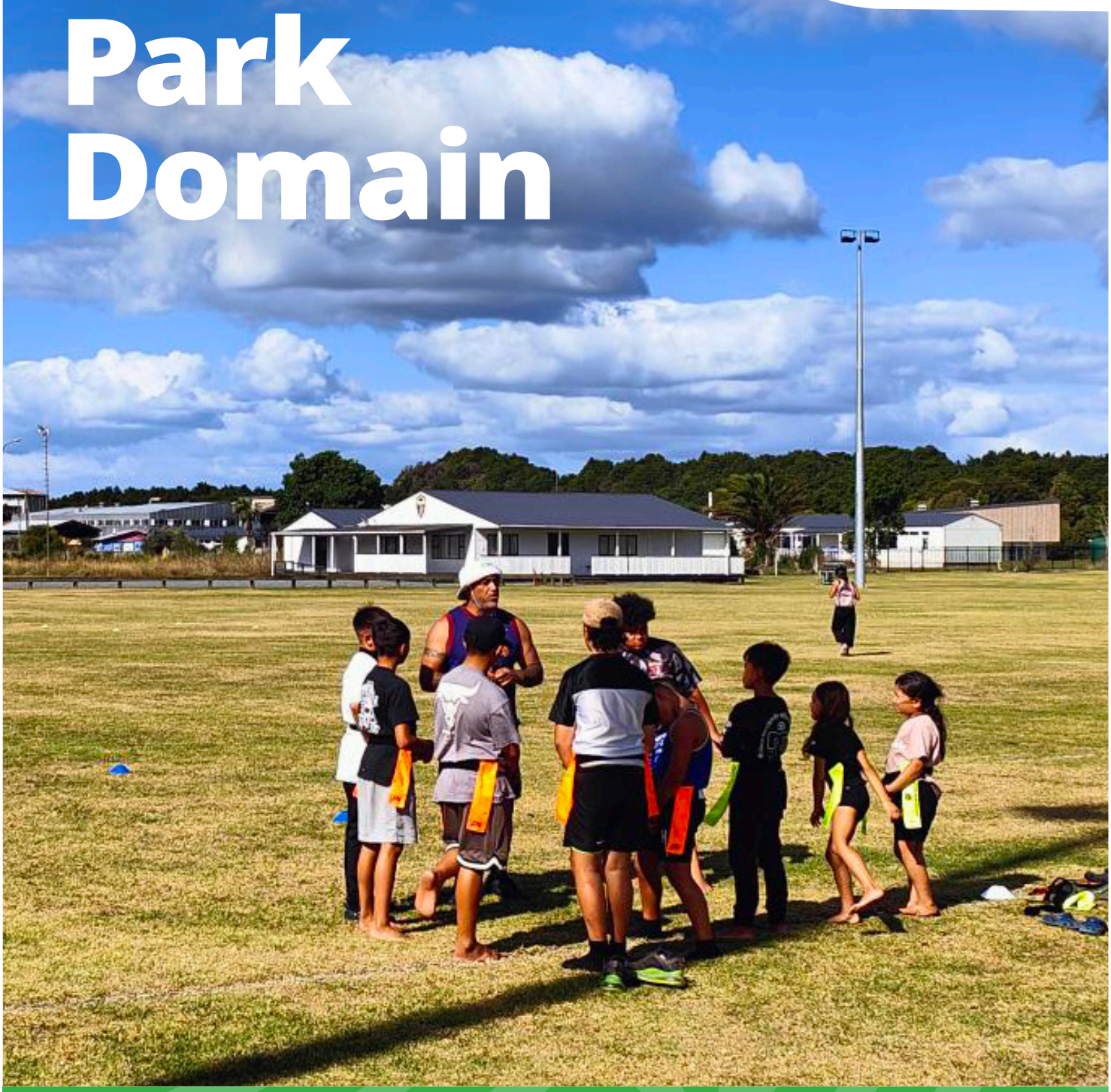
Simson Park Domain

Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika
Far North District Council



Reserve Management Plan 2026

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1.0 Introduction

This reserve management plan provides direction for management and use of Simson Park Domain (the Domain) and replaces the reserve management plan approved in 1987. The reserve management plan describes the general intentions for the use, management and development of the Domain by a series of objectives and policies and includes a concept plan to guide the use of space. These objectives and policies will assist with decision making to ensure decisions are consistent with the vision agreed by the community.

