WELCOME

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, working with CAUS and Betongpark, is exploring the future of Metropole Park as an inclusive, free-to-use urban sports and community park for Portrush. The project is centred around skateboarding, while also considering a pump track, play, community space, improved paths and connections, seating, planting and increased biodiversity.

So far, the project team has visited and studied the site, met with local stakeholders and user groups, reviewed the existing landscape and movement routes, and developed an initial zoning plan showing how the different parts of the park could work together. These early ideas respond to Metropole Park's dune landscape, well-used paths, surrounding neighbourhoods and important connections between the town centre and beaches.

The proposals shown today are an early stage of the feasibility and concept design process. No final design has been agreed. This consultation is an opportunity to tell us how you currently use the park, what you value about it and what you would like to see included in its future. Your feedback will be reviewed alongside the online survey, school workshops and wider stakeholder engagement, helping the team refine the masterplan and develop the next stage of the design.









BETONG PARK

Since 2012 Betongpark has worked passionately to design and construct unique spaces for skateboarding and other wheeled sports. Founded originally in Oslo, Norway before establishing a second base in London, England, Betongpark is recognised as one of Europe's industry leaders in skatepark design and construction.

Betongpark is founded on the core principles of passion, community, and expertise. Betongpark is made up of dedicated riders who apply their passion to every inch of their work. Our completely in-house team includes landscape architects, project managers, engineers, specialist skatepark builders and concrete finishers. Each and every one of us at Betongpark has experienced first hand the enrichment to our lives that skateparks and skate spaces provide. They give us a place to immerse ourselves in subcultures with deep histories, nourish individuality, and form friendships and communities that last for life. Through this shared passion and experience we are able to work closely with communities to create spaces that are far more than the sum of their individual parts, or ramps. A skatepark should be a place for a diverse community to come together; riders and non-riders alike, experts and novices together. We strive to apply these principles to everything we create.

Our vast array of projects to date include some of Europe's most prestigious skateparks such as Stavanger's Tasta and our recent extensive overhaul of the legendary Stockwell Skatepark in London. At the same time we maintain an ongoing commitment to grassroots community led projects such as Hackney Bumps in East London and many more. Every project is different, and in selecting Betongpark as a partner for your project you will find a completely personal experience in delivering a space for your community, and we hope friends to ride with for life!

HEMSEDAL ACTIVITY PARK

Hemsedal Activity Park is an all-ages activity destination designed and built by Betongpark in the centre of Hemsedal. The park combines a concrete skatepark, bowl, asphalt pumptrack, parkour, trampolines, social zones, a multi-use yoga space and a Gapahuk-style covered hangout with BBQ/fire pit.

The project was shaped through years of local outreach, consultation and dialogue with the Hemsedal user group. This process helped develop the park as a year-round community space, responding to the mountain setting, school environment and needs of different users. Feedback was used to refine the layout, activity zones, topography and relationship between the skatepark, pumptrack, hangout spaces and wider landscape.

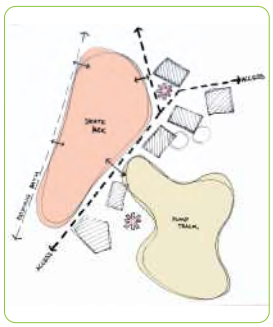
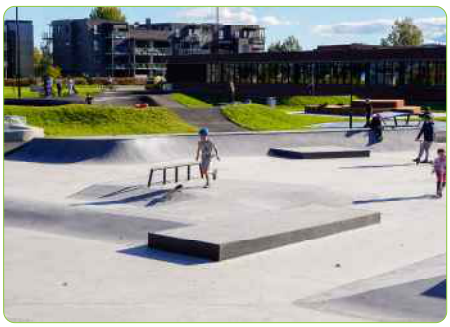
The final park creates an inclusive public space for movement, play, meeting and self-organised activity, demonstrating Betongpark's ability to combine specialist urban sports design with landscape, play and community infrastructure.



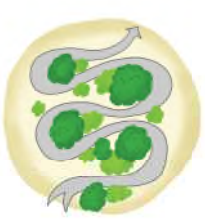

NANNESTAD ACTIVITY PARK

Nannestad Activity Park is a comprehensive community-focused destination designed and delivered solely by Betongpark, encompassing concept design, consultation, landscape planning and construction design. Located in the heart of Nannestad, the project was shaped through a series of on-site consultation sessions with local stakeholders, schools and user groups, ensuring the final design responded directly to the needs and aspirations of the community.

