The United States Access Board is an independent federal agency that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership in accessible design and the development of accessibility guidelines and standards.
The US Access Board is an independent Federal agency charged to develop accessibility guidelines for new construction and alteration under several laws.
The Access Board is the Federal government’s **accessibility specialist**. Our mandate includes responsibility for:

--rulemaking *(developing guidelines)*;
--technical assistance *and* training;
--research, *and* 

**What we do...**
enforcing ABA standards for Federal agencies.
ABA Coverage

Applies to facilities designed, built, altered or leased with Federal funds

- Federal buildings (e.g., post offices)
- Non-Federal buildings (e.g., school built with Federal money)
Outdoor Developed Areas

- Trails
- Picnic/Camping
- Beach Access Routes
- Viewing areas
Covered

• Facilities constructed or altered by
  – Federal agencies
  – Non-federal entities constructing facilities on federal land on behalf of federal agencies e.g., a concession contract, partnership agreement, or similar arrangement

Not Covered

• Facilities subject to ADA

• ADA facilities built or altered with Federal grants and loans (ABA)
Effective November 25, 2013

New construction and alterations
ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines
Format and organization

ADA Chapter 2 Scoping
ABA Chapter 2 Scoping
Technical Chapters (3 – 10)
Format and organization

• ABA Chapter 2: Scoping Requirements
• F244 Camping Facilities
• F245 Picnic Facilities
• F246 Viewing Areas
• F247 Trails
• F248 Beach Access Routes
Format and organization

Chapter 10: Recreation Facilities

- 1011 Outdoor Constructed Features
- 1012 Parking Spaces within Accessible Camping Units and Picnic Units
- 1013 Tent Pads and Tent Platforms
- 1014 Camp Shelters
- 1015 Viewing Areas
- 1016 Outdoor Recreation Access Routes
- 1017 Trails
- 1018 Beach Access Routes
- 1019 Conditions for Exceptions
Conditional exceptions

- Apply on a provision-by-provision basis
- Where full compliance with a technical provision is not possible because of the limitations and constraints included in the conditional exceptions...
- “extent practicable”
Entire trail exemption

• When applying conditional exceptions to portions of the trail results in exempting the entire trail or beach access route from the technical provisions…

• Notify the Board where an entire trail or beach access route is exempted
Conditional exceptions

- Compliance is not practicable due to terrain

- Compliance cannot be accomplished with the prevailing construction practices
Conditional exceptions

- Compliance would fundamentally alter the function or purpose of the facility or the setting

- Compliance is precluded by the:
  - Endangered Species Act;
  - National Environmental Policy Act;
  - National Historic Preservation Act;
  - Wilderness Act; or
  - Other Federal, State, or local laws
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exception Permitted for:</th>
<th>Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Constructed Features - clear ground space</td>
<td>Alterations Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tent Pads/Tent Platforms - any provision</td>
<td>New Construction or Alterations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Shelters any provision</td>
<td>New Construction or Alterations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Recreation Access Routes at Camping facilities, Picnic facilities, and Trailheads - any provision</td>
<td>Alterations Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing Areas - any provision</td>
<td>Alterations Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Recreation Access Routes to Viewing Areas -- any provision</td>
<td>New Construction or Alterations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails - any provision</td>
<td>New Construction or Alterations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach Access routes - any provision</td>
<td>New Construction or Alterations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trails

- Pedestrian route developed primarily for outdoor recreational purposes
- Newly constructed/altered trail directly connected to a trailhead or another trail that substantially complies with guidelines
- Conditional exceptions permitted – new and altered
- Shared use paths to be addressed in separate rulemaking
Trailheads

- Outdoor space developed to serve as an access point to a trail
  - Not a junction of two or more trails where no other access point is provided
- 20% of each type of outdoor constructed feature provided within trailhead to be accessible
Trailheads

- At least one outdoor recreation access route connect to parking, site arrival point, the starting point of trail, accessible elements, spaces, and facilities within trailhead.
Trail signs

• New trail information signs provided at trailheads on newly constructed or altered trails
• Required information
  • length of the trail or trail segment
  • surface type
  • tread width (typical/minimum)
  • running and cross slope (typical/maximum)
Trails

- 36 inches minimum width
- Passing spaces – every 1,000 feet where less than 60 inches in width
- Tread obstacles – 2 inches maximum, except concrete, asphalt, or board = ½ inch
- Openings – ½ inch maximum
Trails

- Surface – firm and stable
Research Projects

National Trails Surface Study

Stabilized Engineered Wood Fiber for Accessible Trails
Installation and Serviceability Results: Governor Dodge State Park, Wisconsin

Theodore L. Lautenbach

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Forest Products Laboratory
Genesis Technical Report
FPL-OTR-103

National Center on Accessibility

UNITED STATES ACCESS BOARD
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Running Slope of Trail Segment</th>
<th>Maximum Length of Segment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steeper than 1:20</td>
<td>But not Steeper than 1:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:12</td>
<td>1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>1:8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trails

