



Dog exercise area concept plan at Donegal Reserve, Katikati

November 2023
Decision Story



**Western
Bay of Plenty**
District Council

Background to dog exercise areas

On 9 November 2023, Council resolved to develop a dog exercise area at Donegal Reserve, Katikati.

Demand for these facilities came from the review of Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw in 2016 along with community feedback from the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan and 2020/21 Annual Plan processes.

In 2020, Council adopted a level of service to provide dog exercise areas across the District where fundamental design methods would be used to ensure these facilities meet the needs of the community. There are currently two dog exercise areas in the District. One at TECT Park and one at Lawrence Oliver Park in Te Puke, which was officially opened to the public in October 2023.

About Donegal Reserve

Donegal Reserve is a 1.2 hectare recreational reserve which was previously used for grazing.

The reserve is next to the Uretara Stream walkway and Haiku Pathway with a bridge providing access to residents in the area.



Engaging with the community

During the 30 May to 30 June 2023 'Your Place' Tō Wāhi consultation period, we asked the community for their thoughts on building a dog exercise area at Donegal Reserve. Letters were also sent to the neighbours of the reserve, giving them an early look at the upcoming consultation period.

The community and neighbours, had a chance to share their thoughts through online polls, feedback forms, email, or by attending Have Your Say events that were held in Katikati.

We asked if they agreed with Donegal Reserve as a location for this dog exercise area and what features they wanted to see within the space. Submitters also had a chance to tell us if they thought there was a better site for this facility to be built.

Feedback results

We received 171 pieces of feedback on the location, with 81% confirming Donegal Reserve was their preferred site for a dog exercise area. We received 49 responses telling us of other possible locations for this project which included Moore Park, Park Road, Levley Lane, Haiku Park, Talisman Drive and MacMillan Reserve. Staff had already looked at these locations in the past and ruled them out due to each of them falling short of the site assessment and selection criteria.

One submitter sought previous plans for additional planting around the reserve to be progressed. Council's 'Your Place' Tō Wāhi consultation focused on the dog exercise area location. The planting plan for the wider reserve has been included in the final concept plan. More discussions and community input on the planting designs may still be necessary to finalise them, but it is intended for this to be implemented alongside the dog exercise area.

109 submitters provided feedback on the features they wanted to see in the dog exercise area. Popular features were water for the dogs, rubbish bins, dog poo bag dispensers, seating, and a separate area dedicated to providing a calm space for dogs who needed it.

Dog exercise areas

We've identified Donegal Place Reserve in as the best site for a dog exercise area. This site is ideal as it is central to residential areas, can accommodate a reasonable size dog exercise area and has good walking and cycling connections.

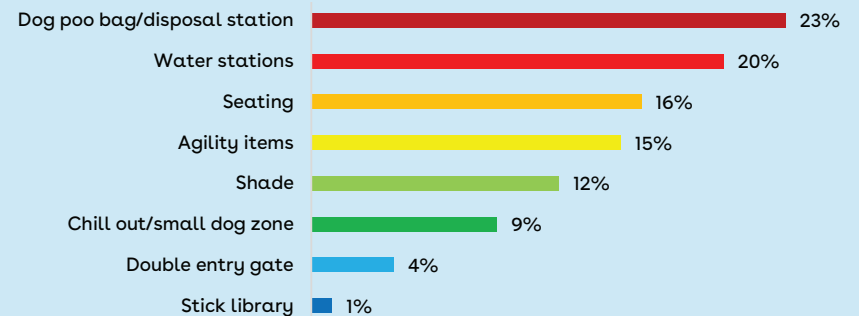
Do you agree with this location?



If no, where is a better location?

We received **49** comments from our responders.

What features would you like to see included in the dog exercise park?



Concept Plan

The final concept plan developed for this dog exercise area reflects the community feedback received which includes:

- Dog poo bag dispenser;
- Rubbish bin;
- Double entry gate;
- Seating;
- Dog drinking water station;
- Separate 'chill zone';
- Designated area for future play features and/or agility items (to be added and funded by the community).

At the 9 November 2023 Strategy and Policy Committee meeting, it was agreed to adopt the final draft concept plan for the dog exercise area at Donegal Reserve.

To view the full Strategy and Policy Committee agenda and report, visit our website: westernbay.govt.nz/agendas-and-minutes/091123-spc

DOG EXERCISE AREA CONCEPT PLAN – DONEGAL RESERVE, KATIKATI



PLAN KEY

- ① Double gated dog park entrance/exit
- ② Natural contouring mound (With future play features by others)
- ③ Public pathway
- ④ Enhancement of existing drain (with proposed planting)
- ⑤ Community orchard
- ⑥ Native amenity planting (1.2m max. high)
- ⑦ Maintenance gate
- ⑧ Single gate between dog zones

PLAN LEGEND

- Bench Seating
- Shade trees
- Water fountain with dog bowl attachment
- Dog bag dispenser
- Rubbish bin
- 1.5m high fence with top wire strung through PVC pipe
- Site boundary
- Potential pedestrian link

Dog park total area: 4300m²

Next steps

Construction of the dog exercise area is set to begin early 2024 with \$30,000 allocated in budgets from Council to this initiative. Further work will also be undertaken with the community to seek additional external funding and identify methods to further reduce construction costs.