

May 2023

To Dunedin City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on Logan Park Recreation Reserve Management Plan

For any further inquiries, please contact:

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**Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ**

**We work on systemic change for the equity of disabled people**

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a not-for-profit pan-impairment Disabled People’s Organisation run by and for disabled people.

**We recognise:**

* Māori as Tangata Whenua and [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](https://www.archives.govt.nz/discover-our-stories/the-treaty-of-waitangi) as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand;
* disabled people as experts on their own lives;
* the [Social Model of Disability](https://www.odi.govt.nz/guidance-and-resources/guidance-for-policy-makes/) as the guiding principle for interpreting disability and impairment;
* the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html) as the basis for disabled people’s relationship with the State;
* the [New Zealand Disability Strategy](https://www.odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/) as Government agencies’ guide on disability issues; and
* the [Enabling Good Lives Principles](https://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/about-egl/egl-approach/principles/), [Whāia Te Ao Mārama: Māori Disability Action Plan](https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/whaia-te-ao-marama-2018-2022-maori-disability-action-plan), and [Faiva Ora: National Pasifika Disability Disability Plan](https://www.moh.govt.nz/notebook/nbbooks.nsf/0/5E544A3A23BEAECDCC2580FE007F7518/$file/faiva-ora-2016-2021-national-pasifika-disability-plan-feb17.pdf) as avenues to disabled people gaining greater choice and control over their lives and supports.

**We drive systemic change through:**

* **Leadership:** reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.
* **Information and advice:** informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.
* **Advocacy:** supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.
* **Monitoring:** monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

# The Submission

DPA welcomes this opportunity to engage on the Logan Park Recreation Reserve Management Plan.

Any updated plan needs to take full account of the accessibility needs of disabled people.

DPA supports the creation of a Logan Park which is more accessible and inclusive to everyone, including disabled people.

Key issues around accessibility include:

* A lack of accessible footpaths around the park.
* A lack of accessible toilets and changing areas.
* No accessible seating for spectators.
* Minimal mobility parking spaces.
* Insufficient separation between cyclists and pedestrians accessing the area.

We make recommendations to address each of these areas.

# Lack of accessible walking track/path

DPA is aware that that there is poor access for wheelchair or mobility aid users within the Logan Park area.

One significant issue is access to the footpath that runs from Logan Park High School to the park itself. Wheelchair and mobility aid users find it extremely difficult to mobilise up Butts Road from the Forsyth Barr Stadium end and this is then exacerbated for anyone wanting to walk/wheel towards the Caledonian Ground where the accessible footpath suddenly terminates at a steep gutter.

Once that footpath ends, wheelchair and mobility aid users have no other option than to cross the bridge on the road nearby, which is very unsafe due to traffic issues.

The existing pathway around the park is also very tricky for disabled people to navigate given that the gravel path which borders the road narrows too much and then there is the need to make another difficult road crossing.

DPA would welcome actions to address these and similar issues around walkways, pathways and other pedestrian infrastructure in the Logan Park area with a view to making them more accessible for everyone, including disabled people.

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| **Recommendation 1**: that the DCC undertake an accessibility audit of all pedestrian access within the Logan Park Reserve with an accredited accessibility auditor. |

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| **Recommendation 2:** that DCC create a fully accessible footpath around the perimeter of Logan Park. |

**Need for accessible seating and changing areas**

DPA believes that any redevelopment of the Logan Park area needs to include much improved seating for members of the public in the grandstands at the University Oval Cricket Ground and elsewhere.

This should include the provision of sheltered accessible seating where, as is the case at Forsyth Barr Stadium, there are open spaces where wheelchair and mobility aid users can sit beside non-disabled attendees at sports matches and other events.

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| **Recommendation 3:** that seatless spaces be created in between seats at the Logan Park Sportsground grandstand to enable wheelchair and mobility aid users' easier access. |

DPA believes that when updating the toileting and changing areas at Logan Park that high priority is accorded to creating accessible changing areas and toilets.

This will ensure that disabled athletes/sportspeople and spectators using and/or visiting Logan Park have easier access to them.

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| **Recommendation 4:** that accessible changing rooms and toilets be installed within easy proximity of all playing grounds. |

**Mobility parking**

DPA is pleased that the DCC has acknowledged the lack of parking around Logan Park in its submission questionnaire.

DPA believes that there is a need for more mobility parking spaces to be added, so that the needs of disabled people are recognised.

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| **Recommendation 5:** that more mobility car parks be added at key points around Logan Park. |

**Separation of cycleways and pedestrian thoroughfares**

DPA welcomes the recognition in its questionnaire of the lack of poorly planned circulation routes through the reserve for pedestrians and cyclists.

DPA believes that while the lack of directional signage needs to be addressed, there is also the issue of lack of safe separation between pedestrians and cyclists.

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| **Recommendation 6:** that the DCC install safe, accessible but parallel footpaths and cycleways throughout the Logan Park Reserve. |