

Burgess Park: Taking an urban space from no-go to must go

The idea for Burgess Park came out of the 1943 Abercrombie Plan. It was simple: clear an area damaged by heavy bombing, create a park and move the displaced population to the new high-rise Aylesbury Estate. The London and then the Greater London Councils assembled land and built out the park, yet without a clear guiding plan. The result was a park that was mature but lacking in structure. The various plateaux of demolition material had become green over the years, but formed barriers to movement and views, resulting in dead ends, blind corners and a well-founded fear of crime.

LDA Design based its competition-winning proposals around creating a more legible structure with open sightlines. The new park, which is being implemented in phases, and which follows extensive stakeholder and community engagement, features improved entrances, new paths, a re-worked lake, a new play hub, a competition-standard BMX track, horticultural meadows, and extensive tree planting.

Burgess Park is now a great space with wide appeal connecting communities from Camberwell and Peckham. Its transformation means families can gather and take advantage of all the new facilities, including a vibrant new café.



Client
London Borough of Southwark

Location
Southwark, London

Partners
Alan Conisbee and Associates, Appleyard and Trew,
Sheffield University, BSG

Services Used
Landscape Architecture

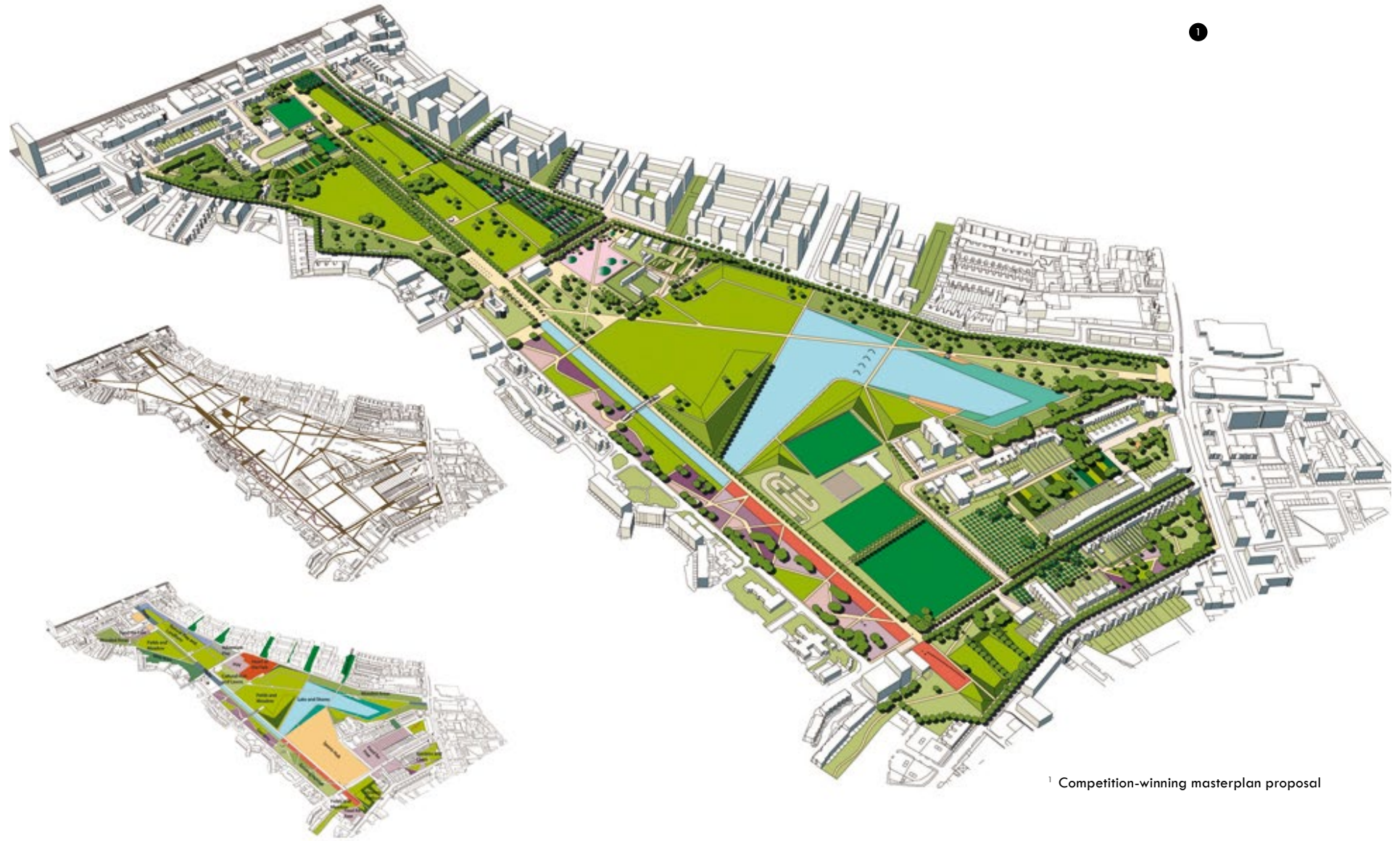
Area
51 ha

¹ The Great Lawn

² New play area

³ New entrance on Walworth Road

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1 Competition-winning masterplan proposal