

Flying Unmanned Aircraft on Council Parks

1. Introduction

Amended Civil Aviation Rules (CARs) relating to the operation of Unmanned Aircraft (including UAVs, RPAS, drones and model aircraft) came in to effect 1 August 2015. These rules now require people to obtain the approval of the landowner to operate a unmanned aircraft over their land.

The guidelines set out below apply to land owned and managed by the Auckland Council as parks.

Note that separate rules apply to land under the control and management of Auckland Transport. This includes all public roads and streets. Refer to www.at.govt.nz

Note also specific rules relating to the flying of unmanned aircraft may apply to some parks. Please check park notice boards or the council website for specific details. Refer www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

2. Guidelines

The casual use of unmanned aircraft is permitted on public open space within the Auckland Council but casual use is prohibited at;

- Council cemeteries
- Auckland Botanic Gardens
- Auckland Zoo
- Designated dog exercise areas
- Public Roads under the control of Auckland Transport
- Cornwall Park

Cornwall Park is owned and managed by the Cornwall Park Trust. Refer www.cornwallpark.co.nz

Permission must be obtained from Regional Facilities Auckland to fly around Mt Smart Stadium ,QBE Stadium, Western Springs or Aotea Square. Refer www.rfal.co.nz

Any person proposing to use an unmanned aircraft for commercial purposes, such as filming must obtain the appropriate permits from council.(Refer www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and search *Commercial Activity in Parks* or *Permission to Film in Auckland*.)

Users of unmanned aircraft are requested to be aware of and abide by the conditions set out below.

3. Scope

The guidelines below cover (refer to examples illustrated in attachment A);

- All electric powered remote controlled model aircraft of the type commonly referred to as “drones” that weigh less than 1.5kg, and,
- Hand-launched remote controlled model aircraft less than 2.0 m wing span and weighing less than 1.5kg.

The guidelines do not cover the following;

- Fixed- wing electric-powered model aircraft greater than 2.0 m wing span or weighing greater than 1.5kg.
- Fixed- winged model aircraft that are internal combustion engine (petrol) powered.
- Bungee or winch-launched aircraft. A tow line no greater than 15 metres is permitted.
- Single rotor helicopters that are internal combustion engine (petrol) powered.
- Single rotor helicopters that are electric powered with a rotor span greater than 0.5m or weighing greater than 1.5kg.
- Jet powered models, except electric fan-jets weighing less than 1.5kg are permitted.

The classes of unmanned aircraft listed as exceptions above can only be flown on private property or officially recognised public flying sites or sites under the control of an approved operator, such as a model aircraft club.

4. Conditions

Flyers are permitted to use council parks but are requested to be aware of and abide by the following conditions;

- Comply with the Civil Aviation Rules relating to the mode of operating unmanned aircraft. Note that specific restrictions apply in areas known as “controlled airspace” or within 4kms of an aerodrome. Refer map Attachment B and www.caa.govt.nz or www.airshare.co.nz
- Comply with the Auckland Council Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013 which states:

(1) A person must not use a public place to:

(c) use any material or thing (including a vehicle, bicycle, motorised scooter, model aircraft, skateboard, roller skates or roller blades, shopping trolley or similar object) recklessly or in a manner which may intimidate, be dangerous, be injurious to or cause a nuisance to any person;

In addition to the Civil Aviation Rules, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner provides guidance on preserving peoples’ personal privacy by not flying over other people using a park or over adjoining private property. Refer www.privacy.org.nz

AND comply with the following code of conduct for the casual use of unmanned aircraft on public open space, including beaches;

- Be courteous of other park users, who often have visited the park for the quiet enjoyment of the park.
- Be courteous to people enjoying the beach and people walking dogs on parks.
- Not operate over a sports field if in use by others
- Not fly over parked vehicles or park roads. The approval of Auckland Transport must be obtained to fly over or from a public road, including from a footpath or grass berm.

- Not operate within of 20 metres of or be flown over other users of the park
- Not operate over or within 50 metres of a live stock on parks, sensitive wildlife habitats such as wetlands, or, nesting or roosting birds.
- Not operate within 20 metres of or be flown over park buildings and over-head wires
- Not operate over dry flammable vegetation.
- Not overfly adjoining private properties
- Be in full view of the operator at all times (e.g. not operated through binoculars, or via video monitor, or smartphone, unless an observer is present)
- Be flown in daylight hours only, and
- Cease operation if requested by council staff

The council will not be actively policing these guidelines but any breach of the above conditions could result in termination of the individual's permission to use public land for the use of unmanned aircraft.

