



National Parks: Accessible to Everyone



"There is nothing so American as our national parks.... The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us."

--- President Franklin D. Roosevelt

The National Park Service has the honor of preserving natural and cultural areas valued by all, and as such, has the responsibility to provide opportunities to enjoy and experience those areas to all visitors. From Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to Yosemite National Park in California, from Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania to Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in Oregon, from Padre Island National Seashore in Texas to Isle Royale in Michigan, and from Coronado National Monument in Arizona to Fort Union Trading Post in North Dakota – all visitors deserve the privilege of experiencing the significance of these and any of the other 391 units of the National Park Service.



National Parks have been set aside for all to experience and appreciate, and each of the over 276 million visitors to the parks finds their own meaning and value in a personal way. But what about visitors with special needs – are they given the same opportunities to experience and appreciate the National Parks? The answer to that is - in most cases – Yes. National Park units are constantly moving forward to provide trails, campgrounds, museum exhibits, ranger programs, and other visitor opportunities for visitors with disabilities.

The National Park Service has developed and made available a web site to aid visitors with disabilities and special needs to find accessible trails, programs, activities, and other features at national park units nationwide. It is hoped that we can assist visitors and their families and friends in travel planning to the NPS site of their choice. Visit the **“National Parks: Accessible to Everyone”** website at http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/access/index.htm to learn about what opportunities are available in parks for visitors with disabilities and special needs.

The web site, which features a large print version for the visually impaired, will remain a work in progress and will continue to add information as it becomes available. We may have missed information from some parks and if an NPS unit is not highlighted here, it does



not mean it does not have accessible features. To obtain information about units not included in this website, please call them or visit their websites, which can be reached via www.nps.gov. Many of the parks include sections on their websites that are about accessibility and can be found in the websites' indexes.

Accessible Trails in National Parks

There are more than 17,000 miles of trails in the National Park System – some are rigorous and difficult terrain and others are in effect, pleasant strolling paths. What trail you choose to hike depends in part on the overall health, ability and experience of the hiker. This is true for visitors with disabilities as well, though the type and severity of a disability also becomes a factor. The National Park Service wants all of our visitors to enjoy the trail of their choice and experience the wonders of the parks. The following is a list of trails that have been made more accessible to our visitors with disabilities.

Alaska

Denali National Park and Preserve

All of Denali's ADA trails have a compacted gravel surface, 3 to 10 feet wide. No matter how close to the road visitors are, they may encounter wildlife on any trail, from songbirds and ground squirrels to bear and moose. Be alert and leave no trace.

The Denali Bike Trail serves as the main pedestrian artery connecting the park entrance with the Denali Visitor Center. It parallels the Park Road for 1.6 miles, providing access to the Riley Creek Campground and Mercantile, the Wilderness Access Center, the Bus & Train Depots, and the Visitor Center Campus. 5% maximum grade, 10 feet wide.

The Jonesville Trail is a 0.4-mile, forested shortcut between the Riley Creek Mercantile and the paved Canyon bike trail west of the Parks Highway. 8% maximum grade, 3 feet wide.

A 1.5-mile, scenic hike through diverse taiga forest, the McKinley Station Trail connects the Riley Creek Campground with the visitor center. The trail affords great views of cultural sites, Hines Creek, the railroad trestle, and the Alaska Range. 8-10% maximum grade, 6 feet wide.

Originating from behind the Denali Visitor Center, the 0.2-mile Spruce Forest Trail is a great option for a short, flat jaunt through taiga forest.

Visitors can follow the McKinley Station Trail 0.2 mile from the visitor center to reach the 0.2-mile Morino Loop Trail, which includes interpretive historical sites. 2-3% maximum grade, 6 feet wide.

The Taiga Trail from the visitor center to the Healy Overlook Junction is 0.5 mile long and passes through mixed taiga forest with views of the surrounding mountains. 8% maximum grade, 3 feet wide.

Further out on the Park Road, visitors can make a stop near the Savage River. The Savage Cabin Trail is 0.3 mile long and 8 feet wide and has interpretive signs terminating at the historic Savage log cabin. Visitors can also park at mile 13 on the west side of the bridge over the Savage River and take the Savage River Trail downstream for 0.4 mile, adding on the Savage Bar Trail for an extra 0.25-mile loop. These 3 to 4-foot wide trails afford beautiful views and possible wildlife sightings.

Katmai National Park and Preserve

The trails to the Brooks Falls and Riffles bear viewing platforms are accessible; however, there is a strong possibility visitors will need to leave the trail and enter the woods to allow bears to pass, especially during high bear densities.

For those with limited mobility, the narrow dirt paths in Brooks Camp are rough. They can become very muddy and slippery during the frequent rainy days.

Most of the public buildings in Brooks Camp, including the restroom facilities, are accessible via ramps. Visitors should contact one of the local air taxi companies about their transportation and that of any specialized equipment they may need. Wheelchairs and personal services are not available for assisting visitors around the Brooks Camp area.

Kenai Fjords National Park

A wheelchair accessible trail begins on the paved trail from the parking area and leads to an interpretive kiosk. From the kiosk, a new, accessible spur trail of compacted gravel travels for 1000 feet through the forest to a view of Exit Glacier. There are plans to turn this one-way trail into an accessible loop trail in summer 2007.

Sitka National Historical Park

The gravel-based, woodchip-covered trails in the park are accessible for many types of wheelchairs.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

The grounds have paved walkways, and a scenic section of the boreal forest nature trail is paved. The trail provides inspiring views of the Wrangell Mountains and the Copper River. During summer months, park rangers regularly present short interpretive programs along the paved section of this trail

Arizona

Grand Canyon National Park

The Rim Trail extends from the village area to Hermits Rest. Users can begin from any viewpoint in the village or along Hermit Road. Rim trails offer excellent walking and quiet views of the inner canyon for visitors who desire an easy hike. By using the shuttle buses, visitors can customize their hikes to meet their

needs. Part of the trail is paved and accessible. For more information, please see: <http://www.nps.gov/grca/parknews/upload/AccessibilityGuide06.pdf>

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

One short nature trail behind the visitor center is self-guiding and accessible.

Saguaro National Park

At Saguaro, there are two districts on opposite sides of the Tucson metro area. Both districts have a visitor center with a short trail through a cactus garden outside the center. Both trails are accessible. Each district has one accessible, self-guiding nature trail (a trail with a hardened surface) about .25 mile in length. The Desert Ecology Trail is in the east district, and the Desert Discovery Trail is in the west district.

