future need in growth areas where there is a shortage of parks
- Effective spend of limited sporting budgets

This section outlines two potential options to achieve shared use: 1) sharing of diamonds, 2) sharing of parks.

#### Shared Use Diamonds

Currently shared use diamonds can occur with a senior softball diamond which can be utilised by junior baseball teams (due the dimensions of the diamond being similar for both).

An example of this occurring within the Auckland region is Rosedale Softball Stadium (2 senior softball diamonds) which is utilised for major softball events and junior baseball events.

#### Dual Use Diamonds

An optimum dual use diamond would be when both a senior softball team and senior baseball team could use the same diamond area for their competition games. There are no dual use diamonds in the Auckland region.

However, the Selwyn District Council has recently developed a dual use diamond at Foster Park, Rolleston. Both baseball and softball utilise the diamond at both a senior and junior level. A case study of Foster Park is outlined below.

### Foster Park - Selwyn District Council, Dual Use Diamond Sports Facility

- Pitching mounds for both codes are portable
- Bases are portable and click in and out (There are lift out bases that have inserts that can be moved from one position to the other).
- The artificial turf caters for baseball and softball, but the outfield is just grass.
- The fences are movable and can be placed at any radius from the pitch to suit baseball or softball.



While both baseball and softball can share the Foster Park facility, the sports are having some issues which should be considered in the development of a dual –use facility in Auckland. The issues are:

- The distance of backstop is set up for softball which is a shorter distance than required by baseball.
- There is a concern regarding the insert base plates being slightly raised and causing player safety considerations.
- Moving the outfield fence between softball and baseball games is causing some issues in terms of which code is responsible for the physical relocation.

## 9.2 Sharing of Parks

The ability for softball and baseball to share a park also has many benefits including:

- Potential for diamond sport clubs to be established
- Shared administration and volunteer resources
- Meeting the future need in growth areas where there is a shortage of parks
- Effective spend of limited sporting budgets

### Shared Use Parks

An optimum of a shared use park would be where both softball and baseball training and competitions occur utilising a combination of dual or shared infrastructure.

Examples of this could be the development of shared use of batting/pitching cages and clubhouse. This shared-use arrangement would be enhanced by either dual use diamonds or field layouts that allow maximise use of a park by both softball and baseball.

Currently Mt Roskill War Memorial Park is Auckland's best example of a shared use park with separate baseball and softball diamonds (and outfield) at a senior level and junior shared softball and baseball diamonds.

### Case Study – Diamond Nation – Flemington, New Jersey, USA

The following case study provides an example of a shared outfield area catering for both baseball and softball in the same park space.

### Diamond Nation Complex– Shared Use Park

- Established as one of the premier baseball and softball tournament and training complexes in the USA.
- Consists of five 27.4m fields and two 15.2m – 21.3m fields. The facility features a unique design with each of the 27.4m fields capable of being converted into two Little League size fields (size of a senior softball diamond) each having their own backstops, dugouts, and bullpens.
- Has the ability to host twelve games at a time and the versatility to have both baseball and softball games.
- Consists of four full size batting cages equipped with pitching mounds.
- Provides an opportunity for a player to develop and improve their skills year-round.



The above shared use space example could be applied to Auckland for either new sport park developments or the re-layout of existing sport parks. The above example will allow for softball and baseball to share the same space for both their senior and junior grades.

### Scheduling

A key component of implementing a shared or dual use diamond sports park will be the scheduling of training and competition of the diamonds for use between baseball and softball. Generally, both sports require the venues at the same times of the week, therefore even though shared use may be seen as an ideal concept, it may not be practically possible unless the sporting codes re-schedule their training and competition times.



# 10.0 Hierarchy of Facilities

## 10.1 Overview

The development of a Hierarchy of Facilities framework is considered effective practise with regards to planning for a network of sporting facilities. As a result, a number of national and regional sport facilities plan have adopted this approach.

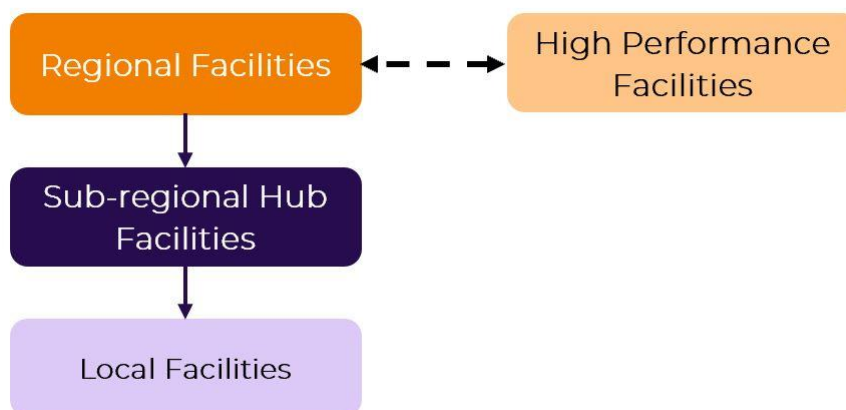
The key considerations for adopting a hierarchy of facilities framework are:

- Avoiding duplication in the provision of facilities
- Provides for the appropriate standard of facilities across the network
- Provides for alignment of competing users
- Eases the pressure of the network
- Allows for designs that are fit for purpose for facilities

The Hierarchy of Facilities framework for Diamond Sports is identified as follows which also includes the aspect of 'High Performance Training with is linked the regional facility status.

The following information provides the overview and detail surrounding the focus of a regional, sub regional or local diamond-sport park, as well as the facility specification in relation to each level.

Figure 10.1 Diamond Sports Hierarchy of facilities Framework



## 10.2 Regional Facility

The purpose of a regional facility is to provide a facility that can accommodate the major events for their sport (and in most cases at a national level and some instances at an international level).

Most sporting facility plans traditionally identify one regional facility per region. However due to two sports partnering to work together and the Auckland region's congested transport network impacting on viable travel time, two regional facilities, one in the north and one in the south, have been identified as being required.

In addition, it has been identified that a regional hub in the north and south of the Auckland region should also have a focus on high performance training requirements for the codes (including off field facilities and accommodation).

Table 10.2: Regional Facility Specifications

Baseball Specification	Softball Specification
Regional (National level)	Regional (National level)
<b>Turf Diamond</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitching 18.4 metres</li> <li>• Base 27.4m (90-foot diamond)</li> <li>• Outfield 100m (360-to-400-foot outfield)</li> </ul>	<b>Skin Diamond</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitching 14.02 metres (fast pitch) and 15.24m slow pitch</li> <li>• Base 18.29m (fast pitch) and 19.81m (slow pitch)</li> <li>• Outfield 76m (fast pitch) and 91.44m (slow pitch)</li> </ul>
<b>Permanent</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backstops</li> <li>• Dug outs</li> <li>• Batting cages</li> <li>• Pitching cages</li> <li>• Scoreboard</li> </ul>	<b>Permanent</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backstops</li> <li>• Dug outs</li> <li>• Batting cages</li> <li>• Pitching cages</li> <li>• Scoreboard</li> </ul>
<b>Off field facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration facilities</li> <li>• Player's facilities</li> <li>• Spectator seating</li> <li>• Paid entry ability</li> </ul>	<b>Off field facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration facilities</li> <li>• Player's facilities</li> <li>• Spectator seating</li> <li>• Paid entry ability</li> </ul>
<b>High Performance Training Facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close proximity to indoor training facilities (weights/physio etc)</li> <li>• Close to accommodation</li> <li>• All year-round access to batting and pitching facilities</li> </ul>	<b>High Performance Training Facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close proximity to indoor training facilities (weights/physio etc)</li> <li>• Close to accommodation</li> <li>• All year-round access to batting and pitching facilities</li> </ul>

### 10.3 Sub Regional Facilities

The aim of sub regional hub facilities is to provide for shared use or dual use diamond sport parks for training and playing (where possible). The key aspect of sub regional parks will be the ability to provide access to multiple clubs for softball and baseball creating diamond sport parks.

