

# PARKS AS FUNCTIONAL OPEN SPACE A STRATEGY TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE

By

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NEWTOWN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



IERM CONFERENCE

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## Context...

The presentation reflects on the way we can make parks work hard – be better and do more for our urban environment.

As a Landscape Architect I have been involved in more than 70 park developments over the past 25 years. And things we were trying out in Gilooly's Farm and Moroka Dam (20 and 16 years ago) are only now becoming more common place.

City of Johannesburg promulgated their “new” Storm Water By-laws in 2010, but they have not yet been implemented or enforced. NLA, together with Chris Brooker Associates and Fourth Element Engineers, have been tasked with developing the Storm Water Design Guidelines for the City . This project again focussed my attention on what we can do with our parks.

The term ‘green infrastructure’ is most widely used in reference to the networks of open space and natural areas that surround and penetrate cities and towns. Such references inherently recognize that these greenways provide ecological services, such as flood control, air purification recreation and wildlife habitat. More recently, the concept has grown to describe low-impact and multifunctional infrastructure networks that support an environmentally sound approach to design and planning in urban and urbanizing areas. The recognition that green infrastructure, such as parks, urban forests and stream corridors provide essential ecological services elevates their perceived value in a community, Further more, when these elements are recognized as parts of larger systems they can be designed and managed to achieve higher ecological and infrastructural performance. (Rottle & Yocom, n.d.)

Parks can work much harder than just play and recreation areas. They are significant storm water management opportunities. There is not enough time and effort spend on considering regional issues when designing parks today. In 1997 NLA drafted the Soweto Open Space Frame Work, which guided park development in Soweto until the Klipriver/Klipspruit Master Plans were developed in 2007. This gave rise the a series of parks along the Klipspruit in Soweto which now all work together as a park korridor.

## THE OUTLINE

## Key Projects for Discussion

- CoJ Stormwater Design Guidelines
- International examples
- **First attempts:**
  - Moroka Dam Precinct 2000 – ecological design (2002);
- **Current projects :**
  - Paterson Park Bio swale (2015-17);
  - Westbury SUDS(2015-16);
  - Caledonian Park(2015-18);



# CoJ Storm Water Guide Outline

## Ch 0. INTRODUCTION

PRINCIPLES

DEFINITIONS

## Ch1. INTERPRETATION

## Ch 2. SITE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY PERMITS

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT REPORT

## Ch 3. EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

SETTING LIMITS

BMPS

## Ch 4. GRADING

## Ch 5. STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

DESIGN METHODS

MAJOR & MINOR DEVELOPMENTS

## Ch 6. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

## Ch 7. CRITICAL DRAINAGE AREAS

## Ch 8. STORM WATER POLLUTION

## Ch 9. MISCELLANEOUS

## APX A. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

## APX B. RIVERS & RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

## APX C. GREEN STORM WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

## APX D. CALCULATION METHODS & MODELLING

## APX E. DESIGN RAINFALL



# Drainage Principles

1. Storm water is a resource
2. Catchment Master Planning (CMP)
3. Catchment recovery ("Catchment Repair")
4. Run off harvesting (more than rainwater harvesting)
5. Water quality (a municipal issue)
6. Flood aspects (hazard, floodplain management)
7. Ecological services
8. Amenity services
9. Informal settlements
10. Densification
11. Climate change & adaptation
12. Asset register



GSI Green Storm water Infrastructure

SUDS Sustainable Urban Drainage  
Systems

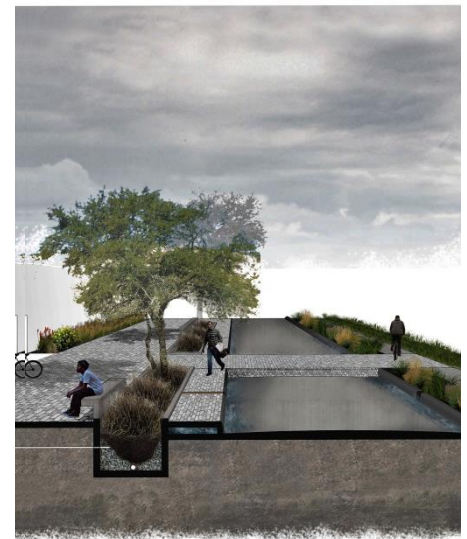
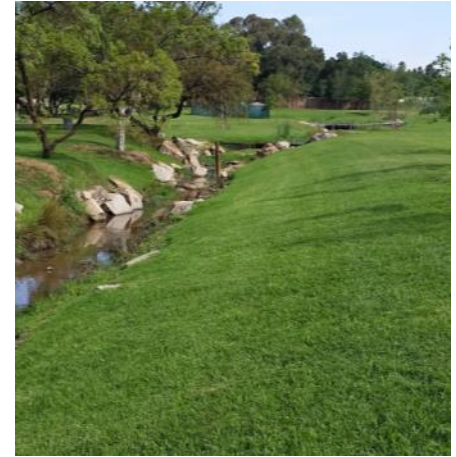
BMPs Best Management Practices