California

Yosemite National Park

For detailed information as of May 2006 about the accessibility of trails in Yosemite, please consult the park's *Accessibility Guide* at <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/upload/access.pdf>.

Colorado

Rocky Mountain National Park

For a list of the park's accessible trails, please see <http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/access.htm>.

Florida

Everglades National Park

The website <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/trails.htm> features links to listings of trails in the park's four areas. The lists contain links to websites about each trail. These sites describe a trail and indicate whether it is wheelchair accessible. The brochure <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/parknews/upload/tripplanner0607lowresfinal.pdf> also offers information about accessible trails.

Hawaii

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Accessible pathways include Waldron Ledge (Earthquake Trail), Devastation Trail, Pauahi Crater, Muliwai a Pele, and Kealakomo Overlook.

Iowa

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

An asphalt walkway leads to the prairie trailhead. The incline is steep, and assistance will be necessary for those in wheelchairs. Prairie trails are mowed grass.

Kansas

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

The Bottomland Nature Trail is wheelchair accessible. It is in a prairie restoration area with interpretive waysides, an information kiosk, benches, and a comfort station. It is on the southern edge of the preserve, not far from the historic ranch headquarters on K-177. The trail includes two loops. One is .75 mile, and the second is .5 mile. Visitors may see deer, wild turkey, insects, and many other animals common to the preserve. All areas, including the picnic area, are wheelchair accessible.

Maine

Acadia National Park

Sieur de Monts Spring Area

The Wild Gardens of Acadia are adjacent to the parking lot. Garden paths have a packed gravel surface. Assistance may be helpful.

The Hemlock Road begins to the right of the parking lot's entrance. The hard-packed path meanders through woodlands at the base of Dorr Mountain and is 1.5 miles round-trip.

For the Adventurous and Hardy

Wonderland Trail

The Wonderland Trail's parking area is located west of Seawall Campground on Route 102A. Following an abandoned road, the trail has both level and hilly sections. Toward the end, the trail leaves the woods and opens onto the shoreline at the tip of the Wonderland Peninsula. Assistance may be necessary in several places, but the view is worth the effort. The trail is 1.4 miles round-trip.

Ship Harbor Trail

The Ship Harbor Trail's parking lot is located west of Seawall Campground on Route 102A. The first quarter of a mile is a hard-packed surface leading to the mudflats. Access to intertidal pools is over rocky, uneven terrain. Users may require assistance on steep grades. The trail is 1.3 miles round-trip.

Man o' War Brook Fire Road

Users can park in the small unmarked gravel parking area on the east side of Route 102, one-eighth of a mile north of the larger, paved Acadia Mountain

parking area. The abandoned road runs through a mixed growth woodland. The road is about one mile long. Users should beware of uphill and downhill grades, washouts, and exposed culverts. The trail is 2 miles round-trip.

Carroll Homestead Self-Guided Trail

Visitors can explore the grounds of the Carroll Homestead on a hard-packed but root-covered and uneven path. Assistance may be necessary. A pamphlet for self-guided use of the trail is available. Accessible parking is available at the end of the road adjacent to the house. The trail is .5 mile round-trip.

Jordan Pond Trails

Parking can be found in the north lower lot of the Jordan Pond area. Some paths are accessible and offer beautiful views of the pond and connections to the carriage roads.

Carriage Roads

Carriage roads offer the best access to many interior areas. The two easiest roads are listed below. Others tend to be steeper and slightly uneven and to include sections of loose sand or gravel, or rocky areas. Extended use of the carriage roads depends on visitors' ability and endurance. When following the carriage roads, users should be aware of washouts, steep grades, bicycle traffic, and horses on some sections. Assistance may help.

Eagle Lake

The Eagle Lake parking area on Route 233 has accessible restrooms and parking. To the north, the carriage roads lead towards Breakneck Pond, Half Moon Pond, and Witch Hole Pond (5.3 miles round-trip). To the south, under the stone bridge, the carriage roads lead in two directions around Eagle Lake (6 miles round-trip).

Bubble Pond

The parking area, located off the Park Loop Road, has accessible restrooms and parking. Visitors can follow the level trail to the north end of Bubble Pond. From there, they have access to the carriage roads, one of which borders the pond.

In Acadia, service animals must be leashed at all times. They are allowed in all of the park's facilities and on all of its trails unless closed by order of the superintendent. Some trails, however, are very steep and require the use of iron rung ladders. These trails should be avoided:

- Precipice
- Beehive
- Ladder Trail to Dorr Mountain
- Cadillac Mountain - West Face (from Bubble Pond)
- Beech Cliff (from Echo Lake)
- Perpendicular Trail (Mansell Mountain)

Michigan

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

The Duneside Accessible Nature Trail is located at the Dune Climb. The trail (0.9 mile round-trip) begins at the north end of the picnic area and parking lot. It is level and made of packed graded crushed limestone, so it is easy to walk or to push a wheelchair on it. Several interpretive signs and benches occur along the trail. Please go to <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/planyourvisit/trailduneside.htm> for a trail map and more description of the trail.

Missouri

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

There is an accessible trail to Big Spring within Ozark National Scenic Riverways. An average of 280 million gallons of water flows through this spring each day. It is the largest natural spring in the National Park System; the fourth largest spring in the United States; and the ninth largest in the world. An accessible trail of approximately 0.25 mile was constructed in 2007. There are accessible benches for visitors who wish to pause and enjoy the spring's roar and the natural beauty of the cliffs, trees, and crystal clear water.

Montana

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

At Devil Canyon Overlook, a short wheelchair accessible trail was laid to allow better access to the beautiful views Devil Canyon has to offer.

Nebraska

Homestead National Monument of America

The Homestead Heritage Center has a .5-mile trail that is accessible. The Homestead Education Center has a paved trail to a homesteader cabin and a farm implement room.

New Mexico

Fort Union National Monument s

An interpretive trail (1.5 miles) through historic ruins is paved with crusher fines (compacted material that holds up to wheelchair traffic).

White Sands National Monument

Visitors in wheelchairs can access the elevated, interdune boardwalk. A round-trip on this trail is 650 yards (585 km). This trail, located 4.5 miles (7.2 km) from the visitor center, leads through a fragile interdune area to a scenic view at the top of a dune. All plant life in the dune field starts in interdune areas, and the boardwalk is the best place to get a close look at many of the wildflowers that

grow in the park while protecting its resources. There are informational signs and benches at various points along the trail. The boardwalk, which opened to public use in April 2005, is constructed of aluminum, which supports a deck and handrails made of recycled plastic lumber. The structure is not tied to a fixed location and can be re-routed to accommodate dune movement.

