
City Park Penrith, Access & Inclusion Review

Background

This review of the landscape architecture design documentation for the DA submission addresses the requirements for access by people with a disability or who are older, to the proposed new City Park located in Penrith.

We have reviewed the design drawings listed to assess the level of accessibility and compliance with the relevant codes, standards and legislation. The designs have been assessed to ensure that equitable and dignified access for people with disabilities can be provided.

In carrying out an accessibility assessment, the main objective is to ensure access is provided through the provision of accessible facilities and continuous paths of travel to and within all areas of the public domain.

A key element of accessibility through the area is the provision of a continuous accessible and safe path providing unhindered movement for all users. Surfaces, gradients, widths, edging, slip resistance and alternate routes to areas with steep gradients are key factors in the provision of a continuous accessible path of travel.

Design requirements in this review are based on the access provisions and guidelines in the following documents:

- The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)
- Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010
- The Building Code of Australia (BCA) 2019 Amendment 1 parts D3 and F2.4
- Australian Human Rights Commission Advisory Note on streetscape, public outdoor areas, fixtures, fittings and furniture February 2013
- AS1428.1 (2009) Design for access and mobility Part 1: General requirements for access - New building work
- AS1428.2 (1992) Design for access and mobility Part 2: Enhanced and Additional requirements - Buildings and facilities
- AS1428.4.1 (2009) Design for access and mobility Part 4.1: Means to assist the orientation of people with vision impairment
- AS2890.6 (2009) Parking Facilities - Off-street parking for people with disabilities

The objectives of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) – section 23, focus on the provision of equitable, independent and dignified access to services and facilities for people with mobility, sensory and cognitive disabilities.

The DDA covers existing premises, those under construction and future premises. It extends beyond the building itself to include outdoor spaces.

Penrith City Council have a responsibility under the DDA to provide equitable access to goods and services and to premises used by the public. A complaint can be made to the Australian Human Rights Commission under the DDA if appropriate access is not provided.

While there are no mandatory accessible design requirements that govern all aspects of outdoor environments, AS1428 provides various specifications that can be applied to built elements in the outdoor environment. To mitigate the risk of non-compliance with the DDA, the design requirements in this review are based upon the legislation, standards and guidelines listed above.

Proposed Design



Image 1: Area that is subject to this DA submission. Source: JMD Design

Development Application Design Works

The JMD Landscape Analysis and Design Report states that “Currently the site is host to a portion of a large carpark and a handful of small businesses. There is limited access to public open space within the Penrith City Centre. Memory Park & Triangle Park are the only ‘green’ open spaces, in the immediate surroundings however, they are of a smaller scale which limits the range of usage. Providing green amenity to the business district of Penrith will improve pedestrian amenity and a recreational space for workers and shoppers within Penrith City”.

The 5 Aims of the Design are to Create a City Park with:

- A strong identity - create a vibrant city Centre and celebrate the local landscape
- A variety of use opportunities - flexibility for events and passive activation
- A variety of spaces - respond to the aspirations & needs of a diverse community throughout the seasons
- Environmental benefits - mitigate heat island effect, permeable, incorporate WSUD and native vegetation
- Social benefits - the park as a meeting point, building the community

Documentation Reviewed

The following design documentation, prepared by JMD Design, was reviewed for provision of accessible and inclusive features:

- L01 Title Sheet N/A A
- L02 Key Principles N/A A
- L03 Aims N/A A
- L04 Masterplan 1:250@A1 A
- L05 Perspective Sketch N/A A
- L06 Site Sections 1:200@A1 A
- L07 Pergola Perspective As Shown A
- L08 Pergola Sections 1:50@A1 A
- L09 Pergola Sections 1:50@A1 A
- L10 Pergola Sections 1:50@A1 A
- L11 Pergola Sections 1:50@A1 A
- L12 Indicative Planting Schedule N/A A
- L013 Indicative Planting Schedule N/A A
- L014 Indicative Materials Palette N/A A

The following architectural Plans prepared by Lacoste + Stevenson Architects for the amenities building were also reviewed:

