

Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2025

The Christchurch City Council makes this bylaw under section 106 of the Reserves Act 1977 and sections 145 and 146 (b)(vi) of the Local Government Act 2002.

1. Short title and commencement

- (1) This bylaw is the Christchurch City Council Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2025.
- (2) This bylaw comes into force on 4 September 2025.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Bylaw is to provide for the orderly management and control of parks and reserves vested in, administered by or under the control of the Council for the benefit and enjoyment of all users of those parks and reserves.

3. Interpretation

- (1) In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

TERM	DEFINITION
Aircraft	<div><div>(a) means any man-made device capable of flight, including, but not limited to aeroplanes, helicopters, gliders, hang-gliders, light weight drones or Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) hot air balloons and radio-controlled model aircraft; but</div><div>(b) does not include kites and balloons which are controlled from the ground via strings.</div></div>
Authorised Officer	<div><div>(a) means an officer or other person appointed by the Council to perform duties required under this Bylaw, irrespective of the designation given to that officer or person; and</div><div>(b) includes any rangers appointed by the Council under the Reserves Act 1977</div></div>
Animal	means any mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish or related organism, insect, crustacean or organism of every kind but does not include a human being.
Camp	means to reside in or sleep in a structure, tent or vehicle e.g. caravan, campervan.
Christchurch City	means the district of the Christchurch City Council.

Council	means the Christchurch City Council.
Emergency Services	means the New Zealand Police, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai and providers of health and disability services.
Enforcement Officer	<p>(a) means a person appointed by the Council to enforce the provisions contained in this Bylaw; and</p> <p>(b) includes any rangers appointed by the Council under the Reserves Act 1977; and</p> <p>(c) includes any sworn member of the NZ Police acting in the course of his or her duty.</p>
Foreshore	means the land edging the sea, estuaries and rivers that is regularly submerged and exposed by the sea's tidal ebb and flow, that is, the area between the line of mean high water springs level and the mean low water springs level.
Park or Reserve	<p>(a) means any land which is vested in or administered by the Council under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977; or</p> <p>(b) any park, domain, foreshore or greenspace area under the control or ownership of the Council; but</p> <p>(c) does not include any such land, park, domain, foreshore or greenspace area which is subject to a lease that has been granted by the Council under the Local Government Act 2002 or the Reserves Act 1977.</p>
Sign	includes a notice, label, inscription, billboard, plaque or placard.
Vehicle	<p>(a) means a man-made device for land transport, including, but not limited to cars, trucks, heavy machinery, motorbikes, bicycles, electric bicycle, scooters, electric scooters and other electric mobility devices and includes associated towing devices, including, but not limited to trailers and carriages; but</p> <p>(b) does not include prams, strollers, wheelchairs or other mobility scooters or devices used by persons with physical or neurological impairment.</p>
Vessel	includes, but is not limited to, a ship, boat, hovercraft or any other description of vessel used or designed to be used in the sea or river.

- (2) This bylaw contains explanatory notes, which are not part of the bylaw. The Council may add, amend or delete explanatory notes at any time without amending the bylaw.

Explanatory note: *Explanatory notes are used for a number of reasons, including to explain the intent of a clause in less formal language, to include additional helpful information, or because the information may be subject to change and need to be updated before the bylaw itself has to be updated.*

PART 1: Access to Parks and Reserves

4. Access

- (1) A park or reserve will be open to the public at all times, except –
 - (a) during such hours as the Council may from time to time otherwise determine; or
 - (b) when the Council has determined that it is necessary to temporarily close the park or reserve or part of it, and has provided appropriate signage to inform the public of such closure; or
 - (c) when the Council or an Authorised Officer has temporarily set aside the whole or part of a park or reserve, for the exclusive use of an organised event in terms of clause 13 of this Bylaw.
- (2) No person may enter any park or reserve or part of a park or reserve which is set apart for the cultivation or protection of plants or other special purposes, without the prior permission of an Authorised Officer.
- (3) No person, other than an Authorised Officer may enter or remain in the park or reserve or the part of a park or reserve that is closed to the public.

