

WATER FEATURES

Where to put water features:

- locate water features in key urban or civic spaces, ideally within adjacent to play spaces.
- carefully consider the installation and maintenance costs of water features before installation
- locate water features away from sources of debris, e.g. trees, planting areas and loose aggregates, as these can create maintenance issues
- locate water features where they can easily connect to services such as water mains, drainage and power supply
- locate water features where any plant or equipment required for the feature to function can be located nearby. Depending on the scale of the water feature, water feature plants can be substantial structures that should be masked. Demand on resources and maintenance costs can greatly depend on the distance between the feature and plant housing, and this should be considered during the design stage.
- if a water feature design incorporates multiple elements, consider clustering these to reduce pump size and save on resources

Ensure access and usability by:

- considering the inclusion of interactive play into water features as part of the cost analysis
- considering access to water features and plant housing for routine maintenance
- incorporating the option to turn off the feature during drought periods

Ensure safety and visibility by:

- positioning water features to minimise hazard and error, e.g. out of the line of travel to assist the blind and partially sighted
- ensuring a high level of water quality and hygiene is maintained, to mitigate health risks to park users
- considering climatic factors such as wind when water jets or splashing water is incorporated into the water feature design. Accumulated water on surrounding paths and paving areas can become a slipping hazard, therefore adequate drainage and slip resistant surfacing should be factored
- keeping water depths compliant with building and safety standards to avoid becoming a drowning hazard
- providing signage which informs users of the council's contact telephone number should the water be contaminated or the feature broken

Ensure good aesthetics and the right materials by:

- use materials, colours, and forms that complement the setting and function of the park as a whole, when designing bespoke water features
- ensuring that water features are durable (particularly to the wearing processes of running water and rust), and are resistant to vandalism, damage and theft, e.g. by incorporating enclosed and reinforced fittings
- considering the resourceful manufacture of the water feature elements, including ease of supply
- exploring the use of recycled materials or the reuse of an existing elements to form these elements

- considering sculpture or traditional artwork as a feature instead, to avoid the maintenance and operational costs associated with water features

Ensure easy maintenance by:

- Scheduling regular maintenance checks to ensure water features are in working order, hygienic and clean
- carefully considering the water, chemical and associated costs of water features early on in the design process, to ensure there is adequate funding
- designing and constructing water features with a minimum serviceable life of 15 years
- providing signage for users to contact council should the water be contaminated or the feature broken
- ensuring all water features use high quality pumps and components that can be serviced and maintained by New Zealand based contractors

Good practice examples

<p>Orewa Beachfront, Orewa</p> <p><i>This water feature keeps a low profile to the ground to mitigate water wastage by wind etc.</i></p>	
<p>Garden Place, Hamilton</p> <p><i>The intrinsic qualities of water play should be a major factor in the proposal of water features.</i></p>	
<p>Misson Bay Fountain, Mission Bay</p> <p><i>This fountain is situated well away from nearby trees, mitigating debris and maintenance issues.</i></p>	

Misson Bay Fountain, Mission Bay

Water features can become valuable community assets, however water quality is paramount.



Franklin, Auckland

Water feature surroundings can be slippery and require adequate drainage and non-slip materials.



St. Patricks Square, Auckland Central

Water features can be expensive and should therefore be reserved for key urban spaces.



