



1 Pedestrians enjoying the bridge (credit: David St George). 2 Naturalistic lava flow headlands replace the traditional linear groynes. 3 Alternate view of the headlands area.

TAUMANU RESERVE (ONEHUNGA FORESHORE)

Tonkin & Taylor for Auckland Council

Project Location: Auckland



Taumanu Reserve is a 6.8 hectare recreational park formed on land reclaimed from the Manukau Harbour, in Auckland's south west. The project to create Taumanu Reserve was initiated and driven by a passionate and well-organised community. They wanted to restore the amenity of the foreshore that was once accessible to them, but which they were cut off from when State Highway 20 was built.

Tonkin + Taylor led the consultant team responsible for the design and consenting of the coastal reserve. The team's design was the successful response to a competition created by Auckland Council. Like most Kiwis T&T love the beach, and this was a unique opportunity to create a New Zealand beach and a sustainable coastal reserve. The challenge was to deliver the beach and reserve's technical functions in a dynamic coast environment while successfully incorporating the cultural, social and cultural requirements of multiple stakeholders. This challenge demanded significant expertise across all areas of the consultants' remit and innovative technical and project management approaches were required. The success of these approaches lie in the outcomes of the project which go beyond the expectations of all stakeholders. They reflect a highly creative and collaborative process which merges expertise across many fields to resolve technical and stakeholder challenges. Outcomes are also testimony to the effort and care put into balancing and integrating the project's technical, process, and stakeholder needs to deliver a natural and nature based design.

Tonkin & Taylor's commitment to using a nature-based framework for design required us to understand, coordinate and layer the input of many technical and subject matter experts, including those outside of engineering such as landscape architects and flora and fauna experts. An example of this layered development approach, illustrated in more detail later in this submission, is the creation of lava flow headlands in lieu of rock groynes. These have a natural appearance and their ecological function is enhanced.

This integrated approach to design and development – implemented and managed by T+T – has resulted in an engineered infrastructure that looks like it is part of the natural environment. Taumanu Reserve is now a treasured community asset, enjoyed by locals, visitors and creatures alike. *"Delivering design outcomes above and beyond expectations: you really thought about environmental and social outcomes while also considering the engineering form and function. This has resulted in a unique park with headlands and a new land shape that really helps to create what it used to be like in the Bay."* Jim Jackson, Chairman, The Onehunga Enhancement Society

Judging & Copyright Statement

This project is an entrant in the 2016 INNOVATE NZ Awards of Excellence competition. The winners will be celebrated at our Awards Gala Dinner on Saturday, 12th August 2017 in Taupo.

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