



# **Puketāpapa Local Board**

## **Best practice accessibility in Parks**



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## 1 Introduction

In November 2017, Puketāpapa Local Board commissioned Be. Accessible to provide a high-level report on best practice accessibility for parks in the Puketāpapa Local Board area.

Parks are an integral part of a community, providing a focus for social and recreational activities for people of all ages and abilities.

To be inclusive, park planning and design, needs to encompass the diversity within our communities such as age, gender, disability, culture, social and recreational needs and interests.

Enhancing Puketāpapa's parks so they provide **“safe and accessible facilities for the whole community”**, will require a holistic approach that encompasses engagement with the local community, consideration of travel options, and the facilities and activities that Puketāpapa's parks will offer.

Be. Accessible have outlined, in this report, some of the key principles to be considered when designing or upgrading parks in order to best meet the needs of diverse Puketāpapa communities.

Puketāpapa Local Board Chair Harry Doig says, "We felt that there was potentially more we could do for those with accessibility needs in Puketāpapa who might want to enjoy our parks".

As part of the commissioned project, Be. Accessible identified key community stakeholders within the Puketāpapa Local Board area that could provide insight and feedback on the accessibility of their local parks. A survey was put together for stakeholders and local park users, aiming to facilitate consultation workshops in March 2018. For more information on the stakeholders, and the findings from both the "How accessible is your local park?" survey and consultation workshops, go to the Appendix on page 42.

Be. Accessible also assessed six key parks in the Puketāpapa Local Board area, to provide feedback on the current state of accessibility. The parks that were assessed are:

1. Mt Roskill War Memorial Park
2. Monte Cecilia Park
3. Keith Hay Park



4. Margaret Griffin Park
5. Waikowhai Park
6. Robinson Reserve (Playground only)

The reports for these parks have been given to the Puketāpapa Local Board for review and the prioritised recommendations for each park is below.

## **2 Park Accessibility Assessments Priority Recommendations**

In November 2017, Puketāpapa Local Board commissioned Be. Accessible to provide a high-level report on best practice accessibility for parks in the Puketāpapa Local Board area.

As part of the commissioned project, Be. Accessible have also assessed six key parks in the Puketāpapa Local Board area, to provide feedback on the current state of accessibility. Be. Coach, Julianne McEldowney assessed the following parks with an holistic lens, considering the needs of all people:

1. Mt Roskill War Memorial Park
2. Monte Cecilia Park
3. Keith Hay Park
4. Margaret Griffin Park
5. Waikowhai Park
6. Robinson Reserve (Playground only)

Reports for each of these parks which include a full list of recommendations as well as commendations are available.

Below are the common recommendations across the 6 parks for the Local Board to prioritise.



## 1. Finding out information - All Parks

- a) Provide a website with information on Auckland Parks, their features, amenities and level of accessibility to inform visitors and people living in Auckland of what they might expect when planning their visit and features of interest.
- b) Ensure the website is designed accessibly with strong colour contrast, images with alternative text captions and key information on a video with NZ Sign Language interpretation for the Deaf community.
- a) Provide information about Puketāpapa Local Board parks in a brochure(s) that locals and visitors may refer to as guides when walking in their local area.
- b) Ensure brochure text is easy to read and offers good colour contrast.
- c) Provide maps of walks in brochure format which outlines accessible routes, toilet facilities and other amenities (sports fields, picnic areas, seating, path types).

## 3. Monte Cecilia Park

- a) Create an accessible, interactive and inclusive playground for children and families to enjoy play together. Ensure the ground surface of the playground is slip resistant and suitable for wheeled equipment to manoeuvre easily.
- b) Re-paint road signage, car parks and accessible car parks and install pole signage to inform visitors where these are located.
- c) Replace gravel and dirt path surfaces with slip resistant concrete surfaces to ensure the park is a welcoming and safe environment for all people who visit or walk the heritage grounds on a regular basis.



- d) Provide information on path types and walking options for visitors (and regulars) to know how accessible paths are, level of difficulty and parks located nearby for visitors to plan further outings.

#### **4. Keith Hay Park**

- a) Replace the bark surface of the playground with a slip-resistant soft fall surface that is suitable for wheeled equipment to enable children and their families to enjoy the playground together.
- b) Ensure public seating includes back and arm rest support and connected with the accessible route so that people with access needs do not need to walk or manoeuvre equipment over uneven surfaces.
- c) Paint ground surface symbols to ensure visibility and remind visitors they are on a shared cycle path.
- d) Add directional signage to inform visitors where accessible toilet facilities are located.

#### **5. Mount Roskill War Memorial Park**

- a) Replace the bark surface of the playground and fitness equipment with a slip-resistant soft fall surface that is suitable for wheeled equipment to enable children and their families to enjoy the playground together.
- b) Remove wooden barriers surrounding the playground and fitness equipment and provide level access with the accessible route (shared path).
- c) Repair footpath surfaces to ensure they are level and raised edges are removed where concrete sections join.



- d) Install accessible public seating with back and arm rest support along the accessible route (southern and northern path) to provide places for mothers with small children and older people to rest and view sport.
- e) Ensure there are accessible, unisex toilet facilities that may be accessed and used independently by people with access needs using the playground or sports fields.

## **6. Margaret Griffen Park**

- a) Install signage that includes direction to facilities on site at the Penney Avenue entrance into the park.
- b) Remove the steep angle where the Penney Avenue bridge meets the shared path ground surface to ensure this provides level access and avoids jolting people in mobility equipment.
- c) Install handrails on the ramp near the playcentre and sports fields to provide an accessible route to the shared path around the perimeter of the park.
- d) Build an accessible, unisex toilet facility that has level approach from the accessible route.
- e) Increase directional signage and signage on the toilet block building to inform visitors this is where the toilets are located.
- f) Remove the raised edge into the male and female toilet facilities to remove the potential for tripping hazards.
- g) Replace the bark surface in the playground with a soft fall surface that is slip resistant and suitable for children and family members using mobility equipment;
- h) Remove the wooden barrier on either side of the footpath into the playground as this may obstruct the path of travel of people with visual or mobility access needs where a support dog is alongside or



if mobility equipment is wide.

## 7. Waikowhai Park

- a) Install an accessible car park near the playground.
- b) Install kerb ramps to access the playground and barbecue/picnic areas from the car park.
- c) Ensure the accessible route (shared path) extends and does not include steps (drop-downs) to the barbecue, picnic tables and public seating throughout the park.
- d) Add a path types to the Map of Waikowhai Park that informs visitors of the most accessible route.
- e) Replace the bark surface of the playground, barbecue and picnic table areas with a slip-resistant soft fall surface.
- f) Repair wooden steps replacing the gravel surface with slip-resistant materials and install nosings; install handrails on both sides of steps from Cape Horn Road and along sloped paths to provide support and guidance to people with visual impairment.
- g) Install handrails on steep concrete path that connects to steps at the waters' edge.

