

Measuring Up Accessibility Audit: Selected Parks within the City of Campbell River

Report Prepared for: Measuring Up Committee

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INTRODUCTION

The following report will present findings from accessibility audits completed on the five municipal parks and trails located within the City of Campbell River and selected by the Measuring Up committee. The parks included in the audit are, in order:

- Robert Ostler Park
- Nunn's Creek Park
- Dick Murphy Park
- Baikie Island Trail
- Rotary Sea Walk

Each park will be presented separately with the findings from the audits presented in tables that outline the accessibility barrier, recommendations for solutions, and where appropriate, a photograph of the area under discussion. At the end of this report, some universal observations and recommendations for all of the parks will be presented.

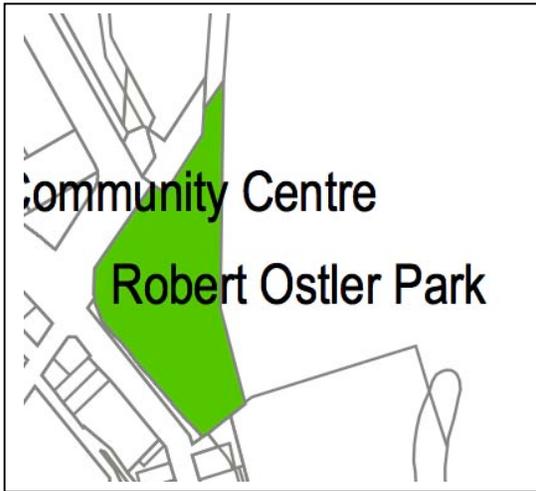
THE AUDITING PROCESS

Each park was visited and audited multiple times over a two week period. Multiple visits helped to ensure they were observed with various user numbers, in different weather conditions, during special events and at various times of the day. Audits were completed with the goal of improving access and enjoyment for users with physical, cognitive and sensory disabilities.

If you have any questions about this report or the findings and recommendations contained within it, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Robert Ostler Park



Robert Ostler Park is the most centrally located park of the parks and trails audited as part of the Measuring Up initiatives. Located on Shopper’s Row in downtown Campbell River, it also sees the highest numbers of users of all the parks and trails assessed, other than the Rotary Sea Walk. The park is located close to the downtown shopping and business areas and is right on the waterfront making it a popular park for special events, visitors and locals alike.

The absence of walkways through the center of the grassed area means that individuals with physical disabilities and a reliance on mobility aids can only circumnavigate the park on its perimeters. The absence of walkways on the north and west sides of the park means individuals are required to mobilize through the parking lots exposing them to increased risk due to vehicular traffic and poor lines of vision amongst the parked vehicles.

Infrastructure Availability

Designated Disabled Parking	Yes – 3 spots at south end of parking lot
Accessible Washrooms	No
Picnic or food options	Yes

Accessibility Barriers Present

Trails

The pathways and sidewalks that are available within the park are made of concrete and exposed aggregate cement and are of appropriate width for multiple users. The limited choices of trails significantly decreases individuals’ with disabilities chances to utilize the park to its fullest.

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
- Park entrance off the sidewalk on Shopper’s Row has slope greater than 12%	- Rough grade the slope to not greater than 5%	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access off sidewalk on Shopper's Row dead ends at grass - No access to garbage pail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue path into the grassed area, perhaps to the pavilion - Place garbage pail on a cement pad that is attached to the main path 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access path by car park on west side of park has steep slope & steep side hill - Sidewalk dead ends at grass/ goes no where 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rough grade sidewalk to be level and maximum 5% slope and not greater than 2% cross slope - Continue path from car park around the garden to join the sidewalk discussed above &/or to picnic tables 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absence of trails through the middle of the park and lack of edges on existing trails provide no way finding methods for individuals with visual deficits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create paths through the grassed area of the park - Create lips on the edge of paths for way-finding references 	<p>- No photo available</p>

Parking

There are three designated parking spots available at the south end of the parking lot on Shopper's Row. Given the central location of the park and the availability of popular restaurants and a pub off the same parking lot reconfiguring of the spots and the addition of a fourth designated parking spot is appropriate.