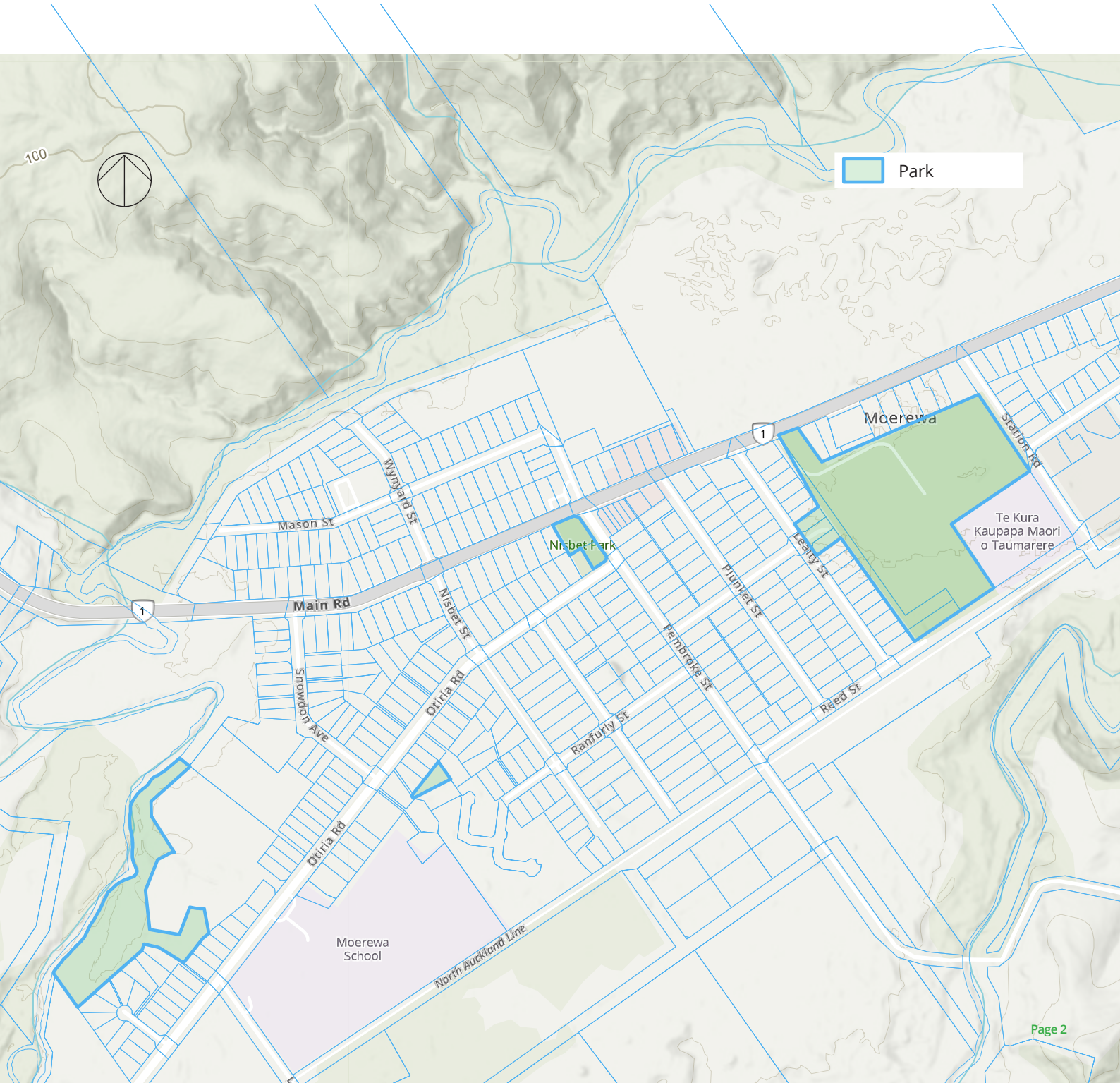
Council strategies, policies and bylaws also guide management of Simson Park Domain, and development and use will be regulated by planning and building rules.