## 8. Robinson Reserve

- a) Remove the wooden barriers surrounding the playground and swing area to ensure these are accessible to children, parents and grandparents with access needs.





- b) Replace the bark surface of the playground and picnic table areas with a slip-resistant soft fall surface.
- c) Extend the accessible route (shared path) to the playground, picnic table and through the park to the opposite entrance.
- d) Install accessible play equipment to ensure children with access needs from the neighbouring school may play and explore alongside their peers.
- e) Refurbish picnic tables to include space for people using wheelchairs or mobility equipment to participate in family or group gatherings.
- f) Install public seating that includes back and armrest support for visitors to rest.



### 3 The Access Citizen

The access citizen makes up at least 24% of New Zealand's population. At Be. Accessible, we describe the access citizen as individuals who:

- Have difficulty reading small print or are blind;
- Are from a different country using a different language;
- Uses a wheelchair or is unable to walk easily;
- Has trouble hearing in noisy places or is Deaf;
- Are out and about with family or young children;
- Find it difficult to read and understand things unless provided in plain English.

It is a known fact that, as we get older, our access requirements increase. By 2030, we expect more than 50% of people over the age of 65 to have at least one impairment.

In the 2013 Census, the NZ Disability Survey estimated 19% of residents in the Puketāpapa Local Board area live with a disability. Add the large number of residents who have language or cultural differences, parents with young children, and those aged over 65, and accessibility becomes a key component when planning and designing parks in the Puketāpapa area.

In a recent online Access Citizens Survey, Be. Accessible commissioned Cogo Consulting to research and measure the accessibility of public spaces, services and experiences in New Zealand. The research revealed the key enablers for participation in activities for access citizens. The top four enablers are:

- Accessible physical spaces = 57%
- Welcoming and helpful customer service = 49%
- Accessible information on websites = 44%
- Good onsite signage = 42%

We believe these four principals are key in future park design in the Puketāpapa Local Board area and will enable residents with access needs to participate fully in park experiences in the future.



## 4 Universal Design vs Compliance

Accessibility for all, often referred to as Universal Design, means that access citizens receive the same experience regardless of age, culture or impairment.

Minimum standard is what designers are required to do in order to meet compliance. Universal Design goes beyond compliance to ensure a level of quality is achieved that is deemed acceptable by a wider spectrum of the population.

Designers, Architects and Engineers have many criteria to contend with, and will often regard a standard condition as the simple and cheap solution. However, when Universal Design is integral to the initial design criteria, money is saved in the long term.

It is vital that design principals for upgrading parks in the Puketāpapa Local Board area are adhering to Universal Design principals in order to provide accessibility for all.

## 5 Approach to Improving Accessibility

### 5.1 Raising Awareness

Building accessibility awareness among park designers and project teams is vital to designing parks and environments that are accessible for all. Be. Accessible can provide workshops with teams to discuss what best practice accessibility is, it's importance and the difference between compliance and Universal Design.

### 5.2 Accessibility Design Guide

Be. Accessible's Universal Design approach views the park journey through the 'Access Citizen' lens. At every view, decision point, or obstacle, the cause and effect is assessed to improve the experience for everyone.

Be. Accessible can produce a detailed Accessibility Design Guide, illustrating the difference between compliance and best practice when it comes to the many features and facilities in using a park. We believe



that following this approach will inform the design throughout, save time and avoid extra costs.

#### 4.3 Accessibility Assessments

Be. Accessible have provided current-state assessments of 6 Puketāpapa parks that cover the visitor journey giving insight to what aspects are working well and where improvements could be made. The visitor journey covered is:

**Planning a visit to the park** – finding out information via website, collateral, maps

**Arriving and getting into the park** – car parking, main entrance, way finding, accessible route

**Getting around within the park**– toilets, seating, way finding, pathways and surfaces, playgrounds and other facilities

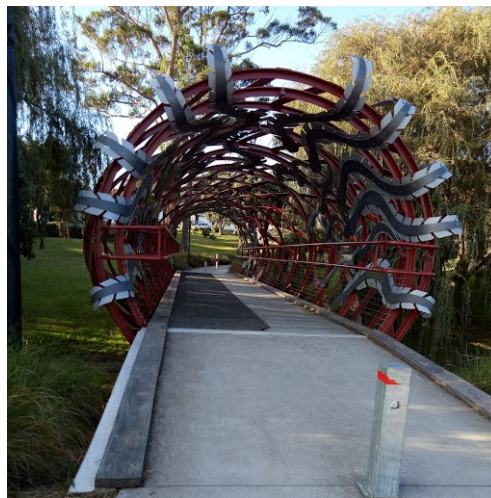
## 6 Diversity

1. **Diverse features:** a successful park will offer a degree of diversity in terms of physical features, activities and users. An example of this is Mt Roskill War Memorial Park that is multi-functional – with its playground, skatepark, shared path, a bridge as a landmark sculpture, sport fields, a Fitness Trail, community centres and markets.
2. **Diverse natural environment:** a park that offers a varied natural environment with a range of colour, texture, shape, fragrance and use makes it interesting to visit at various times of the day and year. One of the best examples in the Puketāpapa region would be Monte Cecilia Park with its experience of an old English estate with views of Manukau Harbour, Pah Homestead, an orchard and the wetlands area with a boardwalk. It also has a vast array of flora, providing interest throughout the year.
3. **Diverse activities:** the development of activities beyond organized sports facilities and playgrounds will encourage a diverse group of users. Keith Hay Park is a prime example of a sports park with opportunities to engage pedestrians, cyclists, dog walkers in a

range of different activities. Providing a diverse range of features, activities and environments to meet the needs and interests of more people within the local community will be valuable.



**Photo 1:** Monte Cecilia Park



**Photo 2:** Mt Roskill War Memorial Park

## 7 Planning a Visit to the Park

For many people with access needs a significant amount of effort is required in planning for any trip out of their house. For a trip to be enjoyable, information is required ahead of time about access, public transportation, accessible car parking and drop off zone, layout of space, activities available and accessible facilities such as toilets.