Table 10.3: Sub Regional Specifications

Baseball Specification	Softball Specification
Hub	Hub
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple diamonds</li> <li>• Turf Diamonds</li> <li>• Pitching, base and outfield same specifications as regional facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple diamonds</li> <li>• Mixture of skin and turf diamonds</li> <li>• Pitching, base and outfield same specifications as regional facility</li> </ul>
<b>Permanent</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backstops</li> <li>• Dug outs</li> <li>• Batting cages</li> <li>• Pitching cages</li> </ul>	<b>Permanent</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backstops</li> <li>• Dug outs</li> <li>• Batting cages</li> <li>• Pitching cages</li> </ul>
Temporary outfield fences	Temporary outfield fences
<b>Off field facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to clubhouse facilities</li> </ul>	<b>Off field facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to clubhouse facilities</li> </ul>

## 10.4 Local Facilities

Local sports parks play a vital role for both baseball and softball in terms of providing the training base for the majority of clubs as well as competition for tee ball, junior and some senior leagues. Access to diamonds with backstops is seen as a priority for local level facilities.

Local sports parks play a vital role for both baseball and softball in terms of providing the training base for the majority of clubs as well as competition for tee ball, junior and some senior leagues. Access to diamonds with backstops is seen as a priority for local level facilities.

**Table 10.4 Local Specifications**

Baseball Specification	Softball Specification
<b>Local</b>	<b>Local</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Single to multiple diamonds</li><li>• Grass Diamond</li><li>• Dual use diamonds at junior level</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Single to multiple diamonds</li><li>• Grass Diamond</li><li>• Dual use diamonds at junior level</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Permanent: backstop for main diamond</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Permanent backstop for main diamond</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to batting pitching cages at sub regional sites.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to batting pitching cages at sub regional sites.</li></ul>

## 11.0 Hierarchy of Facilities Assessment

The hierarchy of facilities framework requires an assessment of the current network of sport parks facilities to determine their appropriateness to meet the status of regional or sub regional.

As an overview the below table identifies the sports parks that have the potential to be identified as the regional hub for both baseball and softball.

**Table 11.1: Preferred Regional and Sub Regional Sports Parks**

Regional Area	Park Name
Softball South	Prince Edward Park, Papakura
Softball North	Rosedale ELE Stadium, Albany
Baseball South	Lloyd Elsmore Park, Howick
Baseball North	North Harbour Stadium, Albany
Sub Regional Hub Area	Park Name
Southern	Prince Edward Park, Papakura
Central	Mt Roskill War Memorial Park, Mount Roskill
Eastern	Meadowlands Park, Howick
Western	Starling Park, Ranui
Northern	Metro Park, Silverdale

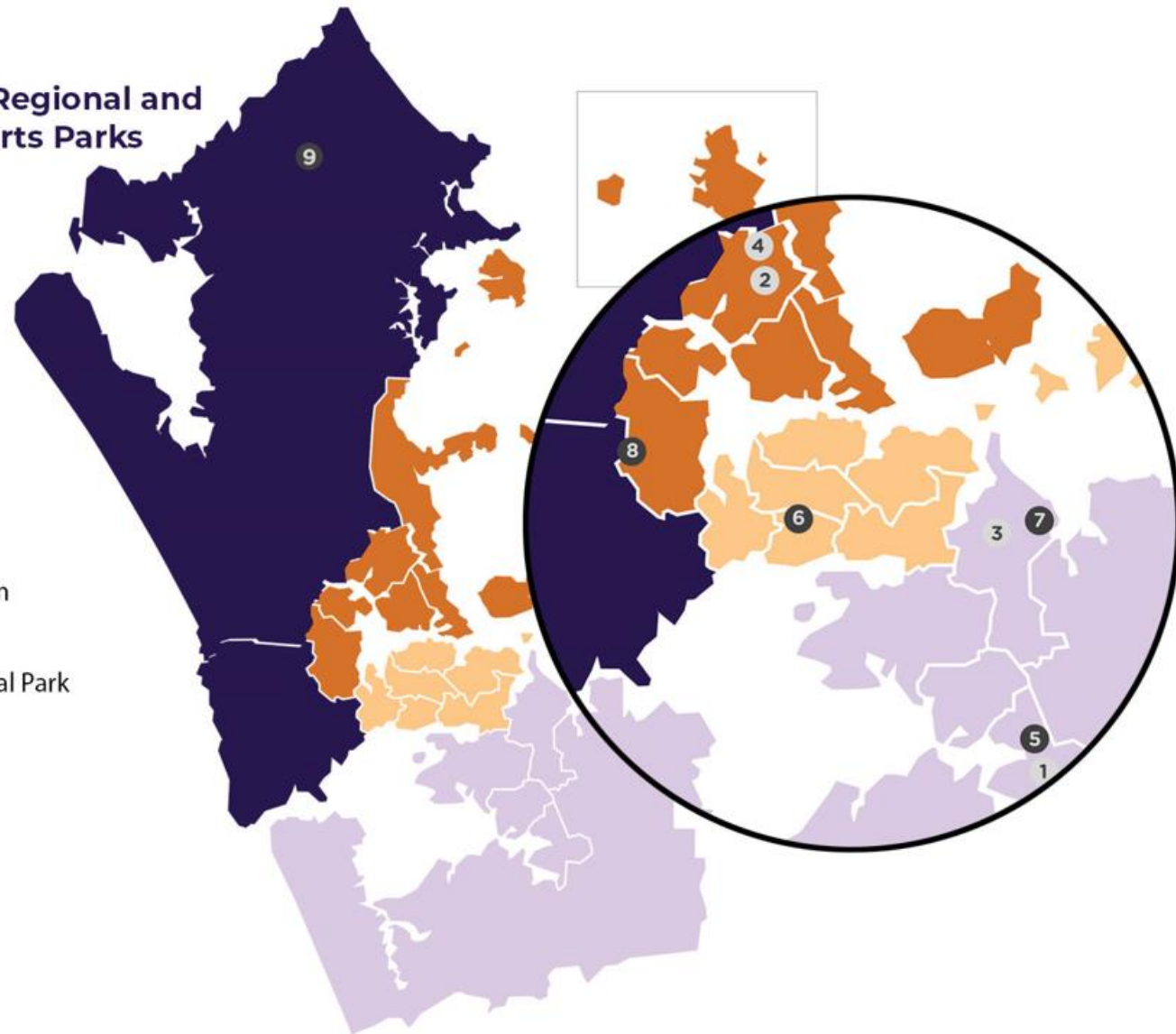
The criteria used to assess each potential park are:

1. The ability to host major events for the relevant sporting code
2. The surface of playing diamond provided
3. The ability to access the park year-round for the sport
4. The proximity to off field training facilities such as batting cages, strength, and conditioning facilities.
5. Permanent playing facilities are at the site, eliminating the need to set up and pack down for each game or practice
6. Proximity to accommodation that can be used for players and officials for trainings, tournaments, and festivals.
7. The proximity to the playing base
8. The cost to upgrade the venue to become a permanent regional hub for the sports c
9. The following information provides an overview of the preferred regional, sub regional parks, the rationale, and their related actions. Appendices 14.5 and 14.6 provides the assessment detail for the regional and sub regional parks.

## Diamond Sports Regional and Sub Regional Sports Parks

- Regional Facility
- Sub Regional Hub

1. Prince Edward Park
2. Rosedale Softball Park
3. Llyod Elsmore Park
4. North Harbour Stadium
5. Prince Edward Park
6. Mt Roskill War Memorial Park
7. Meadowlands Park
8. Starling Park
9. Metro Park



## 11.1 Preferred North and South Regional Sites - Baseball

The parks assessment has identified the preferred parks for regional status for the north and south of the region for baseball and softball. The below tables identify the related actions required at each park to meet the regional facility specifications and the rationale of why each of the preferred parks were chosen.