WSUDS Water Sensitive Urban Designs

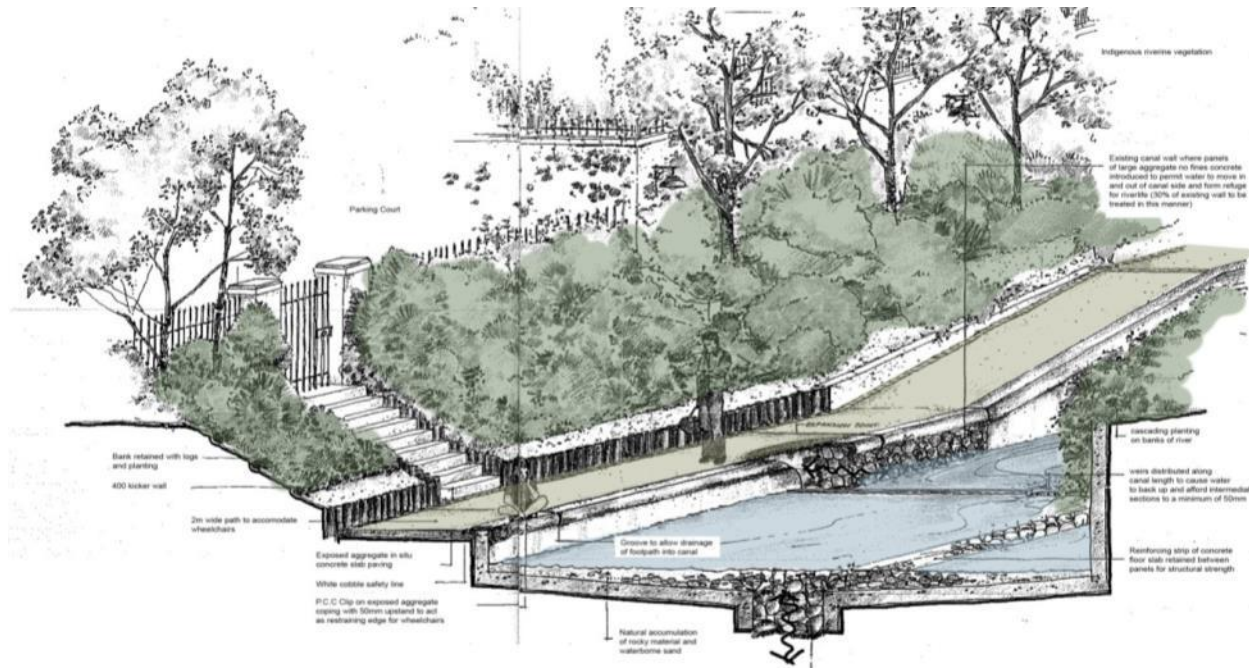
LIDS Low Impact Drainage Systems

SQIDs Storm water Quality Improvement  
Devices

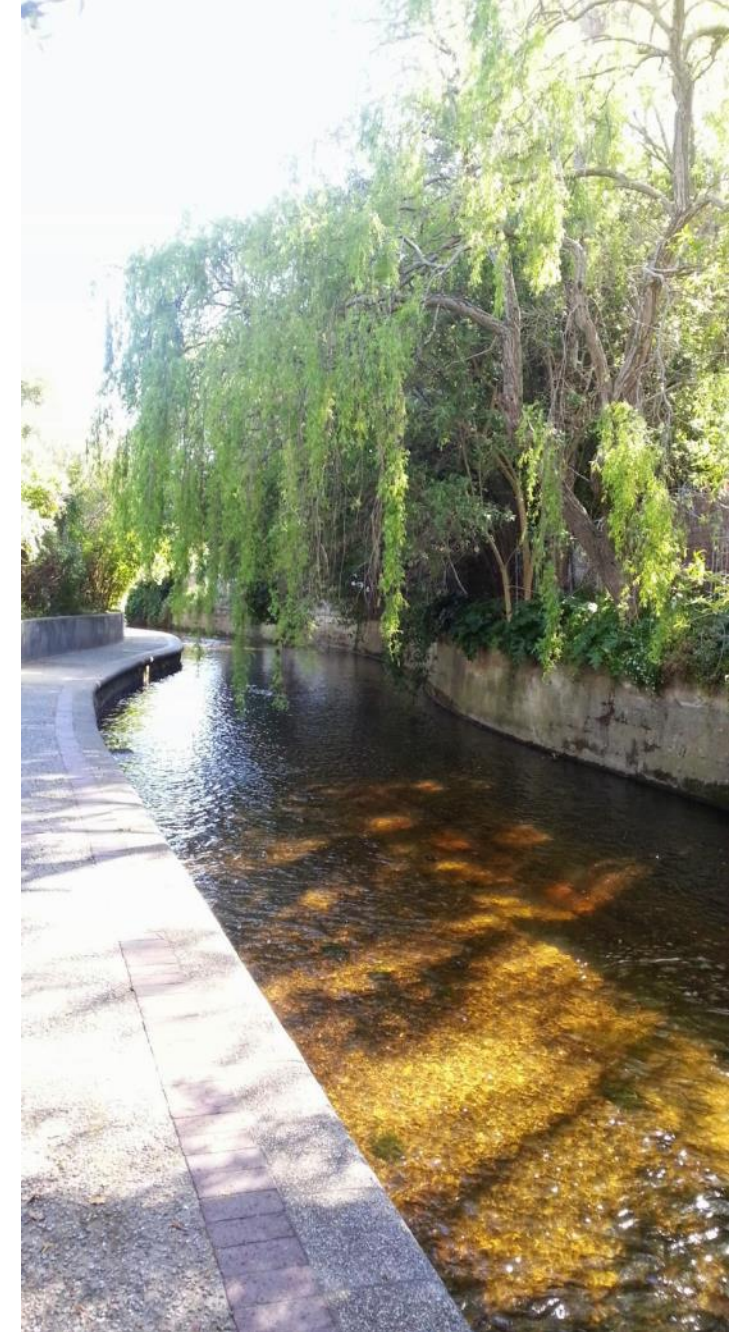
RG Rain Gardens





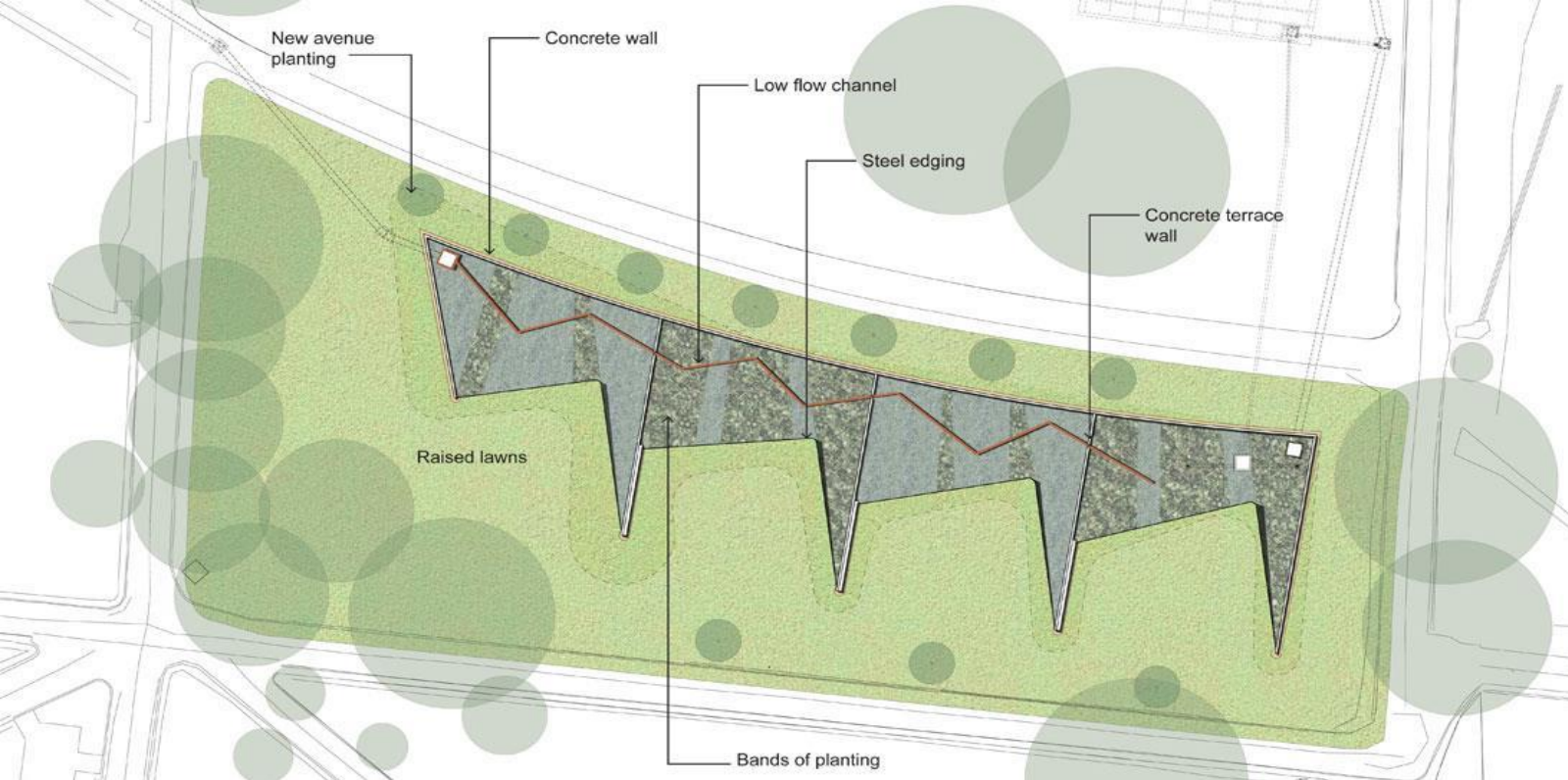