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no marked pathways between parking spots ensuring access to vehicles for wheelchair users - No designated parking stalls in the parking lot at the north end of the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reconfigure parking spots allowing for marked pathways between spots (refer to Accessibility Guidelines booklet) - Create a fourth designated parking stall on Shopper's Row as well as designated parking stalls in the lot on the Island Highway 	

Playground

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soft sand around the playground equipment difficult for wheelchair users - No wheelchair accessible elements in the equipment - No sensory stimulation elements available to children with a variety of disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace sand with fall protection rubber matting - Incorporate wheelchair accessible elements in the climbing apparatus - Incorporate sensory stimulation activities for children with visual and developmental disabilities 	

Picnic Tables

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No wheelchair accessible picnic tables available - Tables are on cement pads surrounded by grass with no accessible path of travel to them - Cement pads are too small for wheelchair to sit on or travel around the table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace one table with wheelchair accessible model and designate it for wheelchair user's priority - Create hard surfaced paths to picnic tables so travel across grass is not required - Enlarge cement pads to have 1500 mm of cement on all sides of the table 	

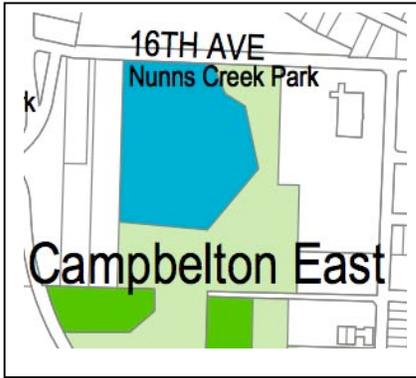
Benches & Garbage Pales

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sitting benches are located off existing trails surrounded by grass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create hard surfaced paths to the scenic outlook sitting spots - Create cement pads for the benches to sit on with 1500 mm of available pad around the benches for wheelchair maneuvering 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garbage pales are located off of the sidewalks separated by rough ground and grass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create cement pads for the garbage pales to sit on that are attached to the main paths in the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As above

First Nation's Pavilion

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<p>- The pavilion is located in the middle of a grassed area with no path accessing it off of the sidewalks</p>	<p>- Create a hard surfaced path to the pavilion from the sidewalk</p>	
<p>- The floor of the pavilion is loose gravel making mobility very challenging for physical disabilities</p>	<p>- Replace gravel with a chip stone, hard surfaced material to allow for mobility but maintain the aesthetic</p>	

Nunn's Creek Park



Nunn's Creek Park is a multiple use park located near the downtown core between 9th Avenue, Ironwood Road and Maple Street. The park consists of walking trails around Nunn's Creek (listed as Salmon habitat) and baseball diamonds.

Aside from the obvious topographical challenges present within the park to making it universally accessible, there are also problems with homelessness, alcohol and narcotics abuse; and the associated problems with discarded narcotics, alcohol and sexual activity paraphernalia that create not only

access issues but health and safety concerns as well.

Infrastructure Availability

Designated Disabled Parking	No
Accessible Washrooms	Yes – 3 near car park and ball diamonds
Picnic or food options	Yes – seasonally/ with baseball games

Accessibility Barriers Present

Trails

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trails consist of packed dirt, and loose gravel - Width variable from 400mm to >1000mm - No way finding for individuals with visual impairments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create uniform width (1500 mm min) paths with hard surface (chip gravel) - Define trail edges (sunken log, or lip) for way finding for individuals with visual deficits 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant cross slopes sections often > 8% - Grades in the park are often > 10% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rough grade trails to ensure no cross slope grades greater than 2% - Rough grade trails to ensure all slopes are not greater than 5% 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trails have significant obstacles (i.e.) roots across path, a fallen tree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove fallen tree - Rough grade trails to cover exposed roots 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thorny plant life have encroached on the trails creating narrow pathways and creating potential for injuries and falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut back and maintain under brush and plant life to ensure the trail is clear for its entire width 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was no signage to indicate the beginning or end of trails - The trails did not begin in the parking area so were difficult to locate and access - Mobilizing across soft ground and grass was necessary to access the trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue the above recommended hard surfaced trails to the car park - Erect informational signs at the entrance to the park outlining the trails and facilities available 	

Washrooms

There were three washrooms available marked as accessible though only one unit was unlocked at the times of the assessments. The toilet facilities are pit toilets and have no hand washing facilities, which can be problematic for individuals with altered bowel and bladder protocols.

