

254 Ponsonby Road

A green, flexible, multi-use community space...

The proposed design imagines the park as two connected but distinct spaces - a paved upper plaza and a lower green park.

STREET EDGE PLAZA

The upper plaza is designed for maximum flexibility and provides shelter from the sun and rain through a repurposed and refurbished existing canopy structure and a new street edge canopy.

The existing canopy is refurbished to include a new roof with a timber inlay and a series of louvres along the northern edge to provide areas of partial shade increasing the range of environmental conditions for plaza users.

A new canopy on the street edge extends the extent of the existing building canopy south along Ponsonby Road to provide additional shelter to street users. This also visually extends the building frontage along the front of the park without reducing connectivity between the park and street. With this canopy in place, the existing bus shelter becomes superfluous and can be removed to improve movement of pedestrians through an otherwise tight street corridor.

GREEN PARK

The lower park area offers a generous amount of lawn for flexibility of use and incorporates a framework of productive tree species to provide structure, shade and a local food resource. Informal seating and opportunities for informal play are provided through a series of terraces that provide a transition from the upper plaza to the lower park.

It is anticipated that productive species will be selected by the community, based on suitable species identified in the Auckland Design Manual and advice from Auckland Council arborists. See recommended species list below.

INFORMATION HUB

A large blade sign that takes architectural cues from existing columns and adjacent heritage buildings, is positioned on the corner of O'Neill Street and Ponsonby Road and acts as a visual marker for the park and location for key information. This could include navigational information, upcoming events, historical narratives, etc and would provide a central hub for community information.

SEATING

In the upper plaza, seating is provided in the form of large moveable and stackable timber slab seats which create a means of reconfiguring seating to match the demands of different events and activities. These seats, though immovable by hand can be relocated using a light weight palette jack which can be operated by one person and stored securely in the separate storage facility located in the toilet building. A number of different seat forms will be provided to accommodate a range of different seating preferences and users - including some with back support and others for lounging.

TOILET/STORAGE BUILDING

A small new building will be located discretely on the north west corner of the upper plaza and will provide toilet and baby changing facilities. The building will also include a separate storage area for event equipment, tools for managing productive planting, a palette jack for moving relocatable seating, etc. The building will be clad in timber battens with the wall fronting onto the park providing an opportunity to incorporate climbing plant species into the building wall.

EXTENDED STREET EDGE

An (potential) extension of the park into the O'Neill Street road corridor is created through a narrowing of the existing lane (facilitated by the removal of the obsolete turning lane into the existing site) and resurfacing to provide a level, paved, shared space surface. This extension also allows space for additional street planting to increase shade and enhance aesthetic amenity. While increasing available space for park users, this initiative also acts as a means of slowing traffic traveling down O'Neill Street and provides a safer pedestrian environment at the edge of the park.

PUBLIC ART

Art acts as an important means of adding vibrancy and meaning to this public space. Opportunities are identified to incorporate public art into the large wall on the northern boundary (exposed by demolition of the existing building), the existing street edge retaining wall (also retained), and the entry portal to the toilet/storage building. It is anticipated that an ongoing program of temporary art works will provide the best means of activating the space and providing constant variation and energy, however permanent pieces will also help to anchor the site and create identity.

SUSTAINABILITY

Timber is used extensively throughout the project (seats, building cladding, refurbished canopy, etc) as a means of providing warmth to the space and increasing the amount of sustainable materials used on site.

Stormwater is slowed and filtered on site through a street edge bio-remediation garden and a rain garden at the bottom of the park.

The provision of productive tree species in the lower park provides a local food resource and opportunity for community groups to develop around the production and management of local produce.

MANA WHENUA

It is anticipated that Iwi and Mana Whenua will continue to be engaged throughout the design process moving forward to provide input into the ultimate shape and form of the park. Specific opportunities have been identified to incorporate Maori artwork and interpretive graphics on walls, the new street canopy, and existing and proposed supporting columns. It is expected that engagement with Iwi and Mana Whenua will identify further opportunities beyond those identified above.

STAGING

The development of the site is proposed as a staged process which identifies opportunities to maximise community use and activity. This provides a means of making the site useable as funding allows rather than waiting for the construction of a completed design. First steps may be as simple as removing the existing building and tidying up the existing concrete and asphalt surface. This provides space for more immediate use (markets, etc) and starts to build community participation as the site develops. Each new piece of construction towards a final built outcome should aim to minimise disruption and take cues from the activities developing on site.

White Landscape and Urbanism acknowledge that,

- ownership of the preferred proposals will pass to the WLB on behalf of Auckland Council, with the understanding that the Submitter will be given credit as the originator of the Concept,
- the design proposal material will be made available to the public for comment by whatever means CLD Facilitation group decides,
- the CLD Facilitation group is unable to provide any warranties or guarantees that the preferred scheme will be built.

POTENTIAL PRODUCTIVE TREE SPECIES

Almond (*Prunus dulcis*)
Apple (*Malus spp.*)
Babaco (*Carica pentagona*)
Banana (*Musa spp.*)
Carob (*Ceratonia siliqua*)
Cherry (*Prunus avium.*)
Cherymoya (*Annona cherimola*)
Coffee (*Coffea Arabica*)
Feijoa (*Acca sellowiana*)
Fig (*Ficus carica*)
Guava (*Psidium spp.*)
Jaboticaba (*Myciaria cauliflora*)
Lime, Lemon, Grapefruit, Orange, Mandarin (Citrus)
Macadamia (*Macadamia integrifolia*)
Mango (*Mangifera indica*)
Miracle fruit (*Synsepalum dulcificum*)
Mulberry (Black- *Morus nigra*, White – *M. alba*, Red – *M. rubra*)
Nectarine (*Prunus persica*)
Olive (*Olea europaea*)
Peach (*Prunus persica*)
Pears (*Pyrus communis*)
Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)
Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*)
Plums (*Prunus domestica*)
Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*)
Rose Apple (*Syzygium jambos*)
Walnut (*Juglans regia*)