

9. APPENDIX TWO
TRACK SPECIFICATIONS

Physical Characteristics

- Paths are usually located in well-populated urban areas and close to public amenities. They shall be well formed and provide for easy walking suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Most paths will cater for people mobility difficulties or limitations.
- Max width = 2m, Min width = 1.2m
- Max gradient = 7° (1:8) with a limited number of steps. All steps shall have a maximum riser height of 0.18m and a minimum tread length of 0.31m. Paths for people with mobility difficulties and bikers shall have max gradient 5° (1:11.4) with no steps, stiles, turnstiles or gates.
- Max height of any change in walking surface shall be 5mm
- Paths shall have a minimum track width of 2m. The minimum width may be reduced for short sections provided there is a low risk to visitor safety. Such sections shall cover no more than 5% of the total length of each path. The minimum width for an Accessible Route path shall be 2m over its entire length.
- Paths provide pedestrian access on a durable all weather surface such as concrete and asphalt suitable for all types of footwear without getting wet or muddy in both dry and wet weather.
- Vegetation must be clear from the total width of the path formation and to a height of 2.5m, giving visitors a clear passage and unimpeded view of the surface. Windfalls blocking the path are to be cleared within 48 hours of notification. All cut vegetation is to be removed from the track surface and disposed of out of sight of the track.



User Groups

- **Walkers:** Caters for the widest range of ages and fitness levels, with most accessible to people with mobility difficulties or limitations. Tracks usually to a very high standard allowing to walk two abreast, and meets urban resident requirements.
- **Runners:** Allows for runners with widest range of experience and fitness levels.
- **Bikers:** Where cycle access allowed, caters for family cyclists. Considered to be easy riding where slope does not exceed 6°.
- **Mountain buggies:** Relatively easy with no or few obstacles.



2m min

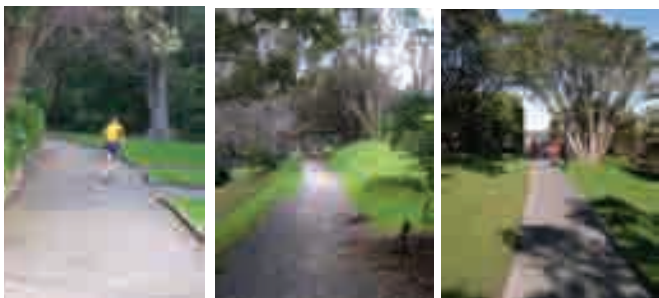
Section

Track width

Accessible route
5° max slope for mobility
difficulties and bikers.
7° max slope for pedestrians.



Elevation



Drakeford
Williams

Track Strategy Path

Physical Characteristics

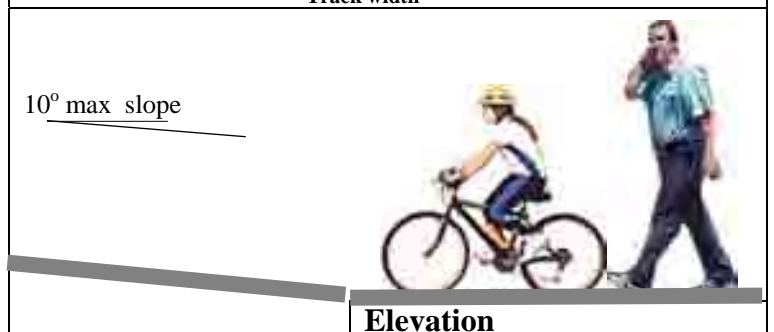
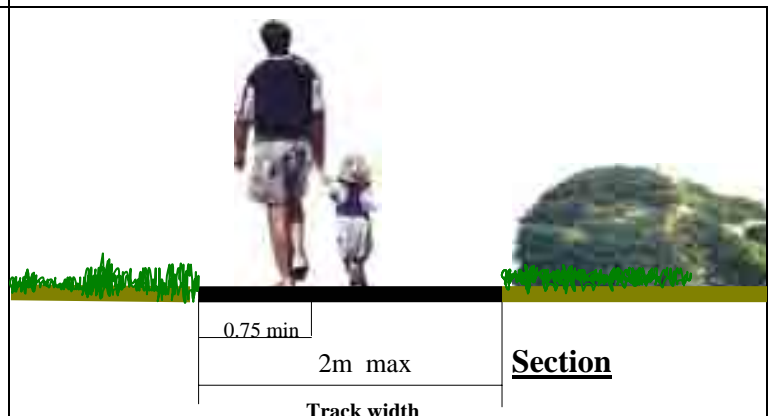
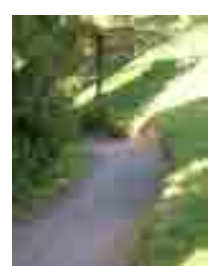
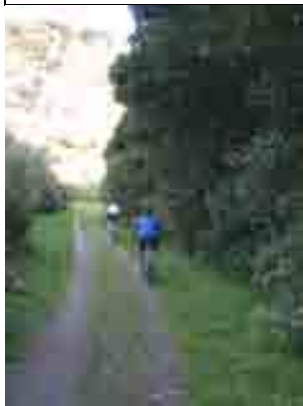
- Short Walk Tracks require no special equipment but still provide an off-road, outdoor experience. They are usually suitable for walking shoes and trainers.
- Min width = 0.75m. Max width = 2m. The minimum width shall cover no more than 5% of the total length of each track.
- Maximum gradient = 10° (1:5.7) not including steps, with no more than 12 steps per flight. The gradient can increase to 15° over small sections of the track. Steps must be even and consistent, max. riser 0.2m, min. tread 0.3m.
- Dual use track: Where there is a long section of track at the minimum width of 0.75 metres, passing bays will be developed in practical and appropriate places. These will have a minimum width of 1 metre and a minimum length of 3 metres. The track surface is to be well compacted so that tyres do not unduly degrade the surface.
- A Short Walk will be well defined, and may be benched. The track will be clearly marked to allow inexperienced users to find their way in all weather conditions.
- Short Walks provide pedestrian access on a well-formed, drained, all-weather surface. Up to 10% of the total track length may have short wet or muddy sections.
- Vegetation must be clear from the total width of the path and to a height of 2.5m, giving visitors a clear passage, an unimpeded view of the surface and good visibility on corners. Windfalls are to be cleared within 48 hours of notification.
- Short Walks will be clearly signposted with directional signs at all entrances and junctions. Signs will include walking times. Dual use tracks will be clearly signed as such.



