



Tee break: Dirk Weber, a volunteer with Gap Filler, tries his hand at a mini-golf hole on Manchester St made using recycled materials.

Photo: JOHN KIRK-ANDERSON/FAIRFAX NZ

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Golf brings sites back to par

Francesca Lee

A strip of second-hand artificial turf, timber offcuts and empty baked-bean tins are being transformed into Christchurch's first central-city-wide mini-golf course.

Gap Filler's Gap Golf project – a nine-hole course dotted around vacant central-city sites – is expected to launch this month after being delayed last year by the construction of the Summer Pallet Pavilion.

The idea grew from a short par-two hole built next to the Gap Filler office in Sydenham.

Turf donated by the Sydenham Hockey Club and other donated and recycled materials, including clubs and balls, allowed the project to expand.

Holes on Tuam, Manchester, Kilmore and Colombo Sts were being developed by volunteers. Land was secured by charitable trust Life in Vacant Spaces.

Each hole includes an image of

the building that was once on the site.

Gap Filler project co-ordinator Richard Sewell hoped the mini-golf course would entice children back into the central city more than other projects had.

The project will launch on April 20 with the Central City Mini-Golf Challenge. It will run from 10am to 2pm and players are encouraged to travel the course by foot or cycle.

A course map can be found at www.gapfiller.co.nz from April 15.