

MARTIN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADA ASSESSMENT SUMMARY REPORT



April 2022

Prepared by

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Martin County Parks and Recreation ADA Assessment Summary Report

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MARTIN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADA ASSESSMENT – PROPERTIES

Property ID	Property	Address	City	Zip
1	Bathtub Reef Beach	1585 SE MacArthur Blvd	Stuart	34996
2	Beachwalk Pasley Beach	2801 NE Ocean Blvd	Stuart	34996
3	Bob Graham Beach	3225 NE Ocean Blvd	Jensen Beach	34996
4	Bryn Mawr Beach	2661 NE Ocean Blvd	Jensen Beach	34996
5	C-23 Canal	3001 SW Murphy Rd	Palm City	34990
6	Cassidy Center	2895 SE Fairmont St	Stuart	34997
7	Charlie Leighton Park	2701 SW Cornell Ave	Palm City	34990
8	Chastain Beach	1213 SE MacArthur Blvd	Stuart	34996
9	Citrus Grove Park	2507 Citrus Blvd	Palm City	34990
10	Clifton Perry Beach	20 SE MacArthur Blvd	Stuart	34996
11	Costella Williams Learning Ctr	4450 SE Field St	Stuart	34997
12	County Line Community Center	18530 SE County Line Rd	Tequesta	33469
13	County Line Park	18530 SE County Line Rd	Tequesta	33469
14	Cove Road Park	6225 SE Cove Rd	Stuart	34997
15	David Anderson Middle School	7000 SE Atlantic Ridge	Stuart	34997
16	Eastridge Park	8764 SE Sandy Lane	Hobe Sound	33455
17	Fire Station #36 Park	18405 SE County Line Rd	Tequesta	33469
18	Fletcher Beach	45 NE MacArthur Blvd	Stuart	34996
19	Glascock Beach	4775 NE Ocean Blvd	Jensen Beach	34957
20	Greenfield Park	4900 SE Cabot St	Hobe Sound	33455
21	Halpatiokee Park	8303 SW Lost River Rd	Stuart	34997
22	Halpatiokee Park - Albiez Bldg	7647 SW Lost River Rd	Stuart	34997
23	Hidden Oaks Middle School	2801 SW Martin Hwy	Palm City	34990
24	Hobe Sound Beach	1 S Beach Rd	Jupiter Island	33455
25	Hobe Sound Civic Center	8980 SE Olympus St	Hobe Sound	33455
26	Hosford Park	7737 SW Gaines Ave	Stuart	34997
27	Indian RiverSide Park	1707 NE Indian River Dr	Jensen Beach	34957
28	Jensen Beach Boat Ramp	2065 NE Indian River Dr	Jensen Beach	34957
29	Jensen Beach Causeway	889 NE Causeway Blvd	Jensen Beach	34957
30	Jensen Beach Elementary Schl	2525 NE Savanna Rd	Jensen Beach	34957
31	Jensen Beach Impoundment	4130 NE Breakwater Dr	Jensen Beach	34957
32	Jensen/Sea Turtle Beach	4191 NE Ocean Blvd	Jensen Beach	34957
33	Jensen/Sea Turtle Beach Sand Dune Café	4191 NE Ocean Blvd	Jensen Beach	34957
34	Jimmy Graham Park	8555 SE Gomez	Hobe Sound	33455
35	Joch Leighton Park	3755 SW Mapp Rd	Palm City	34990
36	Joe's River Park	3500 NE Ocean Blvd	Hutchinson Island	34996

37	J & S Boat Ramp	SW Wood St	Lake Okeechobee	34974
38	JV Reed Park	9004 SE Athena Ave	Hobe Sound	33455
39	Lamar Howard Park	2824 SE Ellendale St	Stuart	34997
40	Langford Park	2369 NE Dixie Hwy	Jensen Beach	34957
41	LCpl Justin Wilson Mem Park	2050 SW Mapp Rd	Palm City	34990
42	Log Cabin at Langford Park	2369 NE Dixie Hwy	Jensen Beach	34957
43	Maggy's Hammock Park	3854 SE Kubin Ave	Stuart	34997
44	Manatee Park	4358 SE Bayview St	Stuart	34997
45	Martin County Golf Course	2000 SE St Lucie Blvd	Stuart	34996
46	Mary Brogan Park	5050 SE Willoughby Blvd	Stuart	34997
47	Murray Middle School	4400 SE Murray St	Stuart	34997
48	New Monrovia Park	4450 SE Field St	Stuart	34997
49	Operations Compound	2990 SE Dixie Hwy	Stuart	34997
50	Owen Murphy Memorial Boat Ramp	4973 SE Dixie Hwy	Stuart	34997
51	Palm City Recreation Center	2701 SW Cornell Ave	Palm City	34990
52	Paul Larson Park	4725 SE Dixie Hwy	Stuart	34997
53	Peck Lake Park	8108 SE Gomez Ave	Hobe Sound	33455
54	Pendarvis Cove Park	1000 SW Chapman Way	Palm City	34990
55	Pettway Park	8243 SE Pettway St	Hobe Sound	33455
56	Phipps Park	2175 SW Locks Rd	Stuart	34997
57	Pineapple Park	960 NW Jensen Beach Blvd	Jensen Beach	34957
58	Port Salerno Civic Center	4940 SE Anchor Ave	Stuart	34997
59	Porter Park	17295 SW Conch Bar Rd	Tequesta	33469
60	Rio Civic Center	1255 NE Dixie Hwy	Jensen Beach	34957
61	Rio Nature Park	150 NW Alice St	Rio	34994
62	Ross Witham Beach	1464 SE MacArthur Blvd	Stuart	34996
63	Sailfish Splash Water Park	931 SE Ruhnke St	Stuart	34994
64	Sandsprit Park	3443 SE St Lucie Blvd	Stuart	34997
65	Santa Lucea Beach	55 NE MacArthur Blvd	Stuart	34996
66	SSgt Justin Johnson Park	12212 SE Lantana Ave	Hobe Sound	33455
67	Stokes Beach	NE Ocean Blvd	Stuart	34996
68	Stuart Beach	889 NE Ocean Blvd	Stuart	34996
69	Stuart Causeway	SE Ocean Blvd	Stuart	34996
70	Stuart Cove	604 NE Ocean Blvd	Stuart	34996
71	Tiger Shores Beach	1337 NE Ocean Blvd	Stuart	34996
72	Timer Powers Park	14100 SW Citrus Blvd	Indiantown	34956
73	Tropical Farms Park	8446 SW Tropical Ave	Stuart	34997
74	Twin Rivers Park	3505 SE Kubin Ave	Stuart	34997
75	Vince Bocchino Community Center	2369 NE Dixie Hwy	Jensen Beach	34957

