



# GROWING UP NOT GROWING OLD

A PARK IS REDEVELOPED  
TO CATER FOR GROWTH

AUCKLAND  
DESIGN MANUAL

TE PUKA WHAKATAIRANGA I A TAMAKI MAKAUURAU

PARKS // SPORT & ACTIVE REC CASE STUDY

Wainoni Park  
Greenhithe, Auckland

# OVERVIEW

An old sports park gets an upgrade to respond to the area's growing population.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

The redevelopment works were driven by the parks team, who worked with surrounding landowners, community groups and sporting groups to create a unified vision for the park. Students from the local primary school were invited to contribute what they wanted in the playground to make it 'theirs'. Two equestrian clubs, the ratepayers association and the local sports clubs were also engaged.

Improvements included upgrading existing facilities, creating new access points, new walkways, a boardwalk and bridges, a new entrance, a car park, landscaping, sports field upgrades and the installation of floodlights. Re-vegetation of the main ephemeral streams was also delivered. Concerns regarding the quality and availability of sports fields were addressed by upgrading the sports field infrastructure.

A play space was developed that celebrated the history of Greenhithe, incorporating pre-settlement and colonial themes. The success of the bespoke playground generated the need for greater support facilities, including seating and shade.

The Greenhithe Pony Club and Greenhithe Riding for the Disabled are located at the northern and southern ends of the park and lease the land from Auckland Council. The two groups often share resources, providing mutual benefits.

The community clearly appreciated the result, with the reserve delivering significantly wider community attributes than sport alone.



Wainoni Park has undergone significant upgrades over recent years, prompted by major residential growth in the area and a demand for more local recreational opportunities.

# KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

MAIN ENVIRONMENT MODULE  
**SPORT & ACTIVE RECREATION**

DESIGNER

DEVELOPMENT COSTS

**NORTH SHORE CITY COUNCIL**

**\$3 MILLION**

OTHER ENVIRONMENT MODULE  
**INFORMAL RECREATION**

KEY FEATURES

LOCATION

Playground, walking facilities,  
paths, bridges and boardwalks

**CHURCHHOUSE RD, GREENHITHE**

SITE AREA  
**40 HECTARES**

Network of exotic specimen  
trees consistent with the wider  
catchment

A 40 hectare reserve made up of a combination of flat formed sports fields and undulating land. A variety of natural ephemeral streams run through the reserve feeding into the Te Wharua creek. The reserve is surrounded on the two longitudinal sides by residential housing, with the narrower northern and southern edges bounded by Te Wharau creek and a residential road respectively.

Large scale revegetation of  
ephemeral streams which flow  
through the park

Sports fields used for winter and  
summer sports

Built materials and planting  
reflects rural and heritage  
themes

Use of integrated bioretention  
stormwater treatment devices

Integration of sports field  
drainage and sand pitches

Enhancement of the natural  
environment including  
restoration of stream systems

# ENJOY COMFORT & SAFETY

1. A line of large deciduous trees indicates the park boundaries and provides shade for car parks on hot summer days.
2. Grassed terraces known as 'bunds' provide an informal, elevated platform for spectators to watch sports matches.



The raised edges around this sports field provide informal seating for spectators, and trees around the edges provide shade and shelter from the elements, making the park a more comfortable and enjoyable place to visit.

# CONNECT PLACES

1. An elevated section of the walkway allows ponies to pass freely from field to field, ensuring the path traversing the paddocks does not hinder ponies' use of the space.
2. The post and rail fences that line the paths, which run through horse paddocks, enhance the rural experience for users.
3. A collaboration between the Greenhithe Pony Club and Auckland Council saw the creation of a walkway connecting the park with Greenhithe Road, encouraging people to walk to the park instead of driving.



This new walkway's design respects the existing terrain, flora and fauna, preserves the park's rural character and provides a much needed connection for walkers, cyclists and ponies alike.

# ENJOY MORE USE AND A RANGE OF EXPERIENCES

1. Sports fields entice social interaction through organised and casual sporting activities.
2. A sand pitch has been installed to ensure the clay based; poorly draining site remains open in wet weather. The sand pitch provides a flatter playing surface and ensures that the field can drain quickly and be used well into the winter months.
3. Multiple sporting codes are accommodated in the park's design, making the space adaptable to changing user needs and seasonal sporting variations.