- DA-100 Amenities Floor Plan A
- DA-110 Amenities Roof Plan A
- DA-200 Amenities Elevation – North and East A
- DA-201 Amenities Elevation – South and West A
- DA-300 Amenities Sections A
- DA-400 Materials and Precedents A

Design Review

Ref	Feature	Comments
01	Pedestrian Pathway Network	
1.1	Accessible Pathway Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous accessible pathways are proposed to link to the existing footpath levels from the adjacent streets and through the proposed new park. • Amenities, seating and unique areas are indicated to be linked by accessible paths of travel. • The general fall in the site is 0.4%. Gentle slopes with accessible gradients and cross falls that comply with AS1428.1 are proposed to be provided through the area.
1.3	Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed pathways are indicated to have accessible gradients, cross falls and edges to meet AS1428.1, with adequate width and passing space to cater for activity by different users including parents with prams and people using mobility aids. • Provision for passing spaces that comply with AS1428.1 is included. • To meet AS1428.1, the ground abutting the sides of the walkways are indicated to provide a firm and level surface at the same level and grade of the walkway for minimum 600mm. • Provision of level landings minimum 1500mm x 1500mm at change in direction of pathways + pathway connections is indicated. • Low bridges with low kerb edges are proposed over the raingarden
1.4	Pedestrian Crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The design of the proposed new kerb is proposed to comply with AS1428.1. • Kerb ramps are aligned with the path of travel and co-ordinated with those on the opposite side of the street • Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSi) are proposed at the kerb ramps and raised pedestrian crossings – details to be provided during detailed design.
1.5	Surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary pathways are a hardstand or recycled brick surface. These surfaces have the potential to offer firm, level, slip resistant surfaces (in wet and dry conditions and over time), with level transitions between surfaces (5mm with beveled edges is acceptable) to meet AS1428.1 clause 7.2. • The planting edges, hardstand pavement, recycled brick, lawn and planting differentiate particular zones, define the pathway hierarchy and may assist with wayfinding for people with low vision.

02 Features		
2.1	Informal Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The informal stage is proposed to be temporary, installed as required - universal access should be considered when installed
2.2	Water features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A water feature and fog fountains are proposed and an existing water fountain is to be retained. The water feature design will consider inclusion of cues for visitors with low vision – details to be developed in ongoing design.
2.3	Sensory Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed sensory planting provides an opportunity for visitors to interact with the garden using all the senses.
2.4	Drinking Fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinking fountains are proposed, details of accessible features to be demonstrated in ongoing detailed design.
03 Seating		
3.1	Seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A range of different seating types is proposed to be provided throughout the park, at regular intervals along pathways and under shade. Clear space adjacent to the seats is available to accommodate people who use wheelchairs or prams. A proportion of seats are proposed to include backrests and armrests in accordance with AS1428.2 clause 27.2. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair types 1 and 2 with back and armrests Circular feature seat with backrests
04 Amenities		
4.1	Amenities Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amenities building is easy to locate and has level access from the park. The amenities building includes ambulant toilets, a unisex accessible toilet and an adult change facility. The amenities design is capable of complying with AS1428.1, the BCA and the Changing Places Design Guide.
05 Parking		
5.1	Accessible Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking is available near the park. Accessible parking is proposed to be provided, near the southeast entrance to the park and close to the amenities building and pedestrian crossing. The accessible parking is capable of complying with AS2890.6.

Conclusion

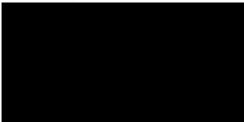
Having reviewed the listed drawings, it is our opinion that at this stage of the design, the access provisions for people with physical and sensory disabilities in the proposed new City Park, Penrith, comply with the functional accessibility requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA), AS1428.1 2009, AS1428.2 1992 and AS1428.4.1 2009.

The provision of access for people with a disability in the proposed new work can provide continuous accessible paths of travel and the equitable provision of accessible facilities to provide inclusive design to meet the anticipated requirements of visitors to the park.

I certify that I am an appropriately qualified and competent person practicing in the relevant area of work. I have recognised relevant experience in the area of work being reviewed. My company is holding appropriate current insurance policies.

Please contact me for further information.

Yours faithfully,



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