76	Virginia Forrest Beach	1951 NE Ocean Blvd	Stuart	34996
77	William 'Doc' Myers Park	1000 SE Dixie Hwy	Hobe Sound	33455
78	Wojcieszak Park	4733 SE Grouper Ave	Stuart	34997
79	Zeus Park	12044 SE Zeus Crescent	Hobe Sound	33455
80	Zeus Pocket Park – Grant (NE)	9091 SE Apollo St	Hobe Sound	33455
81	Zeus Pocket Park – Jackson (NW)	8989 SE Apollo St	Hobe Sound	33455
82	Zeus Pocket Park – Lee (SE)	9186 SE Athena St	Hobe Sound	33455
83	Zeus Pocket Park – Sheridan (SW)	9016 SE Athena St	Hobe Sound	33455

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT SYNOPSIS

The Martin County Parks and Recreation Department manages more than 1,730 acres of public land, including beaches and causeways, a public golf course, waterpark, campground, community centers, regional and neighborhood parks. These recreation opportunities serve the communities of Port Salerno, Stuart, Palm City, Jensen Beach, Indiantown, Jupiter Island, Hobe Sound, Sewall's Point, Rio, Hutchinson Island, and unincorporated Martin County with an estimated population of 161,000 residents and countless visitors. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 16.1 percent¹ of residents in Martin County have identified as having at least one functional impairment that affects their daily life activity.² Nationally, disability can affect one in every five individuals; and two out of every seven families.³ Thus, in the County, it is likely that 20-25 percent of the population are affected directly, either as an individual with a disability or as a family member of someone with a disability. The median age in Martin County is 53, and there are an estimated 51,435 people over age 65. And while only 8.3% of the County population age 18-64 identifies as having a disability, approximately 33.2% of the County population over age 65 identifies as having a disability. Thus, the Martin County Parks and Recreation Department offers a multitude of active and passive recreation opportunities for various ages, individuals, groups, and families. From pickleball and golf, to softball tournaments and after school programs, camping, fishing, boating, and beach play, there's something for everyone. The Parks and Recreation Department is nationally recognized for its distinguished service. The County is committed to excellence in the delivery of park and recreation programs having been nationally accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) for more than 20 years.

In regard to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the County conducted its original self-evaluation and transition plan, as required under Title II, in the early 1990s. The transition plan focused on public buildings. While outdoor recreation spaces may not have been formally included in the original ADA Transition Plan, purposeful accessible design and accessibility improvements to park and recreation spaces are very evident at the outdoor pool, community centers, picnic pavilions, concessions, and restroom buildings. Great efforts have been made to ensure that any renovations or alterations to existing facilities over the last 30 years were completed in compliance with the ADA accessibility standards and the Florida accessibility standards:

- At Cassidy Center and throughout the County facilities, accessible parking spaces have been located with a connection to the accessible route so people with mobility impairments do not have to traverse behind parked vehicles.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2019 1-year estimates.

² It is important to note that the U.S. Census Bureau and statistical researchers in disability have long held that the definition of disability is both broadly and narrowly defined based on the context, whether it be as an expansive demographic category or a much more specific criteria for a federal benefit. Accounting for the vast population of people that may have a functional impairment along a spectrum and may not necessarily identify as having a disability per se, the Census Bureau estimates 18 to 20 percent of the population to have a disability in either the communicative, mental or physical domains.

³ [Disability and American Families: 2000](#). U.S. Census Bureau. (July 2005).