The primary function of Simson Park Domain is for sporting and recreational use. The Domain and Simson Park Hall host community events and gatherings, and the local community see Simson Park Domain as being central to life in Moerewa.



2.0 Site description and context

Simson Park Domain Reserve is located centrally in Moerewa and has an area of 6.7 hectares. The Domain is classified as a recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and is gazetted (officially named) as 'Simson Park Domain'. An additional 3 parcels of Council recreation reserve fronting Leaity Street with a combined area of 0.2544 hectares adjoin and are managed in association with the Domain. Details of land parcels that form Simson Park Domain and other parcels managed in association with the Domain are included in Section 5.0: Technical information.



The area of the Domain is indented to the south-east by Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Taumarere and Mokopuna o Moerewa Early Childhood Education and Care, and houses adjoin north and west boundaries of the Domain. The Domain has wide frontage to Station Road to the east and unformed legal road to the south, and narrow frontage to Main Road (State Highway 1) to the north and Leaity Street to the west.

Nisbet Park to the west is within an easy walking distance of houses to the west of Simson Park Domain. Sir William Hale Reserve to the west of the Domain has little recreational use and is not a well-used park primarily due to low natural surveillance as it has narrow road frontages.

The Domain contains the following buildings: Simson Park Hall, Moerewa Rugby Football Sports Club Clubrooms and Moerewa Tigers Rugby League Club Clubrooms.

The Domain has the following structures and features: a memorial arch erected to honour Thomas Simson after whom the Domain is named, an avenue of phoenix palms, netball courts, exercise equipment, and formed but unmarked parking areas.

An overland flow path crosses the Domain, and Moerewa has reticulated water but does not have a reticulated sewerage system.

3.0 Primary users and activities

Club / Leaseholder	Prescence on Domain	Notes
Moerewa Tigers Rugby League Club	Clubrooms and two fields	Lease 2009-2029
Moerewa Rugby Football Sports Club	Clubrooms and field	Updated lease needed
Moerewa Tigers Netball Club	Netball courts	Updated lease needed
Moerewa Tigers Softball Club	Summer use of fields	
Simson Park Hall Committee	Simson Park Hall	Updated lease needed

4.0 Vision, Objectives and Policies

4.1 Vision

Simson Park Domain is developed and managed to accommodate sports, community and recreation activities and is a central hub for the community of Moerewa.



4.2 Objectives

O1. Simson Park Domain is managed as a sports hub to accommodate organised sport and also to meet the needs of the community including for community events and other recreational activities where this use is compatible with sports use.

O2. Simson Park Domain accommodates sports and other activities in general areas defined by the concept plan, as well as community gathering spaces and areas for play that activate the Domain throughout the week.

O3. Any development including buildings is in general accordance with the concept plan and supports existing sports, recreation and cultural uses, enhances opportunities for community and recreational use and enjoyment, and positively contributes to the amenity of the Domain and surrounding area.

O4. O4 Leases are established to identify the occupation of buildings and structures that are not owned by Council including clubrooms.

4.3 Policies

Use management

P1. Winter use of sports fields is allocated to rugby and rugby league as shown on the plan.

P2. Sporting and events on the Domain are co-ordinated, ideally through regular meetings between the sports codes and other interested stakeholders, in a collaborative way to ensure availability for sporting groups and for community use.

P3. The Domain is available for compatible sporting, recreational and cultural events including associated parking. Uses are not considered to be compatible where they compromise sports fields or other facilities on the Domain. Events other than regular sporting activities will be booked through Council's website.

P4. Leases are updated to reflect current occupations and all existing buildings and structures.

P5. The use of glass vessels on areas of the Domain laid out for sporting activities is not allowed.

P6. Camping on the Domain is not allowed.

Development & Buildings

P7. Development of the Domain proceeds in a planned manner consistent with the vision and concept plan and includes the future creation of a fourth sports field and a grass softball diamond. Any proposed development activities on the Domain other than minor changes are to be presented at stakeholder meetings for feedback before applying to Council for landowner approval.

P8. Buildings and structures that are necessary to support sports field activities on a field can be developed, provided that fixed assets not owned by Council are covered by a lease.

P9. Collaborative, non-exclusive and multi-use of buildings is encouraged.

P10. Simson Park Hall and clubrooms can be redeveloped in the locations shown on the plan to continue services to the community, including additional community functions consistent with the recreation reserve classification.

P11. Buildings are to support the amenity of the Domain and require agreement from Council as landowner – preapplication queries are welcomed.

P12. A public toilets facility that is available for events may be provided in the redevelopment of either the Simson Park Hall or a Clubroom.

P13. Construction of buildings will need to take account of infrastructure requirements including stormwater and sewerage.

P14. Buildings and structures on the Domain will incorporate Universal Design and CPTED (Crime prevention through environmental design) principles; park development will support visitors of all ages including those in wheelchairs, walkers and pushchairs where this is possible.

P15. Where buildings are no longer well used, an alternative use consistent with the vision and objectives will be found or the building removed at the end of lease.

Ancillary Facilities & Infrastructure

P16. Allow for signage at the entrances to the Domain to identify the Domain, available facilities, and other visitor information.

P17. Sports fields may have field lights designed to minimise light spill or glare on adjoining residential areas, also irrigation, drainage and barriers such as bollards to keep cars off fields.

P18. Other ancillary structures may include park shelters, barbecues, seating, drinking water fountains, public Wi-Fi and security cameras. Bins may be located on road frontages and portable rubbish bins for events are encouraged.

P19. Parking areas are to be sealed and marked to maximise capacity and will not extend beyond areas shown on the concept plan so sports areas are not reduced or damaged. Car parking on Station Road may extend into the edge of the Domain to allow the construction of angle parking. Parking areas within the park or on adjoining roads may include marked bus parks.

P20. Development on the Domain may include a play area or similar in the Future Rangatahi Space.

Vegetation

P21. Tree plantings will include native species and citrus or other low maintenance fruit trees. Larger trees will be planted where they do not affect the function of sports areas to provide amenity to the Domain and do not affect neighbours, generally 20m from field areas and 10m from residential boundaries.

P22. Phoenix palms to the south of the memorial arch will be removed near the end of their life or when maintenance costs outweigh the benefits of retaining them. After removal, the area near the memorial arch may either be replanted with an alternative tree species or repurposed for car parking or other park recreation activities. Development area to include an entrance with seating and walkway linking the memorial arch to internal paths and car parking.

Notes

Future development works are not currently funded and may require approvals including resource consent and building consent.

Where an area of the Domain has an existing activity such as carparking, the function cannot be changed until the activity is provided for elsewhere.