Table 11.2: Regional Facility – Baseball Preferred Sports Park and Related Actions

Park	Required Actions	Rationale
Baseball North		
North Harbour Stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install covered batting/pitching cage in location allowing for all year access</li> <li>• New turf diamond on outer field (Oval or rugby fields) to be developed for training purposes</li> <li>• Secure access to AUT Millennium for off field training opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The only permanent summer baseball facility in the north of the region.</li> <li>• Home of the Tuatara franchise with a 10-year lease of the stadium.</li> <li>• AUT Millennium in close proximity for off field training requirements</li> <li>• Stadium seating</li> <li>• Various levels of accommodation adjacent to the stadium</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The ongoing cost of leasing North Harbour Stadium will be a key factor in determining the long-term partnership viability for Baseball New Zealand.</p>
Baseball South		
Lloyd Elsmore Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade senior diamonds to turf</li> <li>• Install covered batting/pitching cage.</li> <li>• Install scoreboards at both senior diamonds.</li> <li>• Install lighting over diamond</li> <li>• Upgrade changing room and toilet facilities onsite.</li> <li>• Upgrade drainage and sand carpet outfield</li> <li>• Progress potential of joining with Papakura Rugby for clubroom access.</li> <li>• Access to Lloyd Elsmore Park Pool and Fitness Centre and Pakuranga Athletics Track for off field training opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The only permanent summer baseball facility in the south of the region.</li> <li>• Lloyd Elsmore Park Pool and Fitness Centre and Pakuranga Athletics Track in close proximity for off field training requirements</li> <li>• Only all year access baseball facility in the region.</li> <li>• Home to the largest baseball club in Auckland.</li> </ul>



## 11.2 Preferred North and South Regional Sites - Softball

Table 11.3: Regional Facility – Softball Preferred Sports Park and Related Actions

Park	Required Actions	Rationale
Softball North		
Rosedale ELE Stadium and Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install covered batting/pitching cage in location allowing for all year access</li> <li>• Scoreboard for softball, baseball</li> <li>• Sand carpet lower fields</li> <li>• Turf three additional diamonds for event, training, competitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only permanent softball facility in the north of the region.</li> <li>• Significant investment and identified as one of the best softball facilities in the country</li> <li>• Close proximity to off field training facilities at AUT Millennium</li> <li>• Close proximity to various levels of accommodation adjacent to the stadium</li> </ul>
Softball South		
Prince Edward Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade skins of two premier diamonds</li> <li>• Install covered batting/pitching cage</li> <li>• Install scoreboards at both senior diamonds</li> <li>• Install lighting over diamond one</li> <li>• Upgrade changing room and toilet facilities onsite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only permanent softball facility in the south of the region.</li> <li>• It is a fully fenced off facility with good base infrastructure.</li> <li>• Major site for softball competitions and training in south of the region.</li> <li>• Close proximity to Pulman Arena for offsite training requirements</li> <li>• Close proximity to Pulman Lodge for player accommodation for camps.</li> </ul>

## Preferred Sub Regional Sites

The above assessment has identified the preferred parks for sub regional status for the north, west, central, east and south of the region. Table 11.6 identifies the related actions each park required to meet the sub regional facility specifications and the rationale of why each of the preferred parks were chosen.

**Note:** The focus of the below sub regional hub facilities is to provide for shared use or dual use diamond sport parks for training and playing. The sub regional hubs should be utilised by both baseball and softball clubs and teams from within their area.

**Table 11.6 Preferred Sub Regional Sites (Shared or Dual Use sites)**

Park	Required Actions	Rationale
<b>Sub Regional North</b>		
<b>Metro Park (Silverdale)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop requirements from a diamond sports perspective and feed into overall masterplan of the park.</li> <li>Undertake formal discussions with Auckland Council.</li> <li>Future diamonds to be dual use and shared use diamonds</li> <li>Mixture of artificial and grass diamonds</li> <li>Diamond sport club to be included as part of the multisport facility development.</li> </ul>	<p>Rosedale Park meets the criteria to be identified as the preferred sub regional park due the significant existing infrastructure, its ability to cater for softball at all levels and baseball at a junior level. The park already hosts junior baseball events in addition to the softball focus.</p> <p>However, the significant community use of the park will restrict the park to reach its full potential as regional asset for major events. There is limited ability to host additional national and regional softball and junior baseball events due to the park in summer being at capacity, with the majority of use by community/club softball (competitions and trainings). Thus, if Rosedale Park is to provide focus as a regional site (for softball and junior baseball) then there will be a need for additional community diamond sport park(s) to be developed in the north.</p> <p>There are several critical factors in the rationale of choosing Metro Park as the preferred sub regional park. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located within a large growth area in the north</li> <li>There are limited to no park/land opportunities within the Northern area to cater for a sub-regional hub development.</li> <li>The park has large developed and undeveloped open space areas.</li> <li>Potential to combine existing local baseball and softball clubs into a diamond sport club.</li> <li>Use the site as a new hub for competitions and training for the north as well as an overflow park when Rosedale Park has diamond sport events on.</li> </ul>

Park	Required Actions	Rationale
Sub Regional West		
Starling Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turf diamond two and three (Dual use for senior softball and junior baseball)</li> <li>Installation of batting/pitching cage for all diamond sport users</li> <li>Install new backstop for diamond three</li> <li>Use of flood lights in summer season for training and competition.</li> <li>A technical report is required to understand the potential for a full-size baseball diamond and outfield to be accommodated within the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing diamond sport club</li> <li>Good membership</li> <li>One full size artificial softball diamond and outfield</li> <li>Two grass diamonds and four tee ball diamonds</li> <li>Good quality multisport clubhouse</li> </ul> <p>There is no current full size baseball diamond and outfield within Starling Park for senior and some junior baseball team's training and competition requirements.</p>
Sub Regional Central		
Mt Roskill War Memorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future layout of the park to maximize all diamond sport use</li> <li>New proposed diamond to be turf diamond and dual use capability for senior baseball/senior softball level</li> <li>Development of temporary pitching mounds (need to design and build one)</li> <li>Upgrade existing baseball diamond to artificial turf</li> <li>Upgrade existing softball skin diamond</li> <li>Installation of batting/pitching cage for all diamond sport users</li> <li>Installation of lights for softball and baseball number one diamonds</li> <li>Install permanent backstop to number two softball diamond (allows for junior baseball)</li> <li>Consider as part of long-term multisport facility development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing dual use diamonds sports park.</li> <li>Multiple softball diamonds and one full size baseball diamond and outfield's</li> <li>Existing softball and baseball clubs located on the park</li> <li>Overflow for softball clubs within central region</li> <li>Good base infrastructure for both softball and baseball</li> <li>Skin softball diamond with backstop</li> <li>Existing turf base diamond for baseball with backstop, dugouts and umpire's box</li> <li>Planned new baseball diamond</li> <li>Has the potential to be premier shared use diamond sport for Auckland.</li> </ul>

Park	Required Actions	Rationale
Sub Regional East		
Meadowlands Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade skin diamonds on diamonds one and two.</li> <li>• Third diamond upgrade to turf and dual use.</li> <li>• Installation of batting/pitching cage</li> <li>• Installation of outfield lights for diamond 1</li> <li>• Reconfigure lights for Softball diamond one</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diamonds Sport club on the park</li> <li>• Two senior skin diamonds</li> <li>• Two grass diamonds</li> <li>• Shared use of diamonds both softball and junior baseball</li> <li>• Multisport clubhouse exists on the park</li> </ul>
Sub Regional South		
Price Edward Park	<p>Prince Edward Park has been identified as the regional park for south for softball. As a result, the identified actions required to bring the park up to a regional specification will also cater for the sub regional requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the largest diamond sport park in the south</li> <li>• Good base infrastructure</li> <li>• Two senior full-size diamond and six junior diamonds</li> <li>• Largest membership softball in south</li> <li>• Close proximity to only baseball club in south</li> <li>• Ability for dual of junior baseball and all softball</li> <li>• Potential for baseball senior training within large open space within the park.</li> </ul>

### 11.3 Local Park Facility - Evaluation Summary of Sites

As part of the hierarchy of facilities local sports parks will continue to play an important role for club level trainings and some competitions. The key facility specifications identified as core to local parks are:

- One or more diamonds
- Grass diamonds
- Dual use diamonds at junior level
- Permanent backstop for main diamond

A selection of key sports parks at a local level have been identified by Auckland Baseball and Auckland Softball as critical to support the delivery and growth at a community level. Local level focused sports parks play a fundamental role in the network of facilities for softball and baseball and provide the basic infrastructure for local clubs to train and play.