Pennsylvania

Johnstown Flood National Memorial

Both the North and South Abutment Trails of the South Fork Dam are wheelchair accessible.

Tennessee/North Carolina

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Most trails in the park are steep and rugged. However, an accessible trail made possible through a public-private partnership is located on Newfound Gap Road, just south of Sugarlands Visitor Center. Accessible interpretive exhibits along the .5-mile, paved trail describe unique historic and natural features as the trail winds through second growth forest along the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River. Clay tactile exhibits, a large print brochure, and porcelain enamel wayside exhibits are available on site. An audiotape tour is available from Sugarlands Visitor Center. Users should look for the tracks of a black bear that wandered across the freshly poured concrete when the trail was built.

The website <http://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm> contains information about the accessibility of some other trails and paths in the park.

Texas

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

The nature trail into the Johnson Settlement is accessible to those using wheelchairs or scooters, but it is composed of granite gravel and would be slow-going for people using chairs if they were unaided by others.

Utah

Arches National Park

Approximately 0.2 mile of the 0.3-mile Balanced Rock Trail are paved.

Virginia

Shenandoah National Park

The Limberlost Trail is an accessible trail, a gently sloping, 1.3-mile loop with a 5 foot-wide greenstone surface. The trail circles through forest and mountain laurel and includes a 65-foot bridge and a 150-foot boardwalk.

Washington

Olympic National Park

A good source of information about the accessibility of the park's trails may be found at <http://www.nps.gov/olymp/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm>.

Wisconsin

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

The Indianhead Flowage trail, one mile north of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin at Lions Park, is wheelchair accessible with a campsite on the river at the furthest point.

Wyoming

Grand Teton National Park

Hiking trails in the park offer varying degrees of difficulty. Some trails, like those at Jenny Lake, String Lake, and Colter Bay, are easily accessible. Wide, paved trails with gentle slopes lead to the shore of Jenny Lake. A level, paved trail, dotted with rustic log benches, follows the String Lake shoreline. The Colter Bay Lakeshore Trail, along the eastern shore of Jackson Lake, is paved for a third of a mile beginning at the marina. An entirely accessible trail located at the south end of the Jackson Lake Dam offers tremendous views of Jackson Lake and the Teton Range.

Yellowstone National Park

LeHardy Rapids (between Canyon and Fishing Bridge)

The trail from the north parking lot is accessible and marked. No parking is designated.

Terrace Springs (just north of Madison Junction)

All features are accessible. A steep grade exists in the middle of the loop, which requires assistance. The area of Terrace Springs provides the visitor with a short boardwalk tour of hot springs.

Old Faithful Area (Upper Geyser Basin)

The geyser Old Faithful is accessible from the visitor center. An accessible bike/pedestrian path leads from the visitor center 1.5 miles to Morning Glory Pool in a 3-mile round-trip. This path is also accessible from the Lower Hamilton General Store near Old Faithful Inn. Castle Geyser and Crested Pool are only 0.2 mile from this point. This access also reduces the round-trip distance to Morning Glory Pool to 2.4 miles.

Accessible Opportunities in National Parks

The National Park Service provides a variety of programs, exhibits and informational opportunities for all of our visitors. Whenever possible parks have provided the same opportunities for visitors with disabilities – though in many cases the opportunities are designed specifically for disabled visitors based often on the type of disability. The following is a list of opportunities accessible to our visitors with disabilities.

Alabama

Russell Cave National Monument

Visitors can take a ranger-led tour of the cave shelter area, scene of an archeological site. The trip to the cave shelter is approximately 300 yards long and wheelchair accessible.

Alaska

Denali National Park and Preserve

Sign language services are available upon request. When purchasing bus tickets, visitors should let their reservation agent know of their need. For other park programs, please call (907)683-2294. Two-day advance notice is required.

Kenai Fjords National Park

All public use cabins have wheelchair accessible decks and doors. Assistance may be required to access the cabins from the beach.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

There are two public use cabins at Peavine on the Chitistone River in the heart of Wrangell-St. Elias. The cabin that is larger and closer to the airstrip has been renovated to meet accessibility standards. The adjacent outhouse also meets accessibility standards. If visitors can get their wheelchairs into and out of a bush airplane and can navigate the gravel pathway from the airstrip to the cabin (approximately 400 yards), they may find this the perfect wilderness retreat. We suggest you call the park at (907)822-5234 a couple of weeks in advance of your trip to Peavine Public Use Cabin so that rangers can double check the brush along the pathways before your arrival.

A Hearing Helper Tour Guide System (216 MHz) is available for any of the regularly scheduled National Park Service ranger programs and for the Mill Tours provided by St. Elias Alpine Guides. The system amplifies the sound of the program's leader's voice. It can accommodate up to six participants at a time. St. Elias Alpine Guides offers multiple Mill Tours each day. To ensure the system is available for the program you would like to attend, please contact the Kennecott District Interpreter at (907)822-5234 to request it for ranger programs or St. Elias Alpine Guides at (907)554-4445 to request it for Mill Tours.

Arizona

Grand Canyon National Park

Please see <http://www.nps.gov/grca/parknews/upload/AccessibilityGuide06.pdf> for information about the accessibility of river trips, facilities, and more at the park.

Saguaro National Park

In the winter and spring of 2007, the west district of the park offered a ranger-guided walk/hike on its accessible trail (the Desert Discovery Trail). This program targeted visitors in wheelchairs. It was only lightly attended, but the park anticipates offering the program again this winter/spring and will make some attempts to market the program better locally. Last winter/spring, it was offered twice a month. All of the park's interpretive programs are listed monthly on its website, www.nps.gov/sagu.

California

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Information for users of wheelchairs about the accessibility of Golden Gate's attractions and visitor centers can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm>.

Yosemite National Park

For detailed information as of May 2006 about accessibility in Yosemite, please consult the park's Accessibility Guide at <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/upload/access.pdf>. The guide provides information about the accessibility of campgrounds, lodging, transportation, visitor centers and museums, scenic regions of the park, and activities, such as ranger programs and trail rides. The guide serves visitors with impaired hearing, sight, and mobility and tells them where they can touch granite boulders and sequoia trees, where they can find transferable seating to boulders at wheelchair height, where they can take sit-ski lessons, and more.

In summer and during limited off-season hours, a National Park Service ranger may be available to provide American Sign Language interpretation for ranger programs. Please make individual or group reservations at least two weeks in advance. All requests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Inquire at visitor centers or phone (209)372-4726 (TTY). For ASL interpretation on paid tours, call the Yosemite Lodge at the Falls tour desk at (209)372-1240.

