

Project: Dublin CC Accessibility Audits

Job No: 23399



Use Type: Public Park

Auditor: N Williamson

Date of Audit: 27/03/2007

Capita Ref: 054

Name: Belgrave Square

Address: South East

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 park is quite difficult to find. However, it would appear that the park is only used by local who will have knowledge of its locations. No recommendation is being made to provide directional signage in this instance.				€0
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?	Yes						
1.6	Do approaches to crossovers have the necessary contrasting tactile surfaces and dropped kerbs?	Yes						

1.7	Is the approach route to the park entrances clearly signed?	No	The signage at the entrances of the park is unsuitable. Many entrances do not have signage or the existing signage is dated and worn. 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.	3	1,2,8,10	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?	Yes					
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?	N/A					

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	The entrance from West Belgrave Square is ramped. Provide handrails to either side so the ramp to assist persons with mobility impairments. Ensure that handrails extend 300mm beyond the top and bottom of the ramp where feasible and that the handrails are colour contrasting. Also, the entrance from East and West Belgrave Square are stepped. Provide level access to these areas. Ensure that any ramps provided are the correct gradient, have suitable handrails and are a non-slip surface.	3	4,7,10	2	€12,000	
3.4	Are park entrances wide enough for all users (minimum 800mm)?	Yes						
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	main pathway from west to east	The surface of the pathways in the park may not be suitable for persons using walking aids or wheelchair users. Resurface the access route surface to provide a slip resistant and reasonably smooth surface.	1	5	3	€15,000
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?	N/A						
4.4	Is adequate seating with armrests provided in larger parks?	No		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.	approx 12	11	3	€18,000
4.5	Does the park allow general movement to all areas; accessible paths, accessible gates, segregation of pedestrians from vehicles?	No	terraced area	There is currently no level access from the main area of the park to the raised terraced section. Provide level access to this area. Ensure that any ramps are the correct gradient, have a non-slip surface and that ramps have suitable handrails.	2	3,6	2	€30,000
4.6	Are circulation routes kept free of debris, foliage, overgrown plants/shrubs etc?	No		Ensure that all pathways are kept clear of debris/mud/overgrown grass etc to assist persons with visual and mobility impairments.	1		4	€0

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?	No		Provide contrasting tactile danger warning to the top and bottom of the external steps to provide suitable guidance and warning to persons with a visual impairment. Refer to NDA Buildings for Everyone for details.	2	3,6	2	€1,000
5.2	Are there suitable handrails each side and do they extend 300mm beyond top and bottom of stair?	No		<p>Provide suitable handrails to the external steps.</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>Extend 300mm beyond the top and bottom riser</p>	2	3,6	2	€2,000
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	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.	2	3,6	2	€400
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?	No		The gate into the play area is 800mm wide; however, it does not offer a sufficient colour contrast. Paint the gate a colour contrasting colour so that it is more visually distinct to persons with visual impairments.	1	9	2	€200
6.3	Do play areas have rubberised safety surfaces (or similar safety surfaces)?	No		The surface of the play area is not suitable for wheelchair users or persons with disabilities. Resurface the play area so that it offers a rubberized surface that will assist wheelchair users and persons with mobility impairments.	1	9	2	€30,000

6.4	Do play areas have a mixture of equipment to allow opportunities for all abilities and encourage independence?	No	The facilities in the play park do not encourage independent use or allow opportunities for all abilities. Refurbish the play area so that the facilities on offer cater for a range of needs.	1	9	2	€20,000
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					