PART 2: Prohibited and restricted activities in Parks and Reserves

5. Interference with Parks and Reserves

- (1) Without the prior written permission of an Authorised Officer, no person may in a park or reserve –
 - (a) remove, destroy, damage, deface or interfere with any thing or any part of anything in or enclosing a park or reserve; including any:
 - (i) structure or building
 - (ii) sign, plaque, artwork or sculpture
 - (iii) path, track, lawn, step, gravel, sand, soil or border
 - (iv) tree, shrub, or plant of any kind including hedges, flowers or flowerbeds
 - (v) area prepared for any sport or game.
 - (b) erect, construct, make, bolt, fix or place any structure, path or track, climbing aid, recreational or play equipment, or sign.
 - (c) plant any tree, shrub or plant or part of any tree, shrub or plant, or sow or scatter the seed of any plant of any kind.
 - (d) pollute or render unfit for purpose any water.
 - (e) take or destroy or injure or disturb or interfere with or cause distress to any animal or bird or other fauna or the nest or egg of any bird, or attempt to do so.
 - (f) introduce any substance that may be injurious to animal or plant life.
- (2) Without the prior permission of an Authorised Officer (which may be given verbally), no person may in a park or reserve –

- (a) walk on any flowerbed, or grass plot, or any other place where walking is prohibited by a notice to that effect; or
 - (b) take or attempt to take fruit or nuts from any tree or plant in a manner that damages or is likely to damage the tree or plant; or
 - (c) dig a hole in any grassed area or garden.
- (3) Clauses 5.1 and 5.2 do not apply to any volunteer activities in a park or reserve if the Council has entered into an agreement with any person or body in relation to those activities and those activities are bound by the conditions of that agreement.

6. Behaviour in Parks and Reserves

- (1) No person in a park or reserve may —
- (a) intentionally obstruct, disturb, or interfere with any other person's use or enjoyment of a park or reserve; or
 - (b) drive or ride a vehicle within any park or reserve area where vehicles are allowed in a manner, which having regard to all the circumstances of the case, is or might be dangerous to the public or to any person.

Explanatory note: This clause should be read in conjunction with the Summary Offences Act 1981, the Crimes Act 1961, the Trespass Act 1980 and any statute that generally regulates behaviour that may occur in parks and reserves.

7. Animals

- (1) No person may bring any animal into a park or reserve or allow any animal in his or her custody, charge or control to be within a park or reserve, unless —
- (a) It is a dog under effective control (subject to any restrictions or prohibitions under the Dog Control Bylaw); or
 - (b) a Council bylaw has allowed the animal in the park or reserve.
 - (c) the Council has authorised the presence of animals through a reserve management plan, licence or other similar document; or
 - (d) permission has been granted by an Authorised Officer; or
 - (e) the park or reserve has been booked for an event allowing the presence of animals.
- (2) The Council (either generally or in any particular case), may seize and confine any loose animal found within any park or reserve.
- (3) Except with the permission of an Authorised Officer, no person may –
- (a) Bring or drive any horse or other animal on to any part of Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary; or
 - (b) Permit any horse or other animal in his or her custody, charge or control to wander on to or remain on any part of Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary.
- (4) The Council may seize and confine any horse or other animal found on any part of Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary in breach of this Bylaw.

- (5) Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary means that area shown in the attached plan in Schedule 4.

Explanatory note: For control of dogs upon parks and reserves in Christchurch City see the current version of the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw.

The Council has the power under the Reserves Act 1977 to make bylaws in respect of reserves located outside Christchurch City where the Council is the administering body of the reserve, eg Kennedy's Bush, Cass Peak, Otahuna Reserve, Coopers Knob, Ahuriri Scenic Reserve, and Orongamai Reserve. Section 94(1)(b) of the Act however makes it an offence to allow an animal to trespass onto a reserve, and therefore a bylaw is not required to control dogs on these reserves. The restrictions in clause 7.3 are intended to protect wildlife and other environmental values associated with the Estuary.

