

Ipswich River Heart Parklands

Location: Queensland, Australia **Designer:** Mark Fuller, Aecom **Photographer:** Christopher Frederick Jones **Completion date:** 2007 **Site area:** 18,000 sqm

Sensitivity and understanding of the Bremer River's significance to Ipswich and its residents enabled the design team to transform a once neglected river edge into the heart of the city. As lead design consultants for the project, Aecom recognised and harnessed the social and geographic importance of the Bremer River to revitalise it from an underutilised and unsightly urban river precinct into a vibrant, multi-use public space.

Key features of the parklands include:

- Terraces, boardwalks, jetties and walkways through a replanted and rejuvenated river's edge;
- Collapsible and removable handrails for sections of boardwalk to reduce damage to structures caused in the event of flooding;
- New shelters, picnic facilities, toilets and seating;
- A 180 square metres water feature, which operates on recycled water;
- A small-scale wetland to encourage localised opportunities, such as fauna access to freshwater;
- Simple, robust and cost effective historical interpretative panels and directional signage; and
- Open and legible landscape design, thoughtful design lighting and the inclusion of video surveillance to improve access and safety.

The true test of public domain is the public's enjoyment of a space, and since its opening in 2007, the Parkland has been enthusiastically embraced by all sections of the community for its richness, quality and sense of place. The resurrection of this portion of the river has reinvigorated people's use and expectations of their public domain as a place where they can feel safe, comfortable, accessible to everyone and therefore highly valued.



1. Park Entry Signage
2. Reconfigured Carpark
3. Vehicle Drop Off and Toilets
4. Informal Grassed Terraces
5. Ramp to Water Edge
6. Water Plaza
7. Jetty
8. Interactive Cascading Water Feature
9. Wetland Water Feature
10. Boardwalk along River Edge

Award description:

2008 AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards, Award for Design
 2008 Illuminating Engineering Society of Australia and New Zealand National Awards, Award of Excellence
 2007 AILA Queensland State Awards Commendation Award for Design in Landscape Architecture

Right: Site contours are the inspiration to the design of the waterfall

