

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Accessibility Standards + Design Guidelines

Drafted December 2021



What is the history and intent of the project?

OPRD recognizes the need for accessible design standards and the removal of mobility barriers to meet the needs of all our park visitors.

We have laid groundwork through several other efforts. Most notably our ADA Transition Plan and the Governor's Task Force on the Outdoors: 2020 Framework for Action.

In 2021, House Bill 2171 helped direct the resources needed to create design standards to improve access across Oregon State parks in partnership with other agencies and the visitors we serve.

The House Bill was intended to implement many of the recommendations from the Governor's taskforce on the Outdoors that OREC ran in 2019. On page 11 of their report is a section on universal design standards.

This project is specifically focused on Section 4 of the bill.

HB 2171 Language Says:

SECTION 4. (1) The State Parks and Recreation Department shall establish statewide recommended standards for the design of recreation projects, including trails, docks and public recreation access points, to ensure that state recreation areas are accessible to members of the public of all mobility levels.

(2) The department shall apply the statewide recommended standards to all future department recreation projects by September 15th 2022.

What do you mean by standards and guidelines?

Design standards will illustrate the spatial layouts, features, and materials of select facilities that can be adapted across a variety of locations. Guidelines will give evaluation tools for project implementation and site planning. Select standards may have the addition of technical specifications that include detailed information about how to construct select design features.

What is the final product?

OPRD staff, the Advisory Group, and consultants will help create a guidebook outlining design standards, priorities, management practices, and an implementation strategy. There will also be resources online for other agencies and partners to utilize when designing their recreation sites. The guide book will serve as a resource to multiple partners and be implemented in new construction on Oregon State Park properties.

What amenities and features will you focus on?

The Advisory Group will help further define which amenities we focus on, so this may shift as the project evolves over the next several months. Initially priorities were set by barriers identified in the ADA Transition Plan and 2171.

These include: Elements in restrooms, camp site layout, cabins/yurts, site furnishings (tables, benches, fire rings, drinking fountains), marine facilities, trail heads, trails, gathering areas, signs, visitor centers, and viewpoints.

Is this project focused on new construction or existing recreation sites?

The primary focus is to create standards and design guidelines that will be used in new construction. However, standards and guidelines may be adapted to existing facilities.

What is the process for creating these materials?

OPRD is forming a small working advisory group of people who have direct expertise, agency partners, and able to provide technical review. This working group will help set priorities, provide feedback on design standards, and champion the project. The group will work with OPRD for 6 months to draft the guiding document, online resources, and further recommendations. The document will go through internal review through OPRD's Universal Access Group. In addition, the advisory group will hold a series of listening sessions to reach a broader audience of park users who may experience barriers to mobility in parks facilities throughout Oregon.

What is the project timeline?

The guidebook and suite of standards is due in September of 2022. I anticipate the Advisory Group to work on the draft document for a period of 6 months, with final review taking place in the summer of 2022 and moving to final approval in September. However, the continued refinement, addition of new standards, and other recommendations will need to be carried beyond 2022. Recognizing this project is one of many needed elements in making our parks accessible to all visitors, and the sustained commitment required.

Does the project consider Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in design standards?

We are utilizing concepts of Universal Design, to ensure we not only meet ADA and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS), but exceed minimum guidelines in an effort to create more welcoming spaces for all people. We recognize that making amenities and park facilities more accessible creates more welcoming spaces to all visitors. Design standards will emphasize mobility as the primary focus; however, equity is a lens we will apply throughout the process.

How can I become involved?

If you would like to stay informed, have questions, or comments you can email or call Iris Benson at 503-979-7522, iris.benson@OPRD.oregon.gov. I can add you to the email list serve and keep you updated on project progress.

Resources:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department ADA Transition Plan

<https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/AO/Documents/ACCESS-2021-ADA-Transition-Plan.pdf>

Governor's Task Force on the Outdoors: 2020 Framework for Action

<https://www.oregon.gov/orec/Documents/OREC-Gov-Task-Force-Outdoors-2020.pdf>

The Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards

<https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides/chapter-10-outdoor/>

<https://www.access-board.gov/files/aba/guides/outdoor-guide.pdf>

Accessibility Toolkit for Land Managers

[AccessibilityToolkit_forLM_2020_Reduced.pdf \(willamettepartnership.org\)](https://www.willamettepartnership.org/files/AccessibilityToolkit_forLM_2020_Reduced.pdf)

Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG) Pocket Version

<https://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf15232811/pdf15232811dpi300.pdf>

Accessibility in the National Parks Service

https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/upload/All_In_Accessibility_in_the_NPS_2015-2020_FINAL.pdf