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Next review date:	2030
Engagement required:	Special Consultative Procedure (s83, LGA) required by Dog Control Act 1996
Document number:	
Associated documents:	Hamilton City Dog Control Bylaw 2015 (amended 2025)
Sponsor/Group:	Customer and Community Group

Kaupapahere Whakataki Kurii - Dog Control Policy

Ko te Puutaketanga - Purpose

1. The purpose of this Policy is to:
 - a. facilitate responsible dog ownership within the community and respond when dog owners do not meet their responsibilities, and
 - b. state how Council will fulfil its legislative responsibilities in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 (Act) and the Dog Control Bylaw 2015 (Bylaw).

Ko te Whaanuitanga - Scope

2. This Policy applies to the district of Hamilton City Council.

Ko ngaa Tikanga Whakahaere Kaupapahere - Principles of Policy

3. The principles of this policy are:
 - a. To enable people to enjoy the benefits of dog ownership and provide for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners, and
 - b. Dogs need to be trained and socialised so that they learn how to behave in a public environment. Involvement in education, and liaison with the community is valuable to achieving these outcomes.
4. This Policy is made under the provisions of [section 10](#) of the Act and takes into account:
 - a. the need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally; and
 - b. the need to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults; and
 - c. the importance of enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs; and
 - d. the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

Ko ngaa Tikanga - Policy

Education

5. Council will take an education first approach with dog owners to enhance the knowledge and skill of dog owners on the care and control of dogs, with a particular focus on the owners of dogs with behavioural issues.
6. Council will seek opportunities to educate the general public, particularly children, about safety around dogs and other dog-related issues.
7. Council will work with the clubs and service providers to achieve the objective of this Policy.

Regulation and enforcement

8. Council will use enforcement mechanisms, including infringements and fines, of the Bylaw and the Act to fulfill the principles of this policy.
9. When considering enforcement action, Council will take into consideration; the circumstances of the event, any injury or damage related to the event, the history and behaviour of the dog, the history and behaviour of the owner, and any steps taken to prevent the event happening again.

Dogs in public places

10. Dogs must always be under control and must not roam outside the property they live on.
11. Dogs may only be let off lead in designated off lead areas (Off Lead Dog Exercise and Prohibited Areas Register, Schedule 1).
12. Any person walking or exercising a dog in public must carry a lead, and an appropriate receptacle for collecting and disposing of faeces.
13. Any person walking or exercising a dog in public must prevent the dog from interfering with the use or enjoyment of any other person sharing the space.

On lead areas

14. Dogs must be kept on lead in road corridors (including footpaths and berms), river pathways (unless within a designated dog exercise area), and any other public place not otherwise classified.

Off lead dog exercise areas

15. Council will provide appropriately for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners by designating Off lead dog exercise areas, including Off lead dog exercise areas (specified times).
16. When selecting an Off lead dog exercise areas Council will consider the following: strategic location with vehicular and pedestrian access, clearly visible boundaries and sufficient sightlines, size, existing usage, and potential impact to flora and fauna.

Prohibited areas

17. Dogs are prohibited in the following locations:
 - All children's playgrounds and within 10 metres of unfenced children's playgrounds,
 - Skate parks,
 - All cemeteries under control of Hamilton City Council,
 - Miropiko Reserve,
 - Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park,
 - Identified areas in:
 - Hamilton Gardens,
 - Hamilton Lake Domain, and
 - Porritt Stadium.

Access rules

Access Area Type	Access Rules
Off lead dog exercise area	Are designated dog exercise areas and are shared spaces for all users. Dogs (excluding female dogs in season) can be off lead but must remain under control. NB: if an Off lead dog exercise area is fenced, the enclosed area is a priority area for dogs and their owners.
Off lead dog exercise area (specified times)	Are designated dog exercise areas and are shared spaces for all users. Dogs (excluding female dogs in season) can be off lead at certain times but must remain under control. Off lead and on lead times are identified in Schedule 1.
On lead area	Are shared spaces for all users. Dogs must be always on lead and must remain under control. Working dogs are exempt only when working.
Prohibited area	Dogs are not permitted in these areas. Working dogs are exempt only when working.

18. Non-compliance with the Access Rules is in breach of the Bylaw.
19. Dog exercise areas and prohibited areas, including any variation on access are identified in the Dog Control Off Lead Exercise and Prohibited Areas Register (Schedule 1).
20. Council will effectively communicate the dog access areas with on-site signage and Council's communication platforms.

Owner obligations and nuisance

21. Dog owners support the reduction of dog nuisance by meeting their obligations in section 5 of the Act and the Bylaw. Owner obligations include:
 - a) registering their dogs and updating information with Council when needed
 - b) providing proper housing, care, and exercise.
 - c) controlling their dog/s in public places.
 - d) taking all actions to reduce roaming, howling, or barking.
 - e) taking all actions to ensure dogs do not injure or attack any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, protected wildlife, nor damage property.
 - f) holding multiple dog permits for more than 2 dogs older than three months
22. Council will respond to all dog nuisance complaints and use enforce mechanisms where nuisance continues.

Dog classifications – Menacing and Dangerous

23. Council may classify a dog as Menacing if the dog's observed and/or reported behaviour is considered a threat to the safety of people, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.
24. Council will classify a dog as Menacing if the dog belongs wholly or predominantly to a breed or type identified in Schedule 4 of the Act.
25. Dogs classified as Menacing:
 - a) must be neutered.
 - b) must be muzzled in all public places
 - c) must be on lead in all public places and private ways, unless confined in a vehicle or cage.
 - d) can be off lead in specified off lead dog exercise areas but must remain muzzled.

26. Council will classify a dog as Dangerous if the dog owner has been convicted of an offence under section 57A(2) of the Act, or there is sworn evidence that the dog is aggressive and constitutes a threat to the safety of people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife.
27. Dogs classified as Dangerous:
- a) must be neutered.
 - b) must be muzzled in all public places
 - c) must be on lead in all public places and private ways, unless confined in a vehicle or cage, or in a designated dog exercise area.
 - d) must be kept within a securely fenced section of the owner's property (dog-free access to the house must be available).
 - e) will incur a registration fee 50% more than the standard registration fee.
 - f) can be off lead in specified off lead dog exercise areas but must remain muzzled.
 - g) must get the written consent from Council to change owners.
28. Sections 31, 33B and 33D of the Act set out the process for objecting to a dog classification.
29. Dog classifications apply nationwide. Owners moving into the district of Hamilton City with dogs classified by another territorial authority will be subject to Council's requirements for that classification.
30. Regardless of classification status, Council expects any dog known by the owner to have attacked any person, stock, or property must be muzzled in a public place as required by section 62(2) of the Act.

