

The Katy Trail, Dallas. Photography by SWA Group

This page has been intentionally left blank

Introduction

Examples of successful parks have been selected and carefully analysed through desktop studies and site visits. Characteristics that contribute to the parks success have been identified to establish a series of objectives.

The precedent studies within this report were selected from local, national and international projects which share a common spatial identity with different parks within the Inner West Council area.

The most successful characteristics from these precedents are utilised to inform the masterplan which is developed later in this report.



ACCESS

Provide a welcoming and easy to navigate space
Define a public place, with clear and obvious entry-points and consistent wayfinding throughout the parks.



INCLUSIVE

Ensure an environment for all regardless of ability, age, gender or culture
Plan an infrastructure for a changing population, enabling equality of opportunity for all demographics. Creating inclusive multi-generational, multi-cultural and accessible activities including unstructured and unprescribed play spaces for children, and addressing the health and well-being needs of older residents.



COMMUNITY

Encourage the use of parks as an extension of the home
Provide inviting amenities and informal recreation facilities which will enable the community to take advantage of the spaces: bbq areas, children's play areas, seating and shade, facilities for pets and pet owners



SENSE OF PLACE

Maintain and enhance the connection to the locality, place and to country
Manage change with respect for place, Aboriginal and community history and endeavour to engage visitors with the history and culture of the site, creating opportunities for public art and interpretation.



SUSTAINABILITY

Protect and restore local ecologies; engage and educate visitors about their significance
Make decisions which put the environment first, protecting existing habitats and providing connections between isolated pockets of biodiversity. Minimise the impact of recreation on sensitive habitats whilst encouraging the community to connect with nature.



SAFETY

Create a feeling of comfort and usability for everyone at any time of day.
Create an atmosphere in which all users of the parks - from dog walkers to cyclists, sunbathers to athletes - feel safe and comfortable to access all areas of the park day-and-night.



SPORT + RECREATION

Provide high-quality facilities, spaces and programs that support wellbeing and active and healthy communities. Provide facilities to accommodate, and programs to facilitate both organised formal, and unstructured informal sports - competitive and recreational: upgrade existing sporting facilities and collaborate with sporting clubs to increase capacity, intensity and flexibility of use.

2.1 Precedent Studies

SYDNEY PARK



Photography credits tbc

PARK DATA [water re-use precinct]

- Designer: Turf Design Studio
- Location: St Peters, Sydney, NSW
- Overall Size: 440,000m²
- Completed: 2015
- Cost: \$11.3 million

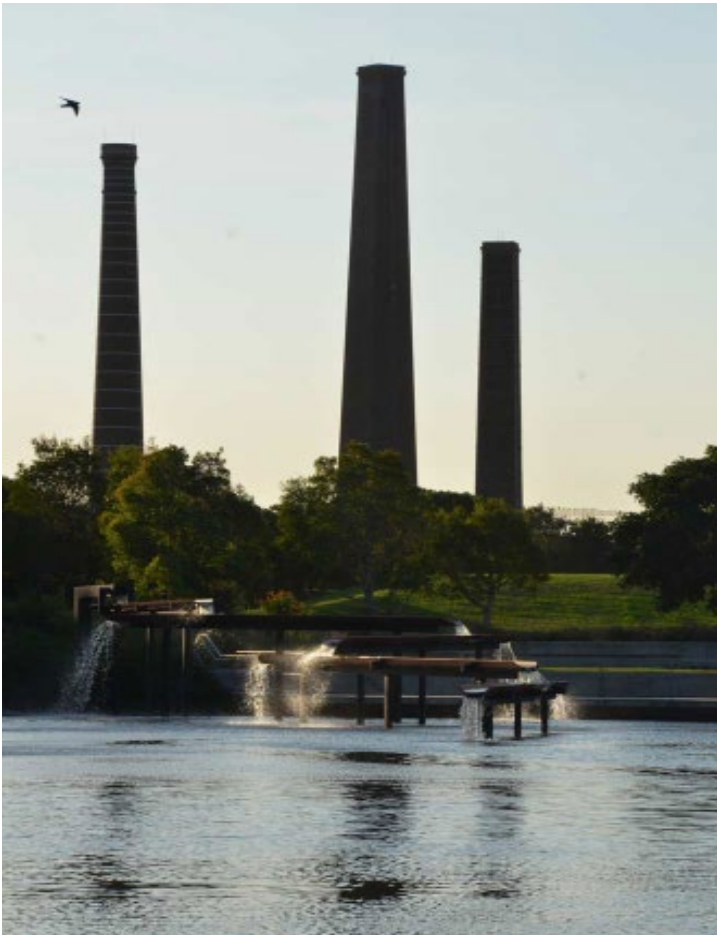
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Sydney Park has had a range of uses historically. Cleared for cropping during early colonisation, it was later used as a brick pit and manufacturing site from 1893 to 1970 and the heritage-listed remains of this factory are still present on the site.

