

Southport Broadwater Parklands

Location: Queensland, Australia **Designer:** Mark Fuller, Aecom **Photographer:** Christopher Frederick Jones **Completion date:** 2009 **Site area:** 3,486 sqm

The Southport Broadwater Parklands has realised its vision of becoming an iconic gateway for the Gold Coast and a popular destination, where events, history and water combine to create an active green waterfront.

The design draws on natural and urban cues, creating a place that is both legible and functional, while being layered in the sculptural and poetic. Bold geometric forms frame up major gathering spaces and circulation routes, while dunal landforms and planting enclose more intimate spaces.

The re-introduction of long forgotten historical functions and structured community activity spaces, including pier, memorial, stage and bathing boxes now provide an adaptable framework to encourage new uses. A strong desire to reflect the distinct "Gold Coast Lifestyle" and emotive experience of the beach is referenced through striped beach towel paving patterns, fun, colourful beach-style furniture, and "the Rockpools" children's water play precinct.

However, the key underlying initiative that binds together these social, cultural, historical and physical aspects of the site is clearly the projects' bold and visionary response to the natural environment and the preservation of the Broadwater. By layering green technologies such as water cleansing and harvesting, solar energy production, recycled materials, use of non-potable water sources and preservation of sand dunes, AECOM has created a truly integrated open space that has set a new benchmark for the design of public open spaces and will be a legacy for generations to come.



1. Southern Park Entry
2. BBQ Shelter and Play Equipment
3. Central Events Lawn
4. Secondary Central Event Lawn
5. Event Deck
6. Outdoor Cinema Structure
7. Water Garden
8. Solar Array
9. Nerang Street Pier
10. Water Play Area

Award description:

2010 Australian Institute of Architects, State Commendation, Urban Design

2010 Australian Institute of Architects, Regional Commendation, Urban Design

2009 Planning Award in Landscape Architecture, Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture (AILA) Queensland



Right: The parklands provide opportunities for shaded seating with open water views

