

## 12. DRAFT PARKS AND WATERWAYS ACCESS POLICY

The Parks and Waterways Manager reported, seeking approval to release the draft Parks and Waterways Access Policy for public consultation.

The draft policy has been prepared in consultation with the disabled community and staff, and has been referred to all Community Boards for comment. The aim of the policy is to overcome barriers to access to ensure that all Christchurch residents are able to enjoy the city's parks and open spaces.

The six policies included in the draft document are listed below:

1. All new parks and waterways facilities, and existing facilities when they are upgraded, will be designed, where feasible, to meet the national standard access design criteria (see Appendix 1).
2. An audit will be undertaken of all parks to identify accessible facilities and opportunities for improvement. Questions will be included in current park surveys, which are undertaken every two months by contractors, to monitor the maintenance of continued accessibility in parks.
3. The Parks and Waterways Unit shall ensure that staff members involved with providing park facilities are educated about the requirements of people with disabilities, allowing effective service provision.
4. The Parks and Waterways Unit shall develop and use a standardised classification system for paths and tracks that allows users to readily identify the degree of ability required.
5. The Parks and Waterways Unit shall provide public information about accessible facilities using a variety of media.
6. The Parks and Waterways Access Policy will be reviewed every two years in consultation with the Kiwiable Network, Disabled Persons Assembly, and relevant Council staff.

The Committee **decided** that the draft Parks and Waterways Access Policy be approved as a draft policy for full public consultation.