



Visit a Local Park

Learning objectives

Students will develop:

- awareness of the relationships between our natural and ‘built’ landscapes
- knowledge and understanding of the importance of green spaces in the built environment.

Process

- As a class, visit a local park. Divide students into small groups or pairs and ask each group to observe and record:
 - the facilities and activities the park provides
 - the number of people using the park and the activities they are taking part in
 - their impressions of the overall design of the park and suggestions for improving it
 - what the area surrounding the park is used for (eg, housing, shops)
 - what impact the park has on the surrounding area and vice versa
 - who is responsible for providing and maintaining the park
 - what rules are set for park users (for example, dogs must be kept on a leash, no skate boarding). Do you agree that these rules are necessary? What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of having such rules?
- As a class, discuss the findings and why green spaces are important in cities and towns.
- Divide students into small groups and ask each group to design a poster illustrating the importance of green spaces.

Additional activities

- Ask each group to design a poster of the park as it is now and another poster of the park incorporating their suggested improvements.
- Create a class list summarising the suggestions for improvement.
- Invite a council staff member to visit the class to discuss how parks and playgrounds are managed in your town/city. Present the class's suggestions for improvements to their local park to the council staff member.

Resources needed

You will need the following resources:

- pencils and paper on which to record observations
- poster size cardboard
- art materials such as coloured pencils and felt tip pens.

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**More
information**

Visit our website: www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/urban/ or contact the Ministry for the Environment's Urban Group by emailing urban.design@mfe.govt.nz or phoning (04) 439 7400.