The park has experienced decades of use and incremental works, including extensive efforts to re-plant areas of the site with native flora.

The water re-use precinct of the park revolves around water retention infrastructure designed with a focus on public access and interaction, place making and fostering local ecology and biodiversity.

Other notable areas of the park include the Alan Davidson Oval, public sculpture, a dog park and a 'learn to ride' bicycle centre.



Photography credits tbc



ACCESS

- A mix of paths create alternatives for different users to access and move through the park.
- A wide paved pathway loops the perimeter of the wetland allowing for cyclists, runners and walkers to gain views onto the wetlands
- A series of fine-grain paths of varying materials and scales trace through the wetlands, encouraging users to wander, explore and play.
- Interacting with the water is encouraged through a series of stepping stones, weirs and vantage points.



INCLUSIVE

- Children's play areas encourage wild play and interaction with the bush and wetlands.
- Cycling Centre allows a safe track for children to learn to cycle through an interesting and active environment.
- Provision of fenced off-leash dog areas.
- Provisions of dog play areas, including a dog pool and play equipment.



SENSE OF PLACE

- Multiple fine-grain spaces are created within the wetlands through a series of physical and visual barriers. This makes the park feel larger overall and provides a variety of unique moments within the landscape.
- Different spaces prompt a range of sensations, from peaceful and contemplative to exciting and playful.
- Integrated water sculptures invigorate and educate, making an event of the water recycling processes.
- Historical elements of the park have been retained, overlaying the site with physical reminders of heritage and past uses.
- The brick chimneys become an important vista and wayfinding device.



SUSTAINABILITY

- An infrastructure project has been turned into an opportunity for the park by creating a bio-retention wetland.
- The wetland captures, cleans and re-uses water on site.
- Habitats for local flora and fauna have been established around the wetland

2.2 Precedent Studies

BAAKENPARK



Clockwise from top left: Night views over Hamburg harbour, Sky swings, Synthetic multi game sports pitch, Evening basketball. Photography by Leonard Grosch. Aerial view. Photography by Mark Pflüger

BAAKENPARK

PARK DATA

- Designer: Atelier Loidl
- Location: Hamburg, Germany
- Overall Size: 16,000m²
- Completed: 2018
- Cost: €15million [\$24 million]

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Baakenpark is located on an artificial sand peninsula in the middle of a former harbour basin in HafenCity, a suburb of Hamburg. With its green embankments and range of native planting, the park forms an atmospheric counterpart to its industrial surroundings.

A park that invites visitors to explore and only unfolds when walking through it. A park with a variety of offers for all visitors, with lively meeting points, wide meadows and playgrounds, but also with quieter, isolated places.



Seating platform overlooking river Elbe, Discreetly lit river walk.
Photography by Leonard Grosch.



COMMUNITY

- The mix of active and contemplative spaces within the site make it attractive for use by a cross section of the community to visit for respite from the city and its urban suburbs.
- Generous seating areas, including an 'island sofa' at the park entry, create attractive places to stay, and can also be used as a platform for small events.



INCLUSIVE

- A master plan places the park in neighbourhood of a new primary school, so the sports and recreation elements are geared towards school aged children.
- The park is zoned to group sports and playgrounds together on the same level.
- Facilities include 'sky swings' and cross-generational training equipment sheltered between trees.



SENSE OF PLACE

- The shape of the site has been manipulated into a range of plateaus at different heights, which form panoramic viewpoints to the city and into the harbour basin, as well as creating a landmark visible from the city and harbour basin.
- A theme of 'found' driftwood and flotsam, relating to the former harbour, runs through interventions across the site such as weathered timber seating and themed discovery boxes for children's play areas.



SAFETY

- The park is discreetly lit at night time, illuminating spaces without becoming oppressively bright. This provides safety to users by avoidance of dark spaces, helps to while maintaining a comfortable atmosphere. The lighting of each zone is considered according to its specific requirements.
- Sports spaces are either sunken to avoid balls bouncing into neighbouring zones, or bounded by mid height fences where required, for example behind goalposts or adjacent to play areas. The fences are designed to be in keeping with the 'found driftwood' theme, and are visually consistent with the rest of the park.
- The setting of the park across levels creates natural surveillance to lower spaces.

