

# Introduction to the Accessibility Standards for Trails, Shared Use Paths and Public Rights of Way



## Unique Paths

- Accessible Routes
- Outdoor Recreation Access Routes
- Trails
- Beach Access Routes
- Pedestrian Access Routes
- Shared Use Paths
- Pedestrian Circulation Paths


© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 123

123

Accessibility Standards

## Accessible Route

- At least one accessible route shall connect accessible buildings, accessible facilities, accessible elements, and accessible spaces that are on the same site (ADA-ABA 206.2.2)



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 124

124

Outdoor Developed Areas

## Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- Picnic (F245) & Camping Units (F244)
  - Within the accessible units;
  - To common use and public use areas serving the accessible units; and
  - To adjacent recreation facilities from the accessible units.
- To Viewing Areas (F246)
- To Trailheads (F247)




© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 125

125

Outdoor Developed Areas

## Trails (F247)

- A pedestrian route developed primarily for outdoor recreational purposes. A pedestrian route developed primarily to connect elements, spaces, or facilities within a site is not a trail.  
(Draft Final Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas, F106.5)




© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 126

126

Outdoor Developed Areas

## Beach Access Route (F248)

- Coincide with pedestrian access points;
- From parking facilities, toilet facilities or bathing facilities;
- Including dune crossings, stairways or ramps leading from boardwalks;
- Connect entry point at beach to:
  - High tide level at tidal beaches;
  - Mean high water level at river beaches; or
  - Normal recreation water level at lake, pond, and reservoir beaches.  
(Draft Final Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas, 1018.2)



Source: ACCESSMAT by AccessRec

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 127

127


Public Rights of Way

## Pedestrian Access Route (203.2)

- A continuous and unobstructed path of travel provided for pedestrians with disabilities within or coinciding with a pedestrian circulation path.

### Pedestrian Circulation Path

- A prepared exterior or interior surface provided for pedestrian travel in the public right-of-way.



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 128

128

# Introduction to the Accessibility Standards for Trails, Shared Use Paths and Public Rights of Way

## Public Rights of Way

### Shared Use Path (203.3)

- A type of trail designed to be part of a transportation system, providing off-road routes for a variety of users.
- Bicyclists, pedestrians, skaters and others.
- Supplement to on-road bike lanes, shared roadways, bike boulevards, and paved shoulders.
- They may extend or complement a roadway network.
- Design similar to roadway design but on a smaller scale and for lower speeds.



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

129

129

### Example of Deviations in Technical Provisions Running Slope\*

Type of Path	Max slope	Max segment length	Handrails
Accessible Route	Less than 5% 5 to 8.33% max	Infinity 30 ft max	Not required Required
Outdoor Recreation Access Route	Up to 8.33% 8.33 to 10% max	50 ft max 30 ft max	Exception
Trail	Up to 8.33% 8.33 to 10% 10 to 12% max	200 ft max 30 ft max 10 ft	Exception
Beach Access Route	Up to 8.33% 8.33 to 10% max	50 ft max 30 ft max	Exception
Golf Access Route	Max slope not specified Alternative for Golf Car Passage		Exception
Playground Access Route	Up to 6.25% max	Not specified	Exception
Pedestrian Access Route	5% within right of way or grade established of adjacent street; 5% max outside of contained right of way	Not specified	Not specified

\*Additional technical provisions are required.

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

130

130

### Group Exercise

1. Identify the different types of paths located throughout the facility. What kind of path is it? An accessible route? An outdoor recreation access route? A trail? A pedestrian access route? A shared use path?
2. Which technical provisions should be applied to each path?
3. Should other paths be planned for visitor use?

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

131

131

## Outdoor Developed Areas

### Outdoor Recreation Access Routes

- A continuous, unobstructed path that is intended for pedestrian use and that connects accessible elements, spaces, and facilities within camping and picnic facilities and at viewing areas and trailheads.
- ORARs cannot be used at other types of facilities, such as educational campuses, office parks, or theme parks.

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

134

134

## Outdoor Developed Areas

### Outdoor Recreation Access Routes (1016)

- 36" min width
- 60 x 60 passing space every 200 ft min
- Tread obstacles ½" max C/A/B or 1" max other surface type
- Openings ½" max
- Resting intervals
- Protruding objects

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

135

135

## Outdoor Developed Areas

### Outdoor Recreation Access Routes (1016)

#### Running Slope

- 1:20 (5%) for any distance
- 1:12 (8.33%) for 50 ft max
- 1:10 (10%) for 30 ft max

#### Cross slope

- 1:48 (2.08%) C/A/B
- 1:20 (5%) max for other surface type



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

136

136

# Introduction to the Accessibility Standards for Trails, Shared Use Paths and Public Rights of Way

Outdoor Developed Areas

## Trails (1017)

- Newly constructed trails
- Existing trails
  - When the original design, function, or purpose is changed.
  - Altered portion of the trail directly connects to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the technical requirements for trails.
  - The altered portion of the existing trail must comply with the technical requirements for trails.

