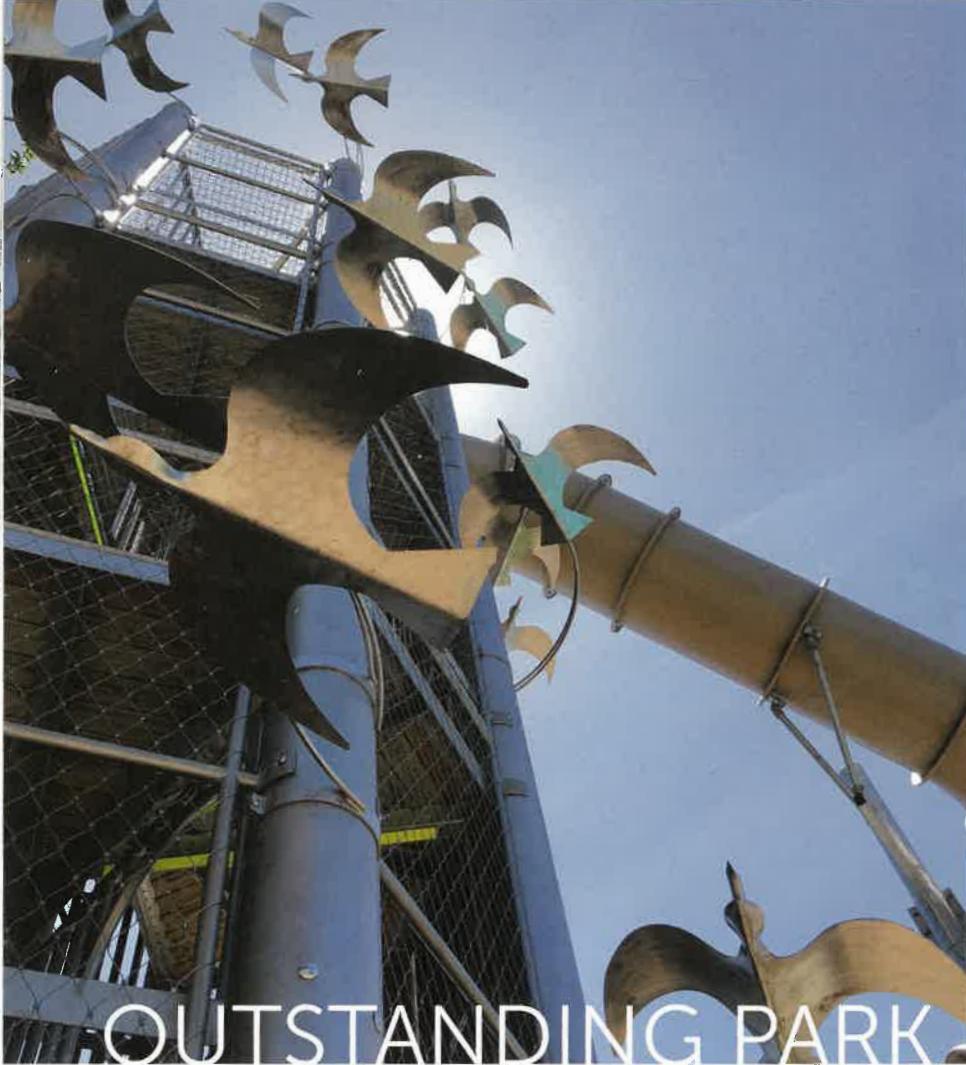




OUTSTANDING PARK

AN INCLUSIVE WINNER

AWARDED THE 2018 OUTSTANDING PARK AWARD BY NZRA, ANDERSON PARK PLAYGROUND STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO A "FUN IS FOR EVERYONE" ETHOS

Commissioned by Napier City Council and located in the city of Napier on the east coast of New Zealand's north island, the new Anderson Park Playground is the creation of landscape architects Sarah Collins and Aynsley Cisarica of Boffa Miskell.

Part of a long term revitalisation plan for the city, Anderson Park, one of the city's premier parks, was chosen for the site of the new playspace due to its central location and the high proportion of youth in the area. Upgrading the existing outdated and non-inclusive playground, the new playground was developed to help connect the city's suburban communities.

With a special interest in children's play, guided by the International Play Association's 2015 *Statement on the Play Rights of Disabled Children*, the talented

Boffa Miskell team designed what was to become the first all-abilities playground in Napier — which has a population of 57,240 people, 27 percent of whom have a disability.

Working with local advocacy groups, stakeholders and the community to ensure the project provided "fun for everyone" and the opportunity to "play together", while also meeting Council's expectation for a playscape that would reflect a vibrant and sustainable city for all, Anderson Park Playground has become a destination site for all ages and abilities. The space offers accessible and imaginative play structures for climbing and sliding, plus flying foxes, swings, waterplay equipment, functional artwork with cultural motifs, and interactive features that reflect the country's heritage.

The award-winning playspace sits among mature trees that encourage a

connection to the natural landscape, while the waterplay area reflects the coastal environment and nearby waterways. Upcycled trees from other Council properties in the region were used to create 'stepping logs' and balance beams within the new park, and significant planting of site-specific plant species was undertaken to create a desirable environment for all park users and ensure longevity for the greenery. The final result is a landscape seamlessly integrated through a diverse range of play environments that embolden little adventurers with a mixture of traditional and bespoke play elements.

Among its many all-abilities features, Anderson Park includes: visual and tactile stimuli for the hearing and sight impaired, including artwork with messages in Braille, a large xylophone, musical bridge and drums; a first-of-its-kind swing set with a variety of seat types that allow all to swing together; a wheelchair-accessible mini tower with a double width slide so caregivers can accompany their charges down the slide; and structured and non-structured play experiences.

In addition, new accessible toilet/change facilities onsite feature a lifting swing to aid wheelchair users and their carers — another first for Napier.

"Play ability is graded to allow all abilities to play alongside each other, with a logical progression of related and repeated experiences that grow ever more challenging ... visually and physically linking users on an experiential journey that allows them to truly play together in the space," explains Boffa Miskell.

Encircling the playground, a yellow concrete pathway forms a "visual boundary and wayfinding tool" that defines the outer edge of the play area for children and gives them a reference that safely steers them back to familiar territory.

The \$3.6 million project budget ensured a diverse range of play

equipment as well as accessible park infrastructure, which now supplies vital amenities for an intergenerational recreation experience and safely serves the entire community, regardless of age or ability.

Preserving an innovative playground also calls for innovative methods of upkeep and management. Anderson Park Playground boasts dedicated onsite staff and an online management system, *iAuditor*, to ensure the park is well taken care of, now and for future generations.

Opened at the beginning of 2019, anecdotal and empirical evidence already shows Anderson Park Playground is a big hit with the community and has met project objectives for providing a safe and accessible recreation space that promotes good health and wellbeing for everyone in the region. ■



PRO-KNIT
Industries Pty Ltd



Pro-Knit Industries proudly manufactures and supplies Monotec Shadecloth, the only Australian-made fabric designed for use in commercial shade sails and structures across Australia and the world



Monotec Shadecloths / Engineered to Outlast

7 Tombo Street, Capalaba QLD 4157
07 3245 5607 | sales@pro-knit.com.au | www.monotec.com.au

