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# HARBOUR SPORT SUBMISSION

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**Submission to:**

Upper Harbour Local Board Draft Plan

**From:**

Harbour Sport (North Harbour Regional Sports Trust representing 305,000 residents)  
Sports House, Stadium Drive, Albany, PO Box 300-633  
North Shore City 0752

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## INTRODUCTION

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Research has shown that increasing community participation in organised sport and recreation contributes to social capital which acts as the social fabric that binds New Zealand communities. Sports clubs, community organisations, and recreational parks and facilities are important conduits for developing social capital and are good indicator of community strength.

***The key benefits of increased social capital through community sport and recreation include:***

- Building community sense of pride and belonging
- Increased social inclusion
- Reduced anti-social behaviour
- Educational programmes
- Improved health and well-being
- Economic growth
- Urban and regional regeneration

With almost 80% of Upper Harbour residents actively participating in sport and recreation once a week, 98% of residents participating once a year and volunteering ingrained in the local community, the Upper Harbour Local Board have a unique opportunity to make a considerable difference to their people.

Upper Harbour has 33 sport and recreation clubs, 16 regional sport organisations and 66 sport and recreation facilities which cater for approximately 43,000 of your community residents and potentially 305,000 North Shore City and Rodney residents.

The North Harbour Region has one of the fastest growing populations in New Zealand, with clear indications suggesting that growth will occur around existing town centres in areas such as Upper Harbour. These factors need to be taken into consideration when developing effective community strategies around sport, recreation, parks and facilities in the region.

Harbour Sport supports the key projects/initiatives outlined in the Upper Harbour Local Board Plan and encourages the Local Board Members to consider the following when making the final decisions:

- Development of partnerships with community organisations for the delivery of sport and recreation, including the continued provision of community funding
- Advocating to Auckland Council for the development of a 'Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy' as a key priority

- Leading the development of multi-agency partnerships (i.e. with local schools and clubs) that improve the delivery of sport and recreation
- Partnering with Local Boards in the development of sub-regional sport and recreation programmes and facilities
- Development of 'Community Sport and Recreation Hubs' where a number of sport and recreation opportunities can be offered
- Having a sport and recreation portfolio holder on the board who is the key contact for all related activities
- Continue provision for the upgrade of sport and recreation facilities to meet current and future growth demand
- Including sport and recreation specific KPI's within your local board agreement that will drive improved levels of service within the Auckland Council
- Advocating for equity across codes in terms of provision and maintenance of surfaces/facilities. Currently fields are maintained for football, rugby and rugby league by council. Sports codes utilising hard courts or turfs (e.g. netball, hockey) are required to fund and maintain their facilities/surfaces themselves.

Harbour Sport is a Charitable Trust that leads and supports the development of the North Harbour sport and recreation sector to provide quality sport, recreation and social experiences. We achieve this by partnering with key sector enablers and deliverers to ensure that there are enjoyable and equitable opportunities to participate.

Harbour Sport endorses the Upper Harbour Local Board priority areas, particularly *'Providing our people with the very best lifestyle Auckland has to offer'*, *'Providing our businesses with the best environment in Auckland'*, and *'Maintaining our communities unique identities'*. We believe that sport and recreation can play a significant role in achieving successful outcomes within your communities.

## **PROVIDING OUR PEOPLE WITH THE VERY BEST LIFESTYLE AUCKLAND HAS TO OFFER**

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Harbour Sport supports the provision allocated to the key projects/initiatives and would encourage the Upper Harbour Local Board Members to consider the following submissions when making the final decisions:

- **Build the northern aquatic facility**

Harbour Sport encourages the Upper Harbour Local Board to consider the development of a multi-sport 'Sportsville' complex as part of the Northern Aquatic Facility development. This would accommodate a number of sport and recreation groups, would diversify the aquatic facility and provide an effective joint-governance infrastructure that would benefit a greater number of the Upper Harbour sport and recreation community clubs.

Harbour Sport would like to suggest that as part of the current stadium precinct planning, some consideration made towards bringing the numerous sports organisations together under one roof. Currently a number of sports organisations occupy different buildings and different facility overheads. In order to streamline resources and become more effective, a 'Sports House' could be developed using the Northern Aquatic Facility as a central location.

- **Maintain and promote Sanders Reserve recreation tracks**

Harbour Sport would like to be consulted with any future recreation track activity development strategies to add value to existing thinking and bring together existing health and well-being initiatives.

- **Youth recreation facilities**

The provision of facilities for youth sport and recreation to allow the younger generation to participate in socially acceptable sport and recreation activities is critical to reducing anti-social behaviors such as, drinking, drug taking and violence. The phrase *'a kid in sport stays out of court'* was coined by Judge Andrew Becroft and highlights the important role sport and recreation plays in engaging young people. Harbour Sport would welcome the opportunity to work with the Upper Harbour Local Board, community partners and local sport and recreation groups to investigate the feasibility of developing Youth and Recreation Centres in the Upper Harbour region.