EPM Magazine, Landscaping and Ecological Rehabilitation of Urban River way - Liesbeek River, May 1995



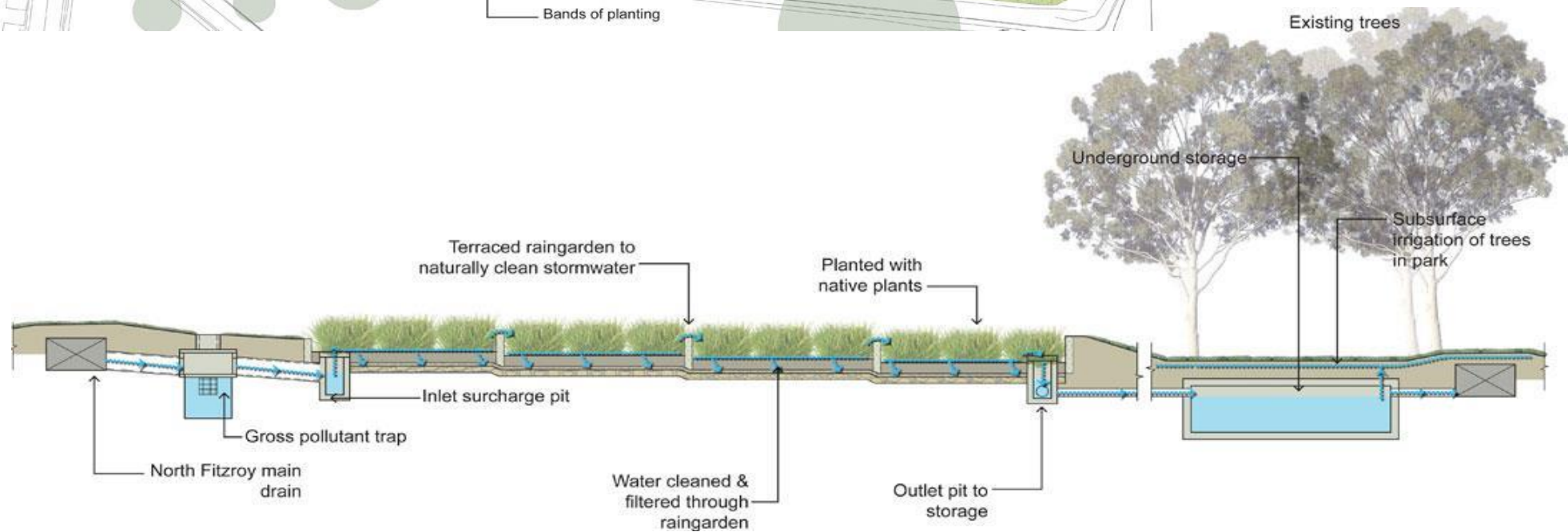
Andrea Munoz, Chenggyoenchen Stream, accessed 24 July 2015  
 < <http://www.munozandrea.com/chenggyoencheon-1/> >





