Accessible Trails and Shared Use Paths
Trails
Key Elements of Trails

- Designed for the “recreation experience”
- Does not connect elements and spaces on a site
- Generally, includes a trailhead
- Has limited to no transportation function
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered</th>
<th>Not Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilities constructed or altered by</td>
<td>Facilities subject to ADA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal agencies</td>
<td>ADA facilities built or altered with Federal grants and loans (ABA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-federal entities constructing facilities on federal land on behalf of federal agencies e.g., a concession contract, partnership agreement, or similar arrangement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trail Width

- 36 inches minimum width
- 5ft x 5ft passing space every 1000ft if trail width is less than 60 inches
## Trail Slope/Grade

<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>200 feet (61 m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>But not Steeper than 1:12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:12</td>
<td>30 feet (9 m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>10 feet (3050 mm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Trail Technical Requirements

- Cross slope for trails constructed of concrete, asphalt, or board 1:48 max.
  - Otherwise 1:20 max.

- Surface must be firm and stable

- Gates and barriers – clear width, gate hardware operable parts
Tread Obstacles

- Measured vertically to the highest point
- If trail surface is constructed of concrete, asphalt, or board ½ inch max
  - Otherwise 2 inches max
- Openings – ½ inch maximum
Protruding Objects

- Constructed elements on trails (ex. Signs & other post mounted objects)
- Resting intervals and passing spaces
- Compliance with 307
Signage

Required information

- Length of the trail or trail segment
- Surface type
- Tread width (typical & minimum)
- Running and cross slope (typical & maximum)
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
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.
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”
Shared Use Paths
Key Elements of Shared Use Paths

- Intended for multi-use
- Bicycle/transportation focus
- Machined, layered surface (improved)
- Located in either an “independent corridor” or public right-of-way
Board working to finalize Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) – aiming to complete rule Fall 2022

Once adopted and implemented as enforceable standards, will apply to the construction and alteration of facilities covered by the ADA, the ABA, and the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504)
Shared Use Path width

- PROWAG does not specify a minimum path width

- However, entire path width must meet accessibility requirements

- Passing space every 200ft if shared use path width is less than 5ft
Pedestrian access routes located within street right-of-way shall not exceed the general grade established for the adjacent street.
Grade of Shared Use Path located outside the Right-of-Way

Where pedestrian access routes are **not** contained within a street right-of-way

Grade: 5 % max.
Shared Use Path Cross Slope
Cross Slope Exception at Signalized Intersection

- Shared use path pedestrian street crossings without yield or stop control

**Cross slope: 5% max**
Cross Slope Exception at Midblock Crossing

- Shared use path midblock pedestrian street crossings

  Cross slope can equal street or highway grade
Shared Use Path Surface

- Firm
- Stable
- Slip resistant
Changes in Level

(1/4 in)

(1/4 - 1/2 in)

1

2
Horizontal Openings

- Dominant direction of travel
- Long dimension perpendicular to dominant direction of travel
- 13 max
- 1/2
Flangeway Gaps
Curb Ramps at Shared Use Paths

Curb ramp must extend full width of a shared use path
Physical Constraints

Where compliance with grade requirements is not feasible due to:

- Existing terrain or infrastructure
- Right-of-way availability
- Notable natural feature, or similar existing physical constraints

Compliance is required to the extent practicable.
Where compliance with grade requirements is precluded by federal, state, or local laws the purpose of which is to preserve

- Threatened or endangered species
- The environment
- Archaeological, cultural, historical, or significant natural features

Compliance is required to the extent practicable.
Accessible Pedestrian Trails and Shared Use Paths full length webinar is archived at

https://www.accessibilityonline.org/ao/archives/