8. Vehicles, Vessels and Mechanical devices

- (1) No person may drive, ride, or otherwise bring any vehicle into a park or reserve, except-
- (a) on any part of the park or reserve set aside by the Council for vehicular traffic (for example, driveways, parking areas, shared paths or cycle tracks), and then only in accordance with any controls or restrictions imposed by the Council; or
 - (b) where permission has been granted by an Authorised Officer.

Explanatory note: The definition of a vehicle used in this bylaw does not include prams, strollers, wheelchairs or other mobility scooters or devices used by persons with physical or neurological impairment.

- (2) No person may without the permission of an Authorised Officer —
- (a) stop or leave any vehicle so that the vehicle obstructs an entrance to, or path or track in, the park or reserve; or
 - (b) park any vehicle, other than a bicycle, electric bicycle, scooter or electric scooter, in any park or reserve except in a place set aside by the Council for the parking of vehicles, and unless the person in control of the vehicle intends to remain in the park or reserve while the vehicle is parked.
- (3) Any place in a park or reserve that has been set aside for the parking of vehicles may be subject to parking restrictions under the Christchurch City Council Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2017.

Explanatory note: The Council will enforce any restricted parking area in a park or reserve in accordance with the Land Transport Act 1998 and any regulations made under the Land Transport Act 1998.

- (4) No person may abandon or dump any vehicle, vessel or other mechanical device in a park or reserve.

Explanatory note: The Council in enforcing this clause will use a procedure under the Reserves Act 1977 or the Land Transport Act 1998 or the Local Government Act 2002 or the Local Government Act 1974.

- (5) No person may use a park or reserve or the foreshore as a storage site for any vessel or other watercraft for a continuous period exceeding 7 days while that vessel or watercraft is not being used in the water, unless –
- (a) the person has obtained the prior written permission of an Authorised Officer; or
 - (b) it is in an area specially set aside for this purpose.
- (6) No person may use or attempt to use any public address system, amplified sound system, motorised model boat, portable generator, stationary motor, compressor, chainsaw, post hole borer or any other type of portable mechanical plant or equipment in a park or reserve except —

- (a) in an emergency; or
- (b) with the prior permission of an Authorised Officer

9. Fires

- (1) No person may light a fire in a park or reserve except with the prior written permission of an Authorised Officer.
- (2) Except that the permission of an Authorised Officer is not required for —
 - (a) the lighting of a fire in a fireplace specially provided for that purpose; or
 - (b) the use of any gas fired barbeque or other similar self-contained cooking device which does not use solid fuel.
- (3) Nothing in this clause authorises the lighting of any fire in the open air, if doing so would constitute a breach of any other Bylaw, Act or Regulation (including any rule in a district or regional plan under the Resource Management Act 1991). This includes any conditions set out by Fire and Emergency New Zealand for authorised fire types and fire seasons status.

Explanatory note: Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) is responsible for the management of prohibitions and restrictions for fire control and may prohibit or restrict any activity (including lighting fireworks) in an area, and access to an area that FENZ considers may cause a fire to start or to spread. See <https://www.checkitsalright.nz> to check it is safe to light a fire.

10. Camping

- (1) No person may camp in a park or reserve unless –
 - (a) it is in an area specifically set aside by the Council for camping, and the person has paid any camping fees set by the Council; or
 - (b) that person has obtained the prior written permission of an Authorised Officer to do so.

Explanatory note: The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2021 regulates freedom camping activities on Council land in order to balance camping opportunities with limitations that ensure our areas are protected. The Council has the power to issue infringements for breaches of that bylaw where appropriate.

11. Tents, Stalls, Amusement devices etc.

- (1) No person may put up or erect any stall, booth, tent, (excluding any casual shade tent) amusement device or portable play equipment in a park or reserve unless that person has–
 - (a) obtained the prior written permission of an Authorised Officer to do so; and
 - (b) paid any applicable fees set by the Council.
- (2) To avoid any doubt, if a person complies with clause 10, that person is not required to comply with this clause.