This sports field is sand carpeted, making it more durable and able to be used often; by more people, year round.

# TREASURE OUR HERITAGE

1. Residential areas that flank three sides of the park ensure plenty of passive surveillance of the sports fields and play spaces, making them safer.
2. A path connecting the streets and car parks to the sports fields gives easy access for those with wheelchairs, scooters and push chairs to watch the games.
3. The addition of play equipment has provided a local play facility which provides entertainment for younger family members on game days.



This playground has maintained the park's rural character by referencing its farming history with harvest mosaics, fruit trees, and an old tractor to climb on.

# CONNECT THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Dogs are allowed in this park, which promotes activity and can become a catalyst for social interaction between dog owners.
2. The broad pathway from Churchouse Road to Te Wharau Drive connects the residential areas to the east and west of the park, providing a vital neighbourhood connection.
3. Restoration of stream systems and revegetation were achieved with planting days attended by local sports clubs and school children. This formed a valuable learning tool and instilled a sense of community ownership of the reserve.



This bridge successfully connects people to the environment by allowing them to observe the restored stream system without damaging it.

# UTILISE THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

1. Concrete porous paving is used in car parking areas to reduce the overall quantity of impermeable surfacing. The use of subsurface drainage has reduced the likelihood of slumped paving, and ensured good performance of the grass surface.
2. The 'hit and miss' kerb and swales effectively remove contaminants and sediments from stormwater before it's discharged into stream networks. This system also provides passive irrigation to amenity shrub planting.
3. Compacted aggregate pathways are widely used throughout the park to help maintain the rural character of the site. It is a cost effective option that is durable for ponies, mountain biking and walking.



Water management is a crucial element of park design. The designers took the time to understand the site's water systems and drainage. In response, they've integrated porous paving and swales into the car park area to manage stormwater runoff.

# CONNECT PEOPLE

1. Networks of generously scaled walkways connect to the surrounding residential area and intersect with a number of streams that have been re-vegetated.
2. Allowing dogs in the park promotes activity and can become a catalyst for social interaction by bringing dog owners together.
3. Bespoke gates, balustrades and site furniture enhance the identity of this park and its sense of place.



The new walkways in this park have successfully connected people to the park and to each other. By delivering convenient and safe connections with the surrounding cycling and walking networks, the park is now easy to access and navigate, and provides opportunities for people to meet and socialise.

# UTILISE OUR RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY

1. Play elements that involve greater numbers of children, such as this roundabout, provide opportunities for kids to meet, interact and make friends.
2. Recycled rubber mats were used as a soft fall surface in the play space. It has a smaller environmental impact than new material and involves less maintenance than woodchip softfall surfacing.
3. This water feature located next to the play space creates the opportunity for children to interact with water. This is very popular on hot summer days.



The soft fall mats in the play space are made of recycled materials and involve less maintenance than woodchip softfall surfacing.

# CONNECT PEOPLE

1. A connection through the site from Churchouse Road to Te Wharau Drive links the residential areas to the east and west of the park, and encourages people in these neighbourhoods to walk to and through the park rather than drive.
2. The post and rail fences that line the paths through horse paddocks enhance the rural character and sense of place in the park.
3. Collaboration with the Greenhithe Pony Club led to the integration of specialised pony gates to ensure the movement required for the club to function was maintained.



Enhanced walkway connections connect people to the park and to each other by linking the parks key activity nodes together.

# ENJOY HEALTH, WELLBEING & FUN

1. Seating located along the perimeter of the sports fields provides for spectators who are not able to stand comfortably for long periods of time.
2. Deciduous trees offer respite from the heat during the summer but allow the sun to shine through during the winter, providing a more comfortable place to sit. They also reduce the risk of boggy ground during the cold months.
3. Large open spaces, sports fields and permission for dog walking encourage and enable physical activity for the community, promoting healthy living and wellbeing.



This park's design provides opportunities for social interaction, active and passive physical activity; and places for children and young people to have fun, play and learn. Seating and shade provide for a comfortable experience and encourage people to enjoy the park for longer.

# AUCKLAND DESIGN MANUAL

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