The following tables provide an overview of the key sports parks and related action(s) that softball or baseball have identified as being required to assist with their sport at the wider community level. Each of these actions has been assessed to determine their alignment to the specifications of a local park as described in the facilities of hierarchy section. A rating of high, medium and low has been assigned to each action to determine its level of alignment.

An action assigned a high score will be added to the prioritisation of actions section for consideration. The remaining medium and low scoring actions will be a local club consideration to progress.

**Table 11. 6 Key Local Parks – Softball**

Local Park	Proposed Actions	Link to Strategic Priority
Simson Reserve (Penrose)	Move diamond 2 back to allow 2 full diamonds.	High
	Install lights for summer play	Low
Hamlin Park (Mt Wellington)	Install permanent backstops for Diamond 1 and 2.	Medium
Sturges Park (Otahuhu)	Diamond 2 Astroturf diamond	Low
	Push backstop back to get the turf off as much of the rugby field as possible.	High
Harold Moody Park (Glen Eden)	Install permanent back stop for diamond 1	High
Colin Lawrie Fields (Pukekohe)	Install permanent Backstop Diamond 2 and 3	High
	Install lights on Diamond 1	High*
	Investigate potential to turf diamond 2 and three and related impact on rugby fields	Medium

\*High priority due to council funding already attached to action. Dependant on building consent.

**Table 11.7 Key Local Parks - Baseball**

Local Park	Proposed Actions	Link to Strategic Priority
Crossfield's Reserve (Glendowie)	• Pitching bullpens, Batting cages, Scorers boxes	• Low
	• Dugouts on Diamond 1 need to be enlarged	• High
	• Lights for junior diamond using existing football lighting	• Low
McLeod Park (Te Atatu South)	• Change the diamond surface to synthetic turf	• Medium
	• Pitching bullpens, batting cages, scorers box	• Low
	• Dugouts need a roof	• High
	• Dugouts for junior diamond	• Low
	• Extra storage container	• High
	• Look at possibility of utilising the lighting towers to facilitate night Baseball	• Low
Stafford Park (Northcote Point)	• This is a venue that long term we would like to keep, excellent location.	• High
	• Covered dugouts	• Low
	• Ideal for synthetic turf	• Medium
	• Permanent backstop	• High

#### 11.4 Planned New Parks

There are two new diamonds planned to be developed over the next 12-month period as full-size grass baseball diamonds (Scott's Point Park in Hobsonville Point and Caribbean Drive in Albany). The future planning for these parks and diamonds should focus on the ability to provide for dual use and share use diamonds/parks.

## 12.0 Prioritisation of Actions

The assessment of the facility of hierarchy against key sports parks generated a list of related actions. The actions have been assessed to determine their priority in terms of implementation over a short-, medium- and long-term basis. The criteria for assessing the priority of each action are:

- Supports the finding of the demand analysis
- Provides for shared use potential
- Impacts positively on high number of users and multiple clubs
- Ability to implement with limited disruption
- Ability to secure funding requirements

**Note:** The cost estimates provided in the below table have been developed based on costs from recent softball, baseball, and ancillary facility developments in the Auckland region.

The Auckland Council and related local boards will play a key role in the implementation and ongoing maintenance of the diamond sports facility network.

### 12.1 Short Term Actions (1 – 3 years)

Park Name	Local Board	Action	Cost Estimate
Auckland North			
Metro Park	Hibiscus and Bays	Develop requirements from a diamond sports perspective and feed into overall masterplan of the park.	Nil
Metro Park	Hibiscus and Bays	Undertake formal discussions with Auckland Council.	Nil
North Harbour Stadium	Upper Harbour	Install covered batting/pitching cage in location allowing for all year access	\$50,000
Rosedale Park	Upper Harbour	Turf 3 diamonds for event, training, competitions	\$105,000
Rosedale ELE Stadium	Upper Harbour	Install covered batting/pitching cage in location allowing for all year access	\$50,000
Rosedale ELE Stadium	Upper Harbour	Scoreboard for softball, baseball	TBC
Auckland West			
Starling Park	Waitakere Ranges	Use of flood lights in summer season for training and competition.	Nil
Starling Park	Waitakere Ranges	Installation of batting/pitching cage for all diamond sport users	\$50,000
Starling Park	Waitakere Ranges	Undertake a technical report on the potential to develop a full-size baseball diamond and outfield within the park.	TBC
McLeod Park	Henderson - Massey	Dugouts need a roof	TBC
Auckland Central			
Mt Roskill War Memorial	Puketapapa	Upgrade existing baseball diamond to artificial turf	\$50,000
Mt Roskill War Memorial	Puketapapa	Upgrade existing softball skin diamond	\$35,000



Park Name	Local Board	Action	Cost Estimate
Mt Roskill War Memorial	Puketapapa	Installation of batting/pitching cage for all diamond sport users	\$50,000
Simson Reserve	Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	Move diamond 2 back to allow 2 full diamonds.	TBC
Crossfield's Reserve	Ōrākei	Dugouts on Diamond 1 needs to be enlarged	TBC
Auckland South			
Lloyd Elmore	Howick	Upgrade senior diamonds to turf	\$100,000
Lloyd Elmore	Howick	Install covered batting/pitching cage	\$50,000
Colin Lawrie Fields	Franklin	Install permanent Backstop Diamond 2 and 3	\$130,000
Colin Lawrie Fields *	Franklin	Install lights on Diamond 1	TBC

\*Dependant on council funding for this action remaining in place and building consent being granted.

## 12.2 Medium Term Actions (4-6 years)

Park	Local Board	Action	Cost
Auckland North			
Caribbean Drive	Upper Harbour	Upgrade new proposed diamond to be a turf diamond and dual-shared use	\$35,000
Stafford Park	Kaipātiki	Permanent backstop	\$65,000
Auckland West			
Starling Park	Waitakere Ranges	Turf diamond 3 (Dual use for senior softball and junior baseball)	\$35,000
Starling Park	Waitakere Ranges	Install backstop for diamond 3	\$65,000
Scott's Points	Upper Harbour	Upgrade new proposed diamond to be a turf diamond and dual-shared use	\$35,000
Auckland Central			
Mt Roskill War Mem	Puketapapa	New proposed diamond to be turf diamond and dual use capability for senior baseball/senior softball level	\$250,000
Mt Roskill War Memorial	Puketapapa	Development of temporary pitching mounds (need to design and build one)	\$50,000
Mt Roskill War Memorial	Puketapapa	Install permanent backstop to number 2 softball diamond (allows for junior baseball)	\$65,000
Sturges Park	Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	Push backstop back to get the turf off as much of the rugby field as possible.	TBC