Explanatory note: This clause is intended to apply to tents for circuses, carnivals and for corporate hospitality, to stalls, booths, amusement devices e.g. merry-go-rounds or noddy trains and to portable play equipment such as bouncy castles.

12. Aircraft

- (1) No person may, without the written permission of an Authorised Officer, and having paid any applicable fees set by the Council.
 - (a) land an aircraft in a park or reserve, or take off in an aircraft from a park or reserve; or
 - (b) use an aircraft to set down, pick up, or recover anything in a park or reserve; or
 - (c) parachute into a park or reserve.
- (2) Nothing in clause 12.1 prevents an aircraft from being used in or over a park or reserve in an emergency situation.
- (3) Despite clause 12.1, a person may operate lightweight drones or Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems in a park or reserve if —
 - (a) the Council has set aside an area for that purpose, and then only in accordance with such conditions that are set by Council; or
 - (b) with the prior written permission of an Authorised Officer; or
 - (c) the model aircraft:
 - (i) is radio-controlled and either battery or electric powered; and
 - (ii) has a total flying weight of not more than 1.5 kilograms; and
 - (iii) does not cause annoyance or inconvenience to other users or to animals on the park or reserve; and
 - (iv) does not over-fly the boundaries of the park or reserve; and
 - (v) does not fly in a park or reserve referred to in clause 12.4.
- (4) The Council may by resolution determine any park or reserve where lightweight drones or Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems may not be flown.

Explanatory note: The Council has a drone permission-required area map with key information for RPAS operators that can be found on its website at <https://ccc.govt.nz/parks-and-gardens/book-a-park/drones-and-remotely-piloted-aircraft-systems>

- (5) The Council may by resolution subsequently amend or revoke any resolution made under clause 12.4.

Explanatory note: The general intent of this clause is to address noise and nuisance issues. Issues concerning privacy and aviation safety and rules are covered by separate legislation. Any resolutions made under clause 12.4 will be recorded in a register and the register will be available on the Council's website or from Council Service Centres.

13. Sporting and other organised events

- (1) Sporting events or games may only be held in areas of parks or reserves set aside for that purpose or with the approval of an Authorised Officer.

Explanatory note: Clause 13.1 is not intended to restrict the playing of impromptu games on parks or reserves.

- (2) No person may enter or remain on a marked sports ground area in a park or reserve when an organised sports game is in progress, unless that person is a player or is administering the game in some capacity (for example, refereeing or providing first aid assistance).
- (3) No person may, without the permission of an Authorised Officer and having paid any applicable fees, hold or organise any organised event in a park or reserve.
- (4) The Council may specify in its permission whether the person —
 - (a) may charge an entry fee for the event; or
 - (b) has the exclusive use of a reserve, or any part of a park or reserve, for the duration of the event.

Explanatory note: *An organised event can be a one-off event or a series of events. Events requiring permission include pre-arranged sports games between teams, athletics or cycling events, fairs, festivals, family or other reunion events, church, school, work or social group outings and performances. Permission will generally not be required for small gatherings in parks or reserves e.g. a small group picnic or impromptu games. The Council's fees and charges for the use of reserves for organised events are set out in the Council's current Annual Plan. For further information contact the Council on 941-8999 or on the Council's website.*

PART THREE: Special Areas

Additional provisions dealing with specific parks and reserves or facilities.

14. Hagley Park

A plan of Hagley Park is contained in Schedule 1.

- (1) To avoid any doubt, nothing in this Bylaw limits the application of the Christchurch City Council (Reserves) Empowering Act 1971.

15. Christchurch Botanic Gardens

A plan of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens is contained in Schedule 2.