Dog owner classifications – Probationary and Disqualified

31. Council may classify a dog owner as probationary or disqualified if the owner has committed three or more separate infringement offences under the Act in a 24-month period.
32. Council will classify a dog owner as disqualified if the owner has been convicted of an offence against the Act.
33. Council may require a person classified as a probationary owner to undertake, at their own expense, a dog owner education programme and/or dog obedience course approved by Council.
34. Sections 21-28 of the Act set out matters relating to the classification of dog owners as probationary or disqualified owners, including the process for objecting to the classification.

Neutering

35. Council encourages neutering of dogs to support responsible dog ownership, reduce the number of roaming dogs, unwanted litters of puppies, and the number of impounded dogs.
36. Any dog classified as menacing by another territorial authority is required to be neutered if relocating to Hamilton City.
37. Council may require a dog to be neutered if the dog has not been kept under control more than once in a 12-month period.

Fees and charges

38. Council will incentivise responsible dog ownership and the prompt payment of registration fees with the use of fee categories and discounts.
39. The fees and charges will be prescribed each year on the Schedule of Fees and Charges through the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.

Ko te Aroturukitanga me te Whakatinanatanga - Monitoring and Implementation

40. The Policy will be implemented using a combination of enforcement action, public education, and liaison with other service providers.
41. Implementation of the Policy will be monitored by the General Manager, Customer and Community.
42. Council will report transparently on the administration of this Policy and its dog control practices.
43. The Policy will be reviewed in response to any issues that may arise, every five years, at the request of the Council, or in response to changed legislative and statutory requirements (whichever occurs first).

Ko ngaa Whakamaaramatanga - Definitions

Term	Definition in this Policy
Control or Controlled	In relation to a dog, means that the owner is able to obtain an immediate desired response from the dog by use of a lead and, when not on a lead, by using direct commands.
Dangerous	means any dog classified as dangerous under section 31 or 33ED of the Act.
Disqualified owner	means a person prohibited from owning a dog for up to 5 years under section 25 of the Dog Control Act 1996.
In season	means the oestrus or heat cycle for any female dog.
Menacing	Means any dog classified as menacing under section 33A or 33C the Dog Control Act 1996.
Muzzled	In relation to a dog, means the dog is wearing a basket type or similar muzzle (that allows panting and drinking).
Neuter or neutered	means a dog that has been spayed or castrated; and does not include a dog that has been vasectomized.
Owner	has the same meaning as defined in section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996. As an example, it generally refers to the registered owner of the dog or any person in possession of the dog.
Probationary owner	Means a person who is prohibited from owning and/or registering any new dogs, for a period of up to 2 years, under section 21 of the Dog Control Act 1996.
Public place	Has the same meaning as section 2 of the Dog Control Act, it generally means any place that is open to use by the public, whether free or upon payment of an entry fee. For clarity, Public place includes all areas designated as off lead exercise areas.
Private way	has the same meaning as defined in Section 315(1) of the Local Government Act 1974, and in relation to dogs is most commonly referring to shared driveways.
Roaming	means any dog that is found at large in any public place or any land or premises other than that occupied by the owner.
Working dog	has the same meaning as defined in section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996, it generally refers to a dog kept by a specified agency and includes disability assist dogs.

Ko ngaa Tohutoro - References

44. The Policy is enforced through the Hamilton City Dog Control Bylaw 2015 (amended 2025).
45. The Policy is made under [Section 10](#) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Schedule 1 – Off lead dog exercise and prohibited areas register

This schedule details all parks identified as off lead dog exercise areas, including those that are designated off lead dog exercise only at certain times (Off lead exercise area (specified times)), and prohibited areas within the district of Hamilton City and other locations controlled by Hamilton City Council.

Schedule 2 provides detailed maps of the specific areas within the locations listed below where the access areas rules apply.

Location	Designation
Aberfoyle Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Beetham Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Braithwaite Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Bristol Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Chelmsford Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Claudlands Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Crawshaw Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Days Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Derby Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Derek Heather Park	Off lead dog exercise area (specified times) Weekdays dogs must be on lead between 4pm-10pm Weekends dogs must be on lead between 8am-5pm Off lead at all other times
Eden Park Reserve	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Greensboro Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Hamilton East Cemetery	Prohibited area All times
Hamilton Gardens	Area north of Hungerford Crescent: Off lead dog exercise area All times
	Hillside Lawn (including southern river area): Off lead dog exercise area (specified times) On lead between 10am-6pm Off lead all other times
	Coxhead Flat (western river area): Off lead dog exercise area All times
	Enclosed Gardens: Prohibited area All times
Hamilton Lake Domain	Greenspace at reservoir: Off lead dog exercise area All times