GHD Pty Ltd, Edinburgh Gardens  
Raingarden, accessed 24 July  
2015

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<http://www.landezine.com/index.php/2012/10/edinburgh-gardens-raingarden-by-ghd-pty-ltd>>







GHD Pty Ltd, Edinburgh Gardens Raingarden, accessed 24 July 2015  
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The **Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™)** is a program based on the understanding that **land is a crucial component of the built environment** and can be planned, designed, developed, and maintained to **avoid, mitigate, and even reverse detrimental impacts.**





## Economic Benefits

- Annually, **250 people** are expected to be employed in green jobs.
- Increase of up to **\$390 million** in property values near parks and green areas over the next 45 years.

## Social Benefits

- Increase of up to **10% more visits** to Parks & Recreation sites.
- Reduction of up to **140 fatalities** caused by excessive heat over the next 45 years.
- Up to **1-2 avoided premature deaths**, **20 avoided deaths** from asthma and up to **250 fewer missed school or work days**.

## Environmental Benefits

- Up to **1.5 billion lbs.** of carbon dioxide emission avoided or absorbed, equivalent to removing close to **3400 vehicles** from roadways each year.
- Up to **\$8.5 million** in water quality and habitat improvements **SAVED** over 40 years.

## THE COST OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: CHEAPER THAN WE THOUGHT

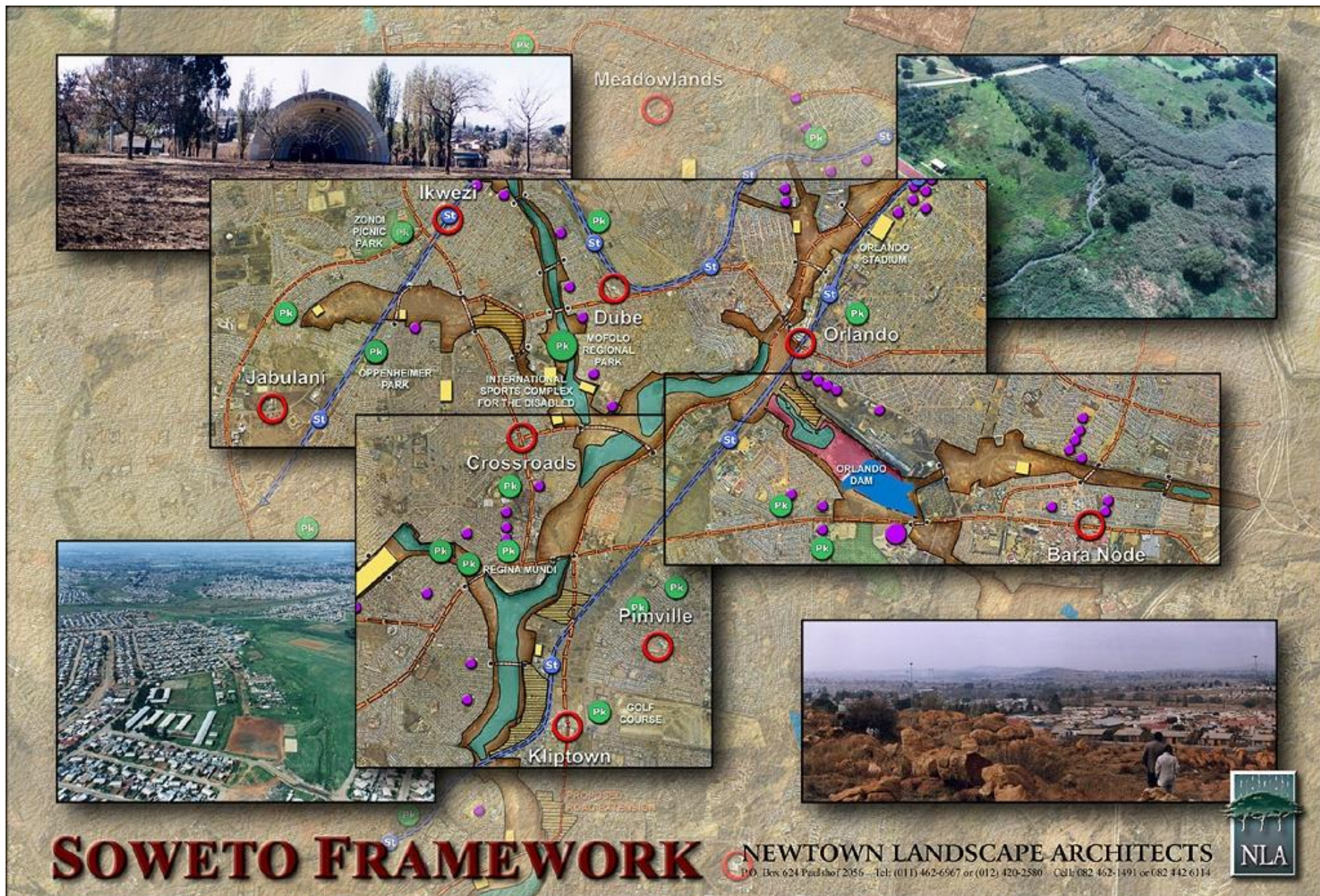


Water management, native grasses (Portland, OR)



