

Project: Dublin CC Accessibility Audits

Job No: 23399



Use Type: Public Park

Auditor: N Williamson

Date of Audit: 05/02/2007

Capita Ref: 132

Name: Balcurris Park

Address: North West

Section 1: Approach Routes & Street Furniture

REF	QUESTION	Y/N	LOCATION	RECOMMENDATION	QTY	PHOTO REF	PRIORITY	COSTS
1.1	Is the park easy to find?	No		The location of the park makes it difficult to locate. Provide directional signage from the main road (Balbutcher Lane) directing any visitors to the park.	1		1	€500
1.2	Is the park within convenient walking distance of: Public Highway, Public Transport, Car Parking?	Yes						
1.3	Is the surrounding approach routes level?	Yes						
1.4	Are the approach routes minimum 1.8m wide?	Yes						
1.5	Are approach route surfaces even and slip resistant?	No	access route and pathways throughout	The surface of the access route around the perimeter of the park and some pathways within the park may not be suitable for persons using a wheelchair. Resurface the access route and pathways to provide a slip resistant and reasonably smooth surface.	1	5,7,16,18,19,22	2	€50,000

1.6	Do approaches to crossovers have the necessary contrasting tactile surfaces and dropped kerbs?	No	crossovers	The crossovers around the park currently have tactile paving installed. However, it is not colour contrasting to assist persons with hearing and visual impairments. Replace the existing paving with a colour contrasting blister design.	approx 6	10	3	€3,000
1.7	Is the approach route to the park entrances clearly signed?	No	entrances	The signage at the entrances of the park is unsuitable. Provide suitable signage at all entrances offering the opening and closing times etc. The background of the general signboard should be white and the text should be black or dark blue. Please refer to BS 8300 'Table 5' and 'Table 6' and NDA buildings for everyone for full details.	4	4	1	€2,000
1.8	Is the approach route to the park suitably lit (if park operates after dark)?	Yes						
1.9	Is the approach route to the park entrances free of hazards such as bollards, litter bins etc?	No		There are hazardous bollards and obstructions on the approach route to and throughout the park. This may present a problem for persons with a visual impairment. Provide a colour contrast to all bollards etc so that they contrast in colour and luminance with the surroundings. Also, repaint the gates into the play park areas and bowling green areas so that the gates are more visually distinct to persons with visual impairments.	1	1,2,3,6,10,13,17,20	2	€3,000

1.10	Is there a designated drop-off point close to a park entrance to allow disabled visitors arriving at the park in vehicles to be safely dropped-off? Is it well signed/marked out?	No		There is no designated drop off point provided for this facility. Subject to an assessment of need, consider the benefit of providing suitable road markings and signage to designate a drop off point. Consultation with the local roads authority may be required. 1No. dropped kerbs will also be required at the drop off point.	1		2	€1,500
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Section 3: Park Entrances

REF	QUESTION	Y/N	LOCATION	RECOMMENDATION	QTY	PHOTO REF	PRIORITY	COSTS
3.1	Is the park entrance(s) easy to find, well signed and clearly distinguishable from the façade?	No		refer to 1.7				
3.2	Is there suitable signage to the main entrance(s) of the park indicating what facilities are available to assist visitors with a disability (i.e. accessible routes, parking, toilets etc)?	No		refer to 1.7				
3.3	Is there level access to park entrances?	No		At present there is no level access from the path around the Bowling Green to the bowling surface itself. Provide level access to the Bowling Green to assist wheelchair users.	1	22	1	€1,000

3.4	Are park entrances wide enough for all users (minimum 800mm)?	No		At present a number of the entrances around the park are unsuitable for wheelchair users. The gates do not offer a sufficient width or circulation space to allow wheelchair access to the entrances. (Photo's 5, 12, 16, 23). Provide suitable gates to the 4No.entrances. Ensure that the new gates have a minimum opening width of 800mm to assist wheelchair users. If the new gates are to be a kissing gate design ensure that the circulation space is 1500mm x 1500mm square to assist wheelchair users. Also, ensure that the new gates are colour contrasting with the surroundings e.g. not grey.	4	5,12,16,23	1	€6,000
3.5	If operated by the public, are park gate handles/controls easy to use and at a suitable height for use by visitors standing or seated?	Yes						