Ask at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center about assisted-listening devices for ranger-led programs in Yosemite Valley.

Colorado

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

Visitors who use wheelchairs can venture into the dunefield. Two sand wheelchairs – chairs especially designed for over-sand travel – are available for loan at Great Sand Dunes' visitor center. One is designed for adults, and one for children. Although helpers must push the chairs, their large inflatable tires allow short, fun trips. Please note: the adult chair is not suitable for very large adults and should be borrowed only by those who need a chair for access.

Also at Great Sand Dunes, visitors in wheelchairs can camp in the backcountry. Please call the visitor center at (719)378-6399 to reserve or find out more about the accessible backcountry campsite at Sawmill Canyon. The site, also available if asked for in person, is for disabled visitors who want a backcountry experience but cannot hike to a backcountry campsite. The site is located 0.7 mile north on the Medano Pass Primitive Road. With a 2 WD vehicle, one can reach a parking area near the campsite. The two-car parking area and the camp can accommodate up to four wheelchairs. The hardened trail leading from the road up to the campsite is 0.1 mile long and has a maximum grade of 6%. The site's facilities include an elevated tent pad, an accessible picnic table, a fire grate, firewood and food storage containers, and an accessible privy.

The above information and more, about the accessibility of the visitor center, other campsites, a picnic area, and interpretive programs, can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/grsa/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm>.

Rocky Mountain National Park

Please see http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/upload/access_brochure-2.pdf for good information about accessibility in the park. This brochure provides information about facilities, campgrounds, trails, and more.

District of Columbia/Maryland/West Virginia

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Potomac River, DC, Maryland, West Virginia

The canal boat rides are wheelchair accessible. The boat that leaves from Georgetown has a single level deck. The new boat, the Charles F. Mercer, which leaves from Great Falls, has a lift that makes its upper deck, like its lower one, accessible.

Sign language interpreters are available upon request.

Florida

Everglades National Park

Assistance is provided for access to boat and tram tours.

Indiana

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The auditorium in the visitor center is equipped with assistive listening devices. With advance notice, the park provides a sign language interpreter for interpretive programs.

Iowa

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

Audio stations can be found at key locations throughout the site. Written scripts of the audio stations are available at the visitor center's information desk. A walking tour on audio tape is also available at the visitor center's information desk.

Maine

Acadia National Park

Carriages in the Park: The park concessioner that operates Wildwood Stables, has two wheelchair accessible, horse-drawn carriages made possible by Friends of Acadia. Each accommodates two passengers using wheelchairs and several additional passengers. These carriages carry wheelchair users into scenic areas of the carriage roads that may be inaccessible otherwise. Please call (207)276-3622 in advance for reservations. Tour prices vary. The tours run from late June to early October.

Also, park rangers narrate four privately owned boat cruises. Accessibility and prices vary. Boarding is easiest at high tide when the slopes of the boat ramps are less steep. Participants can remain in their wheelchairs. For reservations and information about accessibility, please contact the boats' operators in advance. The cruise that seems most accessible is described below. For information about the others, please see <http://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/accessiblerangerledprograms.htm>.

Dive-In Theater Boat Cruise: Cruise with a ranger among the islands of Frenchman Bay while looking for wildlife. Watch real-time video as a diver scours the ocean floor for marine life to bring aboard for examination. College of the Atlantic Dock, Bar Harbor. For reservations, please call (207)288-3483.

An auto tour may hold appeal for visitors with vision problems. Visitors may purchase cassettes and CDs of the 56-mile audio tour of the Park Loop Road, Cadillac Summit, and Somes Sound at the visitor center.

Ranger-led activities are offered mid-May to mid-October. Visitors should check with the park's staff regarding the details of specific programs. Accessible programs are listed in the park's newspaper, the Beaver Log.

Please contact the park at (207)288-8800 (TTY) or (207)288-3338 (voice) for more information about two options that may be available for persons with limited hearing.

* A certified sign language interpreter may be available for a ranger-led program with a two-week advance notice. This service depends on the availability of funds and interpreters.

* To improve hearing and understanding during the park's programs, a limited number of personal assistive listening devices are available by advance reservation for ranger-led programs.

Massachusetts

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site

Visitors with visual impairments can ask to tour with a ranger individually so that the ranger can describe specific objects in each room.

Longfellow National Historic Site

The visitor center is equipped with a wheelchair lift to allow visitors in wheelchairs or with limited mobility to tour the 1st-floor historic rooms of the house. The site also allows visitors with visual impairments to put on gloves and touch various objects in the house while on a tour. A ranger will guide you to the selected items in the rooms. Mainly, sculptures and chairs are the designated objects.

Michigan

Keweenaw National Historical Park

The Calumet Walking Tour meets in front of the Keweenaw History Center (the historic C&H Public Library) on the corner of Red Jacket Road and Mine Street in Calumet, Michigan. The program runs only in summer. On the tour, visitors explore the former Calumet & Hecla Mining Company's core industrial area and Calumet's historic downtown. The tour ends at the historic Calumet Theatre, the country's first community-built opera house, which has been in continuous operation since it opened in 1900. The tour lasts 2 hours, is 1.5 miles long, and covers easy terrain. The tour is accessible with assistance.

The Keweenaw Heritage Sites are non-Federal park partners that assist the park

with interpreting various aspects of the story of copper mining on the Keweenaw Peninsula. The following sites offer accessible services to visitors.

- * A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum
- * Calumet Theatre
- * Coppertown Mining Museum
- * Fort Wilkins Historic State Park
- * Houghton County Historical Museum
- * Ontonagon County Historical Society
- * Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park
- * Quincy Mine & Hoist, located on Hwy. US-41 just north of Hancock
- * U.P. Firefighters Memorial Museum

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Sand wheelchairs are available at the Maritime Museum boathouse and at the Dune Climb to enable handicapped individuals to enjoy the dunes and beaches. The sand wheelchair at the Dune Climb is kept at the Dune Center. The wheelchairs must stay in the area where they were loaned.

The park has installed a permanent assistive listening device at the information desk of the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center.

For interpretive programs in the visitor center, ranger-led walks, and the evening programs in the lakeshore's campgrounds, portable wireless FM assistive listening devices are available. They are available year-round at the visitor center and June to September at the Platte River Campground Office and the D. H. Day Campground Office. A portable wireless device is also available at the Glen Haven General Store Memorial Day to Labor Day. Rangers are trained in the use of this technology. Visitors are urged to request the amplification devices by calling the visitor center in advance of an interpretive program at (231)326-5134 ext 328.

