
Designing Accessibility (ADA) into Outdoor Recreation

What does it mean?

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**WHY is accessibility
so important?**



57 million people have a disability.

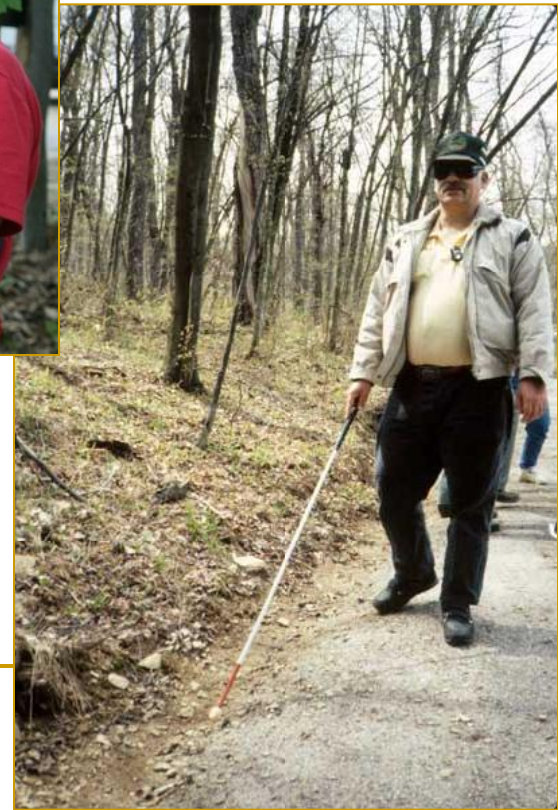
People recreate with
their family and friends.



*Opportunities for ALL
Encouraging
Enjoyment and Valuing
of Outdoors
Improving Health &
Wellness*



**And disability often comes
with aging.**



Outdoor Recreation



Accessible Outdoor Recreation



Serve people of **ALL** ages and abilities.

“Accessible” & “Inclusive” ?

- **Accessible** = a facility's in compliance with the federal accessibility standards for that type of facility, when it's constructed or reconstructed.
 - **Inclusive** = a place where people of all backgrounds, races, ages and abilities can participate together without limitations.
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What's the correct term?

- “Handicap” or “Disability”
 - Handicap = barrier
 - Disability = a medically definable condition

Person = “Person with a disability”

- “Handicapped Accessible”
- or “ADA Accessible”



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- ~~“Handicapped Accessible”~~
- or ~~“ADA Accessible”~~
- “Accessible”

Other Terminology?

there are legal requirements...

Where does it say I have to do that?

- **Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968:**

Facilities are to comply with the applicable accessibility requirements if they are designed, constructed, altered, or leased by, for, or on behalf of a Federal agency, or with funds from a Federal agency.

Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) 2006

- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:**

Programs and activities are not to exclude a person just because they have a disability

if program is conducted

- by a Federal agency
 - or by those entities using federal lands or receiving federal funds for their program.
-

Where does it say.....?

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990:

- ❑ Programs and facilities are not to exclude a person just because they have a disability.
- ❑ New construction/alteration is to comply with the applicable accessibility requirements.
 - 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADASAD)
- ❑ State and local governments
- ❑ Public accommodations
 - Businesses, organizations and other entities...
 - open to the public.

Outdoor Recreation presents Opportunities:

Each Visitor chooses:

- The **Type** of recreation that person wants to pursue
 - and the **Setting** for that recreation
 - where that type of recreation is allowed
-

Will a Person with a Disability Go to a Facility, Area, or Trail?

- It is NOT the agency, State, or organization's decision as to whether or not a person with a disability is likely to use a facility, area or trail.
 - The individual -with or without a disability- determines where he/she will go.
 - The laws = accessibility is to be part of all new construction or reconstruction.
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Outdoor Recreation FACILITIES and Accessibility