Designed as far more than a skatepark, Nannestad Activity Park creates a vibrant and inclusive public space that promotes health, active lifestyles and community engagement. By combining wheeled sports, fitness, play and social infrastructure within a single integrated landscape, the project establishes an exciting new destination at the centre of local life.









METROPOLE PARK
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE OF METROPOLE PARK
SURVEY ONLINE:
For more info please email: metropole.project@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk
CAUS
Causeway Association of Urban Sports
SB:NI
BETONGPARK
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

METROPOLE PARK 2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

DESIGN PROCESS



Metropole park drone photo:



Metropole park site context:

KEY

1. Skate space
2. Skate pool
3. Pump track
4. Community spaces
5. Play spaces
6. Play and Ecology trail
7. Events spaces

DESIGN RATIONALE

Metropole Park represents an opportunity to create far more than a skatepark. From the outset, the ambition has been to create an inclusive, accessible and welcoming public park, bringing together wheeled sports, play, community space, landscape and ecology within one connected destination. A place designed for people of different ages, abilities and interests, whether they come to skate, ride, play, meet friends, spend time outdoors or simply move through the park.

Our design process began by understanding both the site and the people who use it. Through site visits, stakeholder engagement and conversations with local people, we identified the activities and spaces the park needs to accommodate, while also understanding the wider qualities that make this part of Portrush distinctive. Existing paths, dune landforms, levels, drainage, neighbouring homes, local landmarks and connections between the town centre, East Strand and West Strand have all helped inform our thinking.

An important part of this process was understanding how people already move through the site. During our visits, we recorded formal routes alongside the informal desire lines created by local people, dog walkers and other regular users. Rather than imposing a completely new structure on the park, these existing movement patterns became the starting point for developing an active circulation network, strengthening important connections while creating new opportunities to move through and experience the landscape.

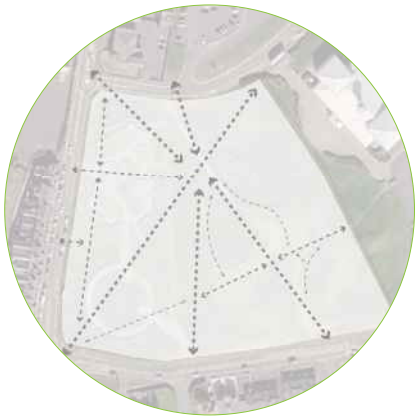
From this circulation framework, we began to establish the different activity zones across the park. Their locations respond to what we heard through engagement, how people move around the site, the existing landscape and the relationship between different activities. This has helped us develop an initial zoning plan that brings together community space, skateboarding and wheeled sports, pump track, play, informal recreation, landscape and ecology, while allowing quieter areas and appropriate transitions towards neighbouring properties.

Accessibility has informed this process throughout. The intention is not to create a collection of separate facilities, but a park that feels connected and easy to navigate, with clear routes between spaces and opportunities for people to participate, watch, socialise or simply enjoy the landscape in different ways.

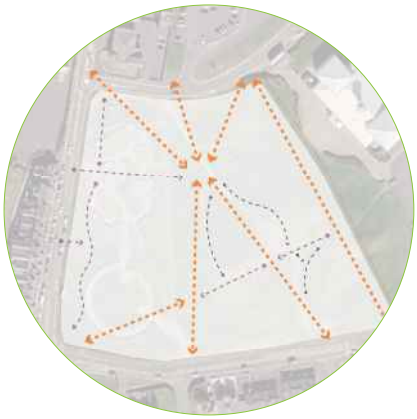
The proposals shown at this consultation are not a finished design. They represent the next step in an ongoing process. Feedback from the community will help us test these ideas, understand what is most important and develop Metropole Park into a place that reflects Portrush and works for the widest possible range of people.



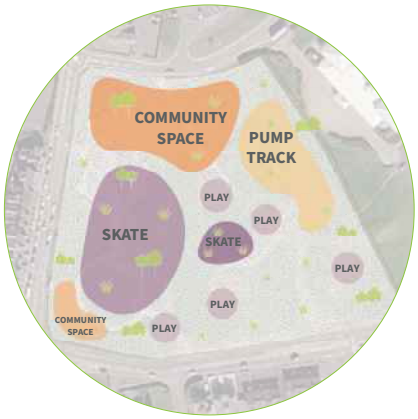
CONCEPT DESIGN:



DESIRE LINES



DEVELOPED CIRCULATION



ZONING DIAGRAM

METROPOLE PARK 3
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

SKATE SPACE



DESIGN RATIONALE

Skateboarding sits at the heart of Metropole Park, reflecting the role that local skaters have played in driving the project and the long-standing ambition for a permanent skate facility in Portrush. Through our engagement, a plaza-style skate space emerged as one of the strongest priorities, and this has helped shape the current concept.

