



Environmental Education

Our environment. We're in it together.



Enjoy Your Parks ... you don't need to get away to escape the city!

Major Curriculum Focus

Social Studies: Place and Environment, Resources and Economic Activities

Health & PE: Personal Health & Physical Development, Healthy Communities & Environments

Thinking About Parks

Teacher Notes & Student Activities

- Brainstorm – what is a park? Why do we have parks? What type of parks are there? What are the differences between regional parks, city and national parks?
- Discuss who looks after parks. What does a ranger do? What can we do in a park? Explore the range of activities people do when they visit a park. Think about different age groups.
- Discuss the safety factors involved when visiting parks. Are some activities, locations safer than others?

Where are our Parks

- On a map of New Zealand, locate all the national parks. Now on a map of your area, mark in all your local parks and regional parks (not all areas of the country have regional parks).

Signs and Symbols

- Find out about the signs and symbols used in many park (nationally and internationally) to give information about how to look after the parks and how to keep ourselves safe.

Create a Park

- In a group – make a list of all the things you want in your park. Where is it – city, beach, bush, mountain? What facilities are important e.g. toilets, parking areas, walking tracks, an area for water activities Draw a huge map of your park, plotting in all your facilities and where you would do particular activities. Give your park a name – now design a logo for it.

Caring for your Park

- Auckland Regional Parks has a policy of rubbish free parks – why do think that this is so? Design a billboard to encourage people to comply with this rule. Write 5 statements about how people should look after your park.

Adding Value

- Think about a park near you that you would like to see improved (adding value). Make a list of what you would like to do - it could be 'beautifying' the public toilets, creating more sitting areas, more activity areas for teenagers or young children, planting more trees.
- Put together a report of what you would like to happen – make it visually exciting. Get support from other people - parents, shopkeepers. Take your proposals to the decision-makers.

For details of education programmes and resources contact: Hilary Chidlow, Education Co-ordinator

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Auckland Regional Parks

You don't need to escape to revitalise yourself from the bustle of the city! Enjoy the 37,280 hectares of parkland - 23 different parks within an easy drive from Auckland. These parks protect some of the best native forest, landscape, coastal areas and wildlife habitat in the region. Park rangers maintain the parks through conservation programmes such as weed and pest control and the revegetation of bush and wetlands.



Parks Facts - check this out!

Regional Parks receive approximately **8.5** million visitors a year. **2200** people can camp at any one time in over **60** campsites. **55** picnic sites can cater for more than **10,000** people every day. **Activities** are run every month and include guided walks, tree planting and conservation and **education programmes**. Over **350** volunteers help in the parks in a variety of activities - conservation, education, fundraising, tree planting. **7000** sheep and **1000** cattle maintain the countryside character of many parks **Regional Parks** are funded mainly by rates and entry is **free**. The average cost to each rate payer is **\$35.00** per year – **cheap!** Who **owns** them – **we do** – the people of **Auckland!**



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