- Cross slope – 1:20 max, except concrete, asphalt, or boards = 1:48
- Resting intervals – 60 in. long, alongside trail - turning space, slope 1:20 max, except concrete, asphalt, or boards = 1:48
- Gates and barriers – clear width, gate hardware
Protruding Objects

• **Constructed** elements
• On trails, resting intervals, and passing spaces
• Compliance with 307
Trail Facilities

• Routes that connect trails = trail
  Camping facilities
  Picnic facilities
  Viewing areas
  Pit toilets

• Trails that do not meet the guidelines
• Outdoor constructed features
Outdoor Recreation Access Route

• Modified accessible route
• Connects outdoor constructed features within picnic facilities/units, camping facilities/units, designated trailheads or viewing areas
Outdoor recreation access routes

• Conditional exceptions permitted when altering existing ORAR
Outdoor recreation access routes

- Where ORAR are provided within vehicular ways – exception for passing spaces, slope, and resting intervals
Outdoor recreation access routes

- Adjacent recreation facilities
Outdoor recreation access routes

- Surface – firm and stable
- Clear width – 36 inches minimum
- Passing space – required where width is less than 60 inches - 200 ft. max
- Obstacles – 1 inch maximum, except concrete, asphalt, or boards = ½ inch
- Openings – ½ inch
### Outdoor recreation access routes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Running Slope of Segment of Outdoor Recreation Access Route</th>
<th>Maximum Length of Segment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steeper than 1:20 than But not Steeper than 1:12</td>
<td>50 feet (15 m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:12</td>
<td>30 feet (9 m)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outdoor recreation access routes

- Cross slope – 1:20 maximum, except concrete, asphalt, or boards = 1:48

- Resting intervals – 60 inches in length minimum, adjacent to ORAR - turning space

- Protruding object
  constructed elements
Outdoor constructed features
Outdoor constructed features

- Picnic tables
- Fire rings
- Grills
- Fireplaces and woodstoves
- Trash and recycling containers
- Water hydrants
- Utility and sewage hookups
- Outdoor rinsing showers
- Benches
- Viewing Scopes
Outdoor constructed features

- **Scoping** - Camping facilities, Picnic facilities; Viewing areas, Trailheads, and Trails

- Outdoor constructed features are not scoped at beaches
Outdoor constructed features

- Clear ground space – exception where feature is altered, but surface is not OR where conditional exceptions permit departures in alterations
- Size and location – addressed in a table for each element
- Surface – firm and stable
- Surface slope – 1:20 except asphalt, concrete, or boards = 1:48 maximum
- Openings = ½ inch
Picnic tables

- One wheelchair space for each 24 linear feet of usable table surface, knee and toe clearance required at space (306)
Picnic tables

- Positioned for forward approach
- Knee and toe complying with 306
- 36 inches along all usable sides of the table
Fire rings, grills, fireplaces, and woodstoves

- fire building surface - 9 inches minimum above the clear ground space
- cooking surface – 15 inches minimum – 34 inches maximum above clear ground space.
Fire rings, grills, fireplaces, and woodstoves

- Clear space - 48 inches by 48 inches on all usable sides of the fire ring, grill, fireplace, or woodstove
- Center the space on each usable side
- Raised edges/walls – depth 10 inches max.
- Operable parts – must be in reach range but no req. for grasping, twisting, pinching (309.4)
Viewing scopes

- Where provided in viewing areas 20%, not < 1 of each
  - eyepieces located between 43 inches minimum and 51 inches maximum
- Operable parts – exceptions for several features
Viewing scopes

• 36 inches by 48 inches positioned for forward approach.

• Eyepiece centered on the space.

• Knee and toe clearance complying with 306.
Water hydrants

- 48 by 72 inches
- Located so that water spout is 11” min. and 12” max. from the rear center of the long side of the space
- Adjoining ORAR, trail, or another clear space
• Water spouts – 28 inches minimum – 36 inches maximum.

• Operable parts – comply with reach ranges only

• No requirement for tight grasp, twisting, or pinching with one hand (309.4)
Utility and sewage hookups

- 30 inches by 60 inches
- Locate space so that the hook-ups are at the rear center
- Bollards may not obstruct the clear ground space
Outdoor rinsing showers

• Clear ground space - 60 inches by 60 inches centered on the shower heads
• Locate the clear ground space so that the shower pedestal is at rear end of the space.

• At least one handheld or fixed head 48 inches minimum
Benches

• Clear ground space - 36 inches by 48 inches positioned near the bench with one side of the space adjoining an ORAR or trail.

