



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

NOV - 4 2013

CECW-CO-N

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS; CHIEFS,
OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: U.S. Access Board Issues Accessibility Guidelines for Developed Outdoor
Recreation Areas, effective November 25, 2013

1. On September 26, 2013, the United States Access Board issued new accessibility guidelines for outdoor areas developed by the Federal Government. These guidelines apply to federal agencies that develop outdoor areas for recreational purposes, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). They become mandatory on November 25, 2013 as part of the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards and will apply to any facilities that are built, altered or leased with federal funds. These new guidelines are available on the United States Access Board website at <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>.
2. These new accessibility standards address access to trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes, and other components of outdoor developed areas on federal sites when these areas are newly built or altered. Existing facilities do not need to comply with this rule until they are altered. Newly constructed facilities must meet the new guidelines.
3. Because outdoor environments can often present challenges in designing for accessibility, the new guidelines also provide exceptions for when compliance may be impractical due to terrain or other factors, such as fluctuating lake levels, or when compliance would conflict with mandates such as the Endangered Species Act and other laws. Exceptions may also be made when alterations would fundamentally alter a site's function or purpose.
4. The policy of the Corps is to provide universally accessible recreation opportunities for all people. The Corps will ensure that all new and existing facilities meet or exceed current guidelines. To assist projects with providing accessible recreational opportunities, a list of POC's by division and district is available on the Natural Resources Management Gateway, <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/access/access.cfm>. These individuals are your "go-to" contacts available to assist you in addressing your site specific accessibility questions, issues and concerns.

CECW-CO-N

SUBJECT: U.S. Access Board Issues Accessibility Guidelines for Developed Outdoor Recreation Areas, effective November 25, 2013

5. The points of contact for the Corps Accessibility program are Ms. Jennifer Linde, (817) 886-1578, jennifer.b.linde@us.army.mil and Mr. Pep Persio, (202) 761-0036, peppino.j.persio@us.army.mil.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Hannon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JAMES R. HANNON
Chief, Operations and Regulatory Division
Directorate of Civil Works