

Western Springs park and playground design

[00:17] - Ivy Soulisha

We're in Western Springs Lakeside and our council just did a project. It's the renewal of the playground. It's been an ongoing project since I would say 2019. It's part of the development plan.

So we did the development plan first for the whole park, and the playground is the first project that came out from the development plan.

So previously, this path is quite busy. Still is. There is a path that's going past the playground. It's a, quite a primary path because it connects two main destination area, MOTAT and the Auckland Zoo, and there's a school on the zoo side, so people actually use this path every day.

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So there was an issue of safety in the park. In the evening it's quite dark. We do have lighting on the path, but the playground is not used in the evening.

So what we decided: there's a lack of passive surveillance in the playground itself. There's only one path going in the middle.

The boundaries of the zoo are quite dark. There's thick trees on the left side area. It's quite bushy as well. And so in the evening it's really dark. So when you go past the path, you don't feel safe.

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We split the path.

We have the primary path going along the lake. So people who just want to cross the area to go from A to B, they just use the path without having to pass the playground.

And on the back side, closer to the zoo boundary, we have a secondary path that connects to the zoo kiosk as well.

And so we bring in people to two side of the playgrounds to provide the passive surveillance, so we have two angle of surveillance.

We open up the lawn area so the lawn area is more grouped together, the playground is grouped together and there's a lot of people using the lawn now for a picnic.

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We zone the play area so the little kids have their own area and now we have the transition area where they can play together with the bigger kids.

And then the tower is where the biggest will play.

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But we tried to promote social play as well so everybody can play together, but the little ones feel secure playing on their own, away from the big kids. So, yeah, it seems to work quite well.