To allow people to effectively plan their trip to a Puketāpapa park, we recommend investigating the accessibility of each park and including the following on the website:

1. Directions to the park with a downloadable location map;
2. Downloadable map of the park indicating accessible routes, location of features and facilities and whether these are accessible.
3. Public transport options, accessible car parking and drop off zone, proximity to shared paths/cycle routes;



4. A brief description of the park and photos of any major features including:
  - a. Accessible features of the park;
  - b. Accessible facilities, e.g., toilets, kiosk, picnic tables, seating;
  - c. Accessible features of the play space and whether it is fenced;

## 8 Getting to the Park

Improvements to park facilities will benefit from a holistic approach that considers who the current and envisioned users of each park are, their purpose for going to the park and possible means of travel. The expected means of travel may be determined by whether a park is primarily designed for the local community or as a destination park.

Considerations:

1. **Cars:** provide dedicated parking for the park, avoiding parking solely on residential roads. This is important for people with access needs who use mobility equipment or have limited mobility, and parents with young children, ensuring safe and accessible car parking away from traffic.
2. **Bus:** connectivity with local bus routes. Buses provide inexpensive, practical and independent travel for many older people and those with access needs, allowing them to get out and about and utilize parks.
3. **Cycle:** connectivity with cycle routes and shared paths. Cycling is becoming an increasingly important recreational activity for families, particularly with the increased provision of shared paths connecting communities. The ability for children and families to cycle safely to a park could increase the use of these community facilities and reduce the number of families driving to the park.
4. **Walking:** easy and safe pedestrian access. Provide safe and accessible crossing places on all roads bordering a park. This could include traffic calming, pedestrian controlled or zebra crossings, clear signage and ensuring road parking doesn't interfere with clear sightlines.

## 9 Car Parking

Where a dedicated car park within the park is not feasible, consider providing off-road (indented) parking, that includes accessible parking alongside the park. This will reduce the risk of conflict between pedestrians (in particular people using mobility equipment, those with sight and hearing impairment, parents with young children and/or child strollers) and other road users. An example can be seen at Margaret Griffen Park.

A lack of parking, and in particular accessible parking, can result in facilities (for example play equipment) falling into disrepair and being removed due to no longer being safe to use - an example of this is Waikowhai Park where there are no accessible car parks.



**Photo 3:** Margaret Griffen indented parking includes accessible car parks.

Considerations:

1. **Entrance:** if the car park is situated within the park, provide a separate pedestrian/cycle entrance to the vehicle entrance, to avoid conflict between vehicles entering/leaving the park and pedestrians/cyclists;
2. **Surface:** car park surfacing is firm and stable under all environmental conditions;
3. **Level access:** provide level access between the car parking and footpaths. Where this is not possible, provide kerb ramps for accessible car parks and at locations in the car park where people with child



strollers or mobility equipment may be accessing the footpath to or from the car park;

4. **Safety markings:** consider pedestrian safety path markings in car parks. Although these do not necessarily protect pedestrians from vehicles reversing out of the parking spaces, they can encourage moving vehicles to maintain a safe distance from pedestrians going to or from their cars, and encourage pedestrians not to walk within the line of traffic;
5. **Cross flow:** avoid pedestrians needing to cross the flow of traffic within a car park;
6. **Accessible route:** install an accessible route from the accessible car parks to all public facilities within the park, and people are not required to push child strollers or maneuver mobility equipment behind parked cars;
7. **Vegetation:** accessible car parks are clear of overhanging vegetation;
8. **Visibility:** design car parks to maximise natural surveillance and pedestrian visibility;
9. **Lighting:** adequate lighting is provided to improve safety for users after dark;
10. **NZ Standards:** provide accessible car parking as per the ratio detailed in NZS 4121:2001 Table 1 – Number of car parks. For design standards see NZS 4121:2001 Section 5 – Car Parks.

## 10 Drop Off Area

Provide a drop off area with level access between the drop off area and the adjoining footpath or install a kerb ramp the full length of the drop off area to assist entry and exit from vehicles. This is important for members of the public who are unable to drive and creates a safe drop off and pick up point for people with visual impairment, limited mobility or parents with young children.





Considerations:

1. **Space:** provide adequate space for vehicles with rear mounted hoists to be able to operate safely;
2. **Location:** locate the drop off area adjacent to the accessible route and as close as is reasonably practical to the main accessible facilities within the park;
3. **Signage:** identify the drop off area with appropriate signage;
4. **Colour contrast:** display a colour contrasting ground surface treatment, that could also assist with identifying the drop off area and help discourage inappropriate parking.

## 11 Transition from Public to Park Footpaths

Considerations:

1. **Level access:** provide level access between the transition of a public footpath and the park footpath/s. It is important to avoid steps and upstands between adjoining paths as these can be a barrier when using mobility equipment and can create a trip hazard.
2. **Transition delineation:** if the park footpath transitions onto a public footpath that borders a major road, then consider delineating the transition. Delineation is where there is a change in colour and surface texture to adjoining hard surfaces (without significant difference in slip-resistance). Delineation is considered a 'soft barrier' and can be used as a warning indicator of a potential hazard or change in the environment. This is particularly relevant for:
  - a. People who are blind or have a sight impairment;
  - b. Cyclists/skate boarders;
  - c. Children, particularly those with autism, who may not be aware of the boundary of the park and public footpath.

### 3. Delineation examples:



**Photo 4:** Monte Cecilia Park contrasted texture delineation between footpath and boardwalk.



**Photo 5:** Mt Roskill War Memorial Park colour and texture contrasted delineation between public and park shared paths.

### 4. Indicators or barriers to avoid:

- a. **Warning tactile ground indicators (TGSIs):** avoid using warning tactile ground indicators to warn of high risks such as, crossing points, railway platform edges or top/bottom of stairs. Since their primary purposes are not for delineating path transitions, their use could cause confusion for Blind or vision impaired visitors;
- b. **Bollards:** avoid using bollards at path transitions or intersections, as they can be hazardous for people with vision impairment and users of mobility equipment. If preventing vehicles is required, consider careful placement of landscape elements to create a vehicle barrier, whilst creating a more aesthetically pleasing and usable space. If bollards are necessary to prevent entry of vehicles, ensure they have the following features:
  - i. visibility markings that are contrasted to the bollard and surroundings;
  - ii. bollard colour is visually contrasting against the background;

- iii. positioned with a minimum width of 1200mm (outside edge of bollard to outside edge) to allow easy access for mobility equipment users, parents with strollers, and guide dog users.
- iv. positioned out of the predicted line of travel of people with vision impairment or who are Blind;



**Photo 6:** Lumsden Green - positioning of landscape elements including boulders, street trees and seating removes the need for bollards to restrict vehicle access. Creates an aesthetically pleasing space that is accessible for people with impairments.



## 12 Park Footpaths

For people with access needs, the design and layout of park footpaths is important in determining whether they can be safely and independently negotiated, allowing the facilities within the park to be accessed.