- (1) Except with the permission of an Authorised Officer, no person may within the Christchurch Botanic Gardens –
 - (a) play any organised sports game; or
 - (b) ride a bicycle, electric bicycle, scooter or electric scooter.
- (2) No person may climb any tree within the Christchurch Botanic Gardens.
- (3) No person may climb any structure within the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, unless the structure is purposely built for climbing, such as in a playground area.

Explanatory note: *Christchurch's Botanic Gardens were established in 1863 and possess a collection of exotic and indigenous plants, many of which are rare, and, as such, require a higher degree of protection than other reserve areas.*

16. Rawhiti Golf Course

A plan of the Rawhiti Golf Course is contained in Schedule 3.

- (1) No person may walk across or remain on any part of the Rawhiti Golf Course unless that person is engaged in a game of golf or is accompanying a person playing golf, or unless they are on a designated public walkway through the golf course.
- (2) Clause 16.1 does not apply if the Council has waived this clause, in the public interest, for the purposes of a tournament, competition, or any other occasion.

PART FOUR – Other Matters

17. Breaches of Bylaw

- (2) Every person who breaches this bylaw, must on request by an Enforcement Officer immediately stop the activity, and leave the park or reserve if so requested by the Enforcement Officer to do so.
- (1) Any person failing with all reasonable speed to comply with a request under clause 17.1 commits a further offence against this bylaw.

18. Exemptions

- (1) This Bylaw does not apply to any person who commits an act that is done —
 - (a) in accordance with a valid contract for services with the Council; or
 - (b) by a member of the emergency services in the course of carrying out his or her duties as a member of the emergency services.

19. Offence and Penalty

- (1) Every person who breaches this bylaw commits an offence under the Local Government Act 2002 and/or Reserves Act 1977 and is liable to a penalty as set out in those Acts.

20. Permissions under this Bylaw

- (1) A permission given under this Bylaw may relate to –
 - (a) an activity or event or a series of activities or events, as the case may be;
 - (b) one or more clauses under this bylaw as is appropriate in the circumstances.
- (2) Any permission given under this Bylaw may be subject to such terms and conditions as the Council or Authorised Officer giving the permission thinks fit.
- (3) The permission must set out –
 - (a) the activity or event or activities or events which is, or are permitted; and
 - (b) the duration of the permission; and
 - (c) the park(s) or reserve(s) to which the permission relates.
- (4) Where this Bylaw refers to written permission, that permission may be in electronic form.

- (5) Any permission given under this Bylaw may be reviewed and revoked at any time.

Explanatory note: *The Council will consider giving generic permissions to groups to enable them to carry out activities on Council reserves where those parks and reserves are not dedicated areas for the playing of sport.*

21. Revocations and Savings

- (1) The following Bylaw is revoked by this Bylaw:
Christchurch City Council Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2016
- (2) Any approval, permission or authorisation under the Christchurch City Council Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2016 that is in effect at the commencement of this bylaw, continues to have full force and effect for the purposes of this bylaw, but is subject to the application of any relevant clause in this bylaw.
- (3) The revocation of the bylaw under clause 21.1 does not prevent any legal proceedings, criminal or civil, being taken to enforce the bylaw and such proceedings continue to be dealt with and completed as if the bylaw had not been revoked.

22. Christchurch City Council General Bylaw 2008

- (1) The provisions of the Christchurch City Council General Bylaw 2008 and any bylaw passed in amendment or substitution are implied into and form part of this bylaw.

Following a 2008 review of the seven bylaws that then applied to parks and reserves within the Christchurch City territorial area the Council adopted the Christchurch City Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2008.

The Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2008 was then reviewed and replaced by the Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2016 in a decision made by Council on 14 July 2016.