- Community program spaces have been made accessible with the addition of ramps to main entrances at Costella Williams Learning Center, County Line Community Center, Hobe Sound Civic Center, the Log Cabin Senior Center at Langford Park, and the Rio Civic Center.
- At Halpatiokee Park, renovations to park restroom buildings have included spatial modifications for wheelchair accessible toilet compartments with lavatories.
- At Joch Leighton Park, picnic pavilions have been made accessible with the addition of a continuous accessible path linking amenities at the site.
- Sites with multiple picnic pavilions like the Jensen and Stuart Causeways, Halpatiokee Park, and Indian RiverSide Park have been purposefully planned to offer more than two accessible pavilions, giving choices to park visitors with disabilities.
- Large tire beach wheelchairs are available for use at guarded beaches including Bathtub Beach, Hobe Sound Beach, Jensen Beach, and Stuart Beach.
- The new Jensen Boat Launch Ramp with connecting accessible courtesy dock is an exemplar design that can serve as a model to future planned facilities. The new configuration enables visitors with mobility impairments to launch their boat, park the trailer, and utilize the accessible route to the courtesy boarding dock.
- Swimming pool lifts have been made available at the outdoor aquatic center.
- Transfer systems have been installed at select kayak launches along the paddling trail and at the Rowing Club at Charlie Leighton Park.
- New playgrounds at Sandsprit Park and Jensen Causeway have been designed with accessible surfacing to facilitate access to all play components.

The ADA Title II regulations required a transition plan to be compiled by 1992 and barriers removed by 1995. However, park and recreation agencies have long been challenged by the lack of accessibility standards for their unique recreation and outdoor environments that do not fit the mold within the “bricks and mortar” provisions. It would not have been unusual for certain recreation features to be left out of a transition plan since the original ADA accessibility standards did not clearly define what makes a unique feature like a swimming pool or playground accessible to people with disabilities. In 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued revised accessibility standards under the ADA that, for the first time in standards history, outlined scoping and technical provisions for recreation facilities including swimming pools, golf course, playgrounds, boating facilities, fishing areas, and sports fields. In 2013, the U.S. Access Board issued accessibility standards for outdoor developed areas including trails, scenic viewing areas, beaches, campgrounds, and picnic areas at federal facilities covered under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA). While these accessibility standards only apply to federally owned and funded projects, they serve as guidance to Title II entities. With the release of both the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the 2013 addition of outdoor developed areas to the ABA, it has

Martin County Accessibility Assessment of Parks & Recreation Facilities

83 Parks, Beaches & Recreation Facilities Assessed

229 Pavilions, Centers, Concessions & Restrooms

1,715 deficiencies where the feature is not compliant with the federal or state accessibility standards.

540 critical deficiencies that prohibit participation by people with disabilities.

21 Barriers Averaged Per Site

7 Critical Barriers Averaged Per Site

Image 1 Martin County Parks and Recreation Accessibility Assessment by the numbers.

become necessary and prudent for all Title II public entities that provide outdoor recreation spaces and facilities to reassess barrier removal and make accessibility improvements consistent with the new standards, thereby folding that data into an ADA Transition Plan. The revised standards coupled with the Title II “program access” requirement has necessitated a thorough accessibility assessment of parks and recreation facilities in order to update the County’s ADA Transition Plan. This project concentrated on physical access for people with disabilities at parks and recreation facilities. The purpose of the accessibility assessment was to identify physical and communication barriers to programs, services, and activities available to the public at supporting facilities such as parks, causeways, beaches, natural areas, the outdoor pool, golf course, and recreation centers.

The accessibility assessment analyzed 83 parks and facilities for compliance with the federal accessibility standards, the state accessibility code, and the Title II “program access” requirement. Approximately 1,715 deficiencies were identified that pose physical or communication barriers for people with disabilities to successfully participate or gain the benefits of the programs, services, or activities within the park or recreation facility. The total number of barriers per site can be considered comparable to like-sized agencies assessed by this consultant. Barriers for people with disabilities were categorized (*Critical, Serious, Moderate or Minor*) by the degree by which the barrier prohibits participation in recreational programs, activities, or experiences such as use of fishing areas, trails, playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields, interpretive content, and natural areas. The number of critical barriers is 15 to 20 percent less than that of a comparable like-sized agency. Corrective actions to improve access for people with disabilities at the 83 parks and facilities are estimated at \$2.9 million; 31% of which are associated with CRITICAL barrier removal necessary to achieve “program access” under Title II of the ADA. Clearly, the County has made accessibility improvements a priority among capital improvements and facility maintenance projects. The estimated cost for corrective actions is 70 percent less than that of a comparable peer that has not been as aggressive implementing accessibility improvements. County staff should be commended for the projects that have been initiated over the last 30 years to improve access for people with disabilities.

This project serves as a condition assessment for each site, quantifying the accessibility of each site based on the federal accessibility standards and state accessibility code. Every identified barrier, referred to as a “deficiency” has an associated recommendation for corrective action to improve access for visitors with disabilities and achieve “program access” in compliance with Title II of the ADA. This executive summary outlines the process for the assessment, the categorization of barriers, key findings,

and recommendations for administrators to incorporate this data into the entity's existing ADA Transition Plan. The appendix includes an accessibility assessment detail report for each park and facility. The detail reports, describing the barriers for visitors with disabilities and recommendations for corrective actions, should be utilized for setting priorities within the ADA Transition Plan, routine maintenance, and long-term capital planning.

An ADA Transition Plan should be a dynamic working document that continues to evolve based on the needs of the community and the resources available to the public entity. This summary report sets forth recommendations for a team approach to accessibility improvements that benefit residents and visitors with disabilities using the vast array of recreation opportunities that Martin County has to offer.

ADA COMPLIANCE: THE TITLE II ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The ADA Title II regulations require units of state and local government, depending on size, take certain administrative measures to implement the regulations and make the information available to constituents with disabilities.