There is an example at Margaret Griffen Park, where there is no accessible pathway to reach the sports fields, public seating or path around the perimeter of the park directly from the accessible car park. This is unfortunate, as it assumes that people with access needs do not wish to watch sport or use the area for fitness.

Considerations:

1. **Width:** the minimum clear width of any footpath on an accessible route is 1200mm. This allows a wheelchair user to pass a person walking or a blind person with a sighted guide to walk side-by-side. However it is not adequate for an accessible primary path. For primary paths, we recommend a wider width of 1800mm which allows two wheelchairs to pass comfortably.
2. **Shared Path Width:** for shared paths (cycle and pedestrian use) we recommend 3500mm – 4000mm to allow safe negotiating and passing between bikes, strollers, mobility equipment and pedestrians;
3. **Gradient:** the traverse gradient of crowned or banked footpaths does not exceed 1 in 50;
4. **Surface:** footpath surfaces are slip-resistant with a texture that is suitable for all people. In areas that are ecologically sensitive, boardwalks are a suitable option. However, transitions need to be flush or via a ramp, steps are not an option. A good example of this is the boardwalk leading to the wetland area at Monte Cecilia Park, where the boardwalk is flush with the adjoining concrete pathway;
5. **Flush:** ground surface adjacent to footpaths are as flush with the finished footpath surface as is practically possible;

6. **Edging:** People who are blind or have a sight impairment would benefit from tactile and colour delineation along path edges;
7. **Rest areas:** if the longitudinal gradient of a footpath is steeper than 1 in 33, then level rest areas are provided, see NZS 4121:2001 Section 6.2.2 Gradient;
8. **Ramps:** if the longitudinal gradient is greater than 1 in 20, the footpath is therefore a ramp and is treated as such, see NZS 4121:2001 Section 6.4 Ramps. Monte Cecilia Park has a steep path which would probably entail ramp construction to make the path accessible for all;
9. **Path layout:** path networks that are carefully integrated to follow the existing contours of the landscape will assist in reducing slopes and the need for ramps, making the paths accessible for all users. Use of landscape contours has been incorporated into other path layouts at Monte Cecilia Park.
10. **Connectivity:** the accessible route connects the features and facilities within the park, e.g. car park, toilets/showers, play space, recreational facilities, BBQ areas, lookouts. Poor connectivity, such as Waikowhai Park and Robinson Reserve could limit access and usability by people with access needs.



**Photo 7:** Wide paved paths as the one shown at Onepoto Domain, allow for a range of users including walkers, cyclists and those with limited mobility



**Photo 8:** Waikowhai Park showing lack of path connectivity



## 13 Park Design and Layout

### 13.1 General Safety

People with access needs, the elderly and parents with young children, tend to have a heightened concern for their personal safety and will tend to avoid places and situations where they feel insecure and at risk. If a park feels unsafe, then people with access needs are likely to avoid the park or certain facilities/features where they feel insecure.

Consideration of the following physical characteristics that people associate with a safe park, will encourage use of the park by people with access needs:

- Good lighting;
- Clear, simple layout;
- Physical and aural connection with other people;
- Good visibility;
- Access to help;
- No areas of concealment;
- Good maintenance;
- No vandalism;
- No undesirables present;
- Part of a regular police or community patrol route.

### 13.2 Desire Lines

Desire lines are paths resulting from human or animal foot-fall or traffic. The path usually represents the shortest or most easily navigated route between an origin and destination but can result in damage and erosion to both the natural habitat and managed park areas. Width and erosion severity can be indicators of how much traffic a path receives and emerge as shortcuts where constructed paths take a circuitous route, have gaps, or are non-existent.



Assessing existing desire lines, and constructing footpaths to follow them, will improve accessibility for people who have limited mobility and vision impairment.

### **13.3 Visibility and Sightlines**

Visibility and sightlines are important aspects in determining park users' feelings of comfort and safety, this is particularly important for people with access needs, the elderly and parents with young children. Having good all-round visibility, being able to see into and out of an area (visual permeability) and clear sightlines contribute to peoples' perceptions of how safe an environment is.

The appropriate level of visibility will depend upon the size, function, context and user groups of a park. Below are photos of Waterview Reserve which are is an exemplar in visibility.

Considerations:

1. Create an inviting perimeter where people can observe activity in a park, together with highly visible entrances, to encourage people to enter and use the park;
2. An active and visible edge will create a perimeter of passive surveillance and can increase accessibility for people who may feel vulnerable within the park;



**Photo 9:** Active, permeable edge to Waterview Reserve





**Photo 10:** Waterview Reserve



**Photo 11:** Waterview Reserve



**Photo 12:** Accessible toilets at Waterview Reserve are highly visible from the play space



3. Clear sightlines between activity areas like playing fields and play spaces will encourage surveillance;
4. Toilet/shower areas are highly visible from nearby activity areas. An excellent example are the accessible toilets located adjacent to the car park and South Fields at Keith Hay Park;
5. Improve sightlines along primary routes by avoiding, solid walls, sheds or plantings that may reduce visibility. Sightlines may be improved by pruning trees;
6. Appropriate lighting of public spaces and primary routes used at night can improve safety and surveillance and increase park usage.

#### **13.4 Natural Guiding Lines**

A natural guiding line is formed by elements that are not specifically designed for blind and partially sighted people, but can serve as route guidance, provided it is continuous and free of obstructions. For example, grass/flower bed edge, hedge, wall, luminance contrast footpath, drainage channel.

A line of poles, boulders, lamp posts, trees or furniture can emphasise the walking direction. Such elements are not a continuous line and therefore only provide an indication, so can only be used as a support. Where there may be safety implications by straying off the route, additional route guidance will be necessary.

#### **13.5 Access and Circulation**

Safety can be enhanced through attention to physical permeability by providing users with a choice of entrances, exits and routes to and from areas within the park.

In assessing and designing access and circulation routes consider:

1. Physical accessibility: Use community engagement to ascertain the circulation patterns of the local community.
2. Primary routes:
  - a. Access points clearly identifiable from the street and from within the park;



- b. Primary access routes clearly identifiable, legible and well maintained;
  - c. Follow desire lines;
  - d. Pedestrian and vehicular routes visually connected to provide surveillance;
  - e. Avoid park users having to travel through areas dominated by groups that may make them feel uncomfortable.
3. After dark use:
- a. Paths designed to concentrate travel after dark along illuminated and well-used routes;
  - b. Clustering of after dark activities;
  - c. Pedestrian routes through the park and to facilities within the park are well lit and unobscured by landscape, vegetation, built structures, signage.
4. Activity areas:
- a. Where possible locate activity areas adjacent to channelized routes to improve surveillance.
5. Through circulation:
- a. Ideally, the park functions as a shortcut between major destination points to increase activity and informal surveillance. Path systems connecting with the surrounding area encourages surrounding residents to walk through the park, rather than drive.
6. Maintenance:
- a. Well-maintained mowing strips or low planting either side of pedestrian routes to maintain sightlines and limit potential entrapment areas.