Alphabet Soup

Title III

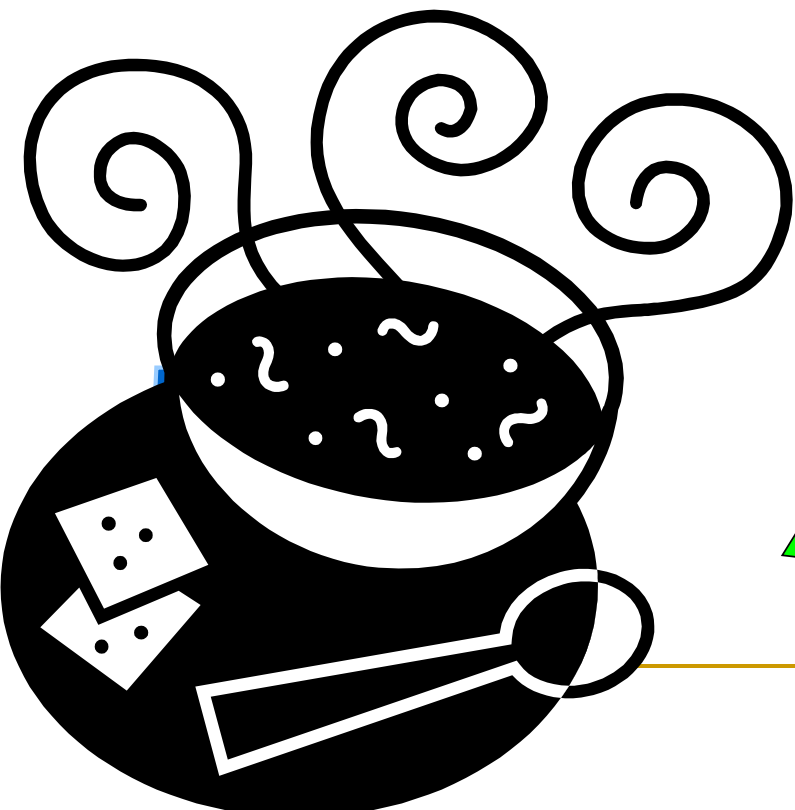
ADDA

Title II

ADASAD

50

ABBA4
ABBAAS



ADA Standards for Accessible Design 2010 (ADASAD)



Accessibility Standards under the ADA

- ADA Standards for Accessible Design - 2010 (ADASAD)
 - **Chapters 1 – 9**
 - Grounds and Floor Surfaces, Turning Space, Reach Ranges, etc.
 - Accessible Routes (Walkways, Doors, Ramps, etc.)
 - Parking
 - Restrooms, Drinking Fountains, etc.
 - Communication – Indoor Signs, Fire Alarms, etc.
 - Special Spaces: Dressing Rooms, Kitchens, etc.
 - Tables, Benches, Service Counters
-

ADASAD Chapters 1-9



Accessibility Standards under the ADA

- ADA Standards for Accessible Design - 2010 (ADASAD)
 - **Chapter 10**
 - Amusement rides
 - Rec Boating Areas (Gangways, Boarding Piers at boat ramps), Boat Slips,
 - Exercise machines
 - Fishing piers and platforms
 - Golf facilities
 - Miniature Golf facilities
 - Play areas (playgrounds)
 - Swimming pools. Wading pools, and Spas
-
- Shooting facilities and Firing ranges

ADASAD Chapter 10 - Boating



Chapter 10 - Fishing Piers



Chapter 10 - Playgrounds



Playgrounds



Accessibility Standards under the ABA:

(Federal Agencies)

■ ABA Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) -2013

Chapter 10 includes: *Outdoor Developed Recreation Areas*

- ❑ Campgrounds,
- ❑ Picnic Areas,
- ❑ Viewing Areas,
- ❑ the Routes in between
- ❑ Beach Access
- ❑ Trails (for Hiking)

■ Legal requirement for federal agencies, work done on federal lands AND work done with funding from a federal agency **if...**

■ **Best Practice for all under ADA** until final in ADASAD.

Camping



Picnicking



Viewing at Overlooks



Swimming at Beaches



Camping / Picnic Related Elements



Camping /Picnic Related Elements



Firerings



**Critical: Fire building surface...No Lower than 9"
Cooking surface...No Lower than 15"**

Picnic Tables



Picnic Tables



Paths in outdoor areas

**Pathways are often a critical factor
in providing accessibility.**

Pathways

- **Accessible route** in ADASAD
 - Site arrival point to entrance of building served by that arrival site...the parking lot to the front door.
 - Within a site ..connecting buildings, spaces or elements where there is pedestrian access between those features.
 - The hallways in a building, the sidewalks
 - In a playground, sports, complex, golf course, etc.
-

Accessible Route (ADASAD)



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 - **Outdoor recreation access route (ORAR)** in ABAAS (Chapter 10)= a route that connects 2 facilities in an outdoor developed recreation area (“recreation sites”) such as:
 - camping unit and water source
 - picnic tables and toilet building, etc.
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Outdoor Recreation Access Route (ORAR)



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- **Outdoor recreation access route (ORAR)** in ABAAS (Chapter 10) = a route that connects 2 facilities in an outdoor developed recreation area (“recreation sites”) such as:
 - camping unit and water source
 - picnic tables and toilet building, etc.