Park	Local Board	Action	Cost
Harold Moody Park	Henderson - Massey	Install permanent back stop for diamond 1	\$65,000
Auckland South			
Prince Edward	Papakura	Upgrade skins of two premier diamonds	T.B.C
Prince Edward	Papakura	Install covered batting/pitching cage	\$50,000
Prince Edward	Papakura	Install scoreboards at both senior diamonds	TBC
Meadowlands	Howick	Upgrade skin diamonds on diamonds 1 and 2.	TBC
Lloyd Elsmore	Howick	Install scoreboards at both senior diamonds	TBC
Lloyd Elsmore	Howick	Install covered batting/pitching cage	\$50,000
Lloyd Elsmore	Howick	Upgrade drainage and sand carpet outfields	TBC
Meadowlands	Howick	Third diamond upgrade to turf and dual use.	\$35,000
Meadowlands	Howick	Installation of batting/pitching cage	\$50,000

### 12.3 Long Term Actions (7-10 Years)

Park	Local Board	Action	Cost
Auckland North			
North Harbour Stadium	Upper Harbour	New turf diamond on outer field (Oval or rugby fields) to be developed for training purposes	To be determined in Year 7 to provide a realistic estimate.
Rosedale	Upper Harbour	Sandfield lower fields	As above
Auckland Central			
Mt Roskill War Memorial	Puketapapa	Installation of lights for softball and baseball number 1 diamonds	As above
Auckland South			
Meadowlands	Howick	Installation of outfield lights for diamond 1	As above
Meadowlands	Howick	Reconfigure lights for Softball diamond 1	As above
Prince Edward	Puketapapa	Install lighting over diamond one	As above
Prince Edward	Puketapapa	Upgrade changing room and toilet facilities onsite	As above
Lloyd Elsmore	Howick	Install lighting over diamond one	As above
Lloyd Elsmore	Howick	Upgrade changing room and toilet facilities onsite	As above

## 13.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

### 13.1 Conclusions

The development of the Auckland Regional Diamond Sports Facility Plan has identified that by 2048:

- 🔗 There is projected to be a range of 553 to 789 combined diamond sport teams
- 🔗 Individual participation in diamond sports is expected to be in the range of 8,295 to 11,835.
- 🔗 It is projected that there will be an increase in the playing age population of 152,900 across the Auckland region.

Analysis indicates that there are sufficient diamonds to meet current demand for softball and baseball. There are some parks nearing or at capacity, while there are other parks that could be utilised more. The ability for the existing network to meet future demand will depend on the level of growth both baseball and softball capture over the next twenty years.

This report recommends that before any new parks are developed, all other options are explored within the existing sports park network.

A diamond sports facilities hierarchy has been developed based on regional, sub regional and local facilities provision. The below table identifies the sports parks that have the potential to be either the regional hub or sub regional hubs for diamond sports. A selection of key local sports parks has also been identified within the report as of a high priority to focus on.

**Table 13.1: Preferred Regional and Sub Regional Sports Parks**

Regional Area	Park Name
Softball South	Prince Edward Park
Softball North	Rosedale ELE Stadium
Baseball South	Lloyd Elsmore Park
Baseball North	North Harbour Stadium
Sub Regional Hub Area	Park Name
Southern	Prince Edward Park
Central	Mt Roskill War Memorial Park
Eastern	Meadowlands Park
Western	Starling Park
Northern	Metro Park

A list of related actions for each of the identified regional, sub regional and key local sports parks have been identified and prioritised in terms of implementation over a short, medium, and long-term basis.

### 13.2 Recommendations

1. The partner organisations to discuss the findings from this document at the board / committee level and provide formal support for the progression of the project.
2. An Auckland Diamond Sports Working Group is formed to drive the implementation of the plan.
3. The Diamond Sport Working Group adopt the proposed facility hierarchy outlined in the report.
4. A Communications Plan regarding the facilities plan is developed providing consistent messages and outcomes that both baseball and softball organisations can utilise.

5. The Diamond Sport Working Group adopts the recommended strategies to meet the projected future demand:
  - Maximise use of existing diamond sports fields
  - Reprogramming a portion of weekend competition to mid-week evenings
  - Identify any existing non-diamond sport parks that have spare capacity during the summer months
  - Identify any potential non-council sites (most likely secondary schools) where community access
  - Improve the quality of some of the diamonds and associated facilities
  - Optimise the layout of key existing sports parks
  - Where possible consider layouts that provide for dual and shared use diamonds, spaces, and associated facilities.
6. The findings from the Diamond Sport Facilities plan are presented to the key local boards for support of the implementation of the plan.
7. The findings from the Diamond Sport Facilities plan are presented to the key Auckland Council staff for support, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of the network.

## 14.0 Appendices

### 14.1 Geographic Breakdown of Auckland

Table 14.1 Local Boards in each of the Four Geographic Areas

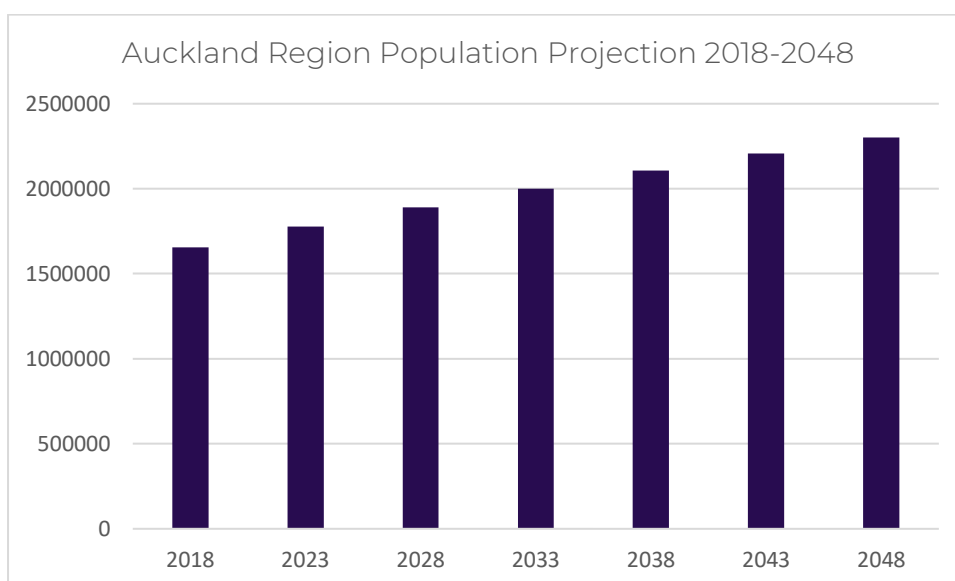
Auckland-North	Auckland-West	Auckland-Central	Auckland-South
Rodney	Henderson-Massey	Waitemata	Howick
Hibiscus and Bays	Waitakere Ranges	Whau	Mangere-Otahuhu
Upper Harbour		Albert-Eden	Otara-Papatoetoe
Kaipatiki		Puketapapa	Manurewa
Devonport-Takapuna		Orakei	Papakura
		Maungakiekie-Tamaki	Franklin

### 14.2 Auckland Demographic Profile

#### Population Projection

The population of Auckland in 2018 was 1,654,800. By 2048 it is expected to be 2,302,900. This is an increase of 39%.