Grasses used in park (Seattle)









MOROKA DAM PARK

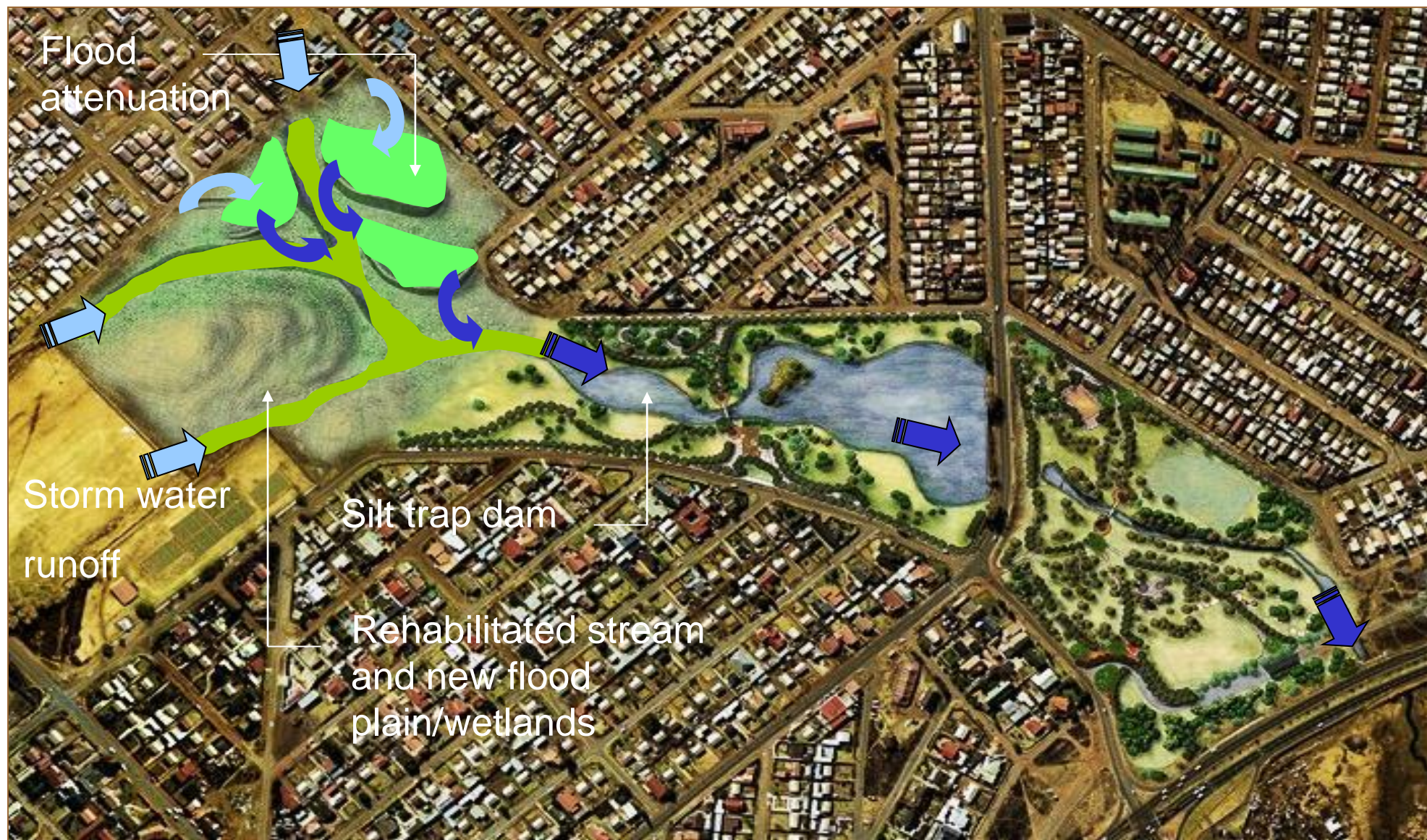




Dam rehabilitation  
and silt trap

Wetland and stream  
rehabilitation





