- **Trail** in ABAAS (Chapter 10) = a trail is a route that is designed, constructed, designated for recreational pedestrian use
 - A trail is NOT an ORAR.

Trails



The Test ..for Surface Firmness and Stability:

(1) Could a person riding a narrow-tired bicycle cross the surface easily without the wheels sinking into or disturbing the surface?



AND

(2) Could a heavy child in a folding umbrella-style stroller, with the small plastic wheels, be pushed across that surface without those small wheels sinking into or distorting the surface?



The wheel configurations on those two devices are similar to the large rear tires and the small front casters of the average wheelchair.

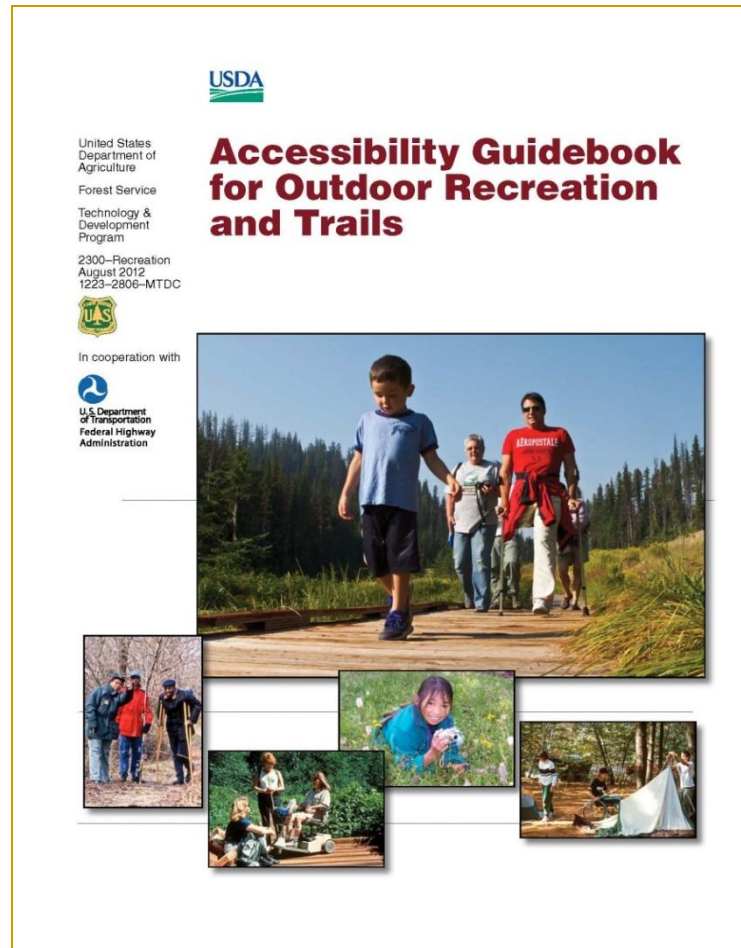
While this method for determining firmness and stability is not scientifically accurate, it has proven to be effective.

USFS Resources:

- Forest Service Outdoor Developed Area Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG)
 - Campgrounds, picnic areas, viewing areas, beach access and so forth
- Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines (FSTAG)
 - New or altered pedestrian hiking trails.
- Forest Service *Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails.*
 - The How-Tos...

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- *Hard copies - available at: Report.Center@dot.gov*

USFS Resource:



Available at - <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/national-forests-grasslands/accessibility>

Order Black and White hard copies at copies - Report.Center@dot.gov

USFS Resources....

Pocket Guides



Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines (FSTAG) Pocket Version



Forest Service

National Technology & Development Program

1529-2812-MTDC
Recreation

October 2015



Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG) Pocket Version



Forest Service

National Technology & Development Program

1523-2811-MTDC
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Additional Resources

- www.ada.gov = Dept. of Justice ADA website
 - 800 - 514 - 0301 = ADA Information Line
 - U.S. Access Board= www.access-board.gov
 - www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/national-forests-grasslands/accessibility = US Forest Service Accessibility Resources
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Designing Accessibility Into the Outdoor Environment

- Preserving desired recreation experience
 - Protecting the natural environment/resource
 - Maximizing accessibility
- = A Sustainable, Inclusive Opportunity for ALL!**
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