Any breaches of the Civil Aviation Rules must be referred to the Civil Aviation Authority. Refer www.caa.govt.nz



Attachment A Acceptable Unmanned Aircraft



Description: Hand-launched gliders

Wing Span: < 2 meters

Weight: < 1.5 kg.



Description: Electric sailplanes

Wing Span: < 2 meters

Weight: < 1.5 kg.



Description: Electric model aircraft

Wing Span: < 2 meters

Weight: < 1.5 kg.



Description: Electric quadcopters (drone)

Weight: < 1.5 kg.



Description: Electric quadcopters (drone)

Weight: < 1.5 kg.

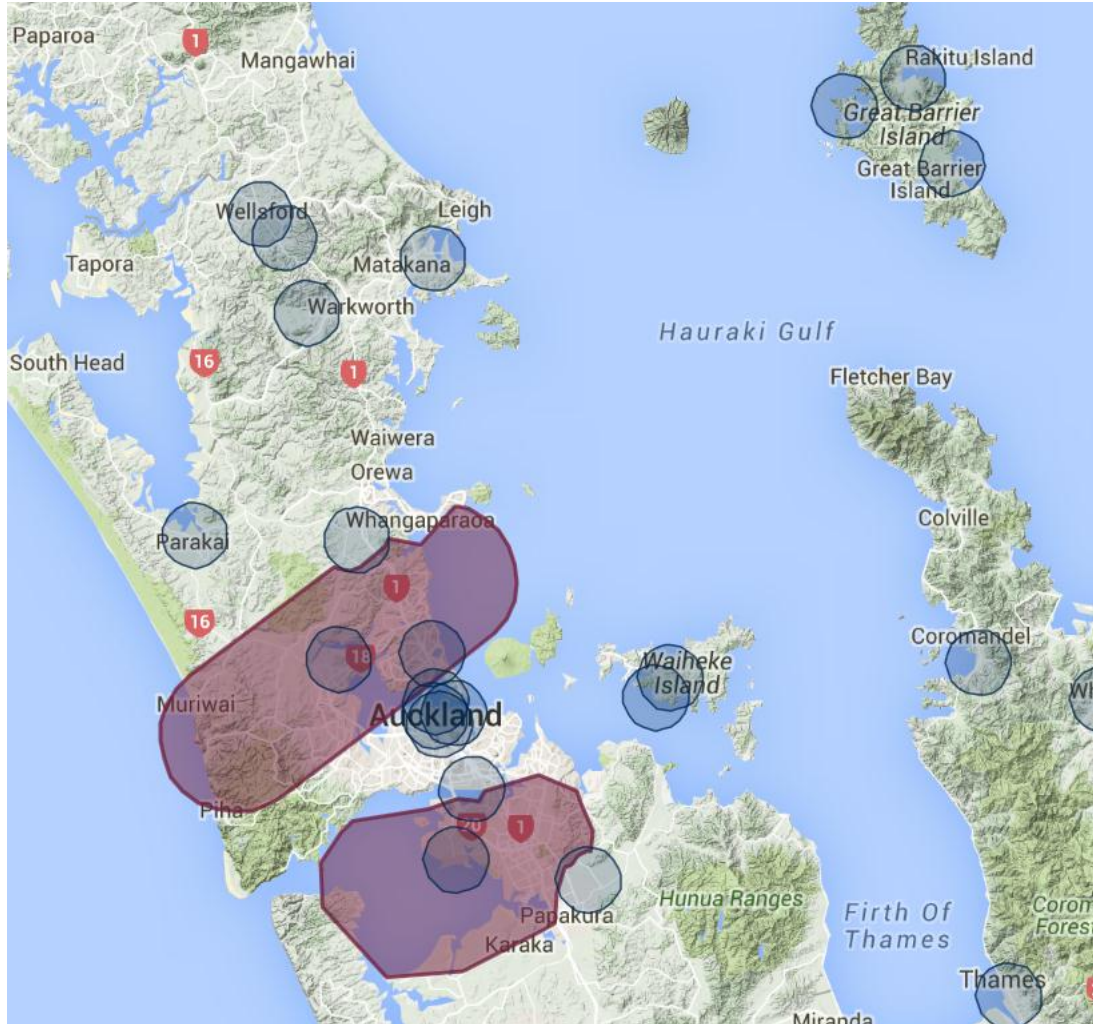


Description: Small electric helicopters

Rotor Span: < 500 mm

Weight: < 1.5 kg.

Attachment B Controlled Airspace in Auckland Region



Purple areas = Controlled airspace

Blue circles = 4 km restrictions around aerodromes

Refer www.caa.govt.nz or www.airshare.co.nz for details