CENTRAL PERK OF THE SOUTH
A LARGE MULTIPURPOSE COMMUNITY HUB

AUCKLAND DESIGN MANUAL

PARKS // ALL PARKS CASE STUDY
Sir Barry Curtis Park
Flat Bush, Auckland
OVERVIEW

When complete, this extra large park will undoubtedly be the community hub of the south, offering a wide variety of amenities and facilities for people to enjoy year round.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Barry Curtis Park is the largest urban park to be developed in Auckland in the last 100 years, and once completed it will be larger than Auckland Domain.

An ecological ‘Wetland Neighbourhood Play Park’ is intended to prompt children’s interest in wetlands and stormwater ponds through interactive features, play elements and sculpture.

The park incorporates 55km of protected natural stream and gully areas that create a network of ‘green fingers’ that connect the residential areas of Flat Bush with the park. A majority of existing houses are within five minutes walk of a ‘green finger’.

The Barry Curtis Park Skate Park is one of the largest in the country, and was designed by Isthmus and a professional consultant. The public had a voice in the design through a designated website and social networking sites such as Facebook, which are still used as tools for event news and management. The skate park creates a focal point for skaters, to deter them from using schools and streetscapes for the sport.

Central perk of the south – a large multipurpose community hub.
### KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

#### MAIN ENVIRONMENT MODULE

INFORMAL RECREATION

#### KEY FEATURES

- Wetland Neighbourhood Play Space
- Cultural lawn and amphitheatre suitable for large-scale events
- Multi-sports complex, fields and facilities
- Skate park (Community consultation design)
- Ecological enhancements through extensive wetlands and stream restoration
- Iconic pedestrian bridge
- Arts – signature areas including sculptures
- Education centre
- Picnic area with covered facilities

#### LESSONS LEARNT

- Comfort - Uncomfortable seat backs on bespoke furniture emphasises the importance of testing bespoke furniture through prototypes, and working closely with the supplier prior to installation and use
- Design with Maintenance in Mind - Unresolved detail at the edges of informal paths results in large areas of path edges being sprayed off and turning yellow

#### LOCATION

LOCATED CENTRALLY AND FRAMED BY CHAPEL RD, STANCOMBE RD, ORMISTON RD AND FLATBUSH SCHOOL RD IN FLATBUSH

#### DESIGNER

ISTHMUS GROUP

### OTHER PARK ENVIRONMENTS

SPORTS AND ACTIVE RECREATION, ECOLOGICAL

### SITE AREA

94 HECTARES

The park is made up of undulating farmland with a number of ponds and an extensive system of restored stream corridors. The design was inspired by local volcanic geology, historical defensive sites and the farming vernacular of the site.
ENJOY HEALTH WELLBEING & FUN

1. Predominantly constructed from asphalt with concrete bond beams containing the path, the surface is smooth and can be used by a wide range of recreation or mobility transport options.

2. This promenade extends around the perimeter of the site, connecting different areas of the park together, and providing a well used circuit for exercise.

3. Ramp and stair access is provided at regular intervals along the promenade. At access points the promenade construction changes from asphalt to concrete, enabling service or maintenance vehicles to drive over it without destroying the surface.

Barry Curtis is a popular place for cycling, skating and walking, enables the local community to achieve greater health and wellbeing.
UTILISE OUR RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY

1. Some sections of the promenade are raised with a planted rocky edge. This separates pedestrians from vehicles, and prevents vehicles from driving into the park.

2. Plants used along the edges in these gardens are hardy native ground covers which can handle the exposed condition of the site.

3. The small retaining wall forming the rocky edge incorporates signage.

This retaining wall doubles as a park entrance sign, preserving the park's character, reducing clutter and saving money.
1. Planting and subsequent maintenance will be an ongoing initiative involving schools and the council.

2. Habitats for bird life and other native fauna will eventually flourish in these corridors and throughout the park.

3. A barrier rail created with some simple length variation in the battens provides an attractive edge feature which also performs a functional role.

4. A key goal of the park’s development is the restoration of water corridors through extensive planting and revegetation initiatives. There is now a total of 55km of protected natural stream and gully areas on the site.
1. Wide riparian buffer zones have been incorporated, providing greater water treatment and extended riparian habitat areas.

2. Path networks have been carefully integrated to follow the existing contours of the landscape.

3. A cone mound used as the entrance feature to the park recalls the volcanic heritage of the site.

Paths and planting have been carefully delivered to respect the site’s landscape and natural qualities.
**UTILISE THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

1. An amenity strip provides seating, lighting and places for small kiosks to set up, as well as planting to provide shelter and an edge to contain the space.

2. A wide gently graded concrete promenade provides easy access to the park for everyone, and draws people into the main event and sporting area.

3. One of the key outcomes for the development of this park was to provide space for the wider region to experience a range of events, from sporting and cultural events to music festivals. This large open space was noted as a key area for such activities.

Large flat open spaces provide a flexible venue for hosting sport, events and music festivals.
1. The kikuyu lawn crept across the path, resulted in it being sprayed. A less invasive grass species should have been planted adjacent to the path, or the edge could have been better defined using a different material.

2. A wide compacted aggregate path along a small ridgeline provides connections through the park to different areas.

3. Seating at frequent intervals offers opportunities to rest and is positioned between the poplar trees, framing the views out to other parts of the park.

4. Basalt walls and poplars planted to accentuate the linear nature of the rural character of the site also refer to the park’s heritage.

These stone walls have been relocated to the park from another heritage site which has been developed, in order to ensure the heritage of the area is not lost to intensification over time.
ENJOY HEALTH WELLBEING & FUN

1. The wetland neighbourhood play space contains oversized native plant and bird shaped elements, predominantly made from corten steel. This creates an exciting and inspiring ecologically themed play space.

2. Both bespoke and standard play equipment has been used in this playground, providing a range of experiences for different age groups.

3. Large exotic trees have been planted along the edges of the play space, which will eventually provide shade and shelter for children playing, and caregivers using the seats beneath them.

4. Cushionfall has been used as the predominant playground surface to reduce the risks of injury and improve the enjoyment of play.

The wetland playground is fun, engaging and integrates artwork which creates a distinct sense of place and a memorable experience for adults as well as kids.
1. A signature palette of furniture elements was developed for the park, including these signage panels, creating visual connection internally within the park and enhancing the park’s identity.

2. Corten steel has been used extensively throughout the park as a feature material, creating a visual connection between different elements.

3. Several utility buildings servicing small areas are located around the park. These contain toilets and storage space.

This utility service building also serves as a toilet and storage space, minimising the need for additional buildings on the site, and preserving our precious open space resource.
1. The restoration of stream corridors throughout the site has been a key structuring element in the park's development.

2. Planting that is still in the early stages of establishment will need continued management to ensure its success.

3. Boardwalks and concrete weir structures enable park users to engage with many of the stream corridors, giving the public an up close encounter with ecological restoration processes.

The stream corridors have been protected and restored with significant planting along the edges, ensuring the safety of park visitors by creating a buffer, and improving water quality.
CONNECT PLACES

1. The lineal paths link key areas of interest, including playgrounds, toilets and other facilities.

2. Primary paths are dissected by stream corridors, giving users access to and along the stream margins.

3. Keeping the edges of the park open to the surrounding neighbourhood allows for passive surveillance of the space, and connects the community to their park.

Linear pathways link the park’s key activity nodes in a direct way, whilst other pathways are provided to offer a more leisurely way to get around.
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