

Queensland's historical specification for the construction of walking tracks.

This very useful specification was presented to the Secretary of the Forestry Department in 1950 by National Park Ranger J. A. Gresty. This specification formed the basis of the curriculum I developed for teaching walking track design and construction skills in the early 1990's and is still taught today.

The original 12 items were approved by the Secretary to the Forestry Department on 1st November 1950. Item 3 was added to the specification in April 1954.

SPECIFICATION FOR FORMED AND GRADED WALKING TRACK

1. Provide three feet wide walking surface; bank to be cut away to give minimum of two feet solid surface.
2. The maximum grade to which track is to be constructed shall not exceed five degrees.
3. Track to be constructed to a minimum grade of three quarter degree. Between compulsory level points track to be constructed on a rise and fall of three quarter degree in dry and one degree in wet country.
4. All roots to be cut below surface of ground and spurs of trees dressed to uniform slope of bank. All wood waste, roots and leaf would be thrown clear of track.
5. Provide rock face to outside edge of track; rock to be firmly set upon solid foundation level with walking surface as neatly as possible, and with high edge of rock to outside of track.
6. Provide inverts for watercourses and seepages by grading track down into and up out of watercourses on grade as near as practicable to three degrees for a distance adequate to confine water to watercourse.
7. Provide intermediate inverts at intervals of not more than one hundred feet by breaking the grade for an intermediate distance of eight feet which is to be level, and which level section is to be dished to a depth of six inches.
8. Bevel track for drainage two inches lower on inside edge than on outside edge of rock kerb. At inverts, outside edge to be three inches lower than inside edge of track.

9. Where rock is unavailable to face outside edge of track, provide three feet six inches walking surface and bevel to outside height of two and half inches.
10. Gravel surface of track at inverts where material is available.
11. At reverse turns, steps to height of approximately four feet to be provided (in lieu of V junctions).
12. Steps may be provided, well laid to full width of track not exceeding four feet in height, where exigencies of grade demand. An invert to be provided at top of each flight of steps except at reverse turns where run off for drainage to be provided beyond end of track.
13. All construction to be carried out and finished in best workmanlike manner.