Title II Administrative Requirements



Designate a responsible employee
(Entities w/50+ employees)



Notice to the public
(All public entities)



Grievance procedure
(Entities w/50+ employees)



Self-Evaluation
(All public entities)



Transition Plan
(Entities w/50+ employees)

This section serves to outline the administrative requirements in the context of the accessibility assessment while highlighting some areas where it may be necessary for the County accessibility management team to revisit the policy or procedure (*28 CFR Part 35 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services*).

1. DESIGNATED OFFICIAL

Title II, § 35.107(a) Designation of Responsible Employee, requires a public entity to appoint an employee to coordinate and carry out the County's compliance efforts, including investigation of complaints. Contact information for the designated official is required to be made available through the public notice. The Title II regulations do not specify a requirement for an ADA Coordinator, but rather a designated official that will serve as the final authority for compliance within the public entity. As a best practice, an ADA Coordinator is appointed and responsible for compliance on a daily operational basis, while an executive is appointed as the designated official with final decision making authority. In issues where ADA-related complaints are brought to the County or where departmental efforts may be inconsistent with the regulations, the designated official's final decision serves to represent the entirety of the public entity. Informally, the County has assigned an HR representative to take on the role of ADA Coordinator fielding inquiries from the public. The County's Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation has assumed responsibility for access to facilities and recreation spaces within the Department's purview. These responsibility units have unofficially initiated ADA coordination, but that coordination does not address policy and the designated official with final decision making authority on ADA compliance issues has not been identified/assigned.

A team approach can be incredibly effective for ensuring ADA compliance across departments, although the ADA regulations do not require a formal compliance team. A team approach can drive disability

policy and inclusive organizational practices. An effective accessibility management team includes representation of key functions within the public entity. Successful accessibility management teams have also built a foundational knowledge of the characteristics and needs of people with disabilities, the ADA regulations, and best practices for inclusion. The County does not have a formal accessibility management team. To prepare for ADA transition planning, the Parks and Recreation Department as well as other County staff participated in 3 ½ days of training in June 2021 that included an overview of the accessibility standards for the built environment, picnic areas, beaches, trails, playgrounds, golf courses, and swimming pools; the application of the ADA “program access” requirement to County programs, services, and activities; effective communication; access to special events; universal design; and the Title I employment provisions. Continuing education is critical to support the role of the ADA Coordinator and a public entity’s ADA compliance program.

Required: Designate the responsible employee to serve with final decision-making authority for ADA compliance.

Required: Appoint an ADA Coordinator to implement an ADA action plan with necessary tasks to achieve compliance and publicize the contact information for the ADA Coordinator through the web site, all ADA Notices to the public, and other communication vehicles.

Recommended: Convene an accessibility management/compliance team to direct policy, facilitate the flow of ADA compliance information, and prioritize corrective actions while maintaining a consistent level of expectation among residents with disabilities. The accessibility management/compliance team should provide a structure for determining the appropriateness of reasonable modifications of policies, practices and procedures, or other instances that may pose a direct threat, fundamental alternation to the nature of the program, or undue burden to the entity. At a minimum, the accessibility management/compliance team should include representation of the ADA Coordinator, Planning, Facilities and Operations, Recreation Programs, Human Resources, Marketing and Communications, Public Works, and Risk Management.

Recommended: Provide support to the ADA Coordinator to complete the [ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program](#) offered through the Great Plains ADA Center. Provide support to members of the accessibility management team through the educational offerings of the National Network of ADA Centers and the [National ADA Symposium](#).

ADA Compliance / Accessibility Management Team

Designated Responsible Employee / County Supervisor

- Authorized with final decision-making authority

ADA Coordinator

- Manage daily ADA compliance

Engineering / Planning / Design

- Prioritize and implement accessibility improvements identified in ADA Transition Plan

Operations / Public Works

- Make ADA improvements through routine maintenance. Ensure daily facility access

Programs / Services

- Provide reasonable modifications, auxiliary aids and services in the most integrated setting.

Marketing / Communications

- Ensure effective communication for all programs, services and activities

Purchasing

- Ensure new products, services and contracts include ADA compliance.

Information Technology

- Ensure new technologies for the public, employees and volunteers are accessible

Human Resources

- Facilitate reasonable accommodations for applicants, employees and volunteers

Finance

- Support creative approaches to steward accessibility improvements

Risk Management

- Assess safety concerns related to ADA compliance

Legal

- Engage proficient resources to support good faith efforts for ADA compliance

**Representation on the accessibility management team is recommended, but not limited, to these roles.*

2. NOTICE

Title II, § 35.106 Notice, requires public entities to make available a public notice to applicants, participants, beneficiaries, and other interested parties the applicability of the ADA provisions and to apprise them of the protections afforded to them under the federal law. The manner by which the information is made available is left to the discretion of the head of the agency. The County has published a public notice on its website (www.martin.fl.us/ADACompliance).

The screenshot shows the Martin County Florida website's ADA Compliance Program page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Residents, Business, Departments, Things to Do, Want to, Services, Transparency, and Documents. Below the navigation bar, the page title is "MARTIN COUNTY ADA COMPLIANCE PROGRAM". The main content area includes sections for "ADA COMPLIANCE", "ADA NOTICE", "ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS & GRIEVANCES", "ADA BUSINESS EVALUATIONS AND PROPERTY INSPECTIONS", and "Instructions". There are also buttons for "Submit a Request for Help or Information" and "ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities". The footer contains contact information for Martin County Florida, including the address 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996, and phone number 772-288-5400. There are also logos for the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Transportation's ADA Coordinator.