Keith Hay Park shows good design points around access and circulation, with multiple entrances, choice of routes, no entrapment areas, passive surveillance provided by a visually permeable perimeter and clear sight lines between activity areas, facilities and along paths.

## 14 Lighting

Lighting is an essential element in designing routes that are accessible for people with a sight impairment. Good lighting allows them to safely and independently navigate the accessible route and access the facilities and features within the park. Good lighting will also benefit all users of the park, both during the daytime and after dark, both in terms of general access, navigation, reduced risk of accidents and improved personal safety from crime.

Consider:

1. Hierarchy of lighting types and intensities with focus on activity areas and primary pedestrian routes;
2. Enhance edge activities by providing lighting at the park perimeter, building on existing street lighting;
3. Placement of lighting in areas where surveillance is difficult due to vegetation or topography. Avoid arbitrary light placement. Ensure lighting extends beyond the path edge to illuminate potential concealment areas and hiding places;
4. Consistency of lighting, avoiding excessive glare or generation of dark shadows that can have a disorienting effect on people with a sight impairment;
5. Placement of lamp posts relative to the walking route and natural guiding lines. People with a sight impairment can use the light after dark to orient themselves and to walk from light to light;
6. Avoid lighting areas not suitable for use after dark;
7. Encourage evening use of the park by lighting recreational facilities and play spaces;

8. Ensure signage is appropriately and evenly lit, avoiding glare and shadows.

## 15 Accessible Toilets

### 15.1 Accessible Toilet Design

For design standards see NZS 4121:2001 Section 10 – Toilet and Shower Facilities. Where new toilets are being constructed, consider providing all gender stand-alone accessible toilets. The reasons being:

- Due to their stand-alone design, they provide easier access for users, particularly those using mobility equipment, rather than accessing an accessible cubicle within a single sex facility;
- For a male/female parent/caregiver at the park with young children and needing to use the baby change facilities or to supervise children of both sexes to the toilet, an all gender stand-alone accessible toilet is the most practical option;

A good example is the toilet block at Monte Cecilia Park that comprises two all gender stand-alone accessible toilets.



**Photo 13:** Accessible, all-gender toilet facilities at Monte Cecilia Park



## 15.2 Family Restroom

For larger destination parks, e.g. Mt Roskill War Memorial Park or Keith Hay Park include a Changing Places restroom that has a changing table capable of accommodating an adult body. There is currently one Changing Places toilet in New Zealand which has just been opened by Hamilton City Council at the Hamilton Gardens. For more information on Changing Places restrooms please visit [www.changingplaces.co.nz](http://www.changingplaces.co.nz).

If this is not feasible, then ensure the accessible toilets include baby changing tables that are clearly indicated by signage on the toilet door.

## 16 Seating

Provide seating at key areas in the parks where people may want to sit. For design standards see NZS 4121:2001 13.5.2 Seating in pedestrian areas.

1. Orientate seating for parents/caregivers to supervise children during play;
2. Have both arm and back support for those with limited strength to lower themselves down or push up from a seated position;
3. Allow space with a firm surface to the side of the seating that would allow for a wheelchair/mobility scooter/child stroller to sit alongside the seating instead of in front. If the seating is on grass, the seat and side area ideally are situated on a concrete pad;
4. Seating is level with the footpath and/or adjacent ground surface.

The following images show good design and placement of seating at Margaret Griffen Park:



**Photo 14 and 15:** Seat with back and armrests, on the accessible route. Opportunity to extend concrete base under seat for mobility equipment or strollers.

## 17 Picnic Tables

In parks where picnic tables are provided, consider the following:

1. Provide tables that allow everyone of any age, physical ability or access need to eat and feel included with their family/friends;
2. Place some tables in the sun and some in the shade;
3. Ensure that the route to and from the picnic tables is accessible for a person using a wheelchair or pushing a child stroller and the area around the tables is firm and level;
4. Consider inclusion of some child-sized picnic tables with wheelchair spaces.

Accessible picnic table designs:



**Photo 16:** Extension to side for wheelchair users



**Photo 17:** Spaces in middle for wheelchair users



**Photo 18:** Open side for wheelchair users



**Photo 19:** Open side for wheelchair users

## 18 Drinking Fountains

1. Provide drinking fountains that are accessible for all people, including those with access needs;
2. The operable controls and direction of water flow are designed and installed to facilitate use by children and people with limited mobility or hand function. Ideally, choose water fountains that turn on when the unit senses someone within its perimeter or that are operated by a lever rather than a button;
3. Ensure there is level access to the fountain from the footpath, with sufficient manoeuvring space for mobility equipment users;



4. At each location where drinking fountains are located, consider providing two different heights of fountain and provide a facility for filling up personal water containers;
5. Consider provision of drinking fountains with integral pet bowls for people with guide/mobility dogs.



**Photo 20:** Accessible drinking fountain with pet bowl

## 19 Rubbish and Recycling Bins

1. Rubbish bins are located on the accessible route, near car park areas, at entrances/exits, popular gathering and activity hubs and converging paths and not within eating areas to avoid attracting flies and vermin and to avoid unpleasant odours;
2. Position rubbish and recycling bins to minimise hazard and error, e.g. out of the line of travel to assist the blind and partially sighted;
3. Position so that they are reachable for wheelchair users;
4. Ensure concrete footings or connections to the ground are flush with ground level, to avoid becoming a tripping hazard;

5. Render bins in colours that contrast with the background to assist the blind and partially sighted and so they can be seen from a distance;
6. Avoid locating bins in the clear spaces next to seating, as those spaces may be needed for a wheelchair/mobility scooter/child stroller to sit alongside the seating.



