

RETAINING WALLS

Use retaining walls to:

- retain areas of sloping topography to create flat platforms in order to improve pedestrian access, usability and opportunities for a range of activities
- retain embankments along cuttings to provide access tracks
- provide functional or spatial enclosure

Achieve good access and usability by:

- ensuring path connections to retained platforms provide access for a range of potential users, and by providing all abilities access gradients of 1:12 or less

Ensure safety and visibility by:

- considering whether a fall height barrier may be required, depending on the height of the retaining wall and topography above and below the wall
- considering geotechnical, structural and drainage requirements
- assessing the visual appearance of retaining walls. The sheer height of walls can be screened with planting or by steeping

Achieve good aesthetics and the right materials by:

- considering if the retaining wall structure is in proportion with its surroundings
- considering the materials, colours, and form of the wall early in the design, to ensure it is complimentary to the setting and function of the park as a whole
- ensuring an exploration of possible construction materials is completed to see if recycled materials or the reuse of an existing element could be used
- considering other retaining methods, such as rock gabions, rip rap stone armouring, earth shaping and planted batters

Good practice examples

Ocean View Road, Pocket Park, Milford

Durable materials weather slower, which is particularly important in coastal situations.



Sydney, Australia

There can be aesthetically positive solutions to cost effective retaining.



Barry Curtis Park, Flat Bush

Retaining doubles as seating terraces to create an amphitheatre for local events.



Takapuna, Auckland

The use of local materials can enhance the connection to an area.



New Plymouth Coastal Walkway, New Plymouth

The style of retaining walls can also reflect the landscape setting.



Highbrook Drive, East Tamaki

The size of retaining walls can have a major influence on landscape scale and overall costs.