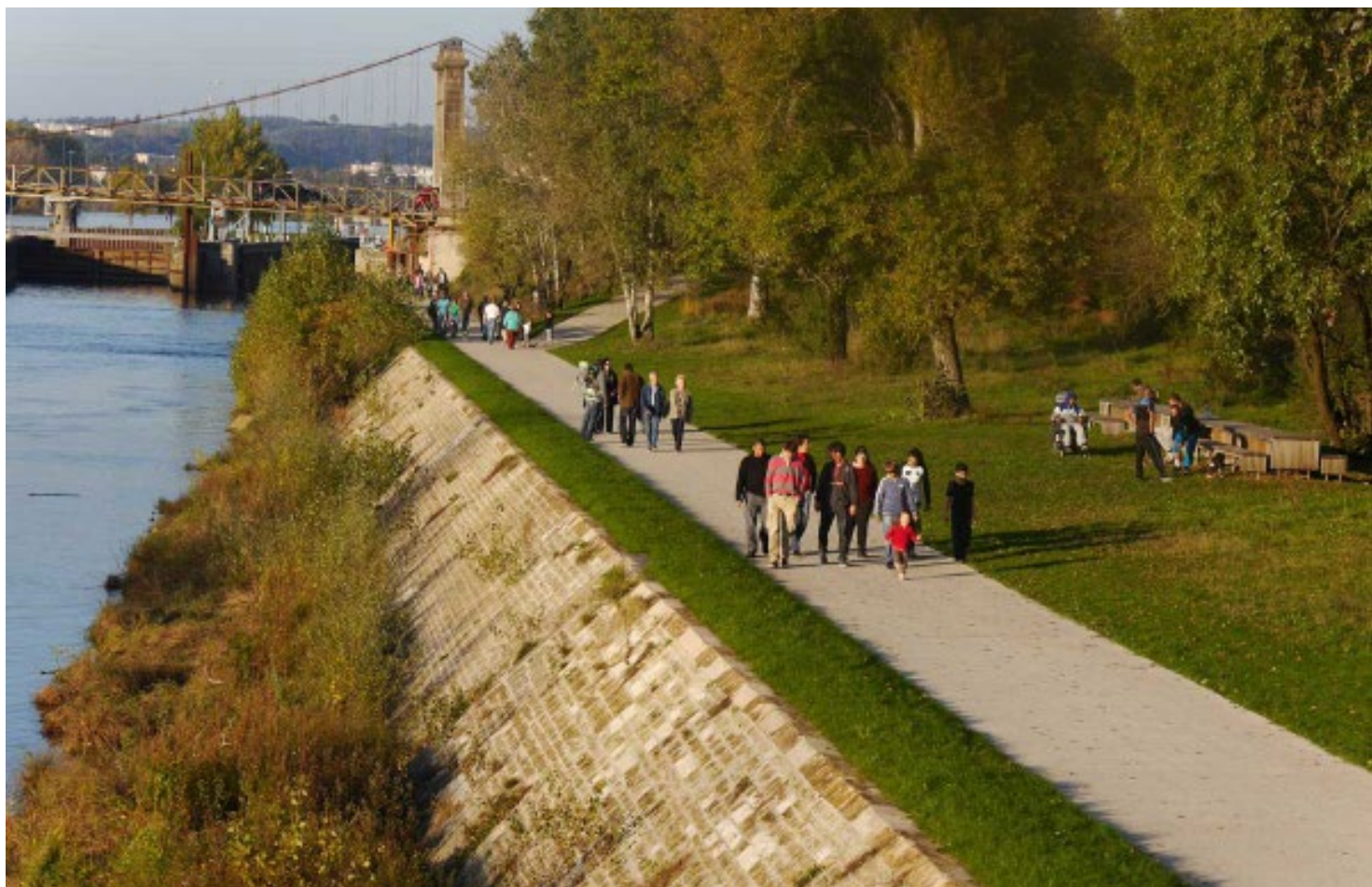
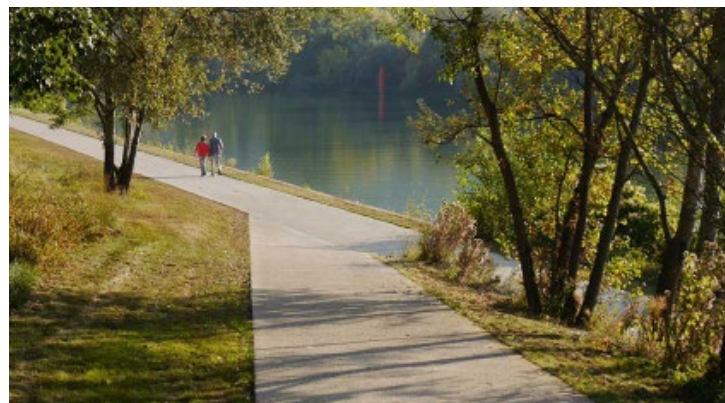


SPORTS + RECREATION

- The park offers recreation with a variety of sports, play and recreation possibilities, including an artificial turf playing field and a playful 100m running lane.
- A shared bridge provides pedestrians and cyclists with a direct link between the northern and southern parts of the new city quarter, promoting and encouraging active personal transport over vehicular transport.