#### **North Harbour BMX Club**

Harbour Sport supports the North Harbour BMX club submission for provision to be allocated to enhance the current facilities. The club has a growing membership of youth as well as adults (doubled membership numbers since 2007). The New Zealand BMX nationals were held at the Bush Road track in Easter 2011 with 853 entries. The World Champs are going to be held at Vector Arena in 2013 so this track will be utilized by international riders leading up to the event.

In addition the track is currently utilised by community families and other cycling groups (mountain bikes). It is accessible to all of the Upper Harbour community and provides a safer alternative for local youth cyclists to get away from the busy traffic. The sport of BMX is a critical Olympic sport and Bike New Zealand national body sees it as a viable pathway for all cycling disciplines.

Current development needed include:

- Lime base to maintain the safety standard of the tracks (\$4,000)
- A public restroom toilet
- Accessible parking area
- Long term consideration to relocate the track in order to appropriately provide for parking and the growth for the sport. A possible option is on the land by Constellation drive, the Northern Motor way and the Pool Ponds.

#### **Safe Cycle Lanes**

Harbour Sport recommends that the Upper Harbour Local Board commit to the ongoing development of safer cycle lanes to provide sustainable options for active transport which will reduce road congestion and encourage recreational cycling.

Ensure the Hobsonville development cycle and walking lanes are integrated with cycle lanes to West Auckland to connect these parts of the city. Advocate for the buses to be able to carry bicycles in order to provide people with integrated public transport and sustainable transport options.

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## **PROVIDING OUR BUSINESSES WITH THE BEST ENVIRONMENT IN AUCKLAND**

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Harbour Sport supports the provision allocated to the key projects/initiatives and would encourage the Upper Harbour Local Board Members to consider the following submissions when making the final decisions:

- **Attract high profile sporting events to Upper Harbour**

Harbour Sport wants to support the Upper Harbour Local Board and sport and recreation organisations to develop an effective sporting events strategy to continue making Upper Harbour the destination of choice for high profile sporting events.

North Harbour BMX Club hosted the Nationals in Easter 2011 with 853 entrants. The track has no parking although is considered one of the top tracks in New Zealand. The BMX World Champs will be held at the Vector Arena in 2013 so the BMX track at Bush Road will be accessed by International riders and needs to be well maintained. Cycling is one of the fastest growing sports in New Zealand and BMX is part of the cycling pathway and is attracting youth as well as adults.

#### **Maintaining our communities unique identities**

Harbour Sport supports the provision allocated to the key projects/initiatives and would encourage the Upper Harbour Local Board Members to consider the following submissions when making the final decisions:

- **Provide quality community facilities**

Harbour Sport support all sport and recreation organisations to develop quality community facilities and advocate for more collaboration and partnership projects. The development of 'Sports Hubs' or 'Sportsvilles' are becoming common throughout New Zealand and are proving to be an effective means of reducing overhead costs and duplication of governance. Harbour Sport actively encourages community sport and recreation groups to look at forming partnerships with other like-minded organisations with the aim of reducing overhead costs and human resource time.

#### **Albany Sport Village**

Harbour Sport supports the submissions made by Northern Tennis, North Shore Badminton, North Shore Table Tennis and North Shore Squash for the Upper Harbour Local Board to advocate to the Auckland Council for provision for a Multi-Sport Village (based at the current Albany Tennis Facility). With the current Asian migrant numbers increasing, increasing popularity of racquet sports and the current capacity limitations, such a facility would increase memberships and be a highly desirable venue for National and International racquet sport events.

#### **Provision of an artificial turf**

Demand for field use is currently very high in the Albany area and will increase with projected populations swelling in the next 10 years. Planning and provision is required for an artificial turf in the Upper Harbour Local Board area to support the increasing demands of competition and training.

## CONCLUSION

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Harbour Sport thanks the Upper Harbour Local Board for the opportunity to comment on the draft local board plan. We hope that the comments and feedback will help support the decision making and provision allocation process.

We believe that the final Upper Harbour Local Board Plan will be well placed to become a blueprint for future Sport and Recreation development in the Auckland Plan.

This submission supports the position that Harbour Sport currently holds within the North Harbour region and their involvement as a key a stakeholder in any future development of sport and recreation in the Upper Harbour community.

If you would like further clarification of any of the areas raised in this submission, please contact Toni-Maree Carnie, CEO, Harbour Sport.

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Date: **8<sup>th</sup> August 2011**



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