MARTIN COUNTY ADA COMPLIANCE PROGRAM ADA COMPLIANCE

In a continuing effort to meet the goals and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Martin County Administration Department manages Martin County's ADA Compliance Program. This program provides training to county departments and assists developers, builders, business owners and other citizen groups in understanding the issues and requirements of the ADA. Special attention is given to development review for both public and private construction projects to ensure that accessibility is provided to all citizens.

Martin County does not discriminate in its programs and services on the basis of religion, age, race, color, national origin, gender, marital or parental status, or disability and complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

ADA NOTICE

The Act does not require actions that would fundamentally alter the County's programs or services or that impose an undue financial or administrative burden; however, the County will make reasonable changes to its policies and programs to ensure qualified persons with disabilities have equal opportunity for its services, programs and activities.

Request for an accommodation should allow for sufficient time to provide it. The County does not surcharge any person or group for the cost of providing appropriate auxiliary aids or services, or for reasonable modifications of its policies. To request an accommodation, make a suggestion or complaint regarding inaccessible programs, services or activities see the below procedure.

ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS & GRIEVANCES

To make an accommodation request, grievance or suggestion regarding a county program or service, please contact the Martin County ADA Coordinator by:

Telephone: (772) 320-3131
TTY: (800) 955-8770
Online: Accessibility Feedback Form
Email: Accessibility@martin.fl.us

Mail: Martin County Government
Attn: ADA Coordinator
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, Florida, 34996

Please give sufficient notice and please also provide the following information if you are requesting an accommodation:

Your specific need
Your accommodation request or suggestion(s)

	<p>Your name and contact information</p> <p>ADA BUSINESS EVALUATIONS AND PROPERTY INSPECTIONS</p> <p>All commercial site plans, including multi-family projects, are reviewed during the development review process specifically for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Fair Housing Act. Each project is required to be inspected prior to building permit final to ensure compliance. This inspection may also be required for tenant improvements on older site plans to ensure continued compliance and updates.</p> <p>All commercial properties in Martin County are subject to property inspections as protocol during permitting. If you would like a free checklist to evaluate your business for ADA compliance, please use the "ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities" document provided below.</p> <p>If you would like to have an existing business evaluated for ADA compliance, please select the "Submit a Request for Help or Information" button below to submit a request.</p> <p>Instructions</p> <p>If you any have additional questions about Martin County's ADA Compliance Program, please select the "Submit a Request for Help or Information" button below to submit an inquiry.</p>
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This ADA Notice is posted on the County's website, however the page is nested under the "Departments > Administration" category. This may be confusing for website users since the predominant website footer includes an "ADA Accessibility" graphic that links to the statement about the website's accessibility and usability.

The ADA Notice may have been edited too much and lost some of its meaning. The U.S. Department of Justice publishes a template that can be used as a public notice. The County's ADA Notice has combined information for accommodation requests and grievances into a singular process. This too can be confusing as accommodation requests should be routed to departments coordinating the respective program, service, or activity, and grievances should be routed to the ADA Coordinator.

The U.S. Department of Justice interprets the ADA Notice requirement as an ongoing responsibility of the public entity and recommends that the ADA Notice be placed in job applications; published periodically in local newspapers; broadcasted as public service announcements on local radio and television stations; published on the government entity's website; posted at all facilities, included in program handbooks and activity schedules; included as announcements for meetings of programs, services, and activities; published as a legal notice in local newspapers; and posted in bus shelters or other public transit stops. DOJ has published the following notice template for public entities.



NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS
WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the [name of public entity] will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: [name of public entity] does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: [Name of public entity] will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in [name of public entity's] programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: [Name of public entity] will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in [name of public entity] offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of [name of public entity], should contact the office of [name and contact information for ADA Coordinator] as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the [name of public entity] to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of [name of public entity] is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to [name and contact information for ADA Coordinator].

[Name of public entity] will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

A welcome statement encouraging participation by people with disabilities is considered a best practice by which the public entity can further communicate its commitment to inclusion. Placing the welcome statement in front of the ADA Notice, in program guidebooks, brochures and other marketing materials encourages people with and without disabilities to take a deeper interest in the County's intent to comply with the ADA.

Recommended: Consider revising the current ADA Notice to follow the template recommended by the U.S. Department of Justice in the [ADA Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments](#).

Recommended: Separate the information and processes for a clear delineation between requests for disability-related accommodations in programs, services, and activities from that ADA grievances where individuals believe they may have been discriminated against on the basis of disability.

Recommended: Promote the web page with the ADA Notice so it can easily be found and navigated to from the County's main web page. Consider combining the web site accessibility page and the ADA compliance program page into a single page accessed from the main web site landing page. It would also be considered acceptable to move the ADA Notice to an umbrella non-discrimination web page.

Recommended: Develop a schedule to broaden the outreach of the County's ADA Notice such as through major County publications, public service announcements, and legal notices in the local newspaper.

Recommended: Design a poster that can be used as a public notice on display at all County facilities and locations of County programs, services, and activities.