**Photo 21:** Bright coloured bins that contrast with their background help the visually impaired



**Photo 22:** Bins located at the edge of paths are more accessible for people with limited mobility

## 20 Signage

For accessible signage design standards see NZS 4121:2001 4.8 Signs. Also consider:

1. Signage and information is provided to enable people to clearly understand the layout of the park, this is particularly relevant for larger parks and where sightlines do not encompass the park;
2. Signage and information is usable and informative to everyone and includes information in visual and where appropriate tactile formats for people with a sight impairment. The use of a site map is often a good visual option, particularly for people with English as a second language or those with cognitive impairments;



3. Signage is simple and easy for everybody to understand; signs and information is clear, consistent and unambiguous;
4. Information and directions are concise and use familiar words, pictorial symbols and basic English as this will assist people with English as a second language, those with sight or cognitive impairments and children;
5. Avoid 'over doing' the signage and the use of very complex signs as they are likely to cause confusion and will be of minimal benefit;
6. Avoid restrictive messages, e.g. "Do Not ...". Constructive use of signage will encourage a sense of ownership among user groups. Signage that is positive and informative will encourage people to enjoy themselves.

### **20.1 Signage Location and Positioning**

1. The appropriate placement of signage is essential to ensure it is always visible and is within a comfortable viewing distance. The size of lettering and symbols must be aligned with the observer's distance;
2. Locate signs at strategic points along a route and wherever routes intersect or diverge;
3. Signs that may require a significant period to read are located where users will not obstruct the passage of others;
4. Signs are located in accessible locations, taking into consideration the angle of vision of people standing or using a wheelchair. Signs positioned perpendicular to the path of travel are most likely to be noticed as some people with access needs have limitation in the movement of their head and reduced peripheral vision;
5. Ensure signs are evenly illuminated and have a matt or satin finish to reduce reflections and glare;
6. Any system of signage enables people to move easily around the park, without the need to retrace their steps to the main entrance(s) to locate directional information.



## 21 Play Spaces

### 21.1 Design Considerations

1. As far as is practical and feasible, design and provide play spaces that are inclusive and allow all age and ability play. Consider providing at least one fully inclusive, destination play space for the Puketāpapa community. An excellent example of a destination inclusive play space can be seen at Livvi's Place Inclusive Playground in Five Dock, Sydney (<https://vimeo.com/26947021>). The new play space at Waterview Reserve incorporates accessible, inclusive play elements although it cannot be classed as fully inclusive.
2. Design play spaces and surrounding environment to allow children and parents/caregivers of all abilities inclusive access and the opportunity to move throughout the play space safely and independently;
3. Ensure ground surfaces are slip-resistant under normal environmental conditions, including when wet, and allow safe, easy passage for people using mobility equipment, pushing child strollers or who are visually impaired. Loose bark or equivalent material is not a suitable medium for universal access. Unitary surfacing such as pour-in-place, tiles and playground turf are recommended for inclusive playgrounds. The play space at Waterview Reserve has a predominantly pour-in-place surface.

### 21.2 Orientation

The approach or entrance area to a play space allows users to familiarise themselves with the play space layout, features and activities. This can be achieved through:

1. Clear sightlines;
2. For large play spaces, signage may be appropriate with a plan view of the area or site map defining individual features and activities.

### 21.3 Sightlines

1. It is important that within a play space a parent/caregiver can see and supervise their child from most points on the surrounding pathway;



2. Maximise the use of see-through equipment to enhance sightlines and visibility of children using the play equipment;
3. Strategic placement of seating at multiple points around the play space where there is optimum line of sight over the play space will encourage and assist parents/caregivers, particularly for older people supervising their grandchildren.

#### **21.4 Landscaping**

1. Appropriate use of plantings can soften the look and feel of a play space, and where appropriate help define the different age zones and create shade. Ensure that vegetation or landscaping does not block routes or impede people with access needs;
2. Avoid poisonous plantings, vegetation that has thorns or other texture (that might hurt someone running into it), plants that could pose a choking hazard, and bee attracting plants.

#### **21.5 Width of Routes**

1. Routes throughout a play space are accessible with the width of primary routes being 1800mm wide for the safe passing of strollers, mobility equipment and children on bikes;
2. The space in front of play equipment, ideally allows a person in a wheelchair and their ambulatory companion to play adjacent to one another.

#### **21.6 Flush Transitions**

1. People pushing a child stroller or using mobility equipment are able to move freely around all areas of the play space and surrounding area;
2. Transitions are flush between all route surfaces and play surface access points;
3. There are no barriers or trip hazards between sections of the play space;
4. Use visual and tactile cues at any transition point.



### **21.7 Play Richness**

1. Play richness can be defined as the quantity, quality, diversity and inter-relationships of play events in the play space. It can be divided into three categories: physical, social and co-operative play. The goal is to include play experiences from each category to create an exciting and more inclusive playground;
2. When designing and choosing playground equipment, consider ways to provide stimulation to the senses of touch, sound and sight. The aim is to provide physical/dexterity exercise, a range of movements and speeds, stimulation of different senses particularly for young children and those with physical and cognitive impairments;
3. Layout of equipment encourages visual contact between users and social interaction;
4. Ensure equipment designed for children with access needs is strong enough to support an adult using the equipment to assist the child.

### **21.8 Reach Ranges of Children**

1. Consider the placement of play objects within the reach ranges of all children and not just the average child within an age range;
2. Ensure that a child using a wheelchair can access the play events by rolling under them as reaching forward is preferable to reaching to the side.

### **21.9 Colour as a Safety Tool**

1. Changes in height can be difficult for children with a sight or cognitive impairment to see. Where a play event contains a change in height, accentuate by changing colour at each height change;
2. Ensure that surface colour of fall zones contrasts with surface colour outside the fall zone. This will help children to determine the danger level.

### **21.10 Most popular Play Activity**

It is important for the most popular play activity to be accessible and usable for all.



### **21.11 Perimeter Containment**

Whilst not feasible or desirable for most play spaces, perimeter containment for a single destination play space that is designed to be fully inclusive for all children and abilities needs to be considered.

Perimeter containment is important for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Studies show that nearly half of children with ASD attempt to wander or bolt from a safe, supervised place, with more than half of these wandering children going missing, often into dangerous situations (Karplan, 2013).