Nebraska

Homestead National Monument of America

The monument provides sign language interpreters at major special events like Homestead Days.

New Mexico

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

A 360-degree view CD ROM is available at the Gila Visitor Center for viewing by persons who cannot make the 1-mile, 180-foot elevation gain hike to the cliff dwellings. The CD ROM shows the interiors and exteriors of the four caves/dwellings open to the public and is offered free to people with disabilities who specifically ask for it.

New York

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites

The interpretive program at Top Cottage (FDR's Retreat) is wheelchair accessible. Transportation to Top Cottage is by a wheelchair accessible shuttle bus, and the cottage itself was designed with FDR's disability in mind, so it is wheelchair accessible.

A tram service for people with disabilities or difficulty walking is in its third year at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS and in its first year at the Eleanor Roosevelt NHS. The tram service at the Home of FDR escorts people from the visitor center to the FDR Library and FDR Home and back to the visitor center.

The walking distance between these buildings is about .5 mile, round-trip. This service runs from May through October, seven days a week, 9:30 am to 5 pm, and is free of charge. At the Eleanor Roosevelt (Val-Kill) site, the tram escorts people from the main parking lot to the Home of Eleanor Roosevelt and back to the parking lot. The walking distance between the parking lot and the Home is about .25 mile, round-trip. This service runs from May through October, seven days a week, noon to 5 pm, and is also free of charge.

Signing or other special accommodations may be possible with advance arrangements.

North Dakota

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

Knife River offers the special service of transport to the village sites for visitors with mobility impairments. The gravel trail to two of the sites can be negotiated by some electric wheelchairs or non-powered wheelchairs with assistance, but it cannot be considered accessible. For visitors who cannot get to the villages, there are two electric carts, including one that has a wheelchair ramp and deck.

Since an interpreter drives the carts, the trip is essentially a guided tour.

Pennsylvania

Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site

The site has a golf cart to transport visitors who are handicapped or unable to walk to historic areas of the park. The park offers an interpretive accessibility program to one of its outlying units, Staple Bend Tunnel.

Gettysburg National Military Park

Visitors can touch all monuments and cannons. Visitors may wish to hire a licensed battlefield guide at the visitor center. The guide will present a two-hour tour in visitors' own vehicles. Audio stations are located at various points in the park.

For the above information and more about accessibility at this park and the adjacent Eisenhower National Historic Site, please consult the website <http://www.nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm>. This website is for those with mobility, sight, and hearing impairments and discusses the park and the NHS generally as well as Gettysburg's buildings and trails.

Independence National Historical Park

The guide Accessibility Services: Independence National Historical Park, found online at <http://www.nps.gov/inde/upload/accessibility.pdf>, provides useful information as of August 2005 for visitors with mobility disabilities, blindness, low vision, deafness, and difficulty hearing. The park's offerings include ranger-led tours with descriptive language and an ASL-signed reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8 in Independence Square, where printed copies of the Declaration are available.

Johnstown Flood National Memorial

The visitor center has an interpretive, tactile model of the South Fork Dam and lakebed, along with interpretive messages.

South Dakota

Wind Cave National Park

The visitor center and the cave are accessible to people with limited mobility. Limited areas of the cave are accessible to wheelchairs. Please call ahead to make special arrangements or ask at the information desk for a special tour. There are fees charged for these services. Please contact the park at (605)745-4600 for more information.

Tennessee/North Carolina

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee & North Carolina

The website <http://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm> contains information about the accessibility of facilities, activities, and attractions in the park.

Texas

Padre Island National Seashore

The Environmental Education program at Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS) has developed specialized interpretive opportunities to meet the needs of the United States' diverse population. One group that has taken advantage of the educational opportunities at PAIS for the last six years is Christian Record Services (CRS). Sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, CRS offers services to the blind in over 60 countries. Each year, CRS holds a weeklong camp for blind youths and adults called "Sea Venture Camp." The program

provides a wide range of educational and recreational opportunities for the campers.

PAIS has developed an array of activities to address their learning objectives and abilities. The program is presented in Spanish and English, since many campers are from Mexico or are relatively recent immigrants to the United States. With its bilingual presentation, the program uses raised maps created by park interpreters to help campers understand the park's geographic location relative to the rest of the Gulf of Mexico and to help interpret the park's geologic story. The park's animals are examined in depth by using skulls, shells, feathers, skins, and bones from wildlife commonly found within the national seashore. Campers can touch and explore the individual specimens so that they can better appreciate the animals' sizes and shapes and discover the unique adaptations that help them survive.

The program also includes a trip to the beach, where campers have the chance to wade into the surf, help pull a seine, and use other collecting equipment to capture and gently handle some of the sea creatures in the surf zone. With the assistance of sighted staff members, the campers hold and learn about the variety of invertebrates and fish that inhabit the shallow coastal waters. The activities are geared toward helping campers develop a greater appreciation and understanding of the diversity of species found on barrier islands.

Many other educational opportunities at PAIS are also suitable for those with physical disabilities thanks to beach wheelchairs that visitors may use at no charge. They are made of stainless steel and have oversized wheels to prevent them from sinking into the sand. Because the chairs are designed not only for the sand but also for use in shallow water, they enable those with severe physical impairments to experience the ocean and the wonders of being on a natural beach. Ramps allow visitors access to both the visitor center and the beach itself so that all may participate in the park's interpretive programs. For additional information on programs at PAIS, please contact the Malaquite Visitor Center by calling (361)949-8068.

Utah

Arches National Park

The visitor center has several touchable exhibits.

Wyoming

Grand Teton National Park

The Jenny Lake Boating shuttle boats are ADA compliant. Although none of the concessioner activities, such as river trips, horseback riding, and mountain climbing, are ADA compliant, all concessioners will work with interested visitors to make necessary accommodations.

Yellowstone National Park

There is an accessible backcountry campsite at Ice Lake. The site can be reached from the trailhead located approximately 3 miles east of Norris Junction or 10 miles west of Canyon. The site is situated about .5 mile from the trailhead on an accessible backcountry trail. The site is reserved for those with disabilities, parents with children under six years of age, and adults over 62 years of age. Please call the NPS Backcountry Office at (307)344-2160 for information about and reservations for this site.

For more information about accessibility in the park, please consult the website <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/parkwide-access.htm>.

Accessible Vistas in National Parks

The National Park Service wants all of our visitors to enjoy the magnificent vistas preserved in the parks. The following is a list of vistas that are accessible to visitors with disabilities.