Recommended: Consider adding a welcome statement to preface the County's ADA Notice and include the statement in other marketing materials for programs, services, and activities:

People with disabilities are encouraged to participate in all programs, services and activities offered by the County. For more information or questions, contact the ADA Coordinator via email, at Accessibility@martin.fl.us, or by calling voice (772) 320-3131 or TTY (800) 955-8770.

3. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Title II, § 35.107(b) Complaint Procedure, requires a public entity to adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of ADA-related complaints. The purpose of the ADA grievance procedure is to provide people with disabilities an informal process to contact an entity regarding an access issue so that the individual and the public entity may work together toward a mutual and timely resolution.

As previously discussed under the ADA Notice, information on accommodation requests and grievances have been combined into a singular process on the County’s website. Furthermore, the intake form has been coupled with inquiries about the accessibility of the website itself. These inquiries and complaints should be separate processes. Disability-related requests for auxiliary aids and services such as sign language interpreters or alternate formats like large print should be directed to program coordinators within the responsibility unit. Grievances should follow a completely separate process whereas the initial complaint (formal or informal) goes to the ADA Coordinator who will investigate the issue and follow up with the complainant. The public should also be informed of the timeline for a grievance procedure. What is the timeframe by which complaints should be received? When should an individual expect to receive a response to the complaint? And what is the process for the individual to appeal the decision?

Within the ADA Notice under “Accommodations Requests and Grievances,” the only link in the section “Accessibility Feedback Form” goes to the form about website issues. The link at the bottom of the page “Submit a request for help or information” goes to the “ADA Grievances & Inquiries” web page. Instead, this link to request help should go to the ADA Coordinator for general inquiries and the program coordinators for specific programs, services, and activities. A request for help, assistance or inquiry should not go to a grievance form.

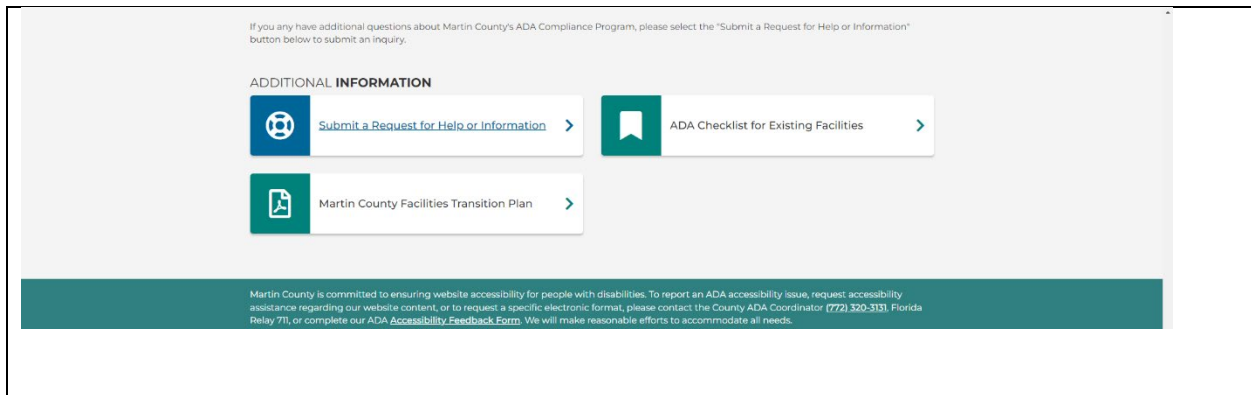




Image 2 “Submit a Request for Help or Information” at the bottom of the ADA Notice webpage.

New Request

Request Type:
 ADA Grievances & Inquiries 

Instructions (click to hide)

Any individual who believes material on this site is inaccessible and is considered to be a violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and/or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may submit their documented grievance in this request/online providing the information listed below:

At a minimum, the grievance should include:

- A description of the problem encountered
- The date of the complaint
- Your address
- Your contact information (email and telephone number)
- The URL (web address) or location of the problem page
- Solution desired

Your Contact Information

First Name: Last Name:

Contact Method: Email Phone

Email: Phone #: Extension:

Describe the Request *

Describe the Request

Attach Pictures or Documents

Click to Choose Files...

Please review your information.
 Your **Request is not complete** until you click the "Submit Request" button.

*Public Records - Florida has a very broad Public Records Law and all communications created or received by Martin County officials and employees will be made available to the public and media, upon request, unless otherwise exempt. As a result, the entire content of all requests made with this system become subject to public disclosure under the law. Users should govern themselves accordingly.

To report an ADA accessibility issue or request accessibility assistance, please contact the County ADA Coordinator (772) 320-3131, Florida Relay 711, or complete our accessibility feedback form at www.martin.fl.us/accessibility-feedback.

Image 3 ADA Grievances & Inquiries web form.

The accessibility of the online form for grievances and inquiries also poses challenges. A review with the WebAIM WAVE website evaluation tool shows that the form is missing alternate text and labels for people with visual, sensory, or cognitive impairments who may be navigating the web page with the tab key instead of a mouse and having the screen read aloud by a screen reading program. It is critical that online forms include a logical tab order and labels on each blank intended for completion by the user.