## 22 Appendix

### 23 Puketāpapa Area Community Stakeholders

- Lynfield Plunket Clinic - *6/570 Hillsborough Road*
- Plunket Owaireka - *99 Richardson Rd, Owaireka*
- Lynfield Community Playgroup - *35 The Avenue, Lynfield*
- Hay Park Play Group - *670 Richardson Road, Mount Roskill*
- Age Concern Auckland – *57 Rosebank Road, Avondale*
- Gracedale Retirement Village – *68 Mount Roskill Rd, Mt Roskill*
- Selwyn Heights Retirement Home - *42 Herd Rd, Hillsborough*
- Blind Foundation – *4 Maunsell Road, Parnell*
- Bupa Hillsborough Care Home - *109 Frederick St, Hillsborough*
- Ranfurly Veterans Home & Hospital - *539 Mount Albert Rd, Three Kings*
- Hillsborough Heights - Metlifecare Retirement Village - *1381 Dominion Road Extension, Mount Roskill*
- Carlson School for Cerebral Palsy - *261 St Andrews Rd, Three Kings*
- Independent Living Service Charitable Trust - *14 Erson Ave, Royal Oak*
- Cerebral Palsy NZ National Office - *14 Erson Ave, Royal Oak*
- CCS Disability Action - *14 Erson Ave, Royal Oak*





- Motor Neurone Disease Association of New Zealand Inc - *14 Erson Ave, Royal Oak*
- Parent to Parent - *Lion Foundation House, 3 William Laurie Place*
- Disability Connect - *3B Olive Road, Penrose*
- Autism New Zealand Inc - *642 New North Road, Mt Albert*
- Multiple Sclerosis Auckland - *Top Floor, 5 The Strand, Takapuna,*
- PHAB Association Inc - *8 Auburn Street, Takapuna,*
- Afghan Association of New Zealand, Mt Roskill
- New Zealand Ethnic Womens Trust - *Ethnic Hub 190 Stoddard Road, Mt Roskill*
- A Better Chance Charitable Trust - *1 Louvain Avenue Mount Roskill*
- Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust - *Activities Centre, Bhartiya Samaj Hall, 13 May Rd, Mt Roskill*
- Auckland Regional Migrant Services - Safari Multicultural Playgroup Lynfield Recreation and Youth Centre - *Griffen Park Rd, Lynfield*
- Roskill Residents Association – *no address*
- Lynfield Recreation and Youth Centre - *Griffen Park Rd, Lynfield*
- Halberg Disability Sports Foundation – *Level 5, 56 Cawley St, Ellerslie, Auckland*
- Parafed Auckland – *30 Bairds Rd, Otara*
- Mt Roskill primary, intermediate, high school and special needs units
- Aktive – [enquiries@aktive.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@aktive.org.nz)
- Auckland Kindy Association – [info@aka.org.nz](mailto:info@aka.org.nz)



## 24 “How Accessible is your park?” Survey

### Summary

We conducted a 3-week online survey “How accessible is your park” to find out what parks people use in the area and to get their feedback on the accessibility of the parks.

The link was promoted through Be Accessible and Auckland Council networks and emails were sent to the list of stakeholders listed above.

We received a total of 15 complete responses.

We continued the survey for another 2 weeks and got 5 more complete responses. In total we have 20 complete responses.

### The parks they regularly use are:

- Mt Roskill Memorial Park - 1
- Keith Hay Park - 5
- Mont Cecilia Park – 8
- Fearon Park/Harold Long Reserve – 1
- Waikowhai Park – 2
- Not specified – 2
- Other specified as Wattle Bay - 1

### Access Needs identified

- 25% identified as having a **physical impairment**,
- 35% are **parents of young children**.

### Ages of respondents

- 14.29% of respondents are aged 25-34
- 42.86% of respondents are aged 35-44 years
- 23.81% of respondents are aged 45-54 years
- 19.05% of respondents are aged 65+



## **Park specific accessibility insights**

### **Mt Roskill Memorial Park – Insights based on 2 respondents**

#### **Why they visit Mt Roskill Memorial Park**

“For my toddler, Miss Three. I have MS while my husband has deformity joint of his right leg. We both have difficulties of walking. We just want to make our daughter happy. She enjoys the playground”

#### **Why they feel Mt Roskill Memorial Park is accessible to their needs**

- Car park is close to the park & playground

#### **Improvements suggestions**

- Improved fencing to keep toddlers and young children safe

### **Keith Hay Park – Insights based on 5 respondents**

#### **Why they visit Keith Hay Park**

- Location to home
- Accessibility
- Regular playgroup visits

#### **Why they feel Keith Hay Park is accessible to their needs**

- Well paved and easy parking by Cameron Pools
- Playground equipment for under 5's

#### **Improvements suggestions.**

- Better maintenance
- Physical impairment (mobility, vision or hearing) 65+
- Please ensure the park is easy to access come winter near the gym always water log...
- More lighting
- More swings for the children and a cycle track
- More challenging play equipment for under 5's
- “ensure for us people with disabilities make things easier”



## **Mont Cecilia Park – Insights based on 7 respondents**

### **Why they visit Mont Cecilia Park**

- Beauty & serenity
- Location to family
- Location to gallery
- Location to home
- Dog friendly
- Kid friendly
- Well maintained

### **Why they feel Mont Cecilia Park is accessible to their needs**

- Location to home
- Good parking
- On site Café
- Pah Homestead recently upgraded

### **Improvements suggestions.**

- Better signage for location of water fountain
- Better enforcement of rules in the dog off leash area and make it clear to dog owners that the park is for everyone.
- “It’s not fully accessible because it’s stony and steep, but I don’t think there’s much you can do about that.”
- Path down to Mt Albert Road is gravel and steep.
- “I can only cycle down (hand cycle) as I skid on the gravel cycling up”

## **Fearon Park / Harold Long Reserve – Insights based on 1 respondent**

### **Why they visit Fearon Park / Harold Long Reserve**

- Physical fitness – walking

### **Why they feel Fearon Park / Harold Long Reserve are accessible to their needs**

- No traffic



### **Improvements suggestions**

- Better on-site communications around upcoming events and surface conditions.

### **Waikowhai Park - Park insights based on 2 respondents**

#### **Why they visit Waikowhai Park**

- Location to home
- Bush tracks
- Good facilities
- Sports and recreation- running and walking.

#### **Why they feel Waikowhai Park is accessible to their needs**

- Location to home
- Access to sports clubs

### **One other park not specified - Accessibility insights based on 2 respondents**

#### **Improvements suggestions for War Memorial Park**

- Better monitoring of people using disabled car parking illegally at War Memorial Park.

### **One other park specified – Accessibility insights based on 1 respondent**

#### **Improvements suggestions for Wattle Bay**

- Gravel needs replacing on the track going eastward from boardwalk as it gets very muddy in winter.



### **Overall themes for why they visit their parks**

- Location
- Bush tracks
- Good facilities
- Sports and recreation-running and walking.
- Playgrounds
- Accessibility
- Beauty & serenity
- Dog friendly
- Kid friendly
- Well maintained

### **Overall themes for what makes their park accessible to their needs.**

- Location to home
- Access to sports clubs
- No traffic
- Level ground
- Good car parking
- On site Cafe
- Fencing

### **Overall themes for improvements**

- Better monitoring of people using disabled car parking illegally at War Memorial Park.
- Better on-site communications around upcoming events and surface conditions.
- Better signage for location of water fountain
- Better enforcement of rules in the dog off leash area and make it clear to dog owners that the park is for everyone.
- Harder surfacing and lower gradients
- Better seasonal maintenance
- Better lighting
- Improved fencing to keep toddlers and young children safe



## **Response to interest in attending on site accessibility consultation**

Over all 6 respondents said 'yes' they would be interested in attending an on-site accessibility consultation with Be. Accessible at Monte Cecilia Park on 29<sup>th</sup> March and/or Mt Roskill War Memorial Park on 26<sup>th</sup> March to provide their feedback and experiences of these two parks.