MOROKA DAM PARK





PATERSON PARK VISION



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

NLA/CBA for JDA



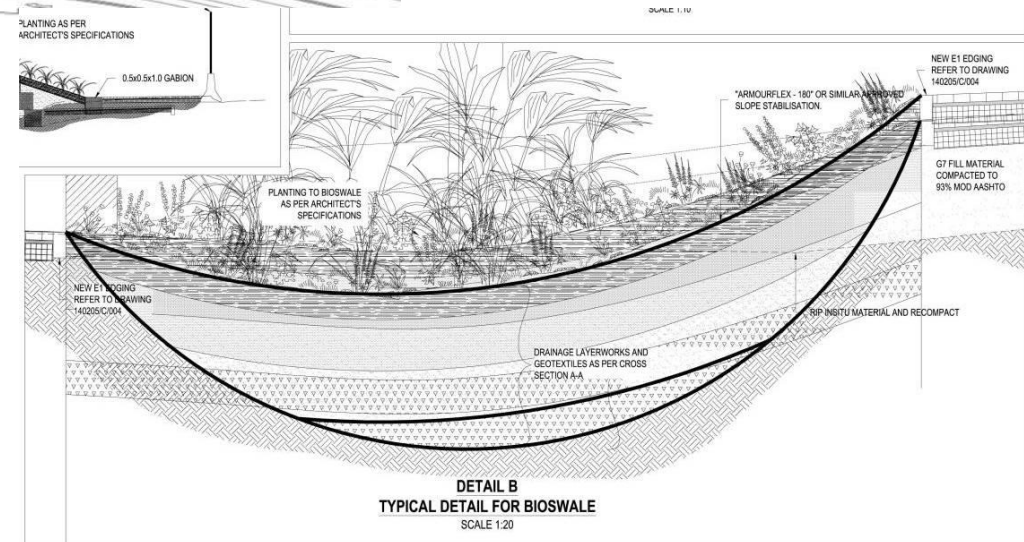
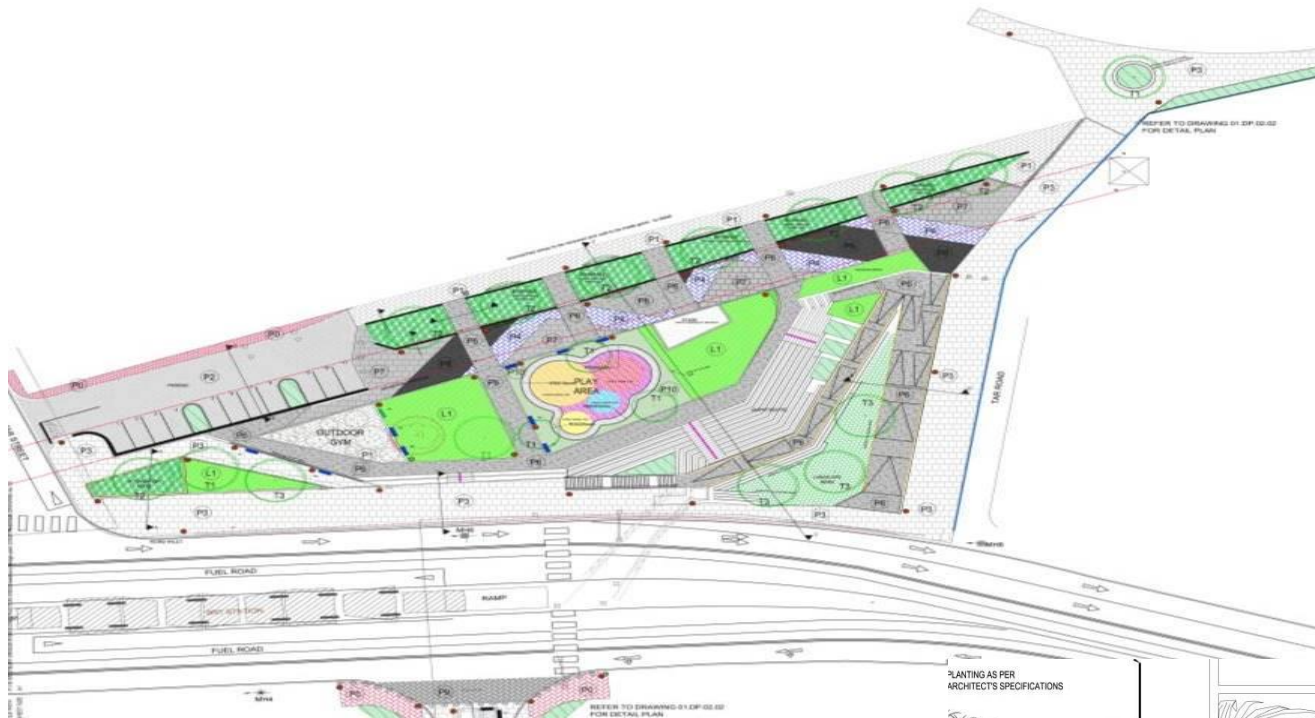