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

137

137

Outdoor Developed Areas

## Trails (1017)

- Firm & stable surface
- 36" min clear width
- Turning space at intervals not greater than 1,000 ft



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

138

138

Outdoor Developed Areas

## Trails (1017)

- Tread obstacles ½" max C/A/B or 2" max other surface type
- Protruding objects



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

139

139

Outdoor Developed Areas

## Trails (1017)

### Running Slope

- 1:20 (5%) for any distance
- 1:12 (8.33%) for 200 ft max
- 1:10 (10%) for 30 ft max
- 1:8 (12.5%) for 10 ft max

### Cross slope

- 1:48 (2.08%) C/A/B
- 1:20 (5%) max for other surface type



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

140

140

Outdoor Developed Areas

## Conditions for Exceptions (1019)



1. Compliance is not practicable due to terrain.
2. Compliance cannot be accomplished with the prevailing construction practices.
3. Compliance would fundamentally alter the function or purpose of the facility or the setting.
4. Compliance is limited or precluded by any of the following laws, or by decisions or opinions issued or agreements executed pursuant to any of the following laws:
  - Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.);
  - National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.);
  - National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 470 et seq.);
  - Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1131 et seq.); or
  - Other federal, state, or local law the purpose of which is to preserve threatened or endangered species; the environment; or archaeological, cultural, historical, or other significant natural features.

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

141

141

Outdoor Developed Areas

## Noted Conditions for Exceptions

- 1011.2 Exception (clear ground space in alterations to outdoor constructed features);
- 1013.2 Exception (any provision for tent pads and tent platforms);
- 1014.1 Exception 1 (any provision for camp shelters);
- 1015.1 Exception (any provision in alterations to viewing areas);
- 1016.1 Exception 1 (any provision for outdoor recreation access routes in alterations to existing camping facilities, picnic facilities, and trailheads);
- 1016.1 Exception 2 (any provision for outdoor recreation access routes at viewing areas);
- 1017.1 Exception 1 (any provision for trails); and
- 1018.1 Exception 1 (any provision for beach access routes).

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

142

142

# Introduction to the Accessibility Standards for Trails, Shared Use Paths and Public Rights of Way

Outdoor Developed Areas

## Trailhead

- Access point to the trail
- 20% of each type of outdoor constructed feature provided within trailhead to be accessible
- At least one outdoor recreation access route to connect to parking, site arrival point, the starting point of trail, accessible elements, spaces, and facilities within trailhead



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 146

146

Outdoor Developed Areas

## Trailhead Signage (1017.10)

- Length of the trail or trail segment
- Type of trail surface
- Typical and minimum trail tread width
- Typical and maximum trail grade
- Typical and maximum trail cross slope
- NO International Symbol for Accessibility

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 147


147



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 148

148

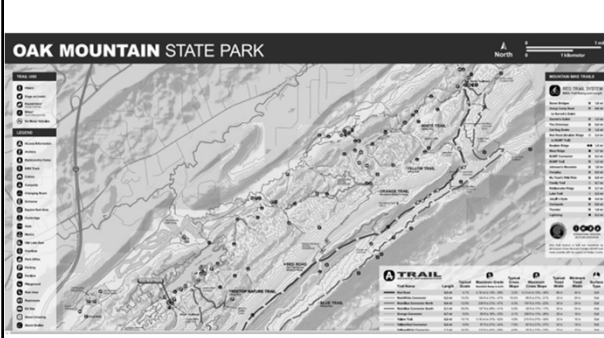
## Universal Trail Assessment Process



[https://www.beneficialdesigns.com/images/BDphotos/UTAP-HETAP\\_Lakeshore\\_Video\\_2017-01-26.mp4](https://www.beneficialdesigns.com/images/BDphotos/UTAP-HETAP_Lakeshore_Video_2017-01-26.mp4)

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 150

150



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 151

151



## Trails & the Title II Program Access Standard

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC 152

152

## Outdoor Developed Areas

### Beach Access Routes (1018)

- Required when entity constructs or alters any circulation paths, parking facilities, toilet facilities, or bathing facilities that serve the beach (not to exceed 20% of the costs of construction or alteration).
- Beach nourishment project (not to exceed 20% of the costs of a beach nourishment project to provide beach access routes).