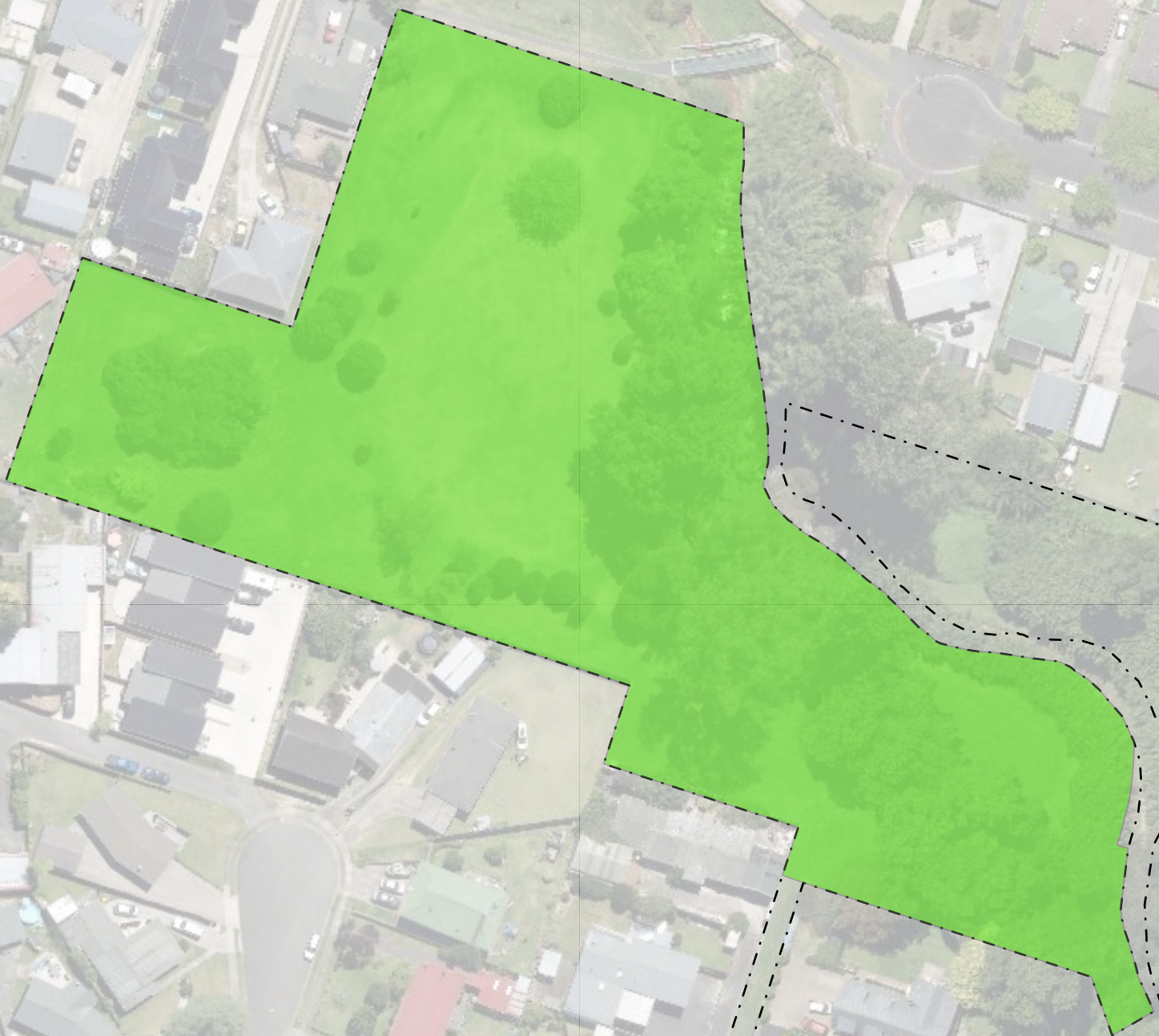
Location	Designation
	Playground and picnic area: Prohibited area All times
Hamilton Park Cemetery*	Prohibited area All times *The Hamilton Park Cemetery is prohibited in accordance with the Hamilton City Cemeteries and Crematorium Bylaw 2012 (amended 2024).
Hamilton West Cemetery	Prohibited area All times
Hare Puke Park	Off lead dog exercise area (specified times) Weekdays dogs must be on lead between 4pm-10pm Weekends dogs must be on lead between 8am-5pm Off lead at all other times
Hillcrest Park	Off lead dog exercise area (specified times) Weekdays dogs must be on lead between 4pm-10pm Weekends dogs must be on lead between 8am-5pm Off lead at all other times
Innes Common	Area east of Lake Domain Drive Off lead dog exercise area Off lead at all times
	Area west of lake Domain Drive Off lead dog exercise area (specified times) Weekdays dogs must be on lead between 4pm-10pm Weekends dogs must be on lead between 8am-5pm Off lead at all other times
Mangaiti Park*	Off lead dog exercise area Off lead at all times *Three sections of the park are designated as temporary off lead areas. The areas will no longer be off lead once sports field are developed.
Melville Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Minogue Park*	Off lead dog exercise area All times * The southern area is designated as a temporary off lead area. The temporary area will no longer be off lead once tree planting has begun.
Miropiko Reserve	Prohibited area All times
Moonlight Drive Reserve	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Porritt Stadium	Park surrounding Off lead dog exercise area All times
	Stadium Prohibited area All times
Pukete Farm Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Rakautahi Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times

Location	Designation
Raymond Park	Off lead dog exercise area (specified times) Weekdays dogs must be on lead between 4pm-10pm Weekends dogs must be on lead between 8am-5pm Off lead at all other times
Resthills Park	Northern area Off lead dog exercise area All times
	Eastern area Off lead dog exercise area (specified times) Weekdays dogs must be on lead between 4pm-10pm Weekends dogs must be on lead between 8am-5pm Off lead at all other times
Tauhara Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Te Kootii Park	Off lead dog exercise area (specified times) Weekdays dogs must be on lead between 4pm-10pm Weekends dogs must be on lead between 8am-5pm Off lead at all other times
Te Manatu Park*	Off lead dog exercise area All times * Centre of the park is designated as a temporary off lead area. The areas will no longer be off lead once sports field are developed. It is proposed the surrounding off lead area will become an off lead dog exercise area (specified times) once the sports fields are developed.
Temple View Reserve	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Till's Lookout	Off lead dog exercise area All times
Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park	Prohibited area All times
Waiwherowhero Park	Off lead dog exercise area All times

Schedule 2 – Off lead dog exercise and prohibited area maps

This schedule provides maps to identify the specific areas within the locations listed in schedule 1 where the Off lead dog exercise areas and prohibition rules apply.