PATERSON PARK VISION



ARTIS IMPRESSIONS

NLA/CBA for JDA







WESTBURY BIOSWALE

CONSTRUCTION



Iyer Urban Design for JDA

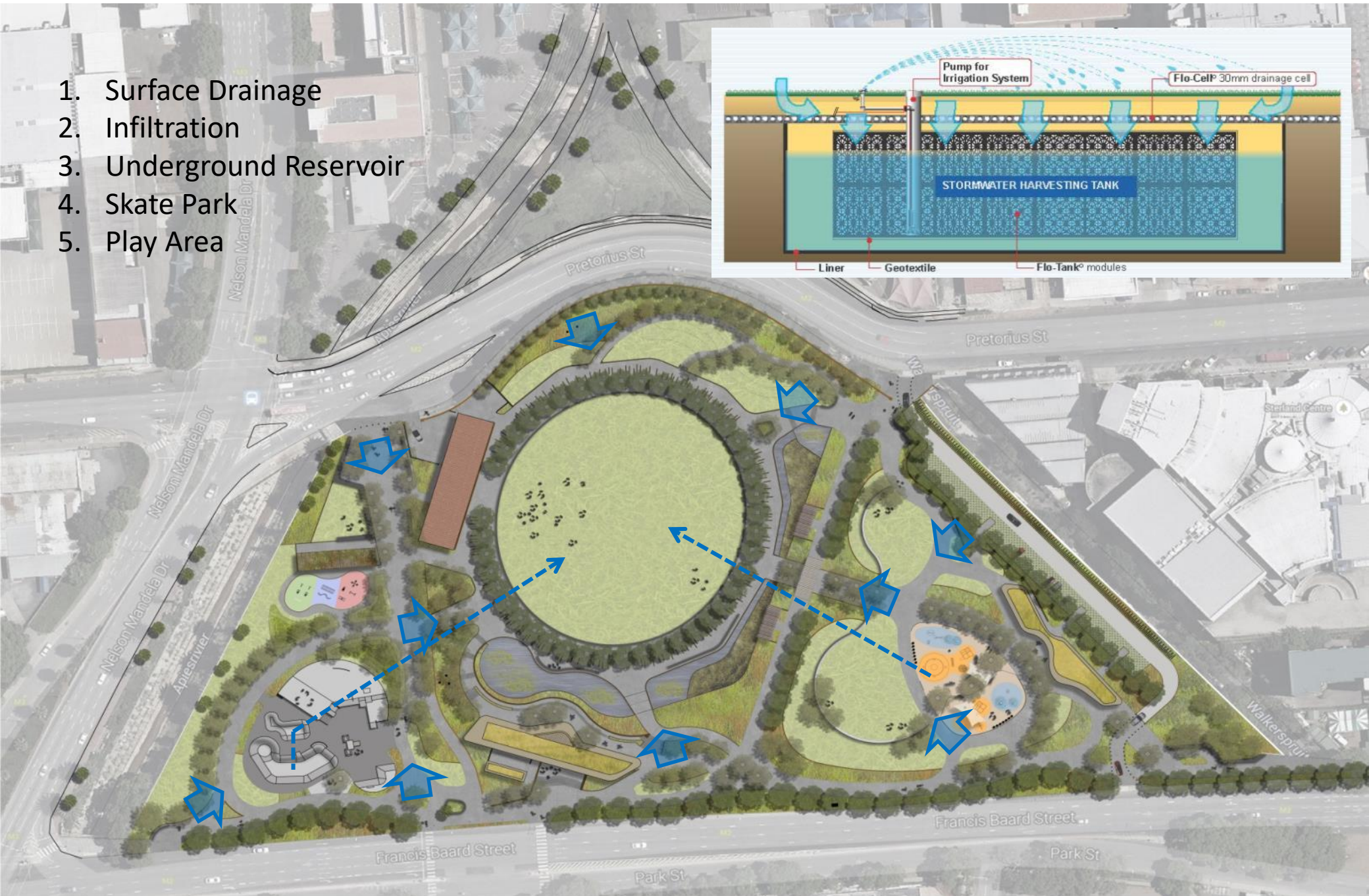
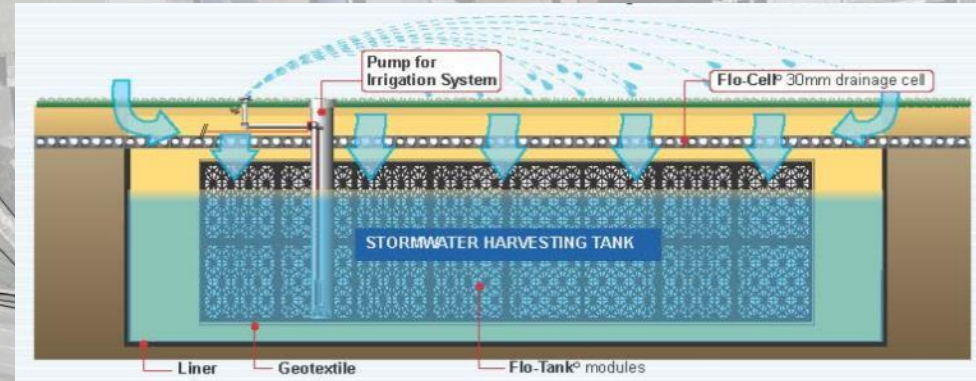