Figure 14.1 Auckland Region Population Projection

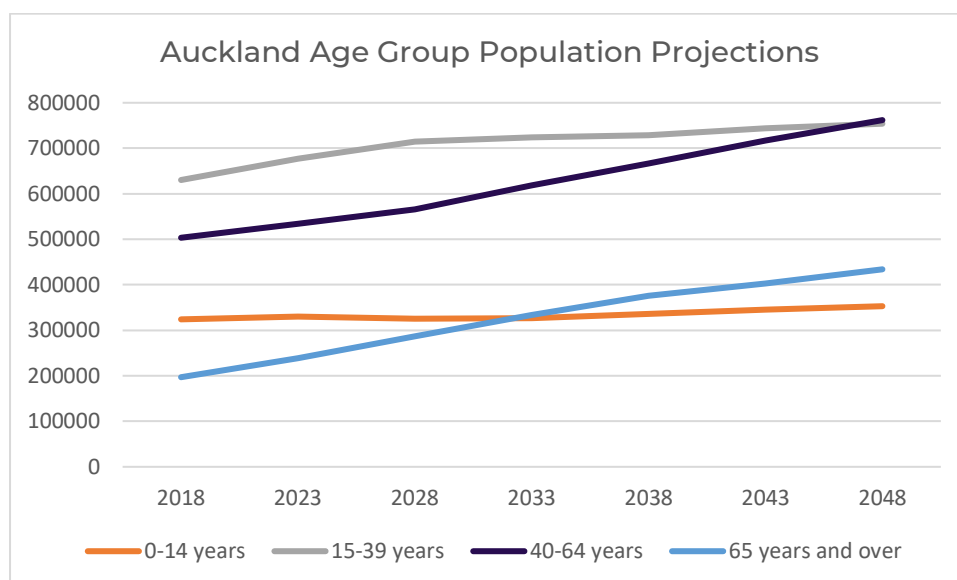


Source: NZ Stat

#### Age Group Population Trends

Auckland, like much of the Western World, has an ageing population. Figure 14.2 illustrates the significant growth in those aged 65 years and over. This population of this group is expected to increase by 120% between 2018 and 2048, while over the same period the population of those aged between 40 and 64 years is expected to increase by 51%. Conversely the 0–14-year population is only expected to increase by 9% and the 15–39 year group by 20% over the same period.

Figure 14.2 Auckland Age Group Population Projections



Source: NZ Stat

### Playing Age population Trends

The playing age for the diamond sports has been established to be the age brackets of 5- to 39-year-olds as the high majority of their members are aged between these two age cohorts.

**Note:** Playing age is defined of the age groups most likely to participate in a sport. Playing age differs by sporting type. For the purposes of this report playing age is 5-39 (noting that the statistics gathered incorporate 0=39-year-olds)

The projected playing age of the population is critical to identify the potential growth in participation. It is also important to understand where the projected distribution of the playing age will be as this will assist with identifying demand of access to diamonds and associated infrastructure.

It is projected that between 2018 and 2048 there will be an increase in the playing age population of 152,900 (or 16%) across the Auckland region.

The below tables identify the projected playing age by geographic area within the Auckland region.

### Auckland North

The population of the playing age group of Auckland North is projected to increase from 209,600 to 263,300 (25%) by 2048. There will potentially be **53,700** more people available to play softball and baseball in the northern areas of Auckland by 2048.

Table 14.2: Playing Age Projection – Auckland North

	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	%change 2018- 2048
0-14	73,200	77,500	79,000	80,000	82,100	85,000	88,000	20%
15-39	136,400	144,900	153,600	158,700	163,200	170,000	173,300	27%
Total	209,600	222,400	232,600	238,700	245,300	255,000	261,300	25%

Source: NZ Stat

## Auckland West

In Auckland West the playing age population is projected to increase from 105,300 to 113,700 (an increase of 8%) by 2048. There will potentially be **8,400** more people available to play softball and baseball in the western areas of Auckland by 2048.

Table 14.3: Playing Age Projection – Auckland West

	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	%change 2018- 2048
0-14	39,100	40,200	39,400	38,500	38,500	38,900	39,800	2%
15-39	66,200	69,500	71,700	71,800	72,100	73,200	73,900	12%
Total	105,300	109,700	111,100	110,300	110,600	112,100	113,700	8%

Source: NZ Stat

## Auckland Central

The population of the playing age group of Auckland Central is projected to increase from 298,200 to 346,400 by 2048, this is an increase of 16%. By 2048 there will potentially be **48,200** more people available to play softball and baseball in the central areas of Auckland.

Table 14.4: Playing Age Projection – Auckland Central

	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	%change 2018- 2048
0-14	82,900	78,200	75,800	77,900	83,200	86,400	88,300	7%
15-39	215,300	234,900	250,700	253,100	253,900	257,000	258,100	20%
Total	298,200	313,100	326,500	331,000	337,100	343,400	346,400	16%

Source: NZ Stat

## Auckland South

The population of the playing age group in Auckland South is projected to increase by 13% from 337,200 to 379,800 by 2048. There will potentially be **42,600** more people available to play softball and baseball in the southern areas of Auckland by 2048.

Table 14.5: Playing Age Projection – Auckland South

	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	%change 2018- 2048
0-14	127,300	132,100	130,200	128,900	130,400	133,200	135,700	7%
15-39	209,900	225,000	235,500	237,300	237,400	240,700	244,100	16%
Total	337,200	357,100	365,700	366,200	367,800	373,900	379,800	13%

Source: NZ Stat

## Ethnicity

The following table and graphs identify the projected changes in ethnic profile within the Auckland region between 2018 and 2038. Similar to the playing age, an understanding ethnicity plays a role in determining the future demand for a sport. As an example, softball has a reported membership ethnicity of approximately 65% Maori and thus any increase in the ethnicity of Maori could have a positive impact in the membership of softball.

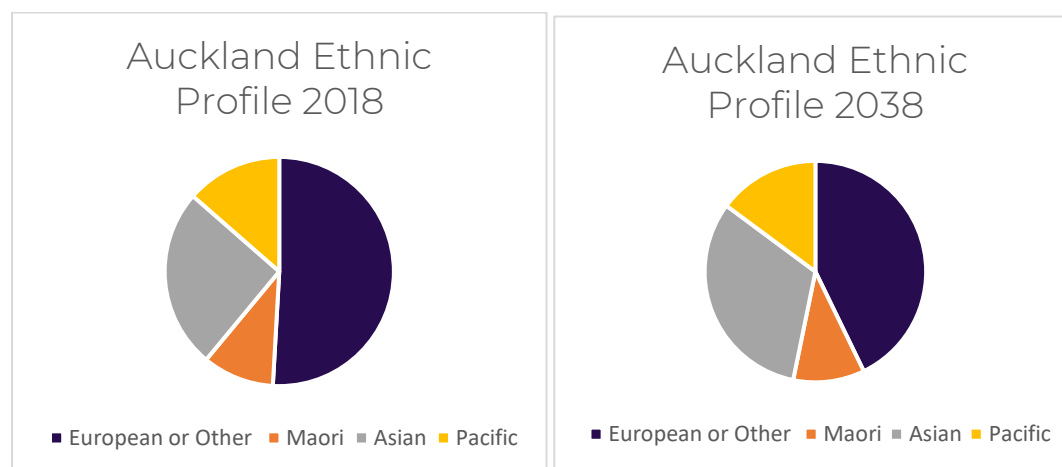
The population of Auckland is expected to become more diverse. In 2018 54% of the population identified as either Maori, Asian or Pacific. By 2038 it is expected that the population of those identifying as either Maori, Asian or Pacific will be 64%.

