

3.6.2 MANDATORY DESIGN OBJECTIVES

GENERAL

1. Parks and Open spaces are key parts of the public realm provided for the communities leisure and enjoyment. It is therefore critical that these spaces are designed for all members of the community.
2. Accessible car parking and entrances are critical in enabling access to all users. The routes through the park should be universally accessible with a range of routes and paths, providing choice for different users. All areas of parks and spaces should be accessible, although this does not necessarily means that parks should be flat. It requires that if there are changes in level the needs of all users needs to be considered.
3. Cycle tracks can be utilised by hand propelled bikes and wheelchairs whilst running tracks can be used by parents with baby joggers.
4. Paths and tracks should generally be flat or meet the general provisions of section 3.2 on ramps although consideration needs to be had to the different level of difficulty in designing different routes. At least one route should be fully accessible with other routes illustrating how accessibility has informed their design.
5. Café's and rest areas should be fully accessible with a choice of seating options and access to café's meeting the requirements of any other building.
6. As one of the key attractors of parks is the play equipment is imperative that play equipment is accessible to all. The needs of the child and the parent/

carer need to be considered. One of the main barriers to access isn't necessarily the play equipment, much of which is actually designed to be fully accessible but rather the barriers put in place through the choice of surface and physical access to the play area. In Dubai many of the play areas use sand as the impact attenuating surface. Whilst this makes sense from a cost and environmental perspective the use of loose surfaces restricts access to the play area for many groups. To overcome this issue it is recommended that a mix of surfaces is used in larger parks and smaller parks use solid impact attenuation surfaces.

3.6.3 DESIRABLE PROVISIONS

The following provisions are deemed as desirable by DCCA and should be provided for all schemes where practicable. The provision of these features will contribute to achieving a higher accessible scoring. The desirable provisions are:

1. All impact attenuating surfaces to be solid and fully accessible.
2. 50% of all play equipment to be fully accessible as defined by the IPEMA.