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ground in front of the washrooms is soft gravel making mobilization difficult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create hard surfaced trails and cueing area outside the washrooms to the car park and the trail systems 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The door swing on the toilet doors is heavy and has a fast back swing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change hinges to allow door to open with 20 Newtons of pressure - Adjust dampener to slow the rate of door closing when released 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See above photo

Playground

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The playground is elevated on raised platform with a 180 mm lip from the surrounding ground up onto the play area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rough grade the surrounding area to have a gentle rise (2-3%) to the play area ensuring no lip to negotiate to enter 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The loose sand within the play area makes it very difficult for individuals with mobility deficits to mobilize 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace the sand with crash absorbent rubber matting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See above photo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no wheelchair accessible elements within the play equipment - There are no sensory stimulation activities appropriate for kids with sensory or cognitive disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create activities that require less physical ability and stimulate the senses - Create play areas where kids with disabilities can play equally with able bodied children - Create levels that children in wheelchairs can access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See above photo

Picnic Tables

The picnic tables have physical barriers that make them inaccessible which will be outlined below, but additionally, the tables seem to be the location for activities involving homelessness, narcotics and alcohol abuse as well as sexual activity. The ground surrounding the picnic tables is littered with broken glass and used syringes making it an unsafe place to push a wheelchair (pick something up in a tire that will then cut/ puncture the hands) or use for its intended purpose of eating.

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The picnic table models are not wheelchair accessible as they do not allow a wheelchair user to slide under the table to sit comfortably while doing activities on the table top - The cement pad the tables sit on is too small to allow a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace the tables with wheelchair accessible models - Create cement pads for the tables to sit on that have cement a min of 1500mm around the outside of the table - When rough grading the 	

wheelchair to maneuver around the table - There is significant lip (100mm) to get up onto the cement pad from the surrounding ground	trails ensure there is no lip to negotiate to get close to the table from the trails	
- The tables are surrounded by many dangerous materials (broken glass) making the tables dangerous to use	- Have municipal staff clean the areas around the tables regularly to ensure they are clean for everyone's use	- See above photo

Bridges

There are eight bridges within Nunn's Creek Park. All of the bridges present a barrier to disabled park visitors and should be modified. All of the bridges present the same barriers so types of barriers will be discussed as opposed to discussing each bridge individually.

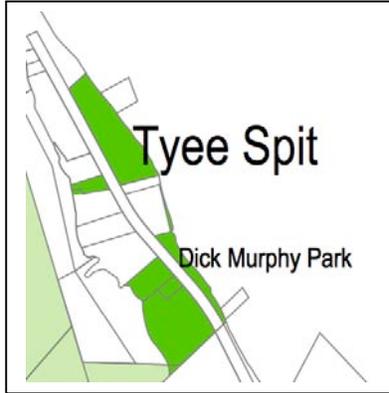
Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
- The paths approaching and leaving the bridges all have steep slopes often > 15% - Many of the most severe cross slopes on the trail are located at the bridge access and egress points	- Rough grade trails to have no slopes greater than 5% - Ensure cross slopes on access trails are not greater than 2%	
- All of the bridges have lips that must be negotiated getting on and off the bridge deck - These lips can be as high as 100mm and prevent wheelchair users from accessing the bridges independently and present a tripping hazard to walkers	- When rough grading the trails ensure the trail is flush and level with the bridge deck	

<p>- Many of the wire mesh runners on the bridge decks have holes in them creating tripping hazards</p>	<p>- Replace/ repair the metal mesh runners on the bridge decks</p>	
<p>- The natural wood color of the bridge decking is very similar to the trail color creating transitions that are difficult to see and create a tripping hazard</p>	<p>- Paint the last wooden planks on either end of the bridge decks a bright yellow to help with visual discernment</p>	

Ball Diamonds

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<p>- The grand stands at the baseball diamond has a stair case up the viewing area that is inaccessible</p>	<p>- Create a ramp up to the view area or create a viewing area for wheelchair users and friends to use in another appropriate location</p>	

Dick Murphy Park



Dicky Murphy Park appears to be a new park created in the Tyee Spit area of Campbell River. The park is linked to the Tyee Spit Park via the wide, hard surfaced asphalt trail that runs long the waterfront. The accessibility problems that exist in Dick Murphy Park also exist in the Tyee Spit park so observations and recommendations can be applied to both.

Fishing, boating, walking and picnicking appear to be the main activities that draw users to the park.

Infrastructure Availability

Designated Disabled Parking	No
Accessible Washrooms	Yes – 1 in Tyee Spit Park
Picnic or food options	Yes

Accessibility Barriers Present

Trail

The main hard-surfaced trail that links both Dick Murphy and Tyee Spit parks is composed of dark asphalt with smooth, white concrete edges that are level with the asphalt trail and create a contrasting color scheme that is easier to see and discern. The surface is sufficiently wide for multiple users to pass each other safely and comfortable and the asphalt is an ideal surface for users with mobility challenges.