Alabama

Little River Canyon National Preserve

The preserve's eleven-mile scenic drive along Highway 176 includes a boardwalk overlook from which visitors in wheelchairs or with other disabilities can see a 45-foot waterfall. For more information, please see <http://www.nps.gov/liri/planyourvisit/little-river-falls-boardwalk.htm>.

Alaska

Katmai National Park and Preserve

In Brooks Camp, all bear viewing platforms, which are between .25 mile and two miles from the visitor center across a floating bridge, are accessible, but the park cautions that unintended, very close encounters with brown bears are possible and may require visitors to move quickly. Portions of the bear viewing platforms are accessed along elevated walkways with ramps.

Visitors should contact one of the local air taxi companies about their transportation and that of any specialized equipment they may need. Wheelchairs and personal services are not available for assisting visitors around the Brooks Camp area.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

In the Kennecott Area, the deck of the Blackburn School has a wheelchair accessible ramp and view of the dairy barn and the glacier. The newly remodeled door at the top of the historic mill in the Kennecott Area is wheelchair accessible. Rangers are available by appointment to transport visitors in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments to the top story of the mill, where they can see the tram lines coming in from the Bonanza and Jumbo Mines and the top floor of the crushers. On a sunny day, this location has a stunning view of Mount Blackburn, the Kennicott Glacier, the Chugach Mountains, and McCarthy.

Please note: the vehicles available for transport to the top of the mill are not specially equipped. Please call the Kennecott Visitor Center at (907)554-2417 from Memorial Day through Labor Day to make an appointment. Advance reservations are requested.

Also, due to the rugged location of the Kennecott Area, many of the approaches to buildings, while navigable by many new wheelchairs, do not meet ADA standards. None of the pathways are paved; historic rail lines are still in place;

the interiors of some of the buildings are a network of stairs and elevated walkways.

Arizona

Grand Canyon National Park

Please see <http://www.nps.gov/grca/parknews/upload/AccessibilityGuide06.pdf> and <http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/placestogo.htm>.

California

Yosemite National Park

For information as of May 2006 about the accessibility of views of Yosemite's natural treasures, please consult the park's *Accessibility Guide* at <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/upload/access.pdf>.

Colorado

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Tomichi Point Overlook, Chasm View Overlook, Sunset View Overlook, and Balanced Rock Overlook are accessible.

Colorado National Monument

The park's primary road, Rim Rock Drive, offers 23 miles of breathtaking roadway. Rim Rock Drive crosses the monument and allows visitors to peer into six different red rock canyons from often-precipitous viewpoints without ever leaving their cars. The primary viewpoints are all paved and offer good surfaces for people using wheelchairs, walkers, canes or crutches.

Rocky Mountain National Park

Many Parks Curve Overlook, Rainbow Curve Overlook, and Forest Canyon Overlook are accessible. For more information, please see http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/upload/access_brochure-2.pdf.

District of Columbia/Maryland/West Virginia

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Potomac River, DC, Maryland, West Virginia

The boardwalk and overlook at Great Falls are accessible. They provide views of the falls' 75-foot drop into the Potomac and of Mather Gorge.

Hawaii

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Pullouts along Crater Rim Drive and Chain of Craters Road afford panoramic views of the park.

Maine

Acadia National Park

Visitors can park in the right-hand lane of Park Loop Road or in the upper parking lot near the restrooms and gift shop. The ramp across from the restrooms leads to the road and to the viewing area of Thunder Hole.

Michigan

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Wheelchair accessible overlooks are found along the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive.

Montana

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

At Devil Canyon Overlook, a short wheelchair accessible trail was laid to allow better access to the beautiful views Devil Canyon has to offer.

Utah

Arches National Park

The Park Avenue and Delicate Arch Viewpoints are accessible.

Washington

Olympic National Park

The website <http://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm> contains information about accessible views.

Wyoming

Yellowstone National Park

On the South Rim Drive, Artist Point offers a view of the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, and Uncle Tom's Overlook offers a view of the Upper Falls. No curbs have been cut on the North Rim Loop Drive. With assistance, visitors can enjoy views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone from the Grandview Overlook and from the parking area at Inspiration Point, where the overlook is not accessible. A great deal of the Mammoth Hot Spring Terraces can be seen from vehicles driving on the main road and the Terrace Loop Drive. Visitors can obtain an interpretive brochure at the Albright Visitor Center. As visitors drive up to the Terrace Loop Drive from the bottom of the terraces, there is a pullout with a good view of Canary Springs.

Parks with Features Accessible to the Visually Impaired or Blind

Iowa

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

Audio stations can be found at key locations throughout the site. A walking tour on audio tape is available at the visitor center information desk.

Maine

Acadia National Park

Orientation Video: Visitors can enjoy a 15-minute, captioned narrative about the park at Hulls Cove Visitor Center. Audio description is available. Visitors can check out audio receivers at the information desk.

Auto Tour: Visitors may purchase cassettes and CDs of the 56-mile audio tour of the Park Loop Road, Cadillac Summit, and Somes Sound at the visitor center.

Ranger-led Programs: Ranger-led activities are offered mid-May to mid-October. Check with the park's staff regarding the details of specific programs. Accessible programs are listed in the park's newspaper, the Beaver Log.

Massachusetts

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site

Visitors with visual impairments can ask to tour with a ranger individually so that the ranger can describe specific objects in each room.

Longfellow National Historic Site

The site allows visitors with visual impairments to put on gloves and touch various objects in the house while on a tour. A ranger will guide you to the selected items in the rooms. Mainly, sculptures and chairs are the designated objects.

Michigan

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

The park's brochures are available in Braille.

Montana

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

The introductory movie at the Cal S. Taggart Bighorn Canyon Visitor Center, "The Land of the Bighorn," has audio description that can be turned on and off.

Members of the audience can use assistive listening devices (headphones that play the audio description).

Ohio

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park

The park's film, "On Great White Wings," shown at the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center and the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, has audio description.

Pennsylvania

Johnstown Flood National Memorial

The visitor center has an interpretive, tactile model of the South Fork Dam and lakebed, along with interpretive messages.

Utah

Arches National Park

The visitor center has several touchable exhibits.

Wisconsin

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

The St. Croix Visitor Center in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin has some exhibits that those with impaired sight can access.

