

Summer Edition Newsletter



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This 2025 Summer Edition features Parks and Open Spaces

CUDA's summer newsletters are topic specific containing past posts from the website. For more on this topic, or any other, use the search button on left hand menu of [the website](#). Note that most of these posts feature more than one article - so scroll down!

[Universal park design toolkit](#)

The Universal Park Design Series is a toolkit which has sections on entries, playgrounds, trails and green spaces. The interior spaces section deals with buildings and facilities such as rest rooms and kiosks. It covers basic access features but goes into more detail to provide a universal design approach. The toolkit is a step-by-step guide for landscape professionals.

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[Landscaping with universal design](#)

Compliance with legal requirements in public spaces is rarely enough to guarantee access for everyone. People with invisible disabilities are often left out of designs. A focus on technical aspects often results in spaces that are still challenging for many. The American Society of Landscape Architects has a Universal Design page where they list some of the disabilities and impairments regularly ...

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Older adults use playspaces too

Play is often associated with children, but play is for everyone. We know that grandparents take their grandchildren to playspaces to spend time with them. But older adults use playspaces too - that is, if they include the right design elements. The Auckland Design Manual has a new resource - Designing Play Spaces for Older Adults. The nicely designed 10 ...

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Public open space and gender

The COVID pandemic made us all realise how important urban public open space is for our wellbeing. However, the enjoyment of public open space is not equally shared across genders. A study from Greece found that all genders found the more "easily accessible" the public space, the more safe they felt. The notion of "easily accessible" includes visibility from immediate ...

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Inclusive Outdoor Recreation

What does the international research on accessible nature-based tourism say? That's what researchers in Sweden checked out. Nine major themes emerged for inclusive outdoor recreation: employee attitudes towards people with disability accessibility of tourism websites and information systems, accessible transportation, ... And more items on access to beaches and water in this post.

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Social inclusion for playgrounds

Social inclusion is just as important as physical inclusion in playgrounds. So it isn't always about special equipment or design. It seems really difficult to create inclusive playgrounds without making them sound as if they are special places for children with disability. That was one finding from research in Switzerland. A commonly shared

perspective was that a playground is only ...

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Making spaces for girls

When taking a gender lens to urban planning, it is often from the perspective of women. That is, women past their teenage years. But what about teenage girls? A UK study found that teenage girls feel parks and public spaces are not for them. There is nothing they want to use. That's because no-one includes girls in the planning and ...

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Literature review of playspace guides

Inclusive playspace guides have different ways of explaining how to be inclusive. There's lots of different terminology but they all generally mean the same thing. On one hand, the very nature of inclusion and diversity should allow for different ways of understanding the concepts. On the other hand, researchers who are seeking clarity on the topic find mixed terminology difficult to work with. A literature review reveals that the term 'universal design' is often used but they don't always mean the same...

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Camp Manyung and universal design

Camp Manyung in Victoria is leading the way by universally designing everything. The excellent video below shows how the application of universal design principles throughout the design of the camp facilities bring about the inclusiveness that is the aim of universal design. Universal design principles are also applied to camp activities, and staff attitudes and communication. Find out more about ...

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Let's play together in NZ

The idea of inclusive playspaces is catching on. More design thought is being given to making them more welcoming and accessible for everyone. And it's not just about children with diverse needs: parents and caregivers require design thought too. A case study from Auckland, New Zealand is a good example of how to create playspaces. So, let's play together! An ...

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[Introduction to Universal Design: free online course](#)

Introduction to Universal Design online course is in visual, audio and text formats and there are quick quizzes at the end of each module. This course is good for newcomers to the concepts and a refresher for others. There's a certificate at the end.

Get started on the Introduction to Universal Design course! It will take less than an hour.

Sign up - it's Free!

[Livable Housing Design course](#)

This short course is tailor-made for professionals in the housing and home mods sectors seeking an understanding of the NCC requirements for Livable Housing Design Standard. It delves into the technical details of both the new standard and the enhanced standard. The enhanced standard, similar to the Gold level of Livable Housing Design Guidelines, is good for anyone doing home modifications, or thinking about it. **Only \$35.00** inc GST.

CUDA presents this course under licence from the Australian Building Codes Board.

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