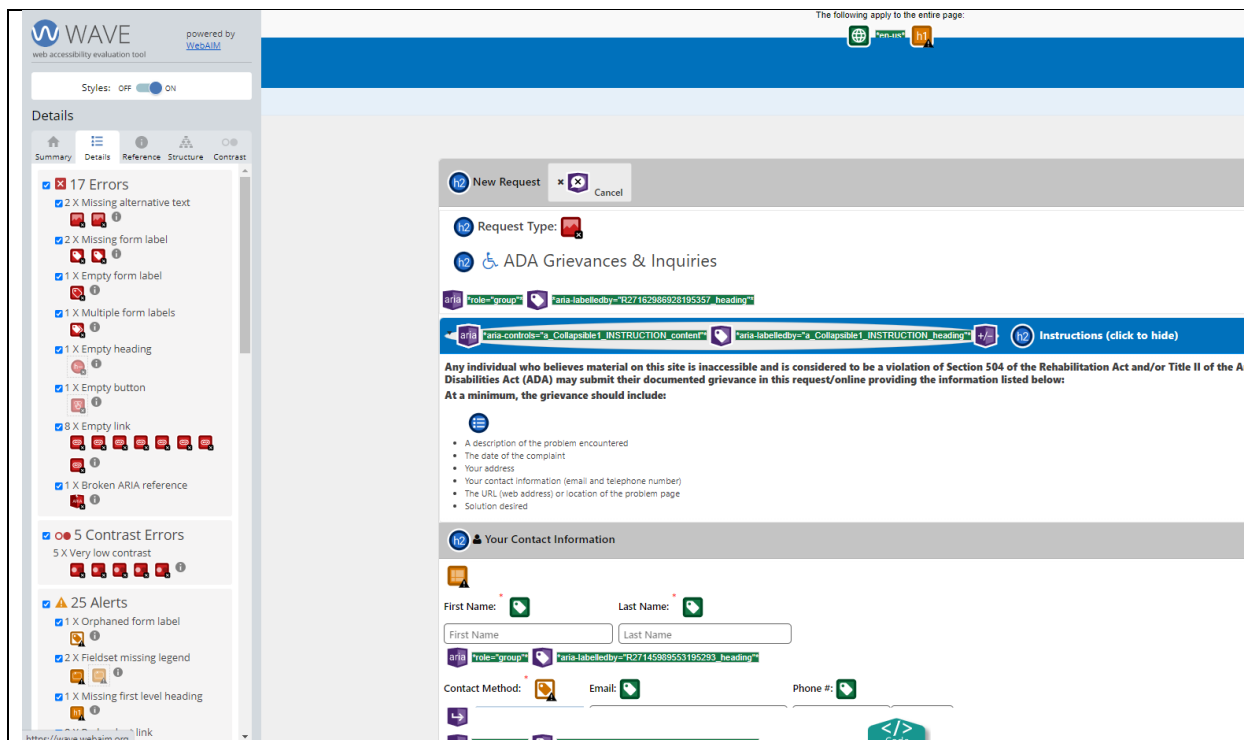


Image 4 Results of web accessibility evaluation of online form for ADA grievances and inquiries.

Recommended: Separate the information and processes for a clear delineation between requests for disability-related accommodations in programs, services, and activities; inquiries to the ADA Coordinator; and ADA grievances where individuals believe they may have been discriminated against on the basis of disability. Issues about the accessibility of web pages should also be kept as a separate process and form.

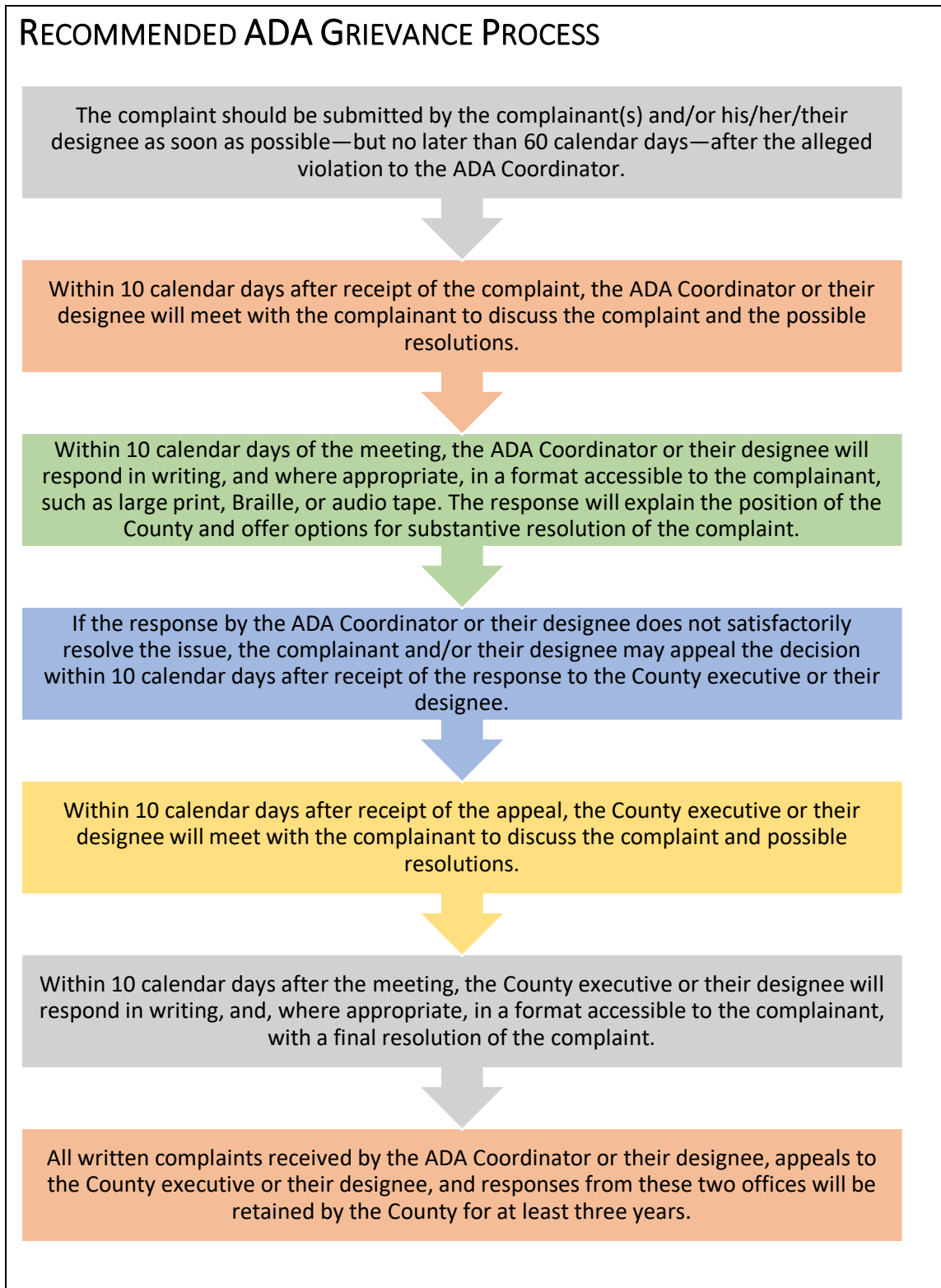
Recommended: Establish a system for the ADA Coordinator to intake, update, monitor, track and report all ADA-related inquiries and complaints. This will enable staff to pinpoint specific facility access issues that may need reconsideration for prioritizing in the ADA Transition Plan, address policy issues that may need further modification, and document corrective actions should the complaint proceed as a formal complaint to DOJ or a private right of action in federal court.