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
- The packed dirt trail that accesses the beach area off the main trail has a slope of >12% as it approaches the beach	- Rough grade the slope to less than 5% slope ratio - Create a level spot at the beaches edge for wheelchair users to sit comfortably and enjoy the waterfront environment	

Garbage Pales

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<p>- Garbage pales are not located on the edge of paths, users must cross grass or dirt to access them</p>	<p>- Create cement pads that the pales sit on link to the main trail</p>	

Benches

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<p>- The cement pads the benches sit on do not have sufficient space in front of the benches for wheelchair users to maneuver and turn around</p>	<p>- Enlarge the cement pads to include 1500mm of cement all around the benches to allow wheelchairs and other mobility aids easy access</p>	
<p>- Some of the benches with the best sea side viewing are located across wide expanses of grass and rough ground</p>	<p>- Create cement paths linking these benches to the main trail</p>	

Picnic Tables

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<p>- The picnic tables do not have wheelchair accessible spots</p>	<p>- Replace the tables with universally accessible designs</p>	
<p>- The cement pad the tables sit on are too small to allow mobility aids and their users to circumnavigate the table</p>	<p>- Enlarge the cement pad to allow 1500mm of pad on all sides of the tables to allow disability access</p>	<p>- See above photo</p>

on the hard surface	amovement	
- There are no hard surfaced trails linking the main trail to the picnic tables requiring users to mobilize across soft grass	- Create cement paths that link some of the tables to the parking areas &/or the main trail	- See above photo

Baikie Island Trail



Baikie Island Trail is a park that is currently undergoing alterations and redevelopment so perhaps represents the best/ easiest/ inexpensive park, of the ones selected, to apply universal accessibility concepts to in its development.

The Trail is accessed in Campbell River North and is difficult to find, as there are no signs directing users to this area. The main activities available within the park at this point appear to be walking, nature and bird watching and berry picking. There are wooden kiosks that have been erected at the entrance to the park as well as on the second gravel trail within the park, but as of yet they contain no information.

Infrastructure Availability

Designated Disabled Parking	No
Accessible Washrooms	No
Picnic or food options	No

Accessibility Barriers Present

Trail

There are two trails available within the park at this point in time. The first trail is an old asphalt road that travels in a straight line towards the shoreline and is approximately 700 – 800 meters long. The second trail located to the right of the road is a gravel trail that eventually links with the Raven Park trail. Both trails and their challenges will be discussed in the table below.

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entrance to the asphalt road is barred with a large metal gate that is not passable for individuals with mobility challenges - There are two large cement blocks behind the gate that would be difficult to pass through for individuals with power wheelchairs and scooters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove the metal gate - Remove the cement blocks allowing free access to the trail beyond 	A photograph showing a metal gate across an asphalt road. The gate is supported by two wooden posts. Behind the gate, there are two large concrete blocks. A sign is visible in the background.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The bridge beyond the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When rebuilding this 	

<p>metal gate has lips and rough boards that may not be negotiable by wheelchairs and present tripping hazards to walkers</p>	<p>bridge ensure that the transitions on either end are smooth and present no tripping hazards - Ensure handrails meet CSA guidelines</p>	<p>- No photo available</p>
<p>- The asphalt road has thorny plants encroaching on the trail surface presenting tire puncture concerns and tripping hazards</p>	<p>- Cut back all plant materials to ensure the pathway is barrier free</p>	
<p>- The asphalt trail has large holes in the surface creating tripping hazards</p>	<p>- Rough grade the trail to ensure a smooth, hard surface for park users</p>	
<p>- The gravel trail is composed of packed dirt and loose gravel which can be difficult to walk and mobilize through</p>	<p>- Ensure surface of trail is hard, packed and consistent for both walkers and users of wheelchairs (chip gravel is a good choice)</p>	
<p>- The gravel trail's width ranges from 1050mm to 650mm - The grades on the trail can be >12% in a few locations</p>	<p>- Rough grade trail to a min of 1500mm everywhere - Ensure slopes along trail do not exceed 5% - Ensure cross slopes on the trail are not greater than 2%</p>	
<p>- Large rocks partially block the trail at the top of a slope</p>	<p>- Remove the rocks ensuring a clear path for all users</p>	

The Rotary Sea Walk



The Rotary Sea Walk runs along the waterfront for approximately 8 kilometers through Campbell River. The trail is the most heavily used park/ trail of the ones assessed and represents an important component in the healthy, active lifestyle of Campbell River's residents and visitors. The park is used for all modes of non-motorized transportation from running and walking to biking and in-line skating. The trail is used heavily throughout the year.