Parks with Features Accessible to the Hearing Impaired

Alaska

Denali National Park and Preserve

The Denali Visitor Center's film is open-captioned, and assisted listening devices are available. The Wilderness Access Center's feature film is open-captioned. Sign language services are available upon request. When purchasing bus tickets, visitors should let their reservation agent know of their need. For other park programs, please call (907)683-2294. Two-day advance notice is required.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

The park film, "Crown of the Continent," is available with captions. Visitors should ask the ranger introducing the film to enable the captions.

A Hearing Helper Tour Guide System (216 MHz) is available for use with any of the regularly scheduled National Park Service ranger programs and for the Mill Tours provided by St. Elias Alpine Guides. The system amplifies the sound of the program leader's voice. It can accommodate up to six participants at a time.

St. Elias Alpine Guides offers multiple Mill Tours each day. To ensure the system is available for the program you would like to attend, please contact the Kennecott District Interpreter at (907)822-5234 to request it for ranger programs or St. Elias Alpine Guides at (907)554-4445 to request it for Mill Tours. Captions for the text of the Kennecott Mill film can be turned on upon request. Visitors should ask the ranger introducing the film to turn on the captions.

Arizona

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

The 15-minute orientation film is currently being updated and will be closed-captioned before October 1.

California

Yosemite National Park

In summer and during limited off-season hours, a National Park Service ranger may be available to provide American Sign Language interpretation for ranger programs. Please make individual or group reservations at least two weeks in advance. All requests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Inquire at visitor centers or phone (209)372-4726 (TTY). For ASL interpretation on paid tours, call the Yosemite Lodge at the Falls tour desk at (209)372-1240.

Ask at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center about assisted-listening devices for ranger-led programs in Yosemite Valley.

Colorado

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

The park's interpretive film, shown throughout the day at the visitor center, is open-captioned.

District of Columbia/Maryland/West Virginia

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park

Sign language interpreters are available upon request.

Indiana

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The park's orientation film, "Child of the Northwest Wind," is open-captioned. The auditorium in the visitor center is equipped with assistive listening devices. With advance notice, the park provides a sign language interpreter for interpretive programs.

Iowa

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

The historic site's 12-minute video is closed-captioned and shown at the visitor center. Written scripts of audio stations located on site are available at the visitor center information desk. The Presidential Library and Museum's movie is closed-captioned. Teletypewriter for the Deaf (TTY) is available by calling (319)643-2594. Requests for information may also be faxed to (319)643-7864.

Maine

Acadia National Park

Visitors can enjoy a 15-minute, captioned narrative about the park at Hulls Cove Visitor Center. There is a TTY pay phone outside Hulls Cove Visitor Center, which is open April 15 through October. There is a 24-hour TTY pay phone outside the park headquarters, which are open April 15 through October, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and November to April 14, daily, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ranger-led activities are offered mid-May to mid-October. Visitors should check with the park's staff regarding the details of specific programs. Accessible programs are listed in the park's newspaper, the Beaver Log.

Please contact the park at (207)288-8800 (TTY) or (207)288-3338 (voice) for more information about two options that may be available for persons with limited hearing.

- A certified sign language interpreter may be available for a ranger-led program with a two-week advance notice. Service depends on the availability of funds and interpreters.
- To improve hearing and understanding during the park's programs, a limited number of personal assistive listening devices are available by advance reservation for ranger-led programs.

Massachusetts

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site

For visitors with hearing impairments, there is a headset for use with the audiowands offered for use in the visitor center.

Michigan

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

The park has installed a permanent assistive listening device at the information desk of the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center.

For interpretive programs in the visitor center, ranger-led walks, and the evening programs in the lakeshore's campgrounds, portable wireless FM assistive listening devices are available. They are available year-round at the visitor center and June to September at the Platte River Campground Office and the D. H. Day Campground Office. A portable wireless device is also available at the Glen Haven General Store Memorial Day to Labor Day. Rangers are trained in the use of this technology. Visitors are urged to request the amplification devices by calling the visitor center in advance of an interpretive program at (231)326-5134 ext 328.

A compact TTY device is available for use at the visitor center's pay telephone.

Montana

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

The introductory movie at the Cal S. Taggart Bighorn Canyon Visitor Center, "The Land of the Bighorn," has captions that can be turned on and off. Viewers can use assistive listening devices (headphones that play audio description).

Nebraska

Homestead National Monument of America

The Homestead Heritage Center has closed-captioned AV, including the monument's movie and five exhibit programs. There are assisted listening devices for the movie. The Homestead Education Center shows the closed-captioned movie, and the monument provides sign language interpreters at major special events such as Homestead Days.

New York

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

Signing or other special accommodations may be possible with advance arrangements.

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites

With advance notice, the sites can offer a sign language interpreter. Orientation films at the FDR Home/ Presidential Library/Museum and Eleanor Roosevelt NHS (Val-Kill) are closed-captioned.

North Dakota

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

Our movie is closed-captioned.

Ohio

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park

The park's film, "On Great White Wings," shown at the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center and the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, has t-loop technology.

Pennsylvania

Johnstown Flood National Memorial

The memorial's movie is captioned and available with hearing devices. TTY Phone Service is available.

Texas

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

The two films in the visitor center are closed-captioned. There are audio wands in the permanent exhibit gallery.

Utah

Arches National Park

The visitor center has captioned AV programs and interactive computer kiosks for several subjects.

Virginia

Shenandoah National Park

Dickey Ridge Visitor Center and Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Visitor Center show open-captioned, park-produced videos.

Wisconsin

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

The St. Croix Visitor Center in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin has some exhibits that those with impaired hearing can access. The St. Croix Visitor Center and the Namekagon Visitor Center in Trego, Wisconsin show a movie for which written scripts are available.

Wyoming

Grand Teton National Park

The visitor centers at Moose, Jenny Lake, Colter Bay, and Flagg Ranch provide TDD.

Parks with Accessible Camping

There are 120 areas in the National Park System that offer camping opportunities. The following list highlights parks with accessible campgrounds.

Alaska

Denali National Park and Preserve

Arizona

Grand Canyon National Park

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

California

Yosemite National Park

Colorado

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Colorado National Monument

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

Rocky Mountain National Park

Hawaii

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Indiana

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Maine

Acadia National Park

Michigan

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Missouri

Ozark National Scenic Riverways (Big Spring campground)

Tennessee, North Carolina

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Utah

Arches National Park (One campsite)

Virginia

Shenandoah National Park

Wyoming

Grand Teton National Park

Yellowstone National Park

Parks with Accessible Picnic Areas

The following is a list of picnic areas that are accessible to visitors with disabilities.