**Table 14.6 Auckland Ethnic Profile 2018-2038**

Year	European or Other	Maori	Asian	Pacific	Total population
2018	946700	188100	472700	252400	1699900
2023	986800	204900	567500	279500	1859300
2028	1014700	221600	645200	307800	1990100
2033	1038800	239200	719000	337300	2112000
2038	1057600	257600	788800	367000	2222700
Projected increase 2018-2038	12%	37%	67%	45%	

Source: NZ Stat

**Figure 14.3 Ethnic Profile of Auckland 2018 and 2038.**



Source: NZ Stat

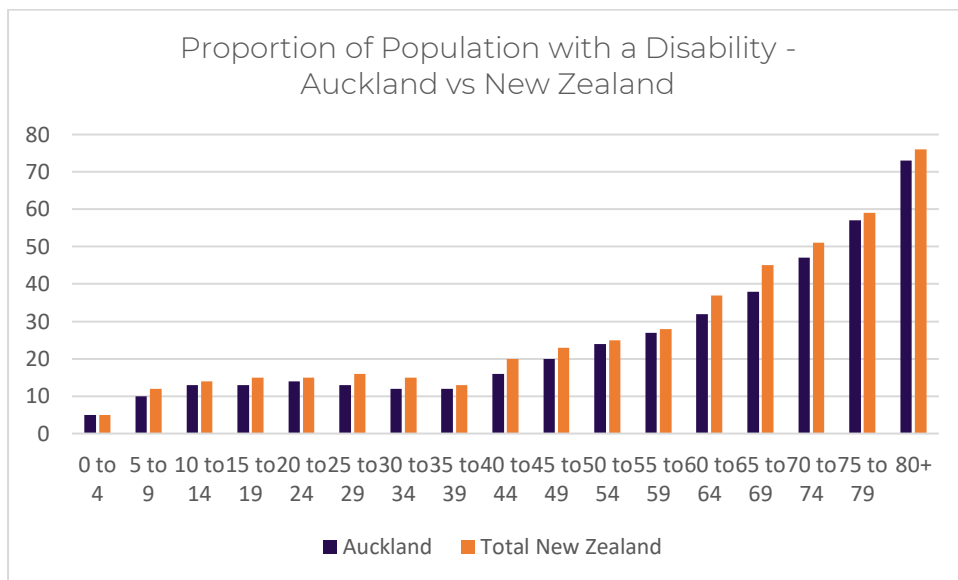
### Disability in Auckland's Population

Some 24% of New Zealanders identify as being disabled, with 11% of New Zealand children under the age of 15 having a disability.<sup>3</sup> While the rate of reported disability increases with age, it is important to note that all age-groups have people with disabilities. The rate of disability in Auckland is very similar to that of the national average.

<sup>3</sup> Sport NZ Disability Plan – Play, Active Recreation and Sport 2019.



Figure 14.4 Disability in Auckland's Population



Source: NZ Stat

### 14.3 Softball Membership

Table 14.7 Softball Membership by Area 2017/18 to 2020/21

Association	Grade	2017	2018	2019	2020
Franklin	Junior	15	21	10	20
	Youth	4	2	3	16
	Adult	6	8	12	14
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>
Counties	Junior	45	71	59	25
	Youth	13	9	9	5
	Adult	37	45	40	19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>49</b>
Auckland	Junior	103	76	91	81
	Youth	47	41	39	36
	Adult	85	76	73	72
	<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>189</b>
North Harbour	Junior	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Youth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Adult	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>144</b>

## 14.4 Baseball Membership

Table 14.8 Baseball Membership by Club 2017/18 to 2020/21

Club	Grade	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Counties	Tee Ball	2	2	2	2
	Junior	1	1	1	1
	Youth	2	2	2	2
	Adult	1	1	1	1
	Total	6	6	6	6
Howick Pakuranga	Tee Ball	5	5	5	5
	Junior	4	5	6	4
	Youth	3	3	3	6
	Adult	2	2	3	4
	Total	14	15	17	19
Waitakere Bears	Junior	5	7	8	9
	Youth	1	2	4	4
	Adult	1	2	3	3
	Total	7	11	15	16
West City	Junior	2	3	3	2
	Youth	1	2	1	1
	Adult	2	1	1	2
	Total	5	6	5	5
Central City	Tee Ball	2	2	2	2
	Junior	2	2	2	2
	Youth	3	3	3	3
	Adult	3	3	4	4
	Total	10	10	11	11
Bayside	Tee Ball	3	3	3	3
	Junior	1	1	2	1
	Youth	4	4	4	5
	Adult	2	2	2	2
	Total	10	10	11	11
Orewa	Tee Ball	2	2	2	2
	Junior	1	2	2	3
	Youth	3	3	3	3
	Adult	2	3	3	2
	Total	8	10	10	10
Northern Bandits	Junior		5	4	4
	Youth			1	1
	Adult		6	5	5
	Total		11	10	10
North Shore Baseball Club	Tee Ball	5	5	5	5
	Junior	4	4	6	5
	Youth	4	4	5	5
	Adult	4	4	6	7
	Total	19	19	22	22

## 14.5 Regional Facility - Parks Overview

Park Name	Diamond type and size	All year accesses	Access to off field training facilities	Permanent facilities (onsite)	Access to accommodation	Considerations for Regional Hub Purposes
Baseball Regional Hub South - Park Options						
Lloyd Elsmore	2 senior full-size diamonds and outfields	Yes Baseball only fields/diamonds	Lloyd Elsmore Park Pool and Fitness Centre Pakuranga Athletics Track	Backstops Dugouts	Minimal accommodation options in close proximity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only permanent baseball facility in the region.</li> <li>It is a fully fenced off facility with good base infrastructure.</li> <li>It is home to the largest baseball club in Auckland.</li> </ul>
Mt Roskill War Memorial	1 senior full-size diamond and outfield Additional diamond planned for the park.	No Summer only access	Lovelock Athletics' track	Backstops Dugouts Umpires Box Batting Cage Turf bases	Minimal accommodation options in close proximity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a multi-use park with winter use and multiple summer users.</li> <li>It would be difficult to provide quality all year access to required facilities.</li> </ul>
Baseball Regional Hub North - Park Options						

Park Name	Diamond type and size	All year accesses	Access to off field training facilities	Permanent facilities (onsite)	Access to accommodation	Considerations for Regional Hub Purposes
North Harbour Stadium	1 senior full-size diamond and outfield	No Summer access only	AUT Millenium	Stadium seating Off field player and management facilities	Various levels of accommodation adjacent to the stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only permanent summer baseball facility in the north of the region.</li> <li>Home of the Tuatara franchise with a 10-year lease of the stadium.</li> <li>Investment made for baseball purposes within the stadium.</li> </ul>
Softball Regional Hub South - Park Options						
Mt Roskill War Memorial	1 senior full-size diamond and outfield	No Summer access only	Lovelock Athletics' track	Backstops Dugouts Skin diamond	Minimal accommodation options in close proximity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central to large membership base</li> <li>Good base infrastructure</li> <li>Only summer access</li> </ul>

Park Name	Diamond type and size	All year accesses	Access to off field training facilities	Permanent facilities (onsite)	Access to accommodation	Considerations for Regional Hub Purposes
Prince Edward	2 senior full-size diamond and outfield	Yes Softball only fields/diamonds	Pulman Arena	Backstops Dugouts Skin diamond	Pulman Lodge	Only permanent softball facility in the south of the region. It is a fully fenced off facility with good base infrastructure. Major site for softball competitions and training in south of the region.
Colin Lawrie	1 senior full-size diamond and outfield	No Summer access only	Franklin Pool and Leisure Centre	Backstops Dugouts Skin diamond	Minimal accommodation options in close proximity	High growth population area Multi use park It would be difficult to provide quality all year access to required facilities.
Softball Regional Hub North - Park Options						
North Harbour Softball Stadium	2 senior full-size fenced diamonds and outfields	Yes Softball only fields/diamonds	AUT Millenium	Backstops Dugouts Umpires Box Batting Cage Off field player and management facilities	Various levels of accommodation adjacent to the stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only permanent softball facility in the north of the region.</li> <li>Is the national softball stadium.</li> <li>Good infrastructure</li> </ul> Close access to off field training facilities at AUT Millennium

