



**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 – WG Facilitator	Rippee, Matt - OPRD
Friesen, Lori - OPRD	Sayre, Tom
Hansen, Bryce - ODFW	Schaffer, Ashley – Empowering Access
Robinson, Barton – Willamette Partnership	Sparks, Ryan - OPRD
Kesch, Helena - OPRD	Youngblood, Scott - OPRD
Moran, Georgena – Access Recreation	Gauthier, Katie – Technical Support

GUESTS:

MIG – Heather Buczek, Alexa Vaughn and Audrey West

**Wednesday, April 20, 2022
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting**

Notes

1. Welcome and Update

- a. Ms. Benson welcomed guests from MIG and initiated a round of brief introductions of workgroup members and guests.
- b. She updated on relevant items since last meeting.
 - i. The recent public questionnaire had over 150 responses to date expressing interest in areas such as veterans, website content, various facilities, and others.
 - ii. Ashley Schaffer led another workshop with Helena’s assistance discussing trails, water access, camping facilities, etc. They received lots of great feedback.
 - iii. Ms. Benson put together a proposal for MIG to make adjustment to priorities on the work we are doing so we are focused to ensure we meet requirements of House Bill 2171, but still holistically cover elements of process, best management practices and design principles, and what processes might be applied to larger planning efforts.
 - iv. Iris provided an updated project schedule and summary with timeline to give a framework and more clarity to where we are going.
 - v. Tom Sayre noted that having the State Marine Board on the last agenda was beneficial and encouraged continued conversations with agency partners to learn the potentials they see within their sectors.

2. MIG Presentation - Inclusive and Accessible Design Guidelines

- a. Alexis Vaughn briefed on the project’s three phases all of which will be directly influenced by stakeholder and advisory committee feedback.
 - i. Gap Analysis - identifying gaps in accessibility, practices and standards
 1. They’ve completed information gathering and gap analysis of existing guidelines and standards.

2. They are continuing with questionnaires and interviews with key OPRD personnel.
- ii. Development of Standards – establish baseline standards, incorporating feedback; establish priorities.
- iii. Toolkit and guidelines – distribution and implementation, with emphasis on going beyond the adopted minimum standards.
- iv. Iris reiterated that although we will try to incorporate as much feedback as possible into our 3-tier approach, there are some issues that are great feedback and important, but are not necessarily something we can reflect in standards. For instance, land use agreements when OPRD land transfers to cities or counties affects accessibility, but may need to be addressed by other means. MIG will help us keep track of these issues so we don't lose sight of them as we focus on the constraints of this workgroup.
 1. Tom indicated a concern for including or repurposing bad or incomplete data from previous standards into our final report. Helena agreed and noted it was important to not include outdated standards or processes.
 2. Tom asked how MIG prefers to receive any feedback. Iris requested information flow through her to ensure continuity of communication.
 3. Tom asked what process will be used to determine which recommendations will be incorporated into the plan., who will make the decision for inclusion?
 4. Iris anticipates wide review. As MIG presents information, group members can comment through Iris. She anticipates a few drafts that everyone will be able to read and review. Ashley's contract requires she read and review. Agency partners will assist at some level. OPRD staff, Helena and other groups will review from multiple perspectives – legal, operations and maintenance, resource and leadership. Also, hopefully public participants who have a stake may get to review as well.
 5. Helena Kesch indicated a DEI consultant will be hired to bring a disability and inclusion lens to look at the project holistically.
 6. Ashley shared her vision of including information and statements in our current task that lend toward the broader projects OPRD will tackle going forward so that at least the thoughts and ideas are captured although they may not be addressed specifically by this workgroup.

3. Schedule and Plan

- a. Ms. Benson put together a project overview recognizing it is a flexible document and always in process and evolving.
- b. We will further discuss feedback and design issues over the next few meetings.
- c. Goals and schedule were reviewed. Our next meeting is May 25th and then June 22nd is tentatively the last meeting, but we may want others at as needed.
- d. Discussed the questionnaire and compartmentalizing people's needs. We revised the questionnaire to focus on asking people what they need in their experience and have added more general questions rather than identifying specific disabilities.

4. Listening Session #2 and Outreach

- a. Ms. Schaffer shared the Jam Board and updated on the latest session of about 22 people who attended.
- b. Discussion included support facilities, camping, water and trail access. People engaged and the jam board was full!
- c. One issue that resonated throughout the comments was why not make everything accessible where possible and not just leave the minimally required allotments – picnic

tables, portable toilets, sites, etc. Other important issues mentioned were surface to surface access, railings, signs, motor boat docs, longer ramps to reduce steepness, rentable equipment, tactile cues, gaps at transitions, charging for cars and for assistive devices like cochlear implants and wheelchairs.

- d. The group discussed fiberglass material on boat docks and facilities that go over the water, how animals react and the importance to the workgroup of knowing the best materials to use for certain features. Knowing what's been tested and vetted can help with future questions at parks for design or upgrades plus be open to new materials and technology, not limiting ourselves to old standards.

5. GAP Analysis and Integration of Workshop Feedback

- a. Ms. Benson shared some ideas about going forward.
 - i. Agency staff might be able to attend workshops to answer questions and to hear and give feedback.
 - ii. Janine suggested making some videos to show park access and allow for people to see and make comment on issues they are concerned with.
 - iii. Participants like to feel they are being heard.
 - iv. Tom suggested tying together what MIG has done so far including input from the two listening sessions to show people they are being heard.
 - v. The last listening session might be a wrap up of all the comments so far.
 - vi. Randy asked if there were new or a lot of repeat visitors to the sessions. Ashley said there was some overlap, but there were many new people as well. May 4, 2022 is the next session.
 - vii. Georgena mentioned a citizen who can only camp with a yurt and Helena indicated OPRD has issues with the maintenance of the yurts.
 - viii. Discussion of seasonal housing for staff that might be able to be incorporated into the reservation system for other uses.
- b. The GAP Analysis was pretty straightforward and will be further refined when all questionnaire feedback is in.

6. Wrap-up and Next Steps

- a. Ms. Benson summarized the current meeting's highlights.
- b. At the next meeting on May 25th, the group will cover feedback from the May 4th outreach workshop and survey information.
- c. The group may have some draft documents from MIG to discuss.
- d. Tom and Ashley supported the idea of continuing conversations with agency partners and allowing time for these experts to present what they are doing and how they are being responsive, even extending beyond the current project's short timeframe.