Inclusive Hiking

Q&A and Resources

Q1) Where can I find good examples of inclusive trails?

A1)

* [Tahquamenon Falls in Michigan’s UP](https://www.michigan.org/property/tahquamenon-falls-state-park)
* [National Park Service Bryce Canyon](https://www.nps.gov/brca/index.htm)
* KQED (PBS broadcast station) [Best Bay Area Accessible Hiking Trails Recommended by Disability Advocates](https://www.kqed.org/news/11953167/best-bay-area-accessible-hiking-trails-recommended-by-disability-advocates)
* [Unpaved Trails for All](http://www.unpavedtrailsforall.org/) includes a list of trails that have been reviewed for accessibility
* [Feliz Paseos Park](https://www.pima.gov/1238/Feliz-Paseos-Park) in Tucson, AZ; a universally designed park

Q2) Do you have any recommendations for gates that allow access for wheelchairs and assistive devices, but prohibit access for motorbikes and animals?

A2) There are a lot of good examples of [accessible gates for trails and roads](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Accessible-Gates.pdf) out there, each with distinct characteristics that fit the environment and application where they are installed. For example, there are simple hardware solutions that meet requirements for operable parts, reach range, etc. and are animal proof, and there are more robust design solutions like digital keypads and electronic fob options that are equally as effective and accessible. The best solution for gated access involves lots of discussion around the use, management, and maintenance of the affected area.

Q3) Is there a National Park that you think does a particularly good job of communicating trail accessibility information on their website?

A3)

* [National Park Service, Sequoia & Kings Canyon](https://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm)
* [Marin Headlands](https://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/marin-headlands-accessibility.htm) / Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Q4) Will links to the design documents be available?

A4) All of the design guidelines referenced in the presentation (ADA, ABA, and PROWAG) are available from the [U.S. Access Board](https://www.access-board.gov/).

Q5) Is a hover board considered an OPDMD?

A5) It may be if used as a mobility device by a person with a disability. However, in order to determine if the device can be accommodated in certain settings or circumstances, a covered entity would need to consider the assessment factors related to the device and the nature of its facilities and lands.

Q6) What are requirements and/or recommendations for a natural area beach where the high tide water's edge is 1/4-1/2 mile from a stable trail?

A6) Beach access routes only need to be put in where existing public pedestrian access to the beach is available. Consider that first. If this scenario necessitates the provision of a beach access route in this location, the route would need to extend the full length from the public access point (e.g., trail) to the high tide line. There are no limitations on length for beach access.

Q7) Any suggestions for accessible maps when it comes to audio description or audio apps?

A7) I do not have any specific suggestions for this at this time. One option to watch and see how it develops is [GoodMaps](http://www.goodmaps.com/).

Q8) Can you share any resources regarding trail accessibility for individuals who are blind or have low vision? Are you aware of any trails that are fully accessible for people who are blind?

A8) Some design qualities that contribute to a trail experience being accessible to individuals who are blind or have low vision may include: tactile maps and wayfinding; audio description and meaningful tactile representations of interpretive features; firm and stable surfacing that is free of large tread obstacles (e.g., roots, rocks) that may not be easily detectable or discernable within the landscape; clear tread width and overhead clearance (e.g., trimming back low hanging limbs); wide trail tread to bolster the opportunity for social engagement and good sighted guide technique; differentiation between trail surface and surrounding terrain (e.g., edging, contrasting colors, varying surface types); and objective information about the trail and its amenities provided in an accessible format online and at the trailhead. It is important to remember that not all individuals who are blind read braille. Use braille purposefully to convey critical messaging in intuitively located places.

Examples:

* [Aspen Trail Finder, Braille Trail](https://www.aspentrailfinder.com/braille-trail/)
* [Garrett Family Preserve in Cape May](https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/garrett-family-preserve-at-cape-island-creek/)

Q9) Can you provide any information about how ABA and ADA standards apply to federally designated wilderness areas?

A9) [Accessibility resources from the U.S. Forest Service](https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/national-forests-grasslands/accessibility/resources) include lots of great information on access to federally designated wilderness areas.