

SUSTAINABILITY & STYLE SETTING AN EXAMPLE IN THE ECO-CITY

OLYMPIC

PARK

AUCKLAND
DESIGN MANUAL

TE WHAKA WHAKATAIRANGA I A TĀPĀKI MĀKAURAU

PARKS // ALL PARKS CASE STUDY

Olympic Park
New Lynn, Auckland

OVERVIEW

This park wins the gold medal when it comes to providing a mix of organised sport and informal and passive recreation opportunities to attract local users, all while enhancing the natural processes in an sustainable way.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Olympic Park as we now know it encompasses two former reserves - New Lynn Domain (2.8ha in 1918, expanded and renamed as Olympic Park by 1950) and Wolverton Land. The 2.8ha New Lynn Domain was opened in 1918, and was expanded and renamed as Olympic Park in 1950. Wolverton Land is the rehabilitated Taylor Street landfill - a clean fill site.

Recent revegetation of the Whau River has brought riparian, wetland and aquatic habitats back to life.

The family-oriented park is modelled on historic Olympic stadia and includes a children's playground that utilises state-of-the-art equipment and varied landforms to promote natural play.

24 solar-powered luminaries light up a pedestrian traffic route through the park. These are supported by a wind turbine to ensure their performance during long periods of poor weather with limited light.

The use of local artwork and traditional sculpture along the pathways alludes to the park's historic significance as an important trading crossroads, linking South and East Auckland with the West Coast and Kaipara areas, and the two harbours.

The park is also host to a number of community sports clubs, facilitated by the park's historical running track and facilities.

Olympic Park was awarded the New Zealand Recreation Association's (NZRA) Outstanding Park Award in 2007.



KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

MAIN ENVIRONMENT MODULE INFORMAL RECREATION

OTHER PARK ENVIRONMENTS SPORTS AND ACTIVE RECREATION, ECOLOGICAL

SITE AREA 7 HECTARES

Divided by the Avondale Stream and built on stiff silt clays of a Pleistocene-Holocene origin, the site is a combination of a former domain to the west of the stream and the rehabilitated Taylor Street clean fill site.

KEY FEATURES

‘Premier’ Children’s Playground

Solar-powered lighting of pedestrian routes

Sports field in centre of small asphalt velodrome

Avondale Spider Sanctuary

Local art work and traditional carvings

Community garden

Eco-friendly public toilets

Stream restoration

Rain gardens

LESSONS LEARNT

LOCATION

PORTAGE ROAD AND WOLVERTON STREET, NEW LYNN

DESIGNER

Entrance, signage and play space –Soul Environments

Overall Landscape Concept and Developed Design –Boffa Miskell

Playground Park – Central (Tina Dyer)

Stream restoration – Wildlands

CONNECT PLACES

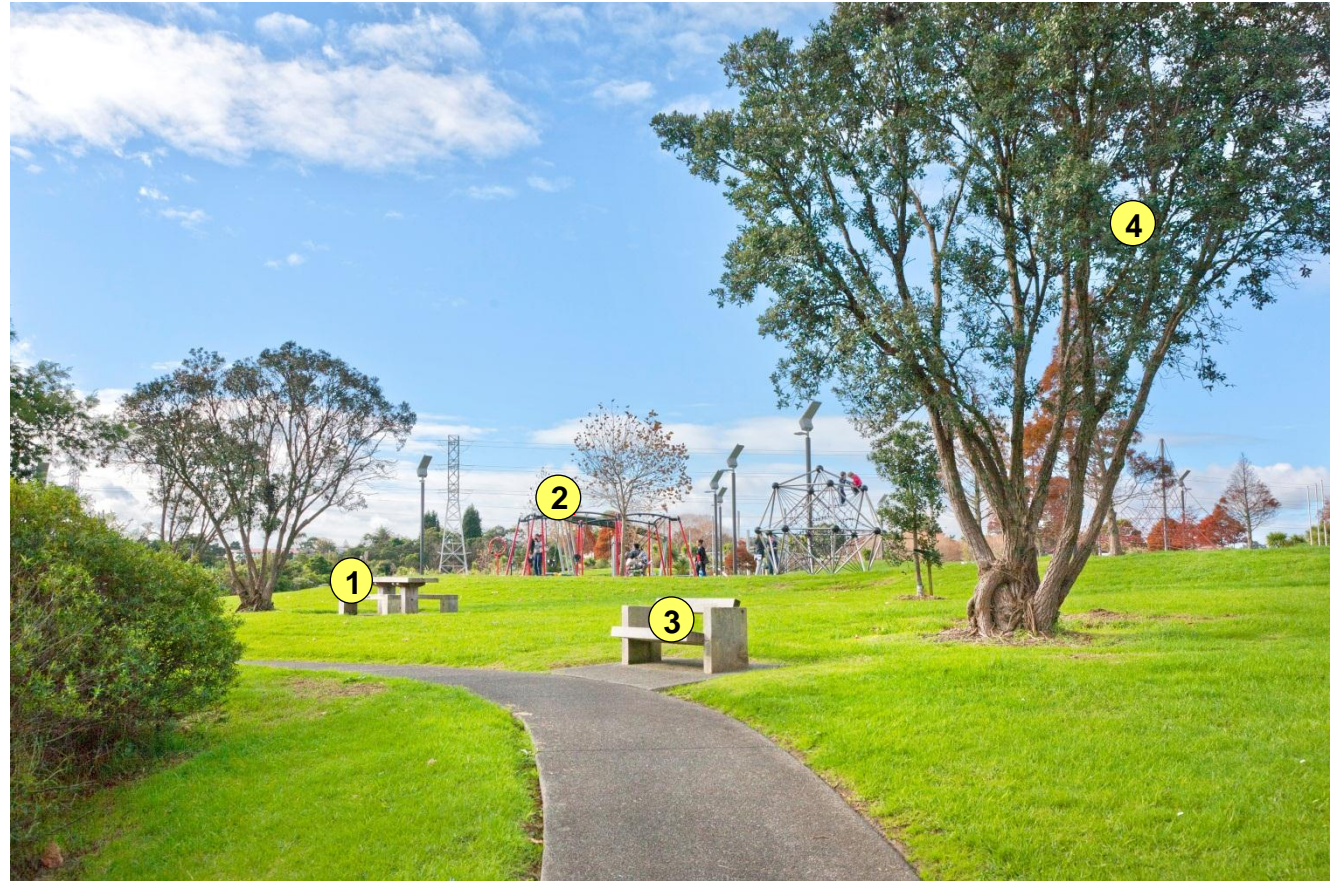
1. Art work has been integrated into the space beside the river edge, making cultural and ecological connections.
2. Integrated, easily accessible walkways throughout the park encourage a wide variety of users to enjoy the space together.
3. Bridges provide a connection across a water body, and cross-sectional views of the stream, making them a useful educational tool.



