Outdoor and Recreational Accessibility

Presented by Ian Brown, Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
This presentation provides an overview, and may not address your ADA situation.
Presentation Overview

- Introduction
- Why does accessibility matter?
- Background on ADA and Regulations.
- 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
- Draft Final Accessibility Guidelines For Outdoor Developed Areas.
Introduction: Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living

The only cross-disability advocacy organization in the Lehigh Valley.
LVCIL provides a wide variety of services:

- Homelessness prevention for Veterans.
- Housing services.
- Employment coaching.
- Advocacy.
- Information & Referral.
- Peer Support.
- School-Based Services.
Introduction: Community Accessibility Program

- Funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council.
- Works to improve accessibility and acceptance of people with disabilities across the Commonwealth.
- Staff regularly review sites and plans for ADA compliance.
The Community Accessibility Program is committed to helping State and Local entities understand and meet their obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Why Does Accessibility Matter?
In the United States, 20% of People Have Mental or Physical Disabilities.
Accessibility = Relevance

- Friends and Family of People with Disabilities.
- Baby Boomers.
- Obesity Epidemic.
- Children Spending Less Time Outside.
Accessibility: It’s The Law

The ADA provides:

“No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of [a] disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of services, programs, or activities of a public entity....”

- Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 12132.
ADA, 2010 Standards, and Draft Outdoor Guidelines

- ADA: Law requiring that public spaces be accessible.
- 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: Binding, specific standards for accessibility.
- Draft Final Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Accessibility: Proposed additions to 2010 Standards that have not yet been adopted.
2010 Standards, and Draft Outdoor Guidelines

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2010 Standards, and Draft Outdoor Guidelines

- 2010 Standards: Binding
- Draft Outdoor Guidelines: Not Binding
Which Standard Applies?

Are 2010 Standards directly applicable?

Yes  
Apply 2010 Standard

No  
Apply Draft Guidelines
2010 Standards for Accessible Design

- Sets mandatory accessibility standards for structures and facilities.
- Hereinafter referred to as “2010 Standards.”
Portions of 2010 Standards that are Highly Relevant to DCNR Projects

- Accessible Routes (Chapter 4).
- Parking spaces (Sections 208 and 502).
- Play Fields and Courts (Sections 204.1, 206.7.9, 221.2.1.4, 221.2.3, 302.1, and 303.1).
- Fishing Piers and Platforms (Sections 237 and 1005).
- Play Areas (Sections 240 and 1008)
- Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, and Spas (Sections 242 and 1009).
- Fixed Picnic Tables (Sections 226 and 902).
Accessible Route

- All accessible features must be connected by an Accessible Route.
Accessible Route: Parking

All accessible elements must be connected to accessible parking by an accessible route.
Accessible Route Requirements

- Less than 2% cross slope.
- Less than 5% grade running slope, unless ramped.
- If running slope grade exceeds 5%, must be ramped.
- Surface must be Firm, Stable, and Slip-resistant.
Accessible Routes: Surfaces Other than Concrete or Macadam

- If you have a DCNR Grant, carefully review your DCNR Part 1 Letter.
- Grantee must use qualified contractor, unless DCNR approves in-house construction.
- If construction is in-house, grantee must follow detailed construction instructions from licensed design consultant.
Accessible Routes: Surfaces Other than Concrete or Macadam (Cont.)

- Design Consultant must monitor construction to ensure that the accessible route is completed in accordance with the approved drawings and specifications.
- Volunteer labor may not be used for installing these surfaces.
Accessible Routes: Width

- DCNR requires a 5' 0" minimum accessible route width to allow for two-way travel and passing.
- This is wider than the width required under the 2010 Standards.
Accessible Route: Vertical Changes

Vertical changes in level can be no more than ¼". Stairs do not meet this requirement and cannot be part of an accessible route.
Accessible Parking

- Paving required in parks, not at trailheads.
- Clearly marked with correct signage.
- Car spaces should be at least 96” wide.
- Van spaces should be at least 132” wide and next to a 60” wide access aisle.
- Access aisle should adjoin an Accessible Route.
Accessible Parking

- Required number of accessible spots depends on the total number of spaces in the facility.
- In PA, fine amounts should be posted under the accessible parking sign.
Accessible Parking

