

## CASE STUDY

### CLIENT

Welland Park

### BUDGET

Harborough District Council

### AGE RANGE

£300,000

All ages and abilities



# Destination Welland Park!

*"It's raising the bar for play areas across the country"*

Matthew Bills, Public Spaces Manager, Harborough District Council

## Client Background

Welland Park is a green flag award winning park with excellent facilities. Situated alongside the river it is a popular green space attraction for families and children. Onsite facilities include crazy golf, tennis, bowling, a café, plenty of walks, picnic areas and now a brand new play area!

## Project Brief

The project brief was to revamp play in Welland Park into a state of the art area that matched the other facilities. The aim was to develop a 'Destination Park' that local people and people from neighbouring communities could also enjoy. A Destination Park can be defined as a large play area that is free and accessible for all users.



Nottingham based company Proludic were chosen to design and install this unique playground. Proludic specialise in innovative, durable and challenging equipment for children of all ages. Harborough District Council were particularly impressed with Proludic's ability to incorporate



natural elements into the design.

## Play Area

Welland Park now provides a range of play equipment for all ages and abilities. The play area balances natural and urban zones, combining both

*continued . . .*



*"The play space at Welland Park is a good example of a layout in which the equipment and landscape setting have been designed together"* (Aileen Shackell, Lead author Design for Play)



and metal materials suitable for varying levels of ability and different age ranges. The toddler area includes a beach style Hawaii unit in sand surfacing and a water unit. For younger children this area is like visiting the seaside for the day. Junior to teen age children can enjoy the Dynamic sports equipment on offer. This includes a Rodeoboard, which is a challenging item of equipment that takes its inspiration from

Windsurfing. For those interested in fitness, the Vitality Units provide suitable facilities. Based on gym style equipment, these elements provide an excellent workout that builds muscle strength and endurance. The central area of the park is a tall Volcano tower with tubular slides and varying climbing levels that all children can access.

#### Outcome

The park was opened on the 4th August to local children and families who were extremely thrilled with the facilities. Children on the day described the park as "wicked" and "awesome". Gill Hicks, a July 7/7 London bombing survivor and 4 year old leukaemia sufferer Eva Winston Hart officially opened the park to a packed crowd of onlookers. Eva's mother, Amy Winston-Hart commented on the new equipment. "I think it's absolutely fantastic. It's very safe and there is lots to do."

**Aileen Shackell**, lead author of the Play England Design for Play guide has also been impressed with the layout of the park.

"The play space at Welland Park is a good example of a layout in which the equipment and landscape setting have been designed together; taking this 'landscape-led' approach to the design has enhanced the equipment considerably."