Aberfoyle Park



Legend

- Off lead dog exercise area
- Reserve Boundary

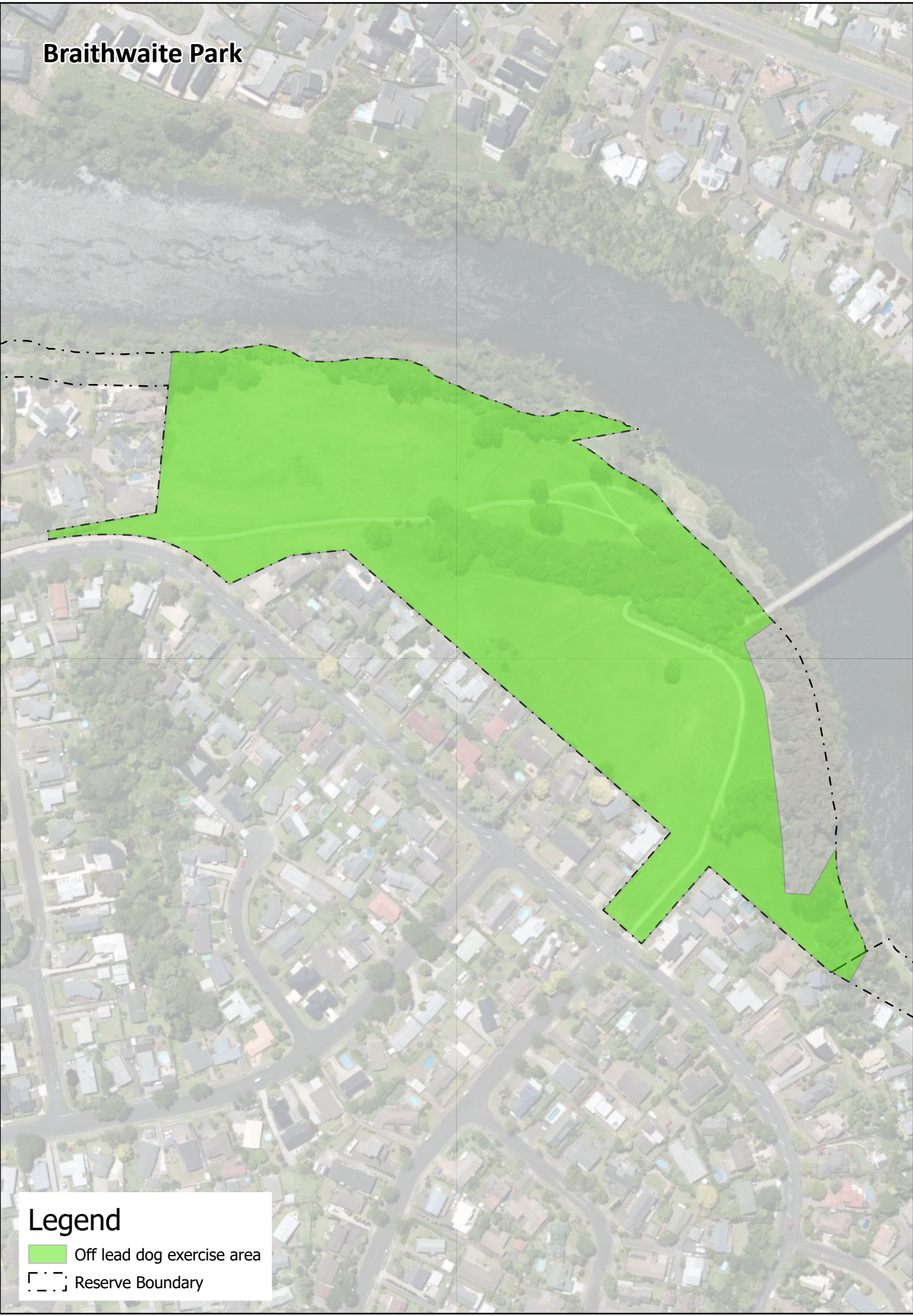
Beetham Park

Legend

- Off lead dog exercise area
- Reserve Boundary



Braithwaite Park





Legend

- Off lead dog exercise area
- Reserve Boundary

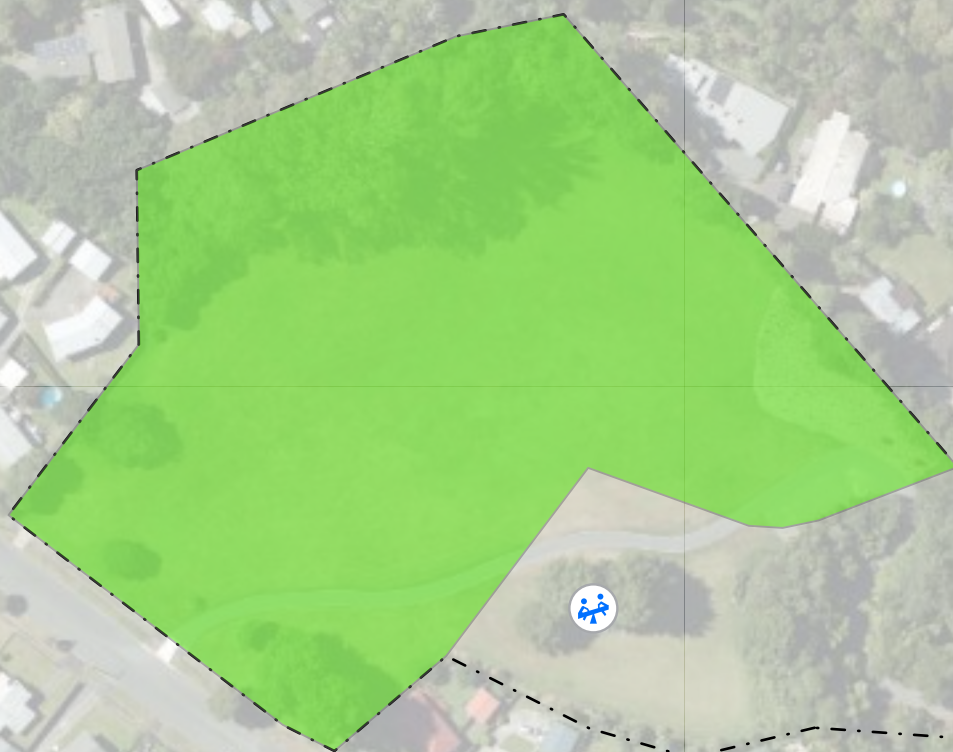
Bristol Park

Legend




-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Reserve Boundary



Chelmsford Park






Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Claudlands Park

Legend




-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary



Crawshaw Park



Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Day's Park

Legend


- Off lead dog exercise area
- Reserve Boundary



Derby Park



Legend

 Off lead dog exercise area

 Playground

 Reserve Boundary

Derek Heather Park



Legend

 Off lead dog exercise area (specified times)