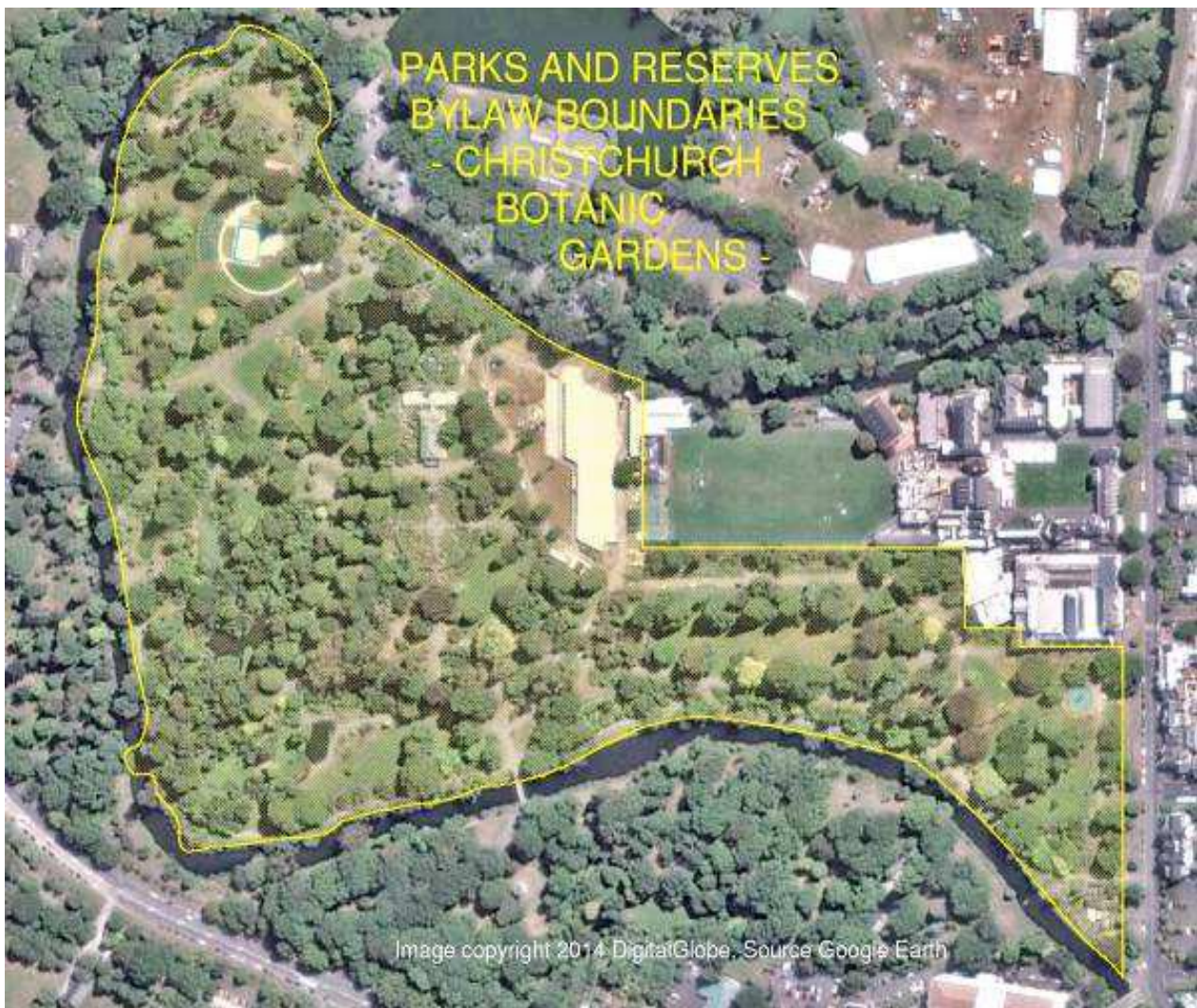
The initial resolution to amend the Parks and Reserve Bylaw 2016 was passed by the Christchurch City Council on 16 October 2024 and was confirmed, following consideration of submissions, by a resolution of the Council on 4 June 2025.