Section 4: Horizontal Circulation Routes

REF	QUESTION	Y/N	LOCATION	RECOMMENDATION	QTY	PHOTO REF	PRIORITY	COSTS
4.1	Are circulation routes within the park at least 1800mm wide (or have regular 1800mm wide passing zones)?	Yes						
4.2	Are surfaces even and slip resistant?	No		refer to 1.5				

4.3	Is park signage suitably positioned, sized and with necessary colour/tonal contrast between letters and background? Is there alternative pictorial signage indicating key park features/warnings etc?	No	throughout	<p>Directional signage is unsuitable for persons with a visual impairment. Therefore, provide suitable signage offering directions throughout the park. Directional signs should be suitably positioned to allow persons approaching from all directions to see them easily. For medium range location and direction signs the text height should be a minimum of 60mm. The background of the general signboard should be white and the text should be black or dark blue.</p> <p>Please refer to BS 8300 'Table 5 & 6' f and also NDA Buildings for Everyone for full details.</p>	1	1	€1,500	
4.4	Is adequate seating with armrests provided in larger parks?	No		<p>The existing seating is not suitable for persons with ambulant disabilities. Provide a bench/seating with suitable arm supports throughout the park to assist ambulant disabled persons.</p> <p>Also, there is no covered seating in the bowling green area to accommodate wheelchair users. Provide an additional covered area for wheelchair use.</p>	2	21	3	€8,000
4.5	Does the park allow general movement to all areas; accessible paths, accessible gates, segregation of pedestrians from vehicles?	No		refer to 3.3				
4.6	Are circulation routes kept free of debris, foliage, overgrown plants/shrubs etc?	Yes						

Section 5: Vertical Circulation Routes

REF	QUESTION	Y/N	LOCATION	RECOMMENDATION	QTY	PHOTO REF	PRIORITY	COSTS
5.1	Are there visual and tactile warnings (i.e. cord rib) at top and bottom of steps?	Yes						
5.2	Are there suitable handrails each side and do they extend 300mm beyond top and bottom of stair?	No	Balcurris Park West	<p>Provide suitable handrails to the external steps and to external ramps on Balcurris Park West</p> <p>Handrails should be fitted at a height between 840 - 900mm from the pitch line of the steps. Generally handrails should:</p> <p>Have an oval or circular profile. (Circular handrail diameter between 40 - 50mm, Oval profile should be 50mm wide and 38mm deep, have rounded edges with a radius of at least 15mm),</p> <p>Be of a suitable finish that contrasts in colour and luminance with the surroundings against which it is seen without being highly reflective,</p> <p>Be easy and comfortable to grip without being cold to touch.</p>	21	8,9	2	€3,000
5.3	Is lighting adequate and well positioned (if park opens after dark)?	N/A						
5.4	Are treads and risers uniform?	Yes						

5.5	Are stair nosings identifiable?	No	Balcurris Park West	Nosings to the steps are not readily identifiable and may present a trip hazard to persons with a visual impairment. Apply permanent colour contrasting nosings to all steps. Ensure top and bottom nosings contrast with the nosings on the remaining steps.	1	8	2	€300
5.6	Are landings big enough and provided at intermediate levels in a long flight?	Yes						

Section 6: Activity Spaces

REF	QUESTION	Y/N	LOCATION	RECOMMENDATION	QTY	PHOTO REF	PRIORITY	COSTS
6.1	Is there suitable access to all park activity spaces for all visitors i.e. suitable paths to play areas, sports pitches, picnic areas etc?	Yes						
6.2	Are play areas fenced with gates of minimum 800mm wide and appropriately signed?	Yes						
6.3	Do play areas have rubberised safety surfaces (or similar safety surfaces)?	Yes						
6.4	Do play areas have a mixture of equipment to allow opportunities for all abilities and encourage independence?	Yes						
6.5	Is there suitable access to seating within the play area and is it suitable for use by all (i.e. colour/tonal contrast, armrests)?	No		refer to 4.4				

6.6 Is there sufficient space around individual equipment to allow wheelchair access? Yes

6.7 Do all steps to equipment incorporate handrails? Yes

6.8 Is there good colour/tonal contrast between equipment and background? Yes