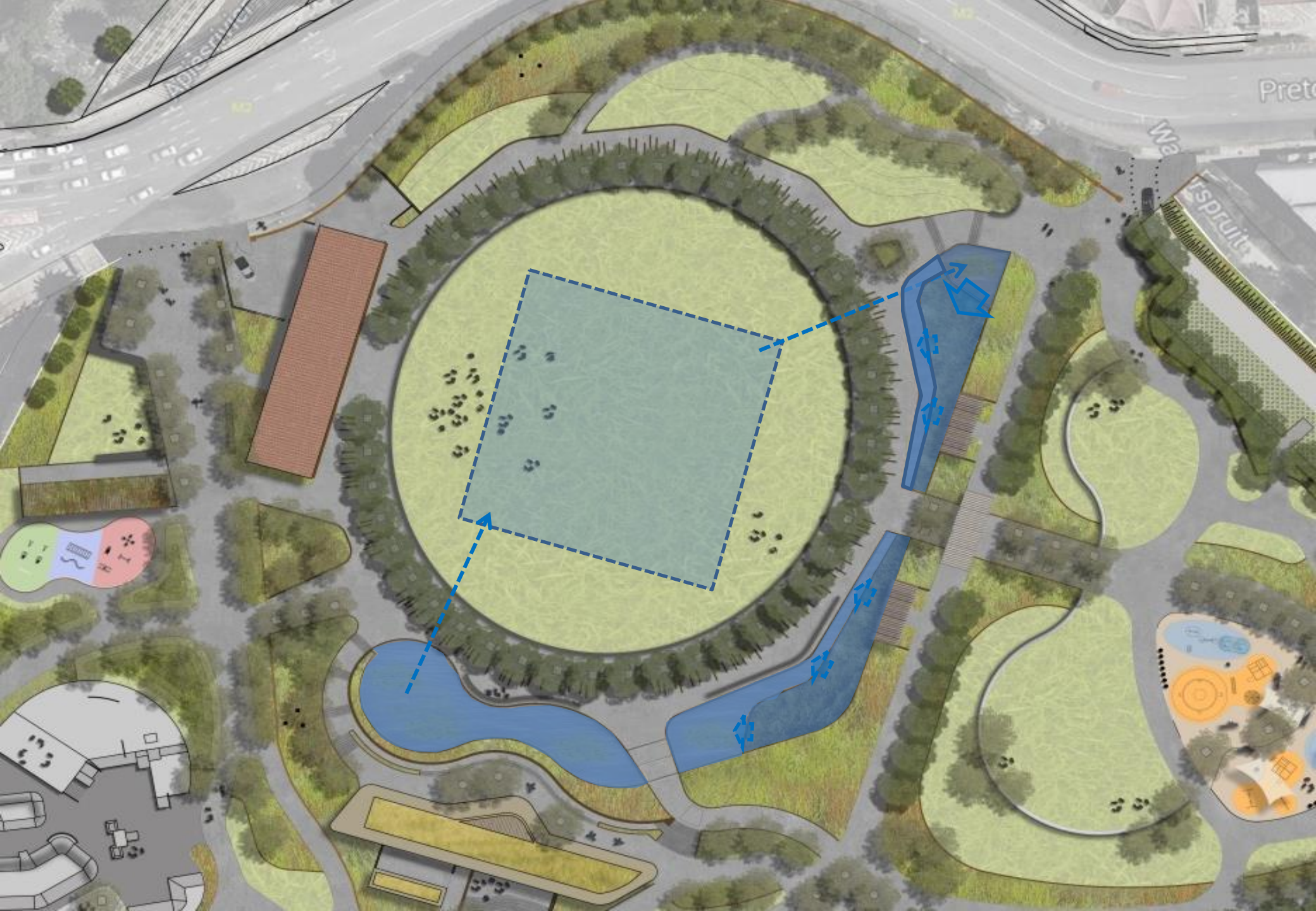
CALEDONIAN PARK



1. Surface Drainage
2. Infiltration
3. Underground Reservoir
4. Skate Park
5. Play Area









IRRIGATION DEMAND							
Month	Lawn area (m²)	Irr. depth / week (m)	Irr. depth / month (m)	Beds area (m²)	Irr. depth / week (m)	Irr. depth / month (m)	Irrigation demand (m³/month)
January	10635	0.02	0.08	7680	0.025	0.1	1618.8
February	10635	0.02	0.08	7680	0.025	0.1	1618.8
March	10635	0.02	0.08	7680	0.025	0.1	1618.8
April	10635	0.02	0.08	7680	0.025	0.1	1618.8
May	10635	0.01	0.04	7680	0.02	0.08	1039.8
June	10635	0.01	0.04	7680	0.02	0.08	1039.8
July	10635	0.01	0.04	7680	0.02	0.08	1039.8
August	10635	0.01	0.04	7680	0.02	0.08	1039.8
September	10635	0.02	0.08	7680	0.025	0.1	1618.8
October	10635	0.02	0.08	7680	0.025	0.1	1618.8
November	10635	0.02	0.08	7680	0.025	0.1	1618.8
December	10635	0.02	0.08	7680	0.025	0.1	1618.8
							17109.6

Paving

11075

Lawn (H)

10635

Lawn (I)

10635

Beds

7680

C (Paving)

0.8

C (Lawn)

0.1

DEMAND

17,109m³/annum

Single 24 hr rain event			
Event size	Paving Yield / event (m³)	Lawn Yield / event (m³)	Total Yield / event (m³)
25	221.5	26.6	248.1
50	443.0	53.2	496.2
75	664.5	79.8	744.3
100	886.0	106.4	992.4
125	1107.5	132.9	1240.4
150	1329.0	159.5	1488.5

RAINWATER YIELD								
Month	Ave P (m)	Paving Area (m²)	Paving C	Paving Yield (m³) (Yield = PxAxC)	Lawn Area (H) (m²)	Lawn C	Lawn Yield (m³) (Yield = PxAxC)	Total Yield (m³)
January	0.133	11075	0.8	1178.4	10635	0.1	141.4	1319.8
February	0.085	11075	0.8	753.1	10635	0.1	90.4	843.5
March	0.088	11075	0.8	779.7	10635	0.1	93.6	873.3
April	0.052	11075	0.8	460.7	10635	0.1	55.3	516.0
May	0.012	11075	0.8	106.3	10635	0.1	12.8	119.1
June	0.008	11075	0.8	70.9	10635	0.1	8.5	79.4
July	0.004	11075	0.8	35.4	10635	0.1	4.3	39.7
August	0.006	11075	0.8	53.2	10635	0.1	6.4	59.5
September	0.025	11075	0.8	221.5	10635	0.1	26.6	248.1
October	0.073	11075	0.8	646.8	10635	0.1	77.6	724.4
November	0.104	11075	0.8	921.4	10635	0.1	110.6	1032.0
December	0.108	11075	0.8	956.9	10635	0.1	114.9	1071.7
ANNUAL AVE.	0.698			6184.3			742.3	6926.6

START:

WATER BUDGET		Year: 1		
Month	Yield (m³)	Demand (m³)	Monthly balance	Vol. water in tank (m³)
January	1319.8	1618.8	-298.97	-1432.79
February	843.5	1618.8	-775.30	-2208.10
March	873.3	1618.8	-745.53	-2953.63
April	516.0	1618.8	-1102.78	-4056.41
May	119.1	1039.8	-920.72	-4977.12
June	79.4	1039.8	-960.41	-5937.54
July	39.7	1039.8	-1000.11	-6937.64
August	59.5	1039.8	-980.26	-7917.90
September	248.1	1618.8	-1370.71	-9288.61
October	724.4	1618.8	-894.38	0.00
November	1032.0	1618.8	-586.76	-586.76
December	1071.7	1618.8	-547.06	-1133.82
ANNUAL AVE.	6926.6	17109.6	-10182.997	

RAINWATER YIELD

6,926m³/annum





CALIDONIAN PARK: AERIAL LOOKING SOUTH WEST





CALIDONIAN PARK: COMMONS





CALIDONIAN PARK: WETLAND





CALIDONIAN PARK: WETLAND



In contrast to buildings, **landscapes** have the capacity to protect and even **regenerate natural systems**, thereby increasing **ecosystem services**.

Addressing **water issues**, through **intelligent landscape architectural design** provides an opportunity to **improve urban resilience** to water related risks.



***“Without great parks, there are no great cities”***

Dr. John Crompton



CALEDONIAN PARK



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## NEWTOWN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

URBAN DESIGN