September 2024

**To Christchurch City Council**

Please find attached our submission on the Barnett Park Valley Landscape Plan

For any further inquiries, please contact:

Chris Ford

Policy Advisor – Southern and Central

policy@dpa.org.nz

# 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/%24file/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:**

**Rangatiratanga / Leadership**: reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.

**Pārongo me te tohutohu / Information and advice**: informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.

**Kōkiri / Advocacy**: supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.

**Aroturuki / Monitoring**: monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

## The Submission

DPA welcomes this opportunity to feedback to the Christchurch City Council on the Draft Barnett Valley Park Landscape Plan.

DPA acknowledges that Barnett Valley Park is used by many Christchurch residents for its walking tracks and recreational/sporting facilities.

DPA agrees with the plan as outlined but will make some brief recommendations to ensure that it becomes more accessible for everyone, including disabled people.

Our primary ask is that more of the existing tracks and trails (and any new ones) are made fully accessible, including to disabled people who use wheelchairs and other mobility aids, and blind and low vision people.

This means creating tracks which are built to universal design standards which will enable everyone, including disabled people and adults/whānau pushing children’s strollers the ability to safely and accessibly use them.

|  |
| --- |
| **Recommendation 1:** that any existing tracks are considered for being made fully accessible according to universal design standards to accommodate everyone, including disabled people, in using them. |
| **Recommendation 2:** that any new tracks are made fully accessible according to universal design standards to accommodate everyone, including disabled people, in using them. |

## Changes to Barnett Valley Park Bridge and nature reserve

DPA acknowledges the plan to replace the existing Barnett Valley Park bridge with a new one.

The new bridge should be made fully accessible according to universal design principles and be of sufficient width and length to accommodate a wide range of pedestrians including disabled people who use wheelchairs and mobility devices.

DPA endorses the proposals to stabilise the steep banks, enhance pools and eddies and undertake replanting along the banks of the stream.

All the above will make Barnett Valley Park a safer place for everyone given that it is in a flood prone area.

|  |
| --- |
| **Recommendation 3:** that any new bridge is made fully accessible according to universal design principles to enable everyone, including disabled people, to access it. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Recommendation 4:** That disabled people are fully involved as key stakeholders in planning the new landscape for Barnett Valley Park to ensure its accessibility, inclusivity and usability by everyone including disabled people. |