



18 February 2022

ACCESSIBILITY REPORT Dimond Park Oakland

The following observations are based on a cursory site visit to Dimond Park on January 16, 2022. This is a preliminary overview of some of the barriers to accessibility that were observed. Accessibility of public spaces for all people is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the California Building Code (CBC).

The park was entered from Fruitvale Avenue at Lyman Road. There are crosswalks and curb ramps at the corners, but they are not in compliance with current code. They are too steep and do not have the yellow detectable warning that is required where a path or sidewalk meets the street. I would recommend at least one designated accessible parking stall with direct access to a code-compliant curb ramp.



This entrance has planters with brick borders and steps that are inaccessible to people in wheelchairs. This is an attractive feature inviting people into the park. The goal of Universal Design is to welcome everyone with an equal experience. A new accessible entrance should incorporate brick detailing or in some way provide an inviting experience.



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The slope of the sidewalk at the natural grade in this area is too steep for a person in a manual wheelchair. A person in a motorized wheelchair could probably navigate it or if someone were pushing them, they could enter the park uphill (to the north) where a path without steps connects the sidewalk to the paved path in the park.



I noticed huge gaps in the trench drains. Wheelchair wheels can't negotiate this, but it is at the top of steps, so probably not an issue for people in wheelchairs. This would be a hazard for many able-bodied people, who could catch a heel or small shoe in the gap.



Many of the paths in the park are tamped earth or bark. These are not wheelchair accessible. Every amenity should at least allow a person with mobility issues to get to the facility. The benches near the Scout Hut are over bark. At least one bench should be accessible with a firm stable surface connected to an accessible path of travel. There is a paved path to the playground area, but then there is a concrete curb between the play structure and the area with the benches that had a 2" drop to the bark. That is a barrier to wheelchairs. The maximum level change is 1/2".

There is another playground near the end of Dimond Avenue. It has a paved path that is an accessible route that leads to a portion of the play structure, but there is no way for a person in a wheelchair to get to the path. There should be a curb ramp in the sidewalk and a paved walkway to connect to the existing path. I would also recommend at least one designated accessible parking stall at the top of Dimond.



The Dimond Park tennis courts are a well-used amenity. There is currently no accessible path of travel to the gates to the courts. We observed that there is a level space to the north of the courts outside the fence with a bench. We suggest that a paved path be installed in this area that connects to the sidewalk on Fruitvale Avenue. The ground slopes down from the sidewalk, so the new paved path may have to switch back and forth to achieve the 5% maximum slope, or a ramp installed with a maximum slope of 1:12 and handrails. If this new accessible entrance is built, a designated accessible parking stall and code compliant curb ramp should be added on Fruitvale Avenue. This new paved path could lead past the tennis courts and connect to the existing paved path near the barbecue area.

The park entrance at El Centro was not observed, nor was the swimming pool.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Claudia Falconer in blue ink.

Claudia Falconer, AIA
Architect, CASp #552 (Certified Access Specialist)