



**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Accessibility Standards & Design Guidelines  
Advisory Working Group**

**Working Group Members:**

Belleque, Janine – Marine Board	Peterson, Randy - ODF
Benson, Iris - OPRD	Rippee, Matt - OPRD
Friesen, Lori - OPRD	Sayre, Tom
Hansen, Bryce - ODFW	Schaffer, Ashley – Empowering Access
Herkamp, Kevin - ODFW	Sparks, Ryan - OPRD
Kesch, Helena - OPRD	Youngblood, Scott - OPRD
Moran, Georgena – Access Recreation	

**Wednesday, January 26, 2022  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting**

**Notes**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. The group facilitator welcomed and thanked all participating members.
- b. Work group members introduced themselves and briefly described their individual backgrounds relating to the group’s mission. Broad professional experiences and perspectives across different agencies include:
  - i. ADA Coordination
  - ii. Consulting and Facilitation
  - iii. Project Management and Operational Support
  - iv. Property Management
  - v. Water Recreation and Boating Access
  - vi. Fishing Access and Trail-building
  - vii. Government grants

**2. Group Agreements**

- a. The facilitator established desired attributes for meetings:
  - i. Meetings should be interactive.
  - ii. Members should be present and participate.
  - iii. Come to the table with open minds, without assumptions.
- b. The group discussed factors for working together successfully including:
  - i. Open, judgment-free dialog is necessary. Questions welcome!
  - ii. Communication should be direct and clear. Although there may be some uncomfortable discussions, no harm is intended – only education and progress.
  - iii. Give each other grace during this learning process.
  - iv. Be present, focus and pay attention, respecting everyone’s time.
  - v. Come in with a beginner’s mindset.
  - vi. Listen rather than react.

- vii. Allow people to complete their thoughts and contributions before moving on.
- viii. Be comfortable to ask for clarification on specialized terms and acronyms.
- ix. Have patience with each other.
  - x. Be genuine. Real is better than perfect!
  - xi. Give each other grace.
  - xii. Have a little bit of fun!

### 3. Role of the Group and Process

- a. The role of the group is to establish design standards using the combination of members' vested interest, perspective and professional expertise.
- b. The facilitator described the relatively short timeline to produce standards by September 15, 2022 (per HB 2171) while identifying key steps to address beyond that date.
- c. Go Bonds Project will be able to incorporate some of our developed standards for the larger-built facilities.
- d. Empowering Access will lead an outreach effort, hosting listening sessions to gather information. These will be virtual and in-person sessions (when available) to maximize community outreach. Suggested non-traditional target groups include:
  - i. Seniors and senior living centers
  - ii. Veterans groups
  - iii. Other people who don't consider themselves disabled
  - iv. Rehabilitation specialists
  - v. Independent living resources
  - vi. Parents and friends of persons with disabilities
- e. Send thoughts on designing the workshops to [TakeAHike@EmpoweringAccess.com](mailto:TakeAHike@EmpoweringAccess.com).
- f. An Architectural Design firm will consult on technical content and drawings.

### 4. Project Goals

- a. Group members shared many common thoughts for what factors they'd consider as making this project successful:
  - i. If we develop real standards to provide better access for everyone, including other agencies, not just a gathering of existing standards.
  - ii. If we develop simple and clear guidelines for future design, looking beyond ADA, think outside the norm to create solutions for an evolving public and ever-changing community users.
  - iii. If we can make standards consistent across all parks and services.
  - iv. If we are all engaged in the process.
    - v. If suggestions are addressed and the information is available on websites.
  - vi. If we develop a system to allow people to find out ahead of time if parks or park features are accessible.
  - vii. When there is an ease of access for all.
  - viii. In areas where the topography is challenging, provide the information so the public may decide for themselves if they will visit – that is empowering in itself.
  - ix. If we learn to do everything with an accessibility lens.
    - x. Be able to provide the “why” to people implementing increases awareness and understanding.
- b. Group members feel they will be meaningful contributors if:
  - i. Visitors and users find benefit to what we develop.
  - ii. If our sites are universally acceptable instead of just a few.
  - iii. If all our voices have been heard and considered.
  - iv. If changes are evident on the physical sites and we can access information online about these changes.

- v. If people we talk with feel like they are represented accurately and feel part of the process.
- vi. If my perspective brings value to the group and I fully participate.
- vii. If we are able to establish a foundation for continuing to partner on these issues.
- viii. If we become a collaborative resource to help integrate our ideas into statewide services and our granting processes.
- ix. If we see people enjoying the outdoor environment with a greater representation of the community visible.

## **5. Questions and Next Steps (Matrix)**

- a. The facilitator described her vision of creating a guidebook of standards and principles and a suite of online information to pull from.
- b. The guide book would be a living document, ever-evolving, including designs around specific facilities, programmatic elements and siting guidelines.
- c. Next steps include:
  - i. Creating a draft Table of Contents for the guide book.
  - ii. Setting priorities for which facilities to address, recognizing we have to start somewhere.
  - iii. Once we have a framework and structure, we can break into smaller pieces, resulting in a final document along with other agency actions ongoing outside of our timeframe.
  - iv. The team discussed the matrix criteria, indicating some of the criteria might be relevant to each category, some duplication and crossover, making prioritization difficult or complicated.
  - v. Based on this meeting conversations, Iris, Ashley and Helena will meet to brainstorm. Remaining members shall think about priorities to discuss at the next meeting.