Schedule 1
Plan of Hagley Park



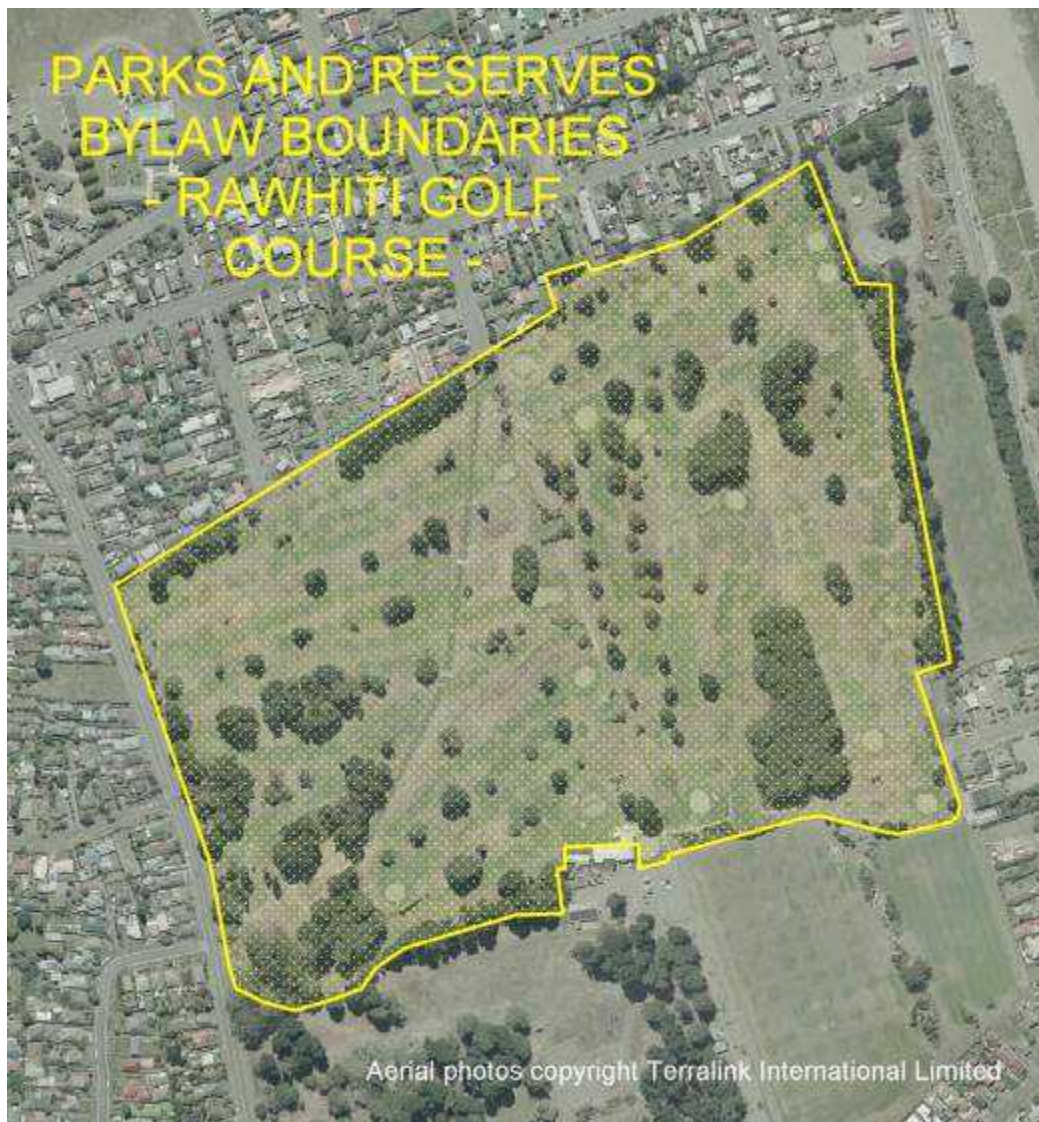
Schedule 2

Plan of Christchurch Botanic Gardens



Schedule 3

Plan of Rawhiti Golf Course



Schedule 4

Plan of Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary