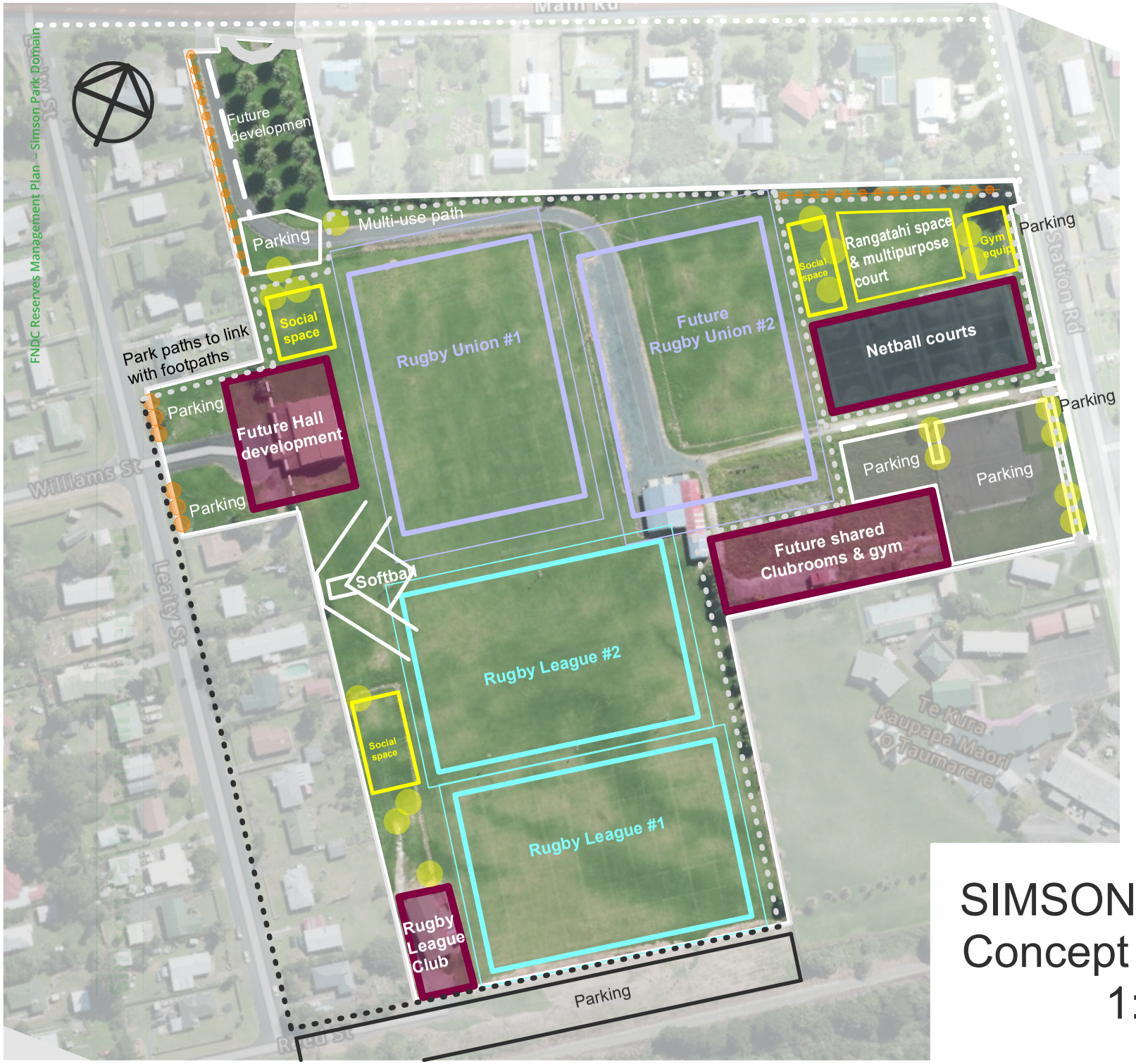
Landowner approvals and leases may include conditions over cladding and materials and landscaping.

Other issues including dog management and smoking will be managed in accordance with Council's policies and bylaws that are current at the time.

An alternative site for the Rugby League Clubrooms on the unformed legal road to the south of the Domain that is currently shown as car parking may be considered by Council. This option would require the successful closure of a section of unformed legal road through a formal road stopping process, and the park land currently occupied by the clubrooms providing for car parking.