Park Name	Diamond type and size	All year accesses	Access to off field training facilities	Permanent facilities (onsite)	Access to accommodation	Considerations for Regional Hub Purposes
Sub Regional Hub South – Park Options						
Karaka	1 senior full-size grass diamond and outfield	1 full size grass baseball diamond	Limited No ability for full size softball diamond Potential for joint tee ball programmes		Karaka Rugby Clubrooms and changing facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large growth area.</li> <li>• Part of the larger multisport development.</li> <li>• Home of only baseball club in south of region.</li> </ul>
Coilin Lawrie	1 permanent senior skin Diamond	1 permanent skin softball diamond Ability for 4 temporary diamonds	Yes Junior baseball can utilise full senior softball diamonds Ability for multiple junior baseball diamonds within the park.	Permanent backstop, player cage Clubhouse Changing facilities	Pukekohe Rugby Clubrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large Growth area</li> <li>• Home of Franklin softball association.</li> <li>• No baseball diamond within the park.</li> <li>• Potential for dual use diamonds with existing softball club.</li> <li>• Access to quality clubhouse.</li> </ul>
Prince Edward	2 senior full-size diamond and outfield	Yes Softball only fields/diamonds	Junior baseball can utilise full senior softball diamonds	Backstops Dugouts Skin diamonds	Existing softball clubhouse that requires upgrading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent softball facility in the south of the region.</li> <li>• It is a fully fenced off facility with good base infrastructure.</li> <li>• Dual use for all softball and junior baseball needs</li> </ul>
Sub Regional Hub Central – Park Options						

Park Name	Diamond type and size	All year accesses	Access to off field training facilities	Permanent facilities (onsite)	Access to accommodation	Considerations for Regional Hub Purposes
Mt Roskill War Memorial	1 full size skin softball senior diamonds 1 full size turf bases baseball diamond	1 permanent 1 permanent to be developed temporary junior diamonds 4 junior grass temporary softball/baseball diamonds 1 full sized dual use diamond planned for the park	Yes Access to softball diamonds for junior baseball needs	Backstops Dugouts Umpires Box Batting Cage Turf bases	Existing softball clubhouse that requires upgrading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Diamonds Sports Park.</li> <li>• Provision of baseball and softball diamonds.</li> <li>• Requirement of long-term multisport club house facility.</li> </ul>
Sub Regional Hub West – Park Options						
Scott's Point	No current diamonds onsite	1 senior full-size grass baseball diamond and outfield to be developed Long term plan to develop second			No clubhouse currently exist. Long term plan for multisport hub in park's masterplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large growth area</li> <li>• New baseball facility to be developed within Park.</li> <li>• Planned for second baseball diamond within masterplan of the site.</li> </ul>
Starling Park	1 full size artificial diamond and outfield	1 full size artificial diamonds 2 grass diamonds	Current softball and baseball club	Backstops Artificial diamonds	Good quality multisport clubhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing Diamonds Sports Club</li> <li>• Good clubrooms</li> <li>• Turf diamonds and outfields</li> <li>• Strong club</li> </ul>
Sub Regional Hub East - Park Options						



Park Name	Diamond type and size	All year accesses	Access to off field training facilities	Permanent facilities (onsite)	Access to accommodation	Considerations for Regional Hub Purposes
Meadowland Park	4 senior full-size diamonds and outfields	2 senior skin diamonds 2 grass diamonds	Diamonds Sport club Shared use of diamonds	Backstops Dugouts	Multisport clubhouse exists on the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diamond Sports Club</li> </ul>
Lloyd Elsmore	2 senior full-size diamonds and outfields	2 senior skin diamonds 1 grass diamonds	Potential for junior softball on third diamond	Backstops Dugouts Fully fenced outfields	Pakuranga Rugby club house is located within the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only permanent baseball facility in the region.</li> <li>It is a fully fenced off facility with good base infrastructure.</li> <li>It is home to the largest baseball club in Auckland.</li> </ul>
<b>Baseball Sub Regional Hub North - Park Options</b>						
North Harbour Softball Stadium	2 full sized softball skin diamonds	18 diamonds 7 artificial diamonds	Junior baseball tournaments have been held at the softball stadium	2 grandstands Fully fenced 2 full sized softball diamonds Backstops Player cages Changing rooms	North Harbour Softball Clubhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dual use for all softball and junior baseball needs</li> <li>Capacity of outer fields is an issue</li> <li>Require some of the use to be relocated to other parks</li> </ul>
Caribbean Drive	No current diamonds onsite	1 full size baseball diamond to be developed	Potential for junior softball to be accommodated on the new diamond	No facilities currently on site	No club house exists on site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New full-size diamond and outfield being developed.</li> <li>Will be the only full quality</li> </ul>

Park Name	Diamond type and size	All year accesses	Access to off field training facilities	Permanent facilities (onsite)	Access to accommodation	Considerations for Regional Hub Purposes
						diamond on the North Shore
Victor Eaves	1 full size baseball grass diamond	1 full size baseball grass diamond 3 junior baseball grass diamonds	Potential for senior and junior softball to be located on site	Senior Baseball Backstop Players Cages Batting cage Junior backstop	Sharks Sports Clubroom exist on site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth areas including Warkworth</li> <li>• Existing baseball club</li> <li>• Existing permanent baseball diamond</li> <li>• 3 temporary junior baseball diamonds during summer months</li> </ul>
MillWater Park	No diamonds infrastructure on park	2 rugby fields 2 football fields	Developed and undeveloped park land with ability for additional users	Cricket nets	Multisport clubhouse planned for site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth area of Auckland's north</li> <li>• Close to North Shore's membership</li> </ul>

## 14.6 Regional Facility - Parks Assessment

Table 14.9 identifies the parks considered as having potential for regional status and their related assessment score. An assessment of each potential site has been given a score of between 1 - 10 (1 being lowest and 10 being highest) against each of the 'Evaluation Criteria' below.

**Table 14.9: Regional Facility – Assessment**

	Ability to Host Major Events	Diamond type and size	All year accesses	Access to off field training facilities	Permanent facilities (onsite)	Access to accommodation	Proximity to population/ membership	*Upgrade Regional Hub Requirements	Total
Baseball South									
Lloyd Elsmore	7	7	9	8	6	5	7	6	55
Mt Roskill War Memorial	5	5	5	5	5	5	7	4	41
Baseball North									
North Harbour Stadium	10	10	5	8	5	8	8	7	61
Softball South									
Prince Edward Park	7	8	8	7	7	5	7	7	56
Colin Lawrie	6	6	5	6	7	5	7	6	48
Softball North									
North Harbour Softball Stadium	10	10	10	8	9	8	8	8	71

\* The upgrade regional hub requirement for a park will score a higher grade for the less amount of capital funding required to meet the regional standard.

## 14.7 Sub Regional Facility - Parks Assessment

Table 14.6.1 identifies the parks considered as having potential for sub regional status and their related assessment score. An assessment each potential site has been given a score of between 1 - 10 (1 being lowest and 10 being highest) against each of the 'Evaluation Criteria' below.

**Table 14.10 Sub Regional Facility Evaluation of Sites**

	Diamond type and size	Number of Diamonds	Potential for dual use	Ability to accommodate additional users	Permanent facilities (onsite)	Access to club house facilities	Proximity to population/ membership	*Upgrade Sub Regional Hub Requirements	Total
<b>South</b>									
Karaka	5	5	5	5	6	7	5	3	41
Prince Edward	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	54
Colin Lawrie	6	7	6	6	6	7	7	5	50
<b>North</b>									
Rosedale Park	10	10	7	0	10	10	8	10	65
**Caribbean Drive	8	3	5	3	3	0	8	3	33
***Metro Park	0	0	10	10	5	7	6	0	38
<b>Central</b>									
Mt Roskill War Memorial Park	8	7	9	6	7	5	8	7	57
<b>East</b>									
Lloyd Elsmore	6	6	6	7	6	5	7	7	50
Meadowland Park	6	7	6	6	8	10	7	7	57
<b>West</b>									
****Scott's Point	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	0	36
Starling Park	7	7	7	7	7	10	7	7	59

\* The upgrade regional hub requirement for a park will score a higher grade for the less amount of capital funding required to meet the regional standard.

\*\* Auckland Council has plans to develop a new baseball diamond on Caribbean Drive

\*\*\* Preferred location for new softball hub by North Harbour Softball Association. No current diamond sport infrastructure on the park.

\*\*\*\* Auckland Council has plans to develop a new baseball diamond at Scott's