User Groups

Short Walks are well-formed tracks that provide for easy, low risk recreation suitable for most ages and fitness levels.

- **Walkers:** Caters for all ages and most walking abilities. Some tracks may be accessible to people with mobility difficulties or limitations. Tracks are usually suitable for walking shoes and trainers. They require no special equipment but still provide an off-road, outdoor experience. Can be used by conventional pushchairs.
- **Runners:** Allows for runners with a wide range of experience and fitness levels.
- **Mountain buggies:** Relatively easy with no or few obstacles. Once there are more than two steps in a flight, the track can be considered 'average'. Once there are more than six steps per flight, the track can be considered difficult.
- **Bikers:** Where cycle access is allowed, caters for easy to average cyclists. The track width makes it a little less easy and safe for family cyclists. Considered to be more difficult than 'average' when the slope becomes steeper than 12° or with flights of more than six steps.



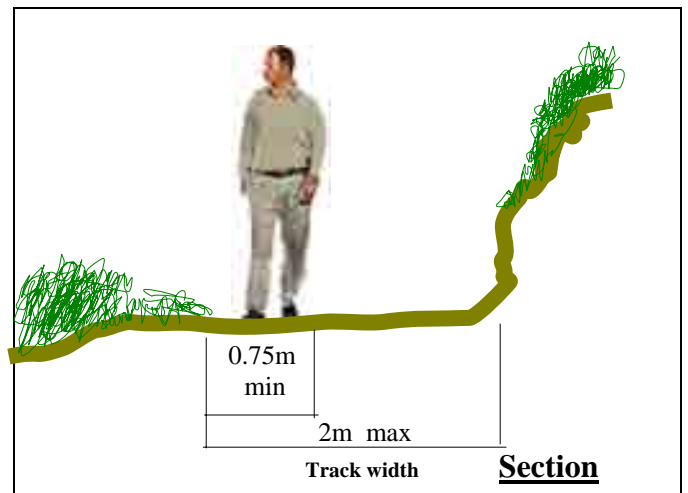
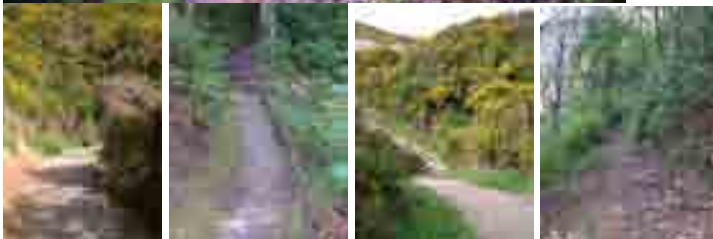
Physical Characteristics

- Min./max width = 0.75-2m
- Av.max gradient = 15° (1:3.7)
- Max gradient (> 100m)= 20° (1:2.7)
- The track will be well defined, and benched provided any negative environmental impacts are minimised. Dual use tracks need a well-compacted surface that will not easily degrade.
- Marking must enable relatively inexperienced users to easily find their way in either direction in all weather conditions.
- Flights of steps must have an even tread surface (ie not muddy or rough). Steps must have a maximum riser height of 0.2m and a minimum tread length of 0.3m. No more than 15% of the total length of dual use track may have steps.
- The minimum width may be reduced for short sections of track. A long section of dual use track at the minimum width must have passing bays.
- Walking Tracks will be clearly signposted with directional signs (which include both walking times and distances) at entrances and junctions. Dual use tracks will be labelled.
- Vegetation must give visitors a clear passage, an unimpeded view of the surface and good visibility on corners. Windfalls are to be cleared within 48 hours of notification.