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

155

155

## Outdoor Developed Areas

### Beach Access Routes (1018)

- One beach access route for every ½ mile of shoreline administered by the agency
- Coincide with pedestrian access points
- Connect an entry point to
  - the high tide level at tidal beaches
  - the mean high water level at river beaches
  - the normal recreation water level at lake, pond, and reservoir beaches



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

156

156

## Outdoor Developed Areas

### Beach Access Routes (1018)

- 60" min width (can reduce to 48" at dune crossings)
- Tread obstacles ½" max C/A/B or 1" max other surface type
- Openings ½" max
- Resting intervals
- Protruding objects



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

157

157

## Outdoor Developed Areas

### Beach Access Routes (1018)

#### Running Slope

- 1:20 (5%) for any distance
- 1:12 (8.33%) for 50 ft max
- 1:10 (10%) for 30 ft max

#### Cross slope

- 1:48 (2.08%) C/A/B
- 1:20 (5%) max for other surface type



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

158

158



### Access to Shared Use Paths & Public Rights of Way

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

159

159

## Public Rights of Way

### Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)

- Final guidelines issued August 8, 2023 (NPRM 2011)
- <https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/complete.html>

- Pedestrian access routes
- Pedestrian crossings
- Curb ramps & blended transitions
- Detectable warnings
- Accessible pedestrian signals
- Furnishings
- On-street accessible parking spaces
- Shared use paths



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

160

160

# Introduction to the Accessibility Standards for Trails, Shared Use Paths and Public Rights of Way

## Public Rights of Way

### Pedestrian Access Route

- 4 ft min clear width, exclusive of the width of the curb
- Running slope
  - Within right of way: 5% max OR grade established for adjacent street
  - Not within right of way: 5% max
  - Within a crosswalk: 5% max



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

161

161

## Public Rights of Way

### Pedestrian Access Route

- 2% max cross slope
- Changes in level
  - ¼ inch vertical
  - ½ inch beveled
  - Up to 6 inches with 8.33% running slope
  - Greater than 6 inches must comply as ramp
- Stable, firm and slip resistant surface
- Horizontal openings shall not allow passage of ½ inch sphere; elongated openings are permitted with long dimension perpendicular to dominant path of travel.



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

162

162

## Public Rights of Way

### Curb Ramps & Blended Transitions (304)

- Perpendicular and parallel curb ramps with max 8.33% running slope
- Blended transition up to 5% running slope
- Minimum width 48 inches
- Detectable warnings are now required



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

163

163

## Public Rights of Way

### Pedestrian Access Route at Shared Use Path

- (203.3) Pedestrian access routes complying with R302 shall be provided within pedestrian circulation paths, including sidewalks and shared use paths.
- On shared use paths, the clear width of the pedestrian access route shall extend the full width provided for pedestrian circulation on the path. Obstructions, such as bollards, shall not reduce the clear width of the pedestrian access route to less than 48 inches measured from the edge of the obstruction.
- Where the clear width of pedestrian access routes is less than 60 inches, passing spaces shall be provided at intervals of 200 feet maximum. Passing spaces shall be 60 inches minimum by 60 inches minimum. Passing spaces and pedestrian access routes are permitted to overlap.



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

164

## Public Rights of Way

### Existing Physical Constraints (R202.3)

- In alterations, where existing physical constraints make compliance with applicable requirements technically infeasible, compliance with these requirements is required to the maximum extent feasible. Existing physical constraints include, but are not limited to, underlying terrain, underground structures, adjacent developed facilities, drainage, or the presence of a significant natural or historic feature.



#### Alteration or altered

- A change to or an addition of a pedestrian facility in an existing, developed public right-of-way that affects or could affect pedestrian access, circulation, or usability.

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

165

165

## Public Rights of Way

### Street Furniture (209/304)

- Drinking fountains
- Permanent street toilets
- Portable toilet units
  - 5% accessible or no fewer than 1
- Tables
- Sales & service counters
- Benches
  - 50% but no less than 1 with adjacent clear ground space



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

166

166

## Public Rights of Way

### On-Street Parallel Parking (211/310)

- Scoping determined by block type
- Minimum 24 ft length x 13 ft width
- Connected to pedestrian access route via curb ramp or blended transition
- 50% of length free of obstructions
- Signage



© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

167

167

## Public Rights of Way

### Other Elements

- Pedestrian signals
- Vertical clearance
- Transit stops & shelters
- Passenger loading zones
- Stairs & escalators
- Handrails



Source: NYC DOT



Source: Houston Metro

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

168

168

### Resources

- Guide for Outdoor Developed Areas  
<https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides/chapter-10-outdoor/#introduction>
- Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines  
<https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/>
- Accessibility Online Webinar Archives  
[www.accessibilityonline.org](http://www.accessibilityonline.org)
- ADA Checklists  
[www.adachecklists.org](http://www.adachecklists.org)

© 2023 Skulski Consulting LLC

169

169