This bridge and pathway connects the informal recreation environment with the sports focused zone and respects the sensitive stream corridor that runs beneath it.

ENJOY COMFORT & SAFETY

1. Picnic tables and seats are located to take advantage of views and oversee the play space.
2. Furniture and amenities were designed with changeable weather conditions in mind, providing both sheltered areas and sunny spaces.
3. Seating opportunities are provided at regular intervals around this park.
4. Specimen trees are strategically located to provide shade.



Amenities such as seating and shade are offered at regular intervals along the path network to enable young and old to comfortably and safely enjoy the park.

TREASURE OUR COMMUNITIES

1. A range of signage elements have been used in the park including maps, interpretative panels and abstract plans.
2. A large informative panel with a mixture of text and images is used to engage and inform people.
3. The signage panel is located next to main pedestrian path network, and set at a height suitable for children, adults and disabled users.



This signage panel helps the community connect with the park and value its special features.

CONNECT THE ENVIRONMENT

1. The community is continuing to remove pest plant species to restore the streamside habitat for native fauna.
2. The Whau river which runs through the park has been revitalised through replanting of native streamside trees and wetland vegetation.



The Whau River runs through this park. Restoration planting has helped improve the quality of the river and enhance its ecological value.

UTILISE OUR RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY

1. Toilets are located centrally in the park and close to the adjacent road, giving them easy access and passive surveillance.
2. Solar powered lighting is just one of the sustainable features within this park. This was designed as a demonstration project for the council, using the latest in energy efficient design and materials
3. Harnessing sustainable energy is demonstrated by solar panels attached to all the light poles. These provide an educational tool for park users, helping them to understand where power comes from, and to inspire sustainable behaviour.



Solar powered lights and a centrally located toilet facility makes the most of our resources.

TREASURE OUR MAORI IDENTITY

1. A range of different sized gathering spaces can be found within the park, providing areas for small and large groups and outdoor classrooms.
2. Maori carvings provide an artistic cultural connection linking people to the site's historical significance to Maori. Set within native planting, this art piece can be enjoyed from a distance.



Designers worked with mana whenua to incorporate appropriate interpretation, design items, and artworks which connect visitors with our Maori identity, heritage and culture.

ENJOY MORE USE & A RANGE OF EXPERIENCES

1. A half basketball court integrated into the play space provides an activity for teenagers and adults to enjoy.
2. A wide range of play equipment allows a variety of ages of children to enjoy the same park.
3. Elements to climb and swing from provide different experiences and challenge levels for children.
4. A simple concrete meandering bond beam provides an easily maintainable edge to mow up to and contains the play surfaces within.



Olympic Park offers a wide variety of play equipment and hard courts to make sure a large number of kids can enjoy the park at the same time.

ENJOY

1. As well as creative colourful entrance signage, standard park signage has also been installed to clearly identify the place and provide important information clearly with simple colours and icons.
2. The phone number provided allows a point of contact if there is an issue with management or maintenance of the park. A clear address also provides a quick reference for park users if an emergency occurs.



Olympic Park is safe, inviting and allows for a range of uses and experiences for people of all ages and abilities.

TREASURE OUR COMMUNITIES

1. Bespoke park signage celebrates the park's identity and creates a recognisable unique park in the area. The crazy lettering reflects the fun and playfulness the park, and encourages children to visit.
2. Timber seating platforms at the entrance provide meeting points and places and pick up points.
3. Clear sightlines through the large access way into the park and clipped shrub hedges provide passive surveillance for the space.
4. Exotic deciduous trees planted at the entrance provide colour and definition to the site boundary. As these trees mature their canopies can be lifted to retain sightlines.



The community has strong aspirations for creating an eco-city, and have integrated sustainable initiatives, such as solar lighting, into this park design to respect that core value of the community.

ENJOY COMFORT & SAFETY

1. Small pods of play areas provide different play experiences for children to move between. A hexagonal swing structure contains six swings which swing into the middle of the shape, providing opportunities for children and parents to engage with each other.
2. Specimen trees planted on the edge of the play space will provide future shade for parents and children.
3. Installing play structures that allow children to move three-dimensionally and climb to gain significant height adds a level of risk and challenge to the play which is very important in children's development.



Clear sightlines and lighting throughout the park encourages passive surveillance and ensures park users feel safe.

AUCKLAND DESIGN MANUAL

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