• Clear ground space may not overlap the outdoor recreation access route or trail.
Trash and recycling containers

- Clear ground space
  36 X 48 – forward
  30 X 60 – parallel

- Adjoin or connect to an ORAR, trail
Trash and recycling containers

- Hinged lid receptacles designed to keep out large animals not required to comply with operable parts. (309.4)

- Dumpster type trash and recycling receptacles - not required to comply with reach ranges or operable parts.
Picnic facilities

- Two new terms
  - Picnic facility – developed for outdoor recreational purposes that contains picnic units.
Picnic facilities

• Picnic unit – outdoor space in a picnic facility that contains outdoor constructed features
Picnic facilities

• At least 20% of picnic units in picnic facility where two or more picnic units are provided
• Two or fewer = each accessible
Picnic facilities

- 20% of outdoor constructed features in public and common use areas serving accessible picnic units
- Dispersion of accessible picnic units required
- ORAR connection
Camping facilities

- Two new terms
- Camping facility – developed for outdoor recreational purposes that contains camping units.
Camping facilities

- Camping unit – outdoor space in a camping facility that contains outdoor constructed features, RV parking spaces, tent pads or tent platforms, or camp shelters.
## Camping facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Number of Camping Units Provided in Camping Facility</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Accessible Camping Units Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 25</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 to 50</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 to 75</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76 to 100</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101 to 150</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151 to 200</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201 and over</td>
<td>8, plus 2 percent of the number over 200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Camping facilities

• Applies to each type of camping unit provided.

• Dispersion of accessible camping units required
Outdoor constructed features

- Multiple features within accessible units at least 2
- 20% of OCF’s in public and common use areas serving accessible camping units
- ORAR connection
Camping facilities

- Parking spaces within accessible camping units
  - RV space – 20 feet wide minimum, exception for 16 feet where two adjacent spaces are provided
  - Other vehicles – 16 feet wide minimum
  - Surface – firm and stable
  - Slope - 1:20 maximum, except asphalt, concrete, or boards = 1:48
Camping facilities

• Tent pads and tent platforms
  • Clear ground space – 48 inches on all usable sides, exception where conditional exceptions apply
  • Surface – stable and firm
  • Slope – 1:20 maximum, except asphalt, concrete, or boards = 1:48
  • Tent platform – 19 inches maximum above surface
Camping facilities

Tent platforms/ Camping shelters

- Floor height where elevated at entrance - 19 inches maximum above ground

- Where level entry or ramped entry is provided – turning space required
Camping facilities

- Camp shelters – conditional exceptions may apply
  - Clear ground space at entrance – 36 inches minimum by 48 inches minimum
  - Surface – firm and stable
  - Slope – 1:20 maximum, except asphalt, concrete, or boards = 1:48
Viewing areas

- Outdoor space developed for viewing a landscape or point of interest
- 20% of each type of outdoor constructed feature
- ORAR connection
Viewing areas

- Clear ground space –
  - at each distinct viewing location
  - one full unobstructed side of space to adjoin or overlap an ORAR, trail, or another clear ground space
Beach access routes

Where required –

The construction or alteration of any of the following facilities to serve the beach:

1. Circulation paths;
2. Parking facilities;
3. Toilet facilities; or
4. Bathing facilities

Exception limits the cost of the beach access route to no more than 20 percent of the cost of constructing or altering the facilities
Beach access routes

• Permanent or removable
• Minimum number – at least one for each ½ mile of shoreline managed by the entity
  • Not required to exceed the number of pedestrian access points to a beach provided by the entity
Beach access routes

- Connections -
  - High tide level
  - Mean high water
  - Normal recreation pool
- Clear width - 60 inches min.
- Surface - firm and stable
- Obstacles - 1 inch max, except concrete, asphalt, or boards = ½ inch
Technical Assistance

- Publications and guides
- On-line guide
- Newsletter
- Webinar series
Shared Use Paths
Types of Facilities

Sidewalks

Trails

Accessible Route

Shared-use Paths
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEDESTRIAN ROUTE</th>
<th>KEY ELEMENTS of DESIGN INTENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACCESSIBLE ROUTES</strong></td>
<td>Connects accessible elements and spaces of a building or facility on a site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SIDEWALK</strong></td>
<td>Parallel to roadway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Designed for pedestrians (not bicycles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sometimes part of the roadway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRAIL</strong></td>
<td>Designed for the “recreation experience”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does not connect elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Generally includes a “trailhead”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has limited transportation function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHARED-USE PATHS</strong></td>
<td>Intended for multi-use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bicycle/Transportation focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Machine “layed” surface (improved)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Often located in an “independent corridor” outside of the public right of way</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Technical provisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Running Slope</th>
<th>Cross Slope</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>1:12 max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAR</td>
<td>1:48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>1:8 max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUP</td>
<td>1:20 max</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Width</th>
<th>Surface</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Firm, stable, slip resistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAR</td>
<td>Firm, stable, slip resistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Firm, stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUP</td>
<td>Firm, stable, slip resistant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Technical provisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in Level</th>
<th>Openings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>1/4 inch abrupt; 1/2 inch beveled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAR</td>
<td>1/4 inch abrupt; 1/2 inch beveled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>2 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUP</td>
<td>1/4 inch abrupt; 1/2 inch beveled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protruding Objects</th>
<th>Level Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>27-80 inch height = 4 inch max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAR</td>
<td>27-80 inch height = 4 inch max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>27-80 inch height = 4 inch max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUP</td>
<td>27-80 inch height = 4 inch max</td>
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