 Playground

 Reserve Boundary

Eden Park Reserve





Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Greensboro Park



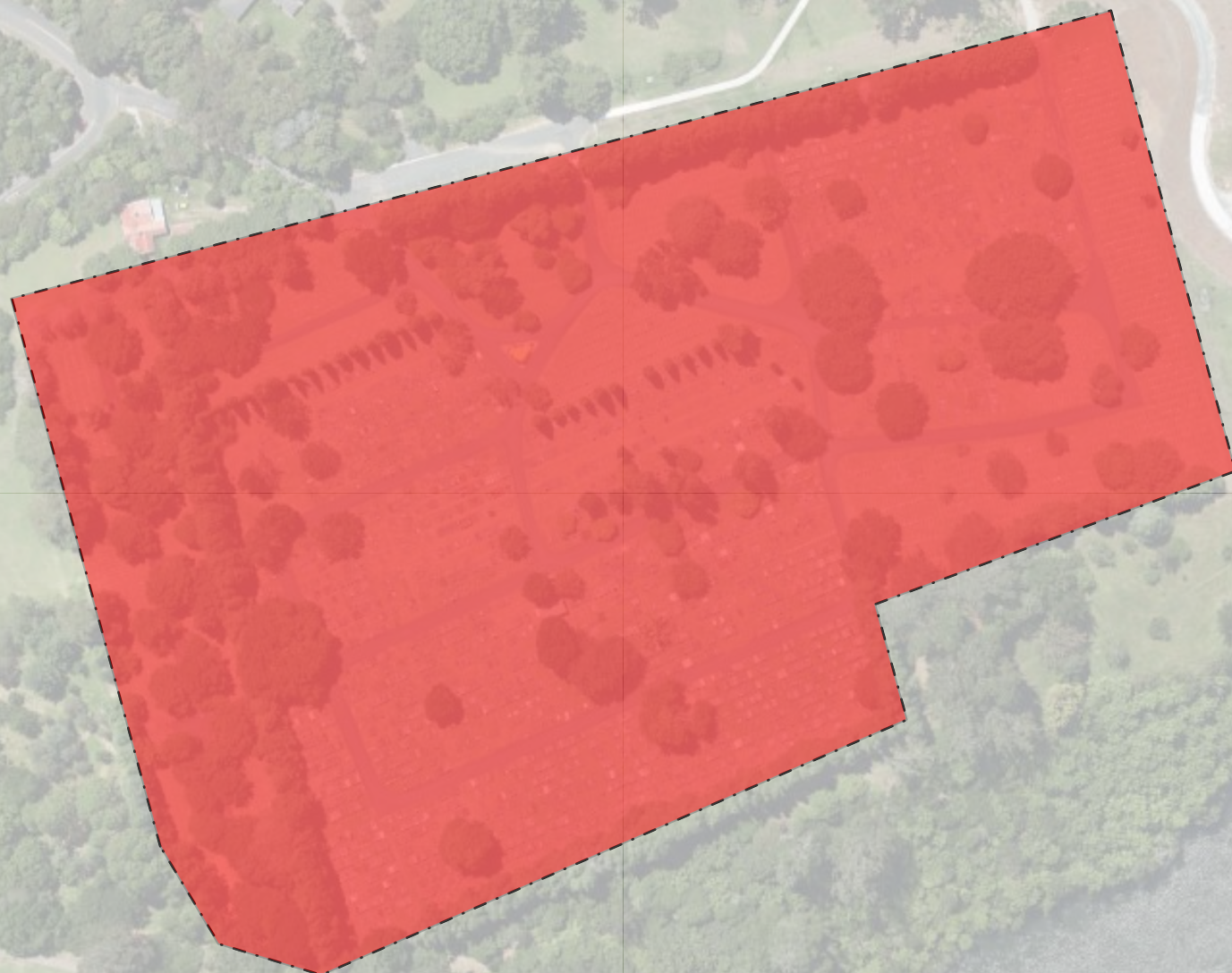
Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Reserve Boundary

Hamilton East Cemetery

Legend






- Prohibited
- Reserve Boundary



Hamilton Gardens




Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Off lead dog exercise area (specified times)
-  Prohibited
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Hamilton Lake Domain



