

Council

Meeting of 06 May 2026

Business Unit: Community
Date Created: 28 April 2026

Manfeild Park Trust Nine Month Report 2025/2026 for the period ending 31 March 2026

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To present, for consideration, the Manfeild Park Trust Chair's and Financial Report for the period ended 31 March 2026.

This report responds to the key focus areas associated with the operational grant provided by Manawātū District Council (Council). In December 2025, Council formalised a revised set of key performance indicators, which will apply from January to June 2026 and be reported on in the Trust's end-of-year report.

While reporting has historically been provided on a six-month basis, the Trust has extended the current reporting period to provide a more up-to-date view of its position.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Council receive the Manfeild Park Trust Nine Month Chairs and Financial Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

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Approved for submission by:
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1. Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

1.1 Manawatū District Council (Council) provides grants to Manfeild Park Trust (MPT) which are funded via a general rate. These total \$426,138 excluding GST for the 2025-26 financial year, comprised of a community investment grant of \$174,234 (referred to as a community access fee) and an operational grant of \$251,904.

1.2 MPT provides a report to Council giving an update on the progress the Trust is making against key result areas on a six and 12-monthly basis. The key result areas were formalised as Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) in December 2025. These KPI's ask that MPT measure their performance effectiveness as follows:

Focus Area	KPI / Performance Measure	Target / Standard	Rationale / Council Outcome Alignment
Park Maintenance and Presentation	Maintain the off-lead dog park grass area and fencing to a standard that promotes public safety and amenity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 95% compliance in quarterly inspections or independent audits. • No more than two substantiated complaints per year relating to maintenance or safety. 	Ensures that Council funding maintains a safe, attractive, and well-presented community asset. Supports <i>Community Wellbeing</i> and <i>Recreation Access</i> outcomes.
Public Accessibility and Use	Ensure the off-lead dog park remains open and accessible to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog-park open to the public 365 days per year, except during approved closures for maintenance or pre-scheduled advertised events. 	Confirms public accessibility and community benefit consistent with the purpose of Council's operational support.
Community Event Delivery	Deliver and host community-to-community events with subsidised access to Manfeild facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 12 community events per year. • Events represent a mix of local, cultural, educational, or recreational groups. • Demonstrate affordable or free entry for attendees. 	Ensures the subsidy delivers equitable community access and diverse engagement in line with Council's <i>Community Participation</i> objectives.
Community Satisfaction	Measure community satisfaction with events and facilities.	<p>General public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve at least 85% satisfaction in post-event or annual community surveys. <p>Park booking clients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve at least 85% satisfaction in post-event surveys. 	Measures quality, responsiveness, and value of the facilities to the community. Supports continuous improvement and public trust.
Local Economic and Social Impact	Demonstrate broader community and economic benefit from Manfeild activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide annual data or case studies showing local impact (e.g., local suppliers used, volunteer participation, visitor spend). 	Highlights contribution to <i>Economic Development</i> and <i>Social Wellbeing</i> outcomes, enhancing the value proposition of Council investment.

Focus Area	KPI / Performance Measure	Target / Standard	Rationale / Council Outcome Alignment
Financial Accountability and Transparency	Provide clear and timely reporting to Council on use of funds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit 6 and 12 month performance report by the agreed timeframes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progress against KPI performance ○ Event summary for the Park ○ Expenditure breakdown of Council funding. 	Strengthens accountability and alignment with Council's financial stewardship and transparency standards.

2. Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

2.1 This report aligns with the following Council strategic priorities:

- MPT contributes to **A place to belong and grow** by hosting a wide range of sporting, cultural, and community events that support social wellbeing.
- MPT contributes to **A prosperous, resilient economy** by hosting events that attract regional and national visitors, supporting local businesses and economic activity.

3. Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

3.1 Historically a six-month report is provided, however on this occasion MPT have provided a nine-monthly Chairs Report to 31 March 2026 (ref: [Appendix 1](#)) and the nine-monthly Financial Report to 31 March 2026 (ref: [Appendix 2](#)) to provide a more current picture of their position.

3.2 Year-to-date MPT results show a -\$51k variance, with a forecast year-end deficit of ~\$145k (including storm damage), reflecting cost increases outpacing revenue despite higher activity levels.

3.3 MPT has deliberately trialled new initiatives (e.g. Manfeild Live and professional sponsorship procurement), accepting short-term financial losses to lift profile, diversify revenue, and move away from structurally unsustainable operations.

3.4 The Trust continue to host a variety of events that attract good attendance numbers and positive feedback and that support economic activity, community engagement, and our regional profile.

3.5 MPT operates with minimal cash reserves and ongoing reliance on Council grant funding, highlighting limited capacity to absorb shocks or sustain losses without external support. Having said that, there is growth in bookings and new income streams (e.g. facility leasing), alongside progress on debt restructuring (interest relief and repayment terms) that indicates movement toward a more sustainable financial position over time, albeit with ongoing risk.

3.6 Representatives from MPT will be in attendance at the Council meeting to speak to their nine-month report.

4. Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 Manfeild Park Trust’s ongoing operating deficits, limited financial resilience, and reliance on Council funding may present a risk of increased financial support requirements or service level impacts if the financial position of the Trust does not improve in the coming months.

5. Engagement Te Whakapānga

Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

Community Engagement

- 5.3 There are no consultation requirements arising from this report.

6. Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 There are no immediate operational implications associated with this report.

7. Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 The MPT operational grants are included in the 2026-27 budget. There are no further financial implications associated with this report, although officers note that MPT remains largely reliant on Council grant funding to sustain its operations.

8. Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

- 8.1 There are no statutory requirements for this report.

9. Next Steps Te Kokenga

- 9.1 MPT is scheduled to report its 12-month year-end report in September 2026. This report will include MPT’s performance against the new KPI’s for the six-month period of January – June 2026.

10. Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Manfeild Park Trust nine monthly Chairs Report to 31 March 2026
- Manfeild Park Trust nine monthly Financial Report to 31 March 2026