User Groups

- **Walkers:** People who want a good walk for up to a full day return. Tracks usually to a high standard to enable ease of use by relatively inexperienced users with a low level of outdoor skills and fitness. Recommended footwear is light walking boots or trainers.
- **Runners:** Allows for relatively inexperienced runners with moderate fitness levels.
- **Bikers:** Where appropriate, mountain bikers permitted access. Considered to be Class 2 (Average biker skill). Require alternative route at steps when flight exceeds six steps.
- **Mountain buggies:** Relatively demanding, especially where gradient exceeds 8% and where there are a number of steps.



15° max slope



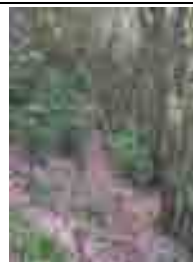
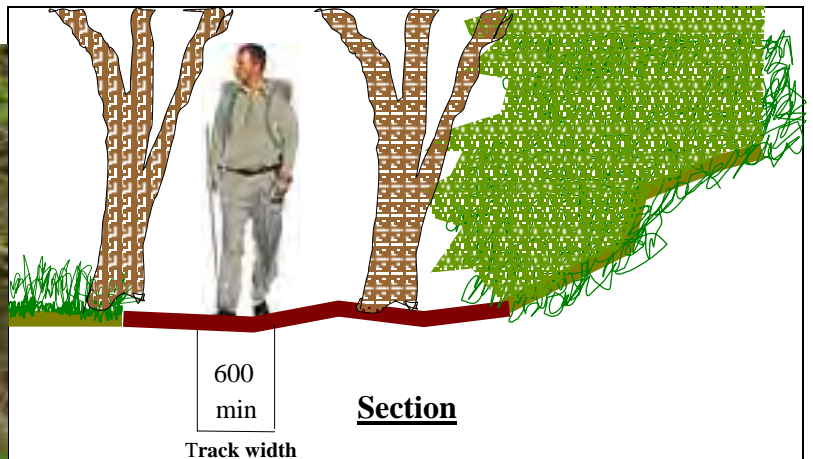
Physical Characteristics

- Min width = 0.6m on steep slopes and in bush.
= 0.3m in open or flat landscapes
- Max width = 1m
- Max gradient = no maximum gradient.
- Any steps should be even and consistent, with min tread 0.3m.
- Tracks are well defined by formation and may be benched. They are marked by poles or markers.
- Track surface will generally be the natural surface and may include mud, water, roots and embedded rocks. Generally minor obstacles such as rocks, tree roots and earth are not removed.
- Vegetation must be cleared to ensure that there is a clear view of the track surface, especially on corners. Windfalls blocking the path are to be cleared within 7-14 days of notification.
- Tramping tracks will be clearly signposted with directional signs (which include both walking times and distances) at entrances and junctions.
- Track condition information regarding for example an unbridged stream or steep, unstable slips is to be made available at track entrances or through off-site means.
- Dual use tracks will be signed as such.



User Groups

- **Walkers:** Caters for trampers or experienced walkers with a good level of fitness. Recommended footwear is light walking boots or tramping boots.
- **Bikers:** Due to difficult terrain and gradient, only some Tramping Tracks will be suitable for bikers and they will be graded as difficult to extreme, for riders with advanced technical skills. Will most likely be used in specialised mountain biking areas such as Makara Peak.



Physical Characteristics

- Minimum width = no minimum width.
- Maximum gradient = no maximum gradient.
- Routes are unformed, lightly cut tracks for experienced users with good outdoor skills. They usually have minimal landscape modification, and no structures or steps.
- There is no minimum track width.
- A Route will be marked by poles, cairns or markers.
- Tracks have a natural, unformed surface that may be rough.
- Vegetation and windfalls are to be cleared so that users can follow markers along the Route.
- Routes may have directional signs at junctions with other tracks. Other information may be provided through off-site means such as maps and route guides.

User Groups

- **Walkers:** Caters for people with a high degree of fitness, skill and experience. Recommended footwear for walkers is tramping boots.
- **Runners:** Some locations may be suitable for experienced cross-country runners eg along the ridgetops of the Outer Green Belt. However Routes are variable and each must be taken on its own merits.
- **Bikers:** Some locations may be suitable for experienced mountain bikers eg along the ridgetops of the Outer Green Belt. However Routes are variable and each must be taken on its own merits.