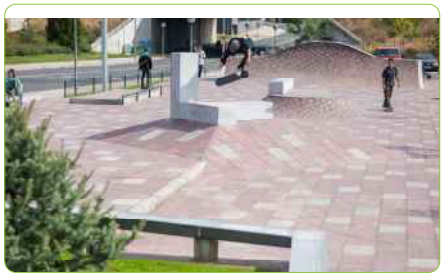
The main plaza-style space sits centrally within the park, forming the heart of the skate provision and connecting into the wider activity areas. To the south, the concept currently explores a smaller, more secluded skate zone incorporating a mini ramp, another feature raised through engagement with local skaters. Separating these spaces also creates opportunities to introduce planting and green space between different areas of activity.

The skate provision has been positioned so that the community space can provide a welcoming arrival into Metropole Park, before visitors move naturally towards the more active spaces within the main body of the park.

The bowl is currently explored as a separate element within the dune landscape. This allows it to have its own character while reducing conflict between different types of skating. The surrounding topography also creates opportunities for informal seating, gathering and viewing, while maintaining a visual connection back towards the main skate plaza.

At this stage, the layout is deliberately indicative. The consultation will help us understand how these spaces should develop, while the overall ambition remains to create a varied and distinctive skate offer that feels embedded within the landscape of Metropole Park rather than sitting separately from it.
















PLAZA TIME

POOL SEASIDE STYLE

COMPLEMENTS EXISTINGS SKATEPARKS

SKATE-SCAPE INTEGRATION

PUMP TRACK

METROPOLE PARK 4 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



DESIGN RATIONALE

The pump track is currently explored as an expansive activity zone that moves from the northern areas of the site up into the dune landscape. Rather than treating it as a single track placed within the park, the concept looks at how riding, landscape, planting and existing topography could come together to create a much wider experience.

To the north, we are exploring the potential for a more accessible, beginner-friendly pump track, weaving through trees and planting and providing an introduction to riding. From here, the concept could develop into a more challenging, mountain bike-inspired riding experience that moves up and through the dunes, taking advantage of the changing levels and character of the existing landscape.

These different riding areas could be interconnected with places to stop, watch and hang out, allowing the pump track zone to become somewhere people can spend time regardless of whether they are riding. Biodiversity planting and sustainable drainage features could also form part of the landscape, helping activity, ecology and water management work together rather than being treated as separate elements.

At this stage, the routes and features shown are indicative rather than a developed pump track design. The consultation will help us understand what people would most like to see here before the riding experience is developed in greater detail. The ambition is to create a pump track that feels shaped by the landscape of Metropole Park and offers something distinctive for a wide range of users.







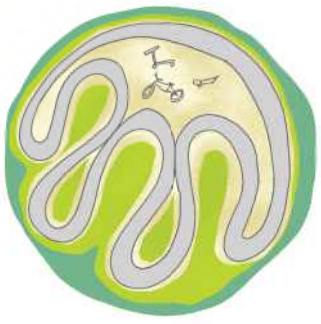












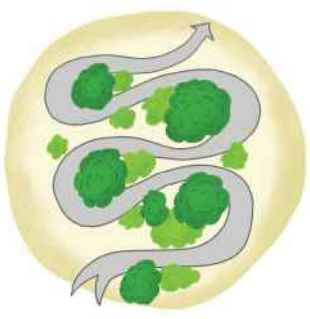
ALL WHEELS FUN



TRAIL RIDING ZONE



DUNE LANDSCAPE STYLE



GREEN ISLAND TIME

5 METROPOLE PARK COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

PLAY SPACE











DESIGN RATIONALE

Play is explored throughout Metropole Park rather than being concentrated within a single, enclosed playground. The ambition is to create a playable landscape, where different opportunities for activity, discovery and recreation are encountered as people move through the park.

This approach deliberately offers something different to the more traditional play provision already available locally. Rather than relying on one fenced destination, informal and unfenced play spaces are distributed across the site, responding to the different landscapes and activities around them.

Close to the community space, play could provide opportunities for younger children while remaining connected to places where parents, families and other visitors can gather and spend time. Elsewhere, different forms of play can respond more directly to their surroundings, from climbing integrated into the dune landscape and informal ball sports within secluded glades, to features inspired by the history and culture of Portrush.