2.4 Precedent Studies

ROCHETAILEE



Clockwise from top left: Access to park prior to intervention, Access to park after intervention x2, Clearing provides space to pause, River side walk. Weakened river banks shored up with vegetation. Photography by IN SITU.

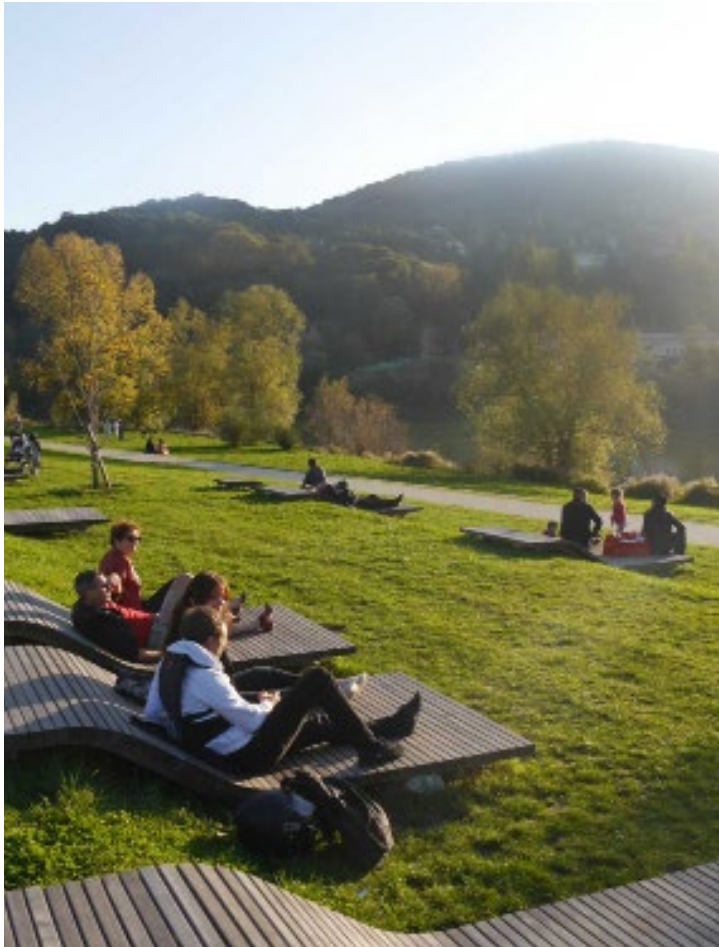
PARK DATA

- Designer: In Situ Architectes Paysagistes
- Location: Lyon, France
- Overall Size: 60,000m²
- Completed: 2013
- Cost: €5.2million [\$8.4 million]

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This waterfront park stretches along 2km of the Saône River, North of Lyon.

At the beginning of the 20th century the site was Lyon's favourite working class beach, with open-air cafés and dance halls, until the construction of large new roads separated it from the local village, car parking overtook much of the space, and maintenance of the parkland beach diminished.



Lounge chairs in the 'Siesta Meadow' which descends to the river.
Photography by IN SITU.



COMMUNITY

- The widest area of park was reconfigured to form a larger riparian siesta meadow that gently descends to the river.
- The meadow can also host concerts and various open-air shows.
- Lounge chairs are formed using grassy undulations and large tables await picnickers.



SENSE OF PLACE

- The remaining area of park is narrow in most places. Unable to extend across the width of the park, interventions are made vertically along the riverbank in the form of artistic installations; some are platforms which elevate the user, providing views back to the city and mountain beyond. Others are mirrors which create a unique perspective on the landscape.
- Reminders of beach paths, dance halls and fishing piers are marked along the route.



SUSTAINABILITY

- The sustainable agenda of the scheme is twofold;
- The reinforcement of weakened river banks with vegetation, preservation of native forested and wildflower zones and introduction of more native planting promote environmental sustainability.
- The reconnection of the local community with the riverbank by reestablishing a pedestrian promenade between the village and river, enhances the wellbeing of the community thereby promoting social sustainability.



SAFETY

- Negotiating parked and moving cars had become an obstacle in accessing the site.
- Traffic circulation was reduced and calmed in order to create space for a path shared by pedestrians and cyclists.
- In some locations benches and physical obstacles were installed between the road and path. Where space allowed, a landscaped buffer was planted to increase the enjoyment of path users by reducing the impact of the road, while deterring cars from parking across the path.