- Sign with international symbol of accessibility and "van accessible" designates van accessible parking
- Curb ramp installed outside access aisle area
- Accessible route to entrance
- Level access aisle

96" min
Accessible Route

Accessible Parking spots must be adjacent to an Accessible Route.
Accessible Parking

Surfaces should be paved or marking will quickly fade.
Accessible Parking

- Non-accessible parking spaces do not need to be paved.
Accessible Parking

- No signs.
- No access aisle.
- Faded marking.
- Uneven surface.
Accessible Parking

- Mostly compliant.
- Access Aisle should connect to an Accessible Route.
Areas of Sport Activities
Types of Areas of Sport Activities

- Sports Fields: Baseball, Softball, Football, Soccer, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, etc.
- Sports Courts: Basketball, Ice Hockey, Bocce Ball, Tennis, Volleyball, etc.
- Track & Field: Running tracks, etc.
- Skate Parks.
Areas of Sport Activities: Accessible Routes

- All Areas of Sport Activity must be connected to accessible parking by an Accessible Route.
- The Accessible Route should connect to the border of each Area of Sport Activities.
- Dugouts and player seating areas must offer accessible spaces that are located along an Accessible Route.
Areas of Sport Activities: Surface Areas

- Surfaces of Areas of Sport Activities are not required to comply with 2010 Standards.
- Review Part I letter, which includes a link to the publication “Planning and Design of Outdoor Sports Facilities.”
Fishing Piers and Platforms
Fishing Piers and Platforms

- Each fishing pier or platform must be accessible.
- Each fishing pier or platform must be located on an Accessible Route, connected to accessible parking.
- If a gangway is longer than 30 feet, its running slope may exceed Accessible Route Standards.
- At least 25% of railings must be no higher than 34 inches.
- See 2010 Standards, Section 1005 for additional information.
Fishing Piers and Platforms

- If a gangway is longer than 30 feet, its running slope may exceed Accessible Route Standards.
- At least 25% of railings must be no higher than 34 inches.
ACCESSIBLE GANGWAY SERVING ACCESSIBLE FLOATING PIER IN A LARGE FACILITY
Play Areas
Play Areas

- ASTM Certified Safety Surfacing is required: cannot use garden mulch.
- Raised borders: flush borders are required for DCNR funded projects, to reduce trip hazards.
Play Areas (Cont.)

- The size of your project will determine the number of elements that are required to be accessible.
Benches Near Play Areas

- Must provide a “bump-out” space next to the bench. Space must be:
  - firm, stable, and slip-resistant.
  - no smaller than 30” by 48”.
  - oriented to allow a person in a wheelchair to face the same direction as people using the bench.
  - without any overlap with the accessible route.
Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Splash Pads

- Must be on an Accessible Route, connected to accessible parking.
- Primary means of entry must be either a pool lift or a zero depth entry.
- Large pools (those with over 300 linear feet of pool wall) must have at least two accessible means of entry.
Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Splash Pads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POOL TYPE</th>
<th>SLOPED ENTRY</th>
<th>LIFT</th>
<th>TRANSFER WALLS</th>
<th>TRANSFER SYSTEMS</th>
<th>STAIRS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming (less than 300 linear feet of pool wall)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming (300 or more linear feet of pool wall) — two means of entry required</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave action, leisure river, and other pools where user entry is limited to one area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wading pools</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Primary means must be by sloped entry or lift, secondary means can be any of the permitted types.
Pool Lifts

Must be fixed in place and operable without assistance. An otherwise compliant portable life is allowed, so long as it is fixed in place.
Sloped Entry

Generally, must comply with accessible route requirements.
Fixed Picnic Tables
Fixed Picnic Tables

- The 2010 Standards only apply to picnic tables that are fixed in place.
- 5% of spaces at fixed picnic tables must be accessible.
- Tabletops must be between 28 and 32 inches high.
- Must provide knee and toe clearance and clear floor space at accessible spots. See 2010 Standards, Sections 305, 305, and 902.
Fixed Picnic Tables
Draft Final Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas

Where the 2010 Standards are not applicable, the Draft Outdoor Guidelines may provide guidance on achieving accessibility.
Draft Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas

- Outdoor Recreation Access Route *(Section 1016)*
- Outdoor Constructed Features *(Section 1011)*
- Picnic Facilities *(Section F 245)*
- Viewing Areas *(Sections F246 and 1015)*
- Trails *(Sections F247 and 1017)*
- Beach Access Routes *(Sections F248 and 1018)*
Outdoor Recreation Access 
Route vs. Accessible Route
Outdoor Recreation Access Route vs. Accessible Route

- Accessible Routes apply to facilities covered by the 2010 Standards.
- Outdoor Recreation Access Routes apply to facilities covered by the Draft Outdoor Guidelines.
Outdoor Recreation Access Route vs. Accessible Route

- Running slope grades may be as steep as 10% for short segments.
- Surfaces must be “Firm and Stable” but are not required to be “Slip-resistant.”
- Obstacles may be higher than \( \frac{1}{4} \)”, although stairs are still non-compliant.
Outdoor Constructed Features.

- Picnic tables
- Fire rings, grills, fireplaces, and woodstoves
- Trash and recycling receptacles
- Water hydrants
- Utility and sewage hookups
- Outdoor rinsing showers
- Benches
- Telescopes and periscopes
How many of each type of feature must be accessible?

- All features that are located in an accessible camping unit or picnic unit.
- For common-use features, the required number of accessible units will depend on the total features provided.
Outdoor Constructed Features: Clear Ground Space

- Space for wheelchair users to approach and use accessible features.
- Must be level, firm, and stable.
- Must provide adequate clearance.
- Specific guidelines located in Sections 305 and 306.
Picnic Facilities with Non-fixed Tables
A Picnic Facility is made up of Picnic Units
What is an Accessible Picnic Unit?

- A picnic unit in which the following, if provided, are accessible:
  - Outdoor Constructed Features.
  - Parking Spaces.
How many Picnic Units must be accessible?

- Facilities with 2 or less Picnic Units: All Picnic Units should be accessible.
- Facilities with more than two Picnic Units: At least 20%, but no less than 2, picnic facilities should be accessible.
Trails
Distinctions Between Trails, Outdoor Recreation Access Routes, and Accessible Routes

- A trail is used primarily for *recreational purposes*.
- Accessible Routes and ORARs are used primarily to *connect* elements, spaces or facilities within a site.
- Trails are held to less stringent standard than Accessible Routes.
# Allowable Running Slopes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Running Slope of Segment of Trail</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>
Trail Signs Should Include:

- Length of trail.
- Surface type.
- Typical and minimum tread width.
- Typical and maximum running slope.
- Typical and maximum cross slope.
Not Accessible  Accessible
Viewing Areas
Viewing Area Guidelines

- Clear ground space on Outdoor Recreation Access Route.
- Unobstructed view between 32 and 48 inches above clear ground space.
- Slope no steeper than 1:33 or 1:48 for asphalt, concrete and boards.
- Firm and Stable Surface.
- Turning space.
Beach Access Routes
Beach Access Route

- Clear Width: 60 inches
- Obstacles: Must be less than 1 inch, but \(\frac{1}{2}\) inch limit for concrete, asphalt or board.
- Openings: \(\frac{1}{2}\) inch
- Gates and Barriers: Clear width, accessible hardware
- Rules also cover provision of resting intervals, limitations on protruding objects, and placement of the route relative to high tide. There are also specific provisions regarding “Elevated Dune Crossings.”
Exemptions Under the Draft Outdoor Guidelines

- Exceptions to the Draft Outdoor Guidelines are situation specific.
- If it is difficult to have your project comply with the Draft Outdoor Guidelines, please contact DCNR Regional Advisor.
  http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/aboutus/index.htm
- Contact information is on the next slide.
Summary

- Follow the 2010 Standards.
- If the 2010 Standards are inapplicable, try to follow the Draft Outdoor Guidelines.
- DCNR Grantees: Additional information is available in your Part 1 Letter and at the Access Board’s website.
- If you are confused, get help from LVCIL, DCNR, or the Access Board.
Accessibility Resources

- Ian Brown, 610-770-9781 ext. 123, or ianbrown@lvcil.org
Accessibility Resources (Cont.)

- Forest Service Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails: [http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/htmlpubs/htm06232801/toc.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/htmlpubs/htm06232801/toc.htm)

- Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies: [http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/Trails/trails.html](http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/Trails/trails.html)