See overleaf for Simson Park Domain Concept Plan



Plan Key

- Multi-use path
- Driveway
- Large tree
- Citrus - oranges and mandarins

Plan notes

+ Trees shown indicative locations only

+ Carparking to be formed and marked to maximise capacity, over 200 carparks shown and additional parks available in adjoining streets

+ Public toilets for events may be incorporated into redevelopment of shared clubrooms or Simson Park Hall

0 20 40 60 80 100 m

SIMSON PARK DOMAIN
Concept plan June 2026
1:2000@A4

5.0 Technical information

Land parcels

Simson Park Domain and associated parcels (refer image below)

Parcel description (& title)	Area	Classification
Part Lot 2 DP 23067 (NA617/207)	6.0194 hectares (60194 m²)	*Recreation reserve*
Allotment 273 Parish of Kawakawa	1677 m²	*Recreation reserve*
Lot 33 DP 51470 (NA12D/812)	5623 m²	*Recreation reserve*
Parcel		
Lot 25 DP51470 (NA15D/328)	809 m²	*Recreation reserve*
Lot 26 DP51470 (NA15D/329)	809 m²	*Recreation reserve*
Lot 35 DP 51470	926 m²	*Recreation reserve*
Total area	**7,0038 hectares (70038 m²)**	



Simson Park Domain parcel and development history

1930 Part Lot 2 DP 23067 (6.0194 hectares) was gifted to the Crown by the Auckland Farmers Freezing Company (AFFCO) for the purpose of a Public Domain and gazetted as Simson Park Domain.
The Domain was named after Thomas Simson, an employee and Manager of AFFCO.

1934 Memorial arch was erected by AFFCO.

1964 Lot 33 DP 51470 was vested in the Bay of Islands County Council as a recreation reserve when subdivision created residential sections fronting Leaity Street.
Allotment 273 Parish of Kawakawa (former railway land) was gazetted as a public park to form part of Simson Park Domain.
Lot 35 DP 51470 vested in the Crown as a road reserve.

1967 The Bay of Islands Council transferred Lot 33 to the Crown as a recreation reserve to be included in Simson Park Domain.

1967 Moerewa Tigers establish on site.

1968 Lot 33 was gazetted as a public domain.

1972 Simson Park Hall opened after development by Domain Committee.
AFFCO allowed use of adjoining parcels of land for carparking.

1973 Lot 35 transferred to the Bay of Islands County Council under the Counties Amendment Act 1972.

1974 Ground lease to Moerewa Rugby Football club for clubroom and football activities, lease renewed in 2009.

1979 Part Lot 2, Lot 33 and Allotment 273 classified as a reserve for recreation purposes under the Reserves Act.

1984 Simson Park Domain Board term expires, and management is transferred to Bay of Islands Council.

1985 Part Lot 2, Lot 33 and Allotment 273 were vested with the Bay of Islands County Council in trust as recreation reserve.

1994 Felling of shelterbelt trees extending through Domain.

1998 Driveway relocated to side of memorial arch.

1999-2000 Lots 25 and 26 donated to Council by AFFCO. On the recommendation of the Kawakawa Community these were classified as local purpose (carpark) reserves.

2026 Classification of associated parcels

Reserve management plans

The Reserves Act specifies that Council parks that are classified as a recreation, scenic or historic reserve under the Reserves Act are required to have a reserve management plan that ensures that management and use of the reserve is consistent with the purpose for which the land is classified. When approved, a reserve management plan provides Council with a clear framework for management and decision making and provides the community with an understanding of the values of the reserve and how they can use the reserve. The reserve management plan is prepared after (usually) 2 rounds of public consultation. Reserve management plans are ideally reviewed every 5 years so that changes in development and use that may have had other approvals can be incorporated.

This reserve management plan provides for management consistent with the classification of Simson Park Domain as a recreation reserve in accordance with section 41(3) of the Reserves Act 1977. The reserve management plan was prepared in accordance with sections 41 and 119 of the Reserves Act 1977 including advertising the draft reserve management plan. The intent to prepare a reserve management plan was advertised in June 2024 and formal consultation on the draft plan took place October to December 2025. A hearing to consider comments on the draft plan was held on 6 August 2026.