Legend

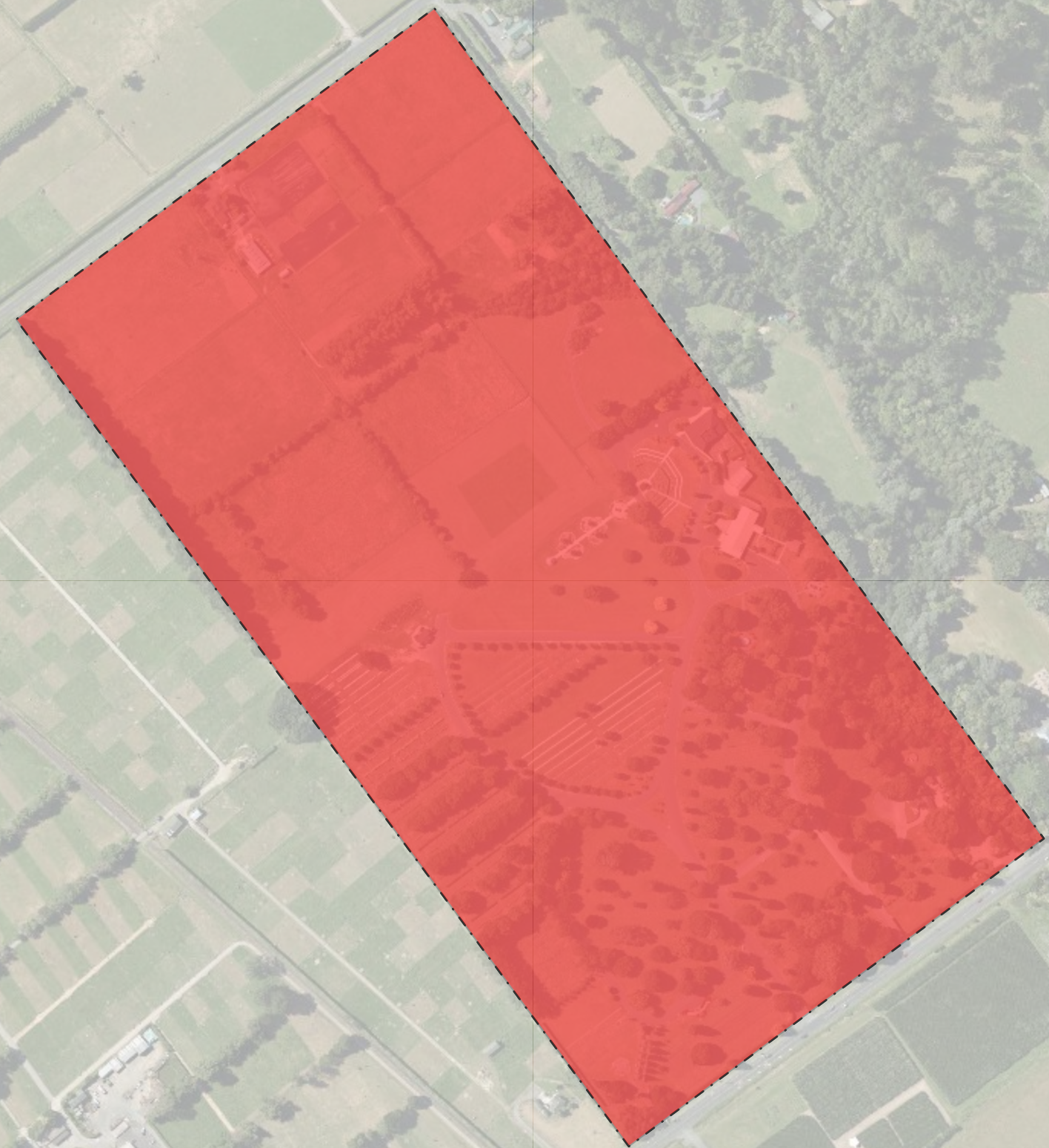
 Off lead dog exercise area

 Prohibited

 Playground

 Reserve Boundary

Hamilton Park Cemetery



Legend

- Prohibited
- Reserve Boundary

Hamilton West Cemetery






Legend

- Prohibited
- Reserve Boundary

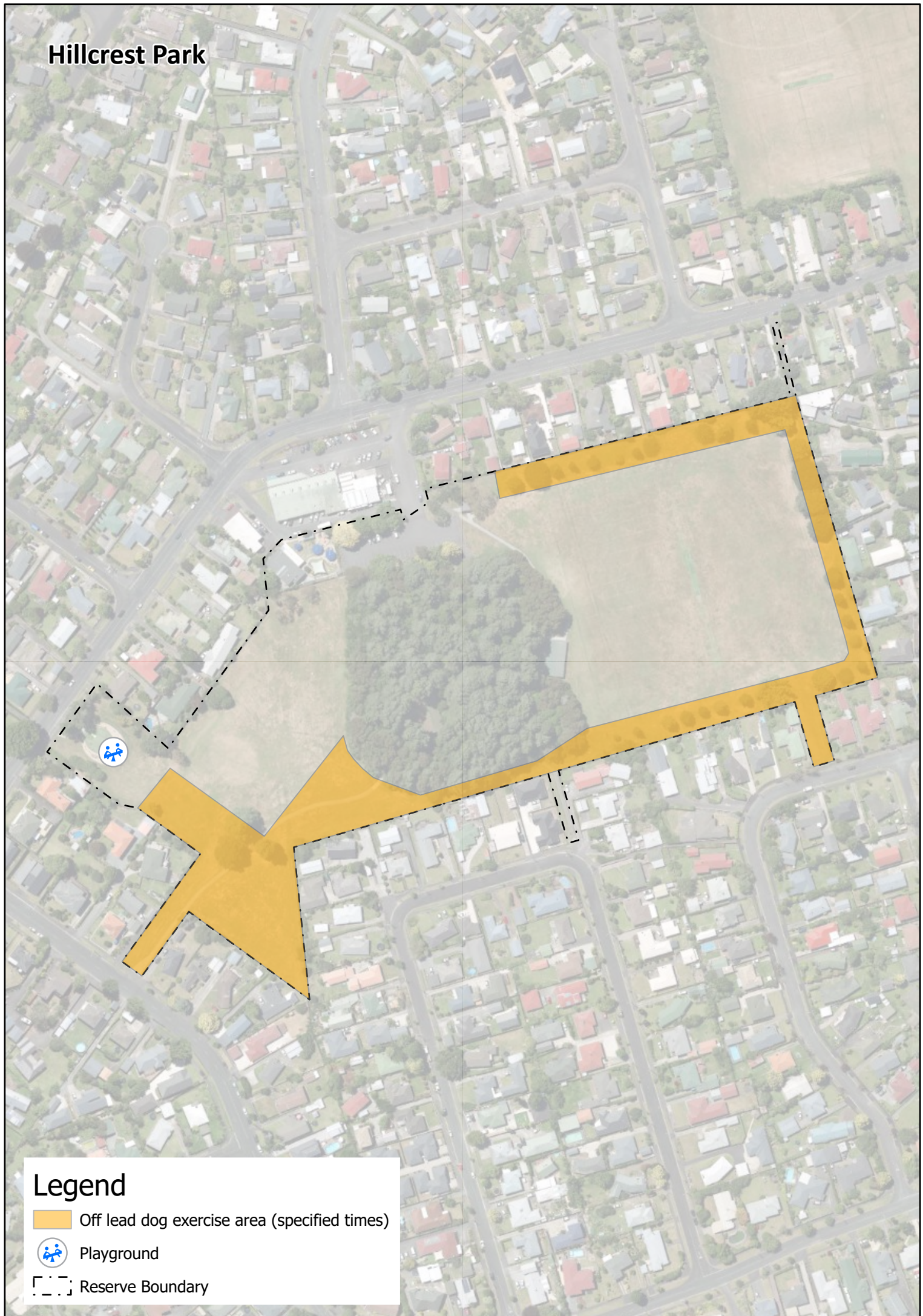
Hare Puke Park






Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area (specified times)
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Hillcrest Park







Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area (specified times)
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Innes Common







Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Off lead dog exercise area (specified times)
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Mangaiti Park Recreation Reserve




Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Off lead dog exercise area (temporary)
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Melville Park



Legend

 Off lead dog exercise area





 Playground

 Reserve Boundary

Minogue Park





Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Off lead dog exercise area (temporary)
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Miropiko Reserve