The landscape itself also provides opportunities for play. Nature and discovery trails could weave through planted glades and habitat areas, encouraging children to explore and interact with the natural environment while helping biodiversity become something people can experience as part of the park.

Together, these different play nodes begin to turn the wider landscape into somewhere that is fun to explore rather than simply move through. Play can appear unexpectedly across Metropole Park, giving different ages and abilities their own reasons to explore, meet and spend time here.

At this stage, the individual play spaces and features are indicative and will continue to develop through consultation and the next stages of design. The overall ambition is to create a fun, inclusive and accessible landscape for all ages, where play, nature, activity and everyday use come together across the park.

























BIG FUN



NATURE PLAY



SENSE OF PLACE



INTERACTIVE

COMMUNITY SPACE



DESIGN RATIONALE

The community space is explored as the welcoming entrance and flexible gathering space for Metropole Park. Its location has developed through the consultation, wayfinding and wider design process, creating a natural arrival from the town centre before people move into the more active areas of the park.

Rather than giving this space one fixed purpose, the ambition is to keep it open, adaptable and useful in different ways. On an everyday basis, it could simply be somewhere to meet friends, walk the dog, sit in the sun or spend time outdoors. At other times, the same space could accommodate events, performances, community gatherings and informal recreation.

The concept explores a careful balance between hard and soft landscape, creating the flexibility of a plaza without losing the green character of the wider park. Hard surfaces could support events, movement and informal skateboarding, while areas of grass, biodiversity planting and softer landscape provide places to sit, relax and spend time.

At the centre of the current concept, a Giant's Causeway-inspired stage and seating element begins to give the space its own identity and a sense of place rooted in the North Coast. Surrounded by grass amphitheatre-style seating and locally inspired biodiversity and ecological planting, it could work as a focal point for events while simply becoming somewhere to gather, sit and watch the park on an ordinary day.

Ultimately, the community space is deliberately not designed around one activity or one group of people. Its value comes from being able to change throughout the day, across the seasons and for different occasions, creating a welcoming shared space that can support whatever is happening within Metropole Park.





A SPACE FOR ALL



FLEXIBLE



HANGOUT ZONES



LOCAL MATERIALITY

METROPOLE PARK 7
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

CIRCULATION & BIODIVERSITY











DESIGN RATIONALE

Movement and landscape are explored together across Metropole Park, creating a network of routes that feels natural within the existing dune landscape while being carefully considered to connect the park, its activities and the wider town.

The circulation strategy began by understanding how people already move through the site. Existing paths and informal desire lines showed important connections between the surrounding neighbourhoods, town centre, railway station and beaches, including the strong movement between East Strand and West Strand. These patterns have become the starting point for developing a clearer network of primary and secondary routes through the park.

The ambition is for these routes to be welcoming and accessible to as many people as possible, whether moving through the park on foot, using a wheelchair or mobility aid, or moving on wheels. Rather than simply providing a route from one activity to another, the paths can become part of the experience of Metropole Park, winding through planting, dune landforms, activity spaces and quieter areas of landscape.

Alongside this movement network, the landscape strategy looks to strengthen and connect biodiversity across the whole site rather than creating isolated pockets of habitat. New trees, native coastal planting, wildflower and meadow areas, longer grass and locally appropriate species can create a varied landscape while providing connected sources of food and shelter for wildlife. The developing strategy aims for at least 80% of planting species to be appropriate for native pollinators, with species selected to suit the exposed coastal environment.

There are also opportunities to create more specific habitats within the landscape, including exposed sandy banks and bee bricks for solitary bees, with appropriate flowering species located nearby. These interventions could help support species such as the Northern colletes, a Northern Ireland Priority Species with populations recorded nearby.

Sustainable drainage, biodiversity planting, seating and opportunities for nature and discovery trails can then be integrated alongside the movement routes. This allows ecology to become something people see, move through and interact with as part of everyday life in the park, rather than something separated from the activity spaces.

Together, circulation and biodiversity can create the connective landscape of Metropole Park, linking its different activities while making the wider site greener, more accessible, more diverse and enjoyable to explore.











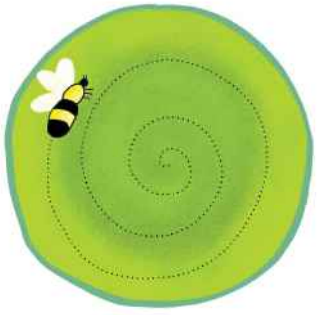


















HABITAT

EASE OF MOVEMENT AND CONNECTIONS

BEAUTIFULLY PLANTED

LANDSCAPE INTEGRATION