Infrastructure Availability

Designated Disabled Parking	Yes – in various parks along the trail
Accessible Washrooms	Yes – at the boat launch
Picnic or food options	Yes

Accessibility Barriers Present

Trail

The surface of the trail is asphalt and is appropriate for a wide variety of users. While the surfacing material is appropriate, the trail's design possesses many challenges and potential dangers for individuals with disabilities.

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
- South end terminus of trail has no indicator for visually impaired individuals the trails ends and directs them off a bank or into traffic	- Install sensory pads that indicate a transition or barrier to visually impaired users who use a cane	
- First 100m of trail from south end has slope >10% - Side slope along length of trail consistently >5% (really hard for manual wheelchair users and individuals with complete vision loss) - Bottom of slope has no edge protection and steep drop off	- Rough grade trail to reduce all slopes to not greater than 5% - Rough grade trail to reduce all side slopes not greater than 2% - Install railing/edge protection at the bottom of the slope	

<p>- There are no warnings for visually impaired users at intersections & cross roads (i.e.) Ken Forde Boat ramp</p>	<p>- Install tactile warning strips at intersections to warn of transition zones or obstacles</p>	
<p>- The access ramp at the Seawalk Center Displays is >8%</p>	<p>- Reduce the ramp's slope to not greater than 5%</p>	
<p>- The bus stops along the trail have continuous smooth cement from the trail out into the highway creating a danger for a cane using visually impaired individual</p>	<p>- Install an edge along the trail for way finding and to keep visually impaired individuals on the trail and not walking out into traffic</p>	
<p>- The trail has many points where gravel has come onto the road side of the surface creating a tripping hazard</p>	<p>- Routinely have the trail swept to keep debris and gravel off the trail surface</p>	
<p>- Black berry bushes encroach on the trail surface in spots creating injury possibilities</p>	<p>- Keep all plant material trimmed and off of the trail area</p>	
<p>- The trail surface across from Rockland Rd is cracking and potholed creating tripping hazards</p>	<p>- Repair and resurface the trail to ensure a smooth, level surface</p>	

<p>- The trail is very curvy making it very difficult for individuals with visual impairments to stay on the trail in the absence of way-finding edges</p>	<p>- Straighten out some of the more severe twists and turns and include way-finding edging along the length of the trail</p>	
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Bathrooms

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<p>- The lock on the inside of the bathroom door at the Ken Forde boat ramp required finger function to operate</p>	<p>- Replace the locking mechanism with a paddle or lever model</p>	
<p>- The toilet in the bathroom at Ken Forde boat ramp is very low (410mm) making it difficult for wheelchair users to transfer and individuals with physical challenges to stand up</p>	<p>- Replace the toilet with a taller model</p>	
<p>- The porta-potties on the trail are not wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>- Replace on of the units on both the men's and ladies' sides to accessible models</p>	

Picnic Tables

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<p>- The picnic tables are not wheelchair accessible designs</p> <p>- The cement pad the picnic tables sit on are not large enough for a wheelchair to circumnavigate the table on the cement</p> <p>- The tables are often on</p>	<p>- Replace picnic tables with wheelchair accessible design</p> <p>- Enlarge cement pads to allow 1500mm of cement all around the footprint of the table for mobility</p> <p>- Create hard surfaced paths that connect the picnic table</p>	

cement pads in the middle of large expanses of grass making it difficult to get to them	pads to the main trail	
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Benches & Garbage Pales

Accessibility Barrier	Potential Solutions	Photo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cement pad the benches sit on are not large enough to allow wheelchair users to travel in front of the benches and turn around - The cement pads the benches sit on are often in the middle of a large expanse of grass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create larger cement pads that allow 1500mm of hard surface all the way around the benches - Create hard surfaced paths that connect the benches to the main trail 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The garbage pales are not attached to the main trail making it difficult for wheelchair users to use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create hard surfaced pads that the garbage pales sit on that attach to the main trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See above photo

Universal Recommendations

The auditing of the selected parks and trails highlighted some design considerations and access barriers that are common amongst all the assessed areas. These design considerations are as follows:

- Trail surfaces should be hard packed and 1500mm wide
- Appropriate surfacing materials include asphalt, concrete, well compacted crushed stone, pavers or lumber
- Slopes should not be greater than 8% and cross slopes should not be greater than 2%
- Continuous edging along trails (half buried timbers or lips of asphalt) as way-finding cues greatly assist individuals with visual impairments
- Benches, garbage pales and picnic tables should all be on hard surfaces with 1500mm of surface around their footprint and joined via hard surfaced paths to the main trails
- Accessible designated parking should be available as close as possible to trails, bathroom facilities or picnic locations
- Accessible washrooms should be provided when ever possible