Legend


-  Prohibited
-  Reserve Boundary



Moonlight Drive Reserve



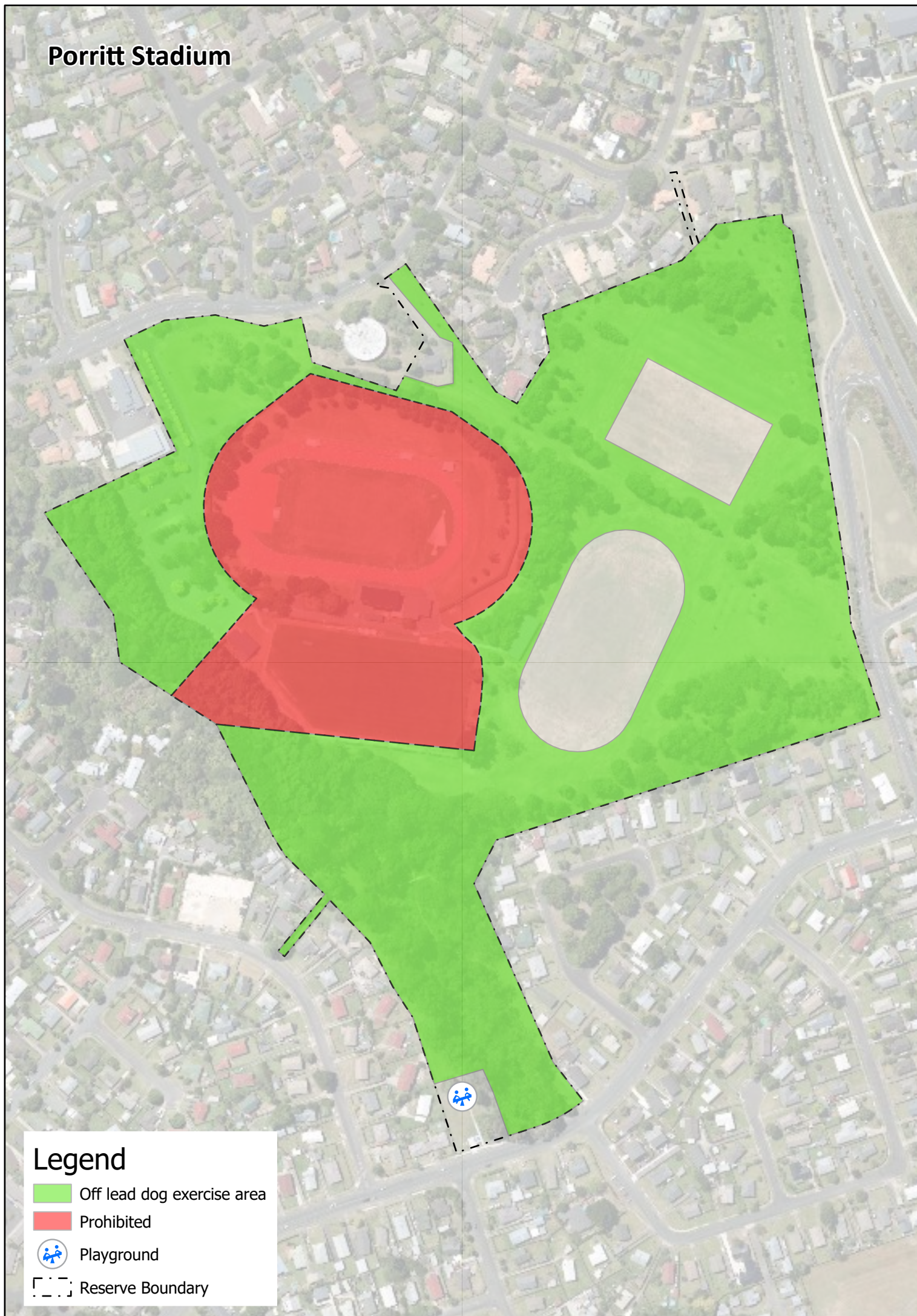
Legend

 Off lead dog exercise area





 Playground

 Reserve Boundary

Porritt Stadium



Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Prohibited
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Pukete Farm Park