Alabama

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

Arizona

Grand Canyon National Park

Saguaro National Park

California

Yosemite National Park

Colorado

Colorado National Monument

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

Rocky Mountain National Park

Hawaii

Haleakala National Park

Indiana

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Iowa

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

Kansas

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Maine

Acadia National Park

New Mexico

Fort Union National Monument

North Dakota

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

Pennsylvania

Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site

Johnstown Flood National Memorial

Utah

Arches National Park

Virginia

Shenandoah National Park

Washington

Olympic National Park

Wisconsin

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Access Your National Parks: A guide to accessibility programs, National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/access/index.htm>

America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass – (Free Access Pass)



The National Park Service is an important participant in the new Interagency Pass Program which was created by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act and authorized by Congress in December 2004. Participating agencies include the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation.

The **Access Pass** is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. Documentation is required to obtain the pass. Acceptable documentation includes: statement by a licensed physician; document issued by a Federal agency such as the Veteran's Administration, Social Security Disability Income or Supplemental Security Income; or document issued by a State agency such as a vocational rehabilitation agency. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas (children under 16 are admitted free). The pass can only be obtained in person at the park. The Access Pass provides a 50 percent discount on some Expanded Amenity Fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where Expanded Amenity Fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50 percent price reduction. The pass is non-transferable and generally does NOT cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Access Pass

1. What is the Access Pass?

The Access Pass is the replacement for the Golden Access Passport as of January 2007. The pass is for citizens or permanent residents of the United States, regardless of age, who have been medically determined to have a permanent disability. It provides access to, and use of, any Federal recreation site that charges an Entrance or Standard Amenity Fee and provides a discount on

some Expanded Amenity Fees. The pass must be obtained in person.

2. What does it cost and how long is it valid?

The Access Pass is free, and it is valid for the lifetime of the pass holder. Photo identification may be requested to verify pass ownership.

3. If I have a Golden Access Passport is it still valid?

Yes, Golden Access Passports are valid for a lifetime and are equivalent to the new Access Pass.

How to Obtain an Access Pass:

1. Where can I obtain an Access Pass?

An Access Pass can be obtained in person from a participating Federal recreation site or office.

2. Who qualifies for the Access Pass?

The pass may be issued to U.S. Citizens or permanent residents of the U.S., regardless of age, that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities.

A ***permanent disability*** is a permanent physical, mental, or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

3. What type of documentation do I need to present in order to get the Access Pass?

Some examples of acceptable documentation include: statement by a licensed physician; document issued by Federal agency such as the Veteran's Administration, Social Security Disability Income or Supplemental Security Income; or document issued by a State agency such as a vocational rehabilitation agency.

4. If I am partially disabled do I qualify for the Access Pass?

If you believe you qualify based on the definition of permanent disability and have supporting official documentation for the disability, you can be issued a pass.

5. Can my child get an Access Pass?

Yes. This allows the caregivers to enter Federal Recreation sites when accompanying the child.

6. What if my Access Pass is lost, stolen or damaged?

If an Access Pass is lost or stolen, you may be issued a new one with proper documentation. The Access Pass is replaceable if damaged as long as identification is provided to validate ownership and a portion of the pass is identifiable.

Access Pass Use:

1. Which agencies honor the Access Pass?

The Forest Service, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation honor the Access Pass at sites where Entrance or Standard Amenity Fees are charged. In addition, the Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority may honor the Access Pass. Check with the local site for more information. <http://www.recreation.gov>

2. Why is the US Army Corps of Engineers accepting the Interagency Senior and Access passes but not issuing or selling the passes?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was not included in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (REA), which created the new America the Beautiful - the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass program authority. Although the Corps will not sell or issue the new passes, the Corps will accept only the new Interagency Senior and Interagency Access Passes or previously issued Golden Age or Access Passports as proof of

eligibility for age- and disability- related discounts. More information may be found at: <http://www.CorpsLakes.us/fees>.

3. What does the Access Pass cover?

The Access Pass admits pass holder/s and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas. (Children under 16 always admitted free).

4. My family is traveling in two cars; will the Access Pass let all of us into the site?

Only the vehicle with the pass holder is covered. The second vehicle is subject to an entrance fee, or must be carrying a second pass.

5. My spouse and I are each riding our own motorcycle or scooter; will one Access Pass cover both our entries?

No. At sites with per vehicle entrance fees the Access Pass will cover entrance for the pass holder on one motorcycle only.

Access Pass Benefits:

1. Does the Access Pass include any discounts at Federal Recreation sites?

The Access Pass provides a 50 percent discount on some Expanded Amenity Fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where Expanded Amenity Fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50 percent price reduction. The pass is non-transferable and generally **does NOT** cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires. ***Inquire locally for pass acceptance policies.***

2. What are the 50% discount guidelines?

Inquire locally for pass acceptance policies. In general discounts are honored as follows:

- **Individual Campsites:** The discount only applies to the fee for the campsite physically occupied by the pass holder, not to any additional campsite(s) occupied by members of the pass holder's party.
- **Sites with Utility Hookups:** If utility fees are charged for separately there is no discount. The discount may apply if the utility fee is combined (seamless) with the campsite fee.
- **Group Campsites and Facilities** (including, but not limited to, group facilities, picnic areas or pavilions): There is no discount for group campsites and other group facilities that charge a flat fee. If the group campsite has a per person fee rate, only the pass holder receives a discount; others using the site pay the full fee.
- **Guided Tours:** The pass offers discounts on some guided tours. Only the pass holder receives a discount if one is offered.
 - **Transportation Systems:** It depends. Check with the local recreation site. <http://www.recreation.gov>
- **Concessionaire Fees, Special Recreation, and Special Park Use Permit Fees:** These fees might include, but are not limited to, lodging, campgrounds, tours, etc. Each concession contract varies with the site and the agency. Please check directly with the local recreation site about their discount policies.

3. **How can I tell the difference between a Standard Amenity Fee, an Expanded Amenity Fee, a Special Recreation Permit Fee, or a Concessionaire Fee?**

There are thousands of Federal recreation sites and fees vary across the Federal agencies. Please inquire locally about fees, pass acceptance and discount policies.

4. **Does my Access Pass provide any discounts at Cooperating Association bookstores or gift shops that are located in the Federal Recreation sites (i.e. the Grand Canyon or Okefenokee bookstores)?**

No. The Access Pass **does not** cover discounts in on-site bookstores or gift stores.

5. **Is an Access Pass valid at State Parks or local Recreation Areas?**

No. Federal Recreation sites are operated by the Federal government, whereas State Parks are operated by state governments, and local Recreation sites are operated by local governments.