

Residential safety guidelines

- Orient windows in rooms such as the kitchen and living room to overlook public spaces.
- Glazing other areas of residences, such as staircases, can also help to create neighbourhood watch, although not as effective.
- To retain a visual connection at ground level between the building and the street, define front and back yards with appropriate landscaping or fencing, according to the earlier section.
- Residential open spaces that face the street should have fencing that does not obscure visibility. This will give residents privacy, while still allowing them to overlook what is going on beyond their section and keeping the public space safe.
- To strike a balance between privacy and passive surveillance, a level change between the ground floor and the footpath can be helpful. This will limit visibility into the dwelling while still letting residents look out. Make sure that the entrance to the building remains accessible.
- In situations where views to the street are restricted at ground level, windows and balconies of higher levels should be designed to overlook the street. Semi-solid partitions can be used to create privacy between balconies.
- Include spaces in the design, such as bay windows or a front porch, where residents can people-watch.
- For long and narrow sites, the front unit or rooms should have both doors and windows facing the street.
- To ensure visibility between the building and the street is not obscured, landscaping in the front yard needs to be carefully designed. Consider planting low shrubs or trees with higher canopies.
- Depending on the nature of the development and the resource consent requirements, it may be necessary to provide the Auckland Council with a landscaping plan showing:
 - plant species
 - locations
 - sizes at the time of planting
 - maximum sizes of plants and trees at maturity
 - height of any tree canopy at maturity.
- When rear lanes are required, they should:
 - be the **shortest, most direct route possible with clear sightlines**
 - maximise visibility to garages from overlooking living spaces
 - be designed as shared spaces with appropriate landscaping, lighting, and plans for vehicle and pedestrian circulation
 - be clearly designed as private spaces, with the ability to be secured from public access, if required.
- Communal open spaces should be located centrally at the rear of the building, and should have sufficient amenities, and be clearly visible by passers-by or neighbours.
- Entrances to buildings should be easily visible and identifiable from the street, and should not be surrounded by any concealed areas.
- Entrances and lifts to the carpark should be located in a visible spot with adequate lighting.
- Apartment lobbies should be seen from the street.
- When designing a dwelling adjacent to an accessway, provide windows that overlook the path and use the fencing that does not obstruct visibility between the two sides.

Parks and reserves safety guidelines

Auckland has a wide range of parks and reserves each with unique context and specific needs. However, the following high level safety strategies can be considered:

- Maximise how much of the site backs onto the road. Reserves should be designed so that they are surrounded by streets rather than backs of buildings. This way, visitors to the park are more likely to be seen by other members of the public.
- If there are not any streets around the park, the fencing of surrounding sites should be visually permeable. To retain privacy, an accessway or driveway can be situated along this boundary.
- Access points should be from the street. If not, then they should be in areas overlooked by residential buildings. Accessways into the site should be wide and follow the appropriate safe design guidelines.
- Visual obstructions such as high solid fences and walls should be avoided around the perimeter of the park. High walls and fences can also be a target for graffiti.
- The design of the park, landscaping, and structures should allow people to keep an eye on each other as much as possible.
- There should be amenities for different users, defined by the local demographics. This includes providing playground for kids or sports fields for teenagers and adults.
- Sports fields and their carparks should be adequately lit for use after dark. In addition to lighting, there are other design qualities for car parking, which are [outlined in the Parks guide](http://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/streets-and-parks/park-design/developing-park#/streets-and-parks/park-design/developing-park/park-elements/car-parking) (<http://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/streets-and-parks/park-design/developing-park#/streets-and-parks/park-design/developing-park/park-elements/car-parking>) .

Public space safety guidelines

- Public spaces are safest when they are activated by establishments such as shops or cafes. Food kiosks and seating also help to attract people.
- Overlooking residential buildings or offices can also help to make the place feel safe.
- Public open spaces should be avoided either where there is no supporting activities in the surrounding or when site conditions limit visibility, such as on sloping sites.
- Public squares should be located along key pedestrian routes to help get more people coming through them. Avoid situating squares at dead ends.
- Signs on the site should be easy to read and tactfully placed. Too many signs can result in visual clutter, confusion, and obstructed visibility.
- When designing for public spaces:
 - cater for a variety of uses
 - the size and scale of the space should complement existing public spaces and activities, as well as catering to any new users you wish to attract
 - recreational activities as well as public facilities, such as seating, water and drinking fountains, and public toilets, will encourage the use of public spaces
 - control access to service areas and rear parking areas that are not easily visible from public roads to restrict public entry
 - make sure there is a gap between shrubs and tree canopies to allow for clear visibility.
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Business and mixed-use safety guidelines

- To encourage activity at street level, a mix of retail and businesses should be located on the ground floor.
- Commercial buildings should always focus on activating the street in front of them. The design of car parking should try to minimise any negative effect on this.

- If it is not possible to have a continuous row of activities at street-level, they can instead be clustered near main entrances or prominent corners.
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- Window shop and awning lighting in business zones improves visibility and safety at night.