Legend

- Off lead dog exercise area
- Reserve Boundary

Rakautahi Park






Legend

- Off lead dog exercise area
- Reserve Boundary

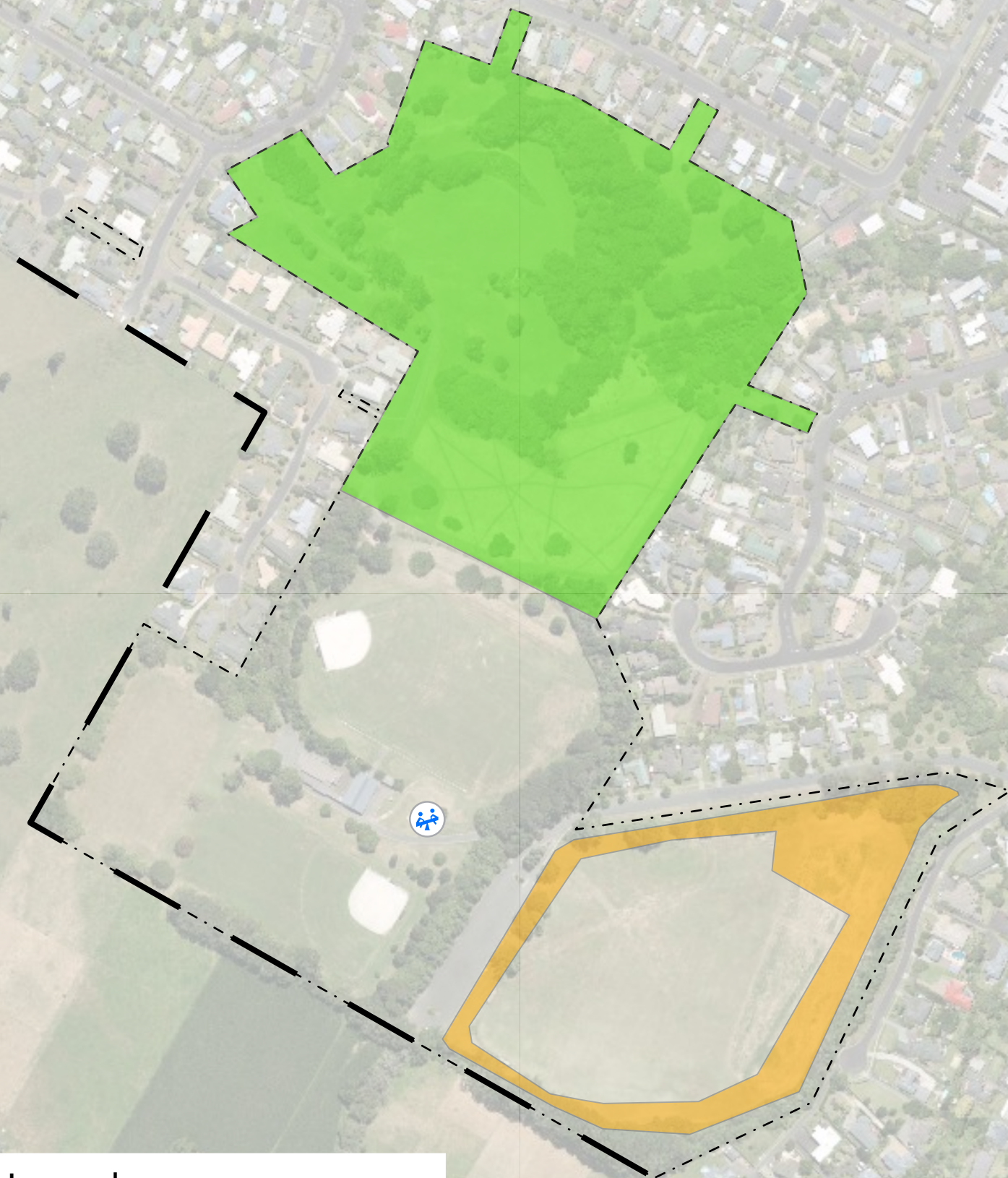
Raymond Park







Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area (specified times)
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Resthills Park




Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Off lead dog exercise area (specified times)
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Tauhara Park



Legend

 Off lead dog exercise area




 Playground

 Reserve Boundary

Te Kootii Park






Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area (specified times)
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

Te Manatu Park

Legend




-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Off lead dog exercise area (temporary)
-  Reserve Boundary



Temple View Reserve





Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary

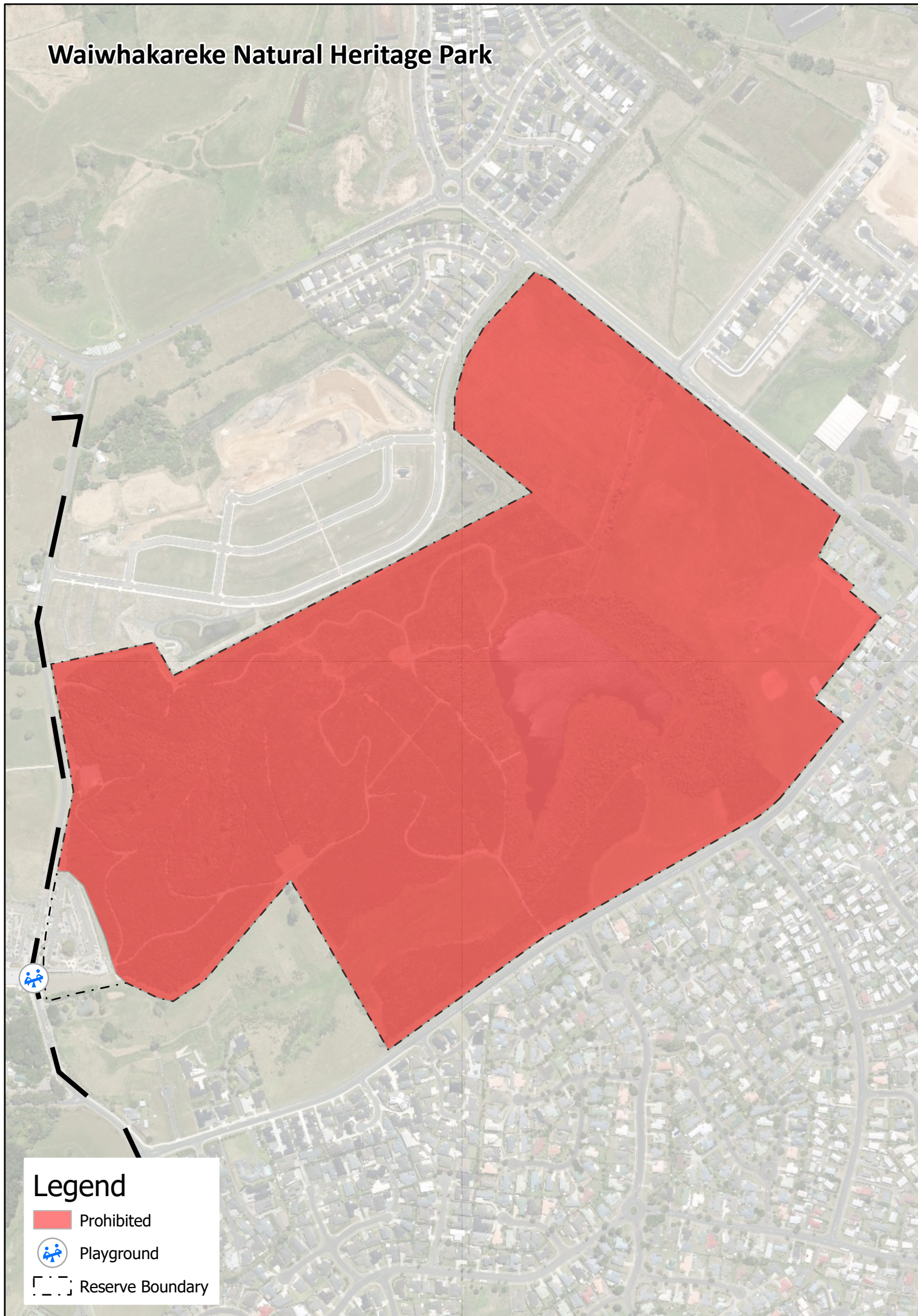
Till's Lookout

Legend


-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Reserve Boundary



Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park






Legend

- Prohibited
-  Playground
- Reserve Boundary

Waiwherowhero Park



Legend

-  Off lead dog exercise area
-  Playground
-  Reserve Boundary