The consultation workshops were advertised in Our Auckland, Be. Accessible newsletter and Social Media, as well as emailing the listed stakeholders. Unfortunately, none of the stake holders or members of the public attended the consultation.

We did a second round of engagement by phone calling and emailing the stakeholders to invite them to consultation workshops in May. We identified other groups that may be interested in providing feedback due to their proximity to the parks such as Mt Roskill Primary, Intermediate and High schools – targeting their special needs units, and we promoted the consultation workshops and survey via stakeholder Facebook pages and the Hillsborough community page. We also extended the stakeholder list to Parafed Auckland, Halberg Disability Sports Foundation, Aktive and Auckland Kindergarten Association to see if they used any of the parks and if they could promote the consultations to their networks.

We promoted another series of consultation workshops – one of which was held at Selwyn Village for residents. There was reluctance to meet at Monte Cecilia park, which is why we went in to meet with them.

The consultations were held on the following days and places:

- Monte Cecilia Park, Selwyn Heights, Herd Rd, Hillsborough  
Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup> 11am – 11.30am
- Mt Roskill War Memorial Park, Mt Roskill Saints RFL clubrooms, May Road  
Monday May 14<sup>th</sup> 10am – 11am
- Keith Hay Park, Keith Hay Carpark, Rainford Street Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup> 10am - 11am



- Waikowhai Park, Waikowhai Road  
Monday May 21st 10am - 11am

8 residents from Selwyn Village attended the consultation on Monte Cecilia Park. Other stakeholders were interested in providing feedback, however did not show up to the on-site consultations.

## 25 Monte Cecilia Park Public Consultation

**Date:** 10/05/2018

**Venue:** Selwyn Heights Village

**Time:** 11am – 12pm

**Present:**

Jacqui O'Connor, Be. Accessible Coach

Julianne McEldowney, Be. Accessible Coach

David Lett – resident, chairperson residents' association

Lynn Lett, resident, regular park walker and has a community development background

Julie Clark – safety concerns

Caroline Pritchette – Resident Hospitality, walks her dog at Monte Cecilia Park

Sheryl Madden – usually fit and able, walks the park daily, but currently using a crutch

Anne Hall - uses a walking stick

Pat Tunstall – fit and able resident

Barbara Hope-Cross – son who uses powerchair for mobility and concerns associated with people like him.





## Safety

Commendations:

- Walking track from Mt Albert Road next to Marcellin College, overgrown shrubbery, trees and shrubs have been maintained and this makes all the difference in feeling safe.

Recommendations:

- Install safe, slip resistant paths and handrails where the gradient changes to provide safe access between Selwyn Heights Village and Pah Homestead.
- Consider having times of the day when dog owners may bring their dogs, freeing the park for families at other times of the day.
- Increase signage to inform dog-owners of the best locations they can let their dogs off the leash.

## Surfaces

Recommendations:

- Replace loose gravel or muddy tracks with concrete paths (especially between the Selwyn Village gate to the established Monte Cecilia track).
- Where gradients are steep, install level resting bays and handrails for support and seats with back and armrest support.

## Family friendly

Commendations:

- Residents spoke of their families enjoying the park with grandchildren enjoying the open space to run.

Recommendations:

- Establish a playground on the flat ground surface where the monte Cecilia primary school used to stand. This location is near the café



and close enough to the car park to be convenient but not a safety concern.

- Ensure the playground has a slip resistant, firm ground surface to enable grandparents, parents or children with mobility equipment to access the play equipment.
- Ensure play equipment is accessible and useable by children and adults to encourage family participation.

### **Wayfinding Signage – information board**

Recommendations:

- On information boards provide further detailed information about walking options indicating the level of difficulty and accessibility, type of path (i.e. concrete, asphalt, gravel, dirt track, gradient).
- Colour code paths noting accessibility and whether suitable for people using wheelchairs or mobility scooters.
- Include roads as viable options to access the park at different points to avoid steep inclines.
- Herd Road signage, add information that informs visitors of where they are and direction to facilities and features within the park.
- Install signage and historical information to inform visitors of the carriageway and where the old homestead was on the northern side of the park where there are rocks and old fence posts.

### **Environment**

Commendations:

- Selwyn Heights' residents are willing to collaborate with Puketāpapa Local Board to install a path that has a slip resistant surface to meet the carriageway.

Recommendations:

- Following storms ensure fallen trees are removed as remnants may become tripping hazards or dangerous climbing options for children.



- Local Board to prioritise the completion of the footpath from the Selwyn Village gate to the established track within the path.

## **Parking**

Recommendation:

- Ensure accessible car parks are wide to cater for vehicles with roof mounted hoists or side opening doors which will allow people with disabilities to access their vehicle even when another is parked alongside.

## **Kerb ramp**

Recommendation:

- Ensure kerb ramps have a gentle slope and are visible to enable people with mobility access needs or visual access needs to find the safest place to cross roads or driveway.

## **Website**

Recommendations:

- Provide a link on the Auckland Council website that provides information about parks within the vicinity of Monte Cecilia Park for visitors and regular walkers to plan their walks.
- Selwyn Village residents also suggested having a link on their website that would connect visitors to the Auckland Council website and information about nearby parks.

## **Events at Monte Cecilia Park and Pah Homestead**

Commendations:

- Pah Homestead often host events to which the public are invited. Selwyn Heights residents are within walking distance of the homestead.



Recommendation:

- Consider lighting options on the route between Selwyn Village and Monte Cecilia park event areas to highlight uneven surfaces and pathways.

**Waikowhai Park Boardwalk**

Recommendations:

- Install signage to identify level of difficulty, or where steps are located to better inform visitors of accessibility.
- Boardwalk provides a path along the beach, ensure edges are level with grass without a drop-off on one side to prevent people with visual impairment or using mobility equipment to go over the edge.
- It is recommended Puketāpapa Local Board engage with Be. accessible to conduct a Be. Welcome assessment of the Waikowhai Walkway and use this information to inform visitors of what they can expect.
- Install information boards before people use the overbridge to inform visitors of the level of accessibility, type of path surface and whether steps are part of the journey.



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