Recommended: Adopt an approach whereby individuals with concerns can contact the ADA Coordinator directly. Staff can make inquiries with specific departments and then follow up with individuals with a win-win resolution. Consider adding information to the ADA grievance procedure encouraging open communication with constituents:

Many disability-related concerns can be resolved internally without resorting to lengthy and costly grievance procedures. Before filing your complaint, contact the County's ADA Coordinator to discuss your concerns. The ADA Coordinator can look into the issue and try to come up with an acceptable resolution to the situation.

Recommended: Establish a timeline for the grievance procedure using input from the disability community and a disability advisory committee to meet their expectations for a timely response to

complainants with disabilities. The following timeline is considered a best practice that could be adopted.



4. SELF-EVALUATION

Title II, 35.105 Self-Evaluation, requires a public entity to evaluate its current services, policies, and practices to the extent modification of any such services, policies, and practices are necessary to enable participation by people with disabilities. The original ADA Self Evaluation was to be completed by January 26, 1993. As policy has evolved and personnel has changed over the last 30 years, it is necessary for the public entities to revisit policies and procedures and their impact on people with disabilities. As a best practice, it is recommended that a public entity revisit its ADA Self Evaluation every 7-10 years. A comprehensive evaluation is recommended that is specific to the delivery of recreation programs, services, and activities, and is conducted both by the County and by any partners or contractors.

Recommended: Conduct a comprehensive review of County policies, practices, and procedures to ensure that people with disabilities are able to fully participate and benefit from programs, services, and activities. The review should evaluate whether any policies intentionally or unintentionally screen out or prohibit participation by people with disabilities. Reasonable modifications should be made to policies unless the modification would result in a direct threat, fundamental alteration to the nature of the program, or undue hardship. Policies in need of modification should be identified and assigned in the umbrella ADA Action Plan. The review should include, but is not limited to:

Ordinances	Employment	Purchasing
Regulations	Waivers	Contracts
Public Meetings	Licenses	Special Events
Applications	Programs	Emergency Preparedness
Registrations	Communications	

Recommended: A successful public entity is attentive, flexible and responsive to the ever-changing needs of the community it serves. As such, County policies, programs, and services will continue to evolve. Recognizing the fluidity of the enterprise, utilize the expertise of the ADA Coordinator to continually self-evaluate programs, services, policies, and procedures; and to work with departments to make reasonable modifications to ensure people with disabilities have the equal opportunity to participate and enjoy the benefit of County programs, services and activities.

Recommended: Utilize the coordination of an accessibility management team to implement an ADA Action Plan that specifies tasks, leads and timelines.

Recommended: Communicate the County's ADA compliance initiatives through annual updates, staff training and new employee orientation.

5. TRANSITION PLAN

Title II, § 35.150(d) Transition Plan, requires a public entity to develop a transition plan if structural changes to facilities are necessary in order to achieve program accessibility. The County has a working ADA Transition Plan in progress for public buildings, sidewalks, and curb ramps. The data presented herein is intended to supplement the existing transition plan with this specific focus on parks and recreation facilities.

Title II, § 35.149 states that *no qualified individual with a disability shall, because a public entity's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by individuals with disabilities, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any public entity.* This is known as the “program access” standard in Title II. Program access is the foundational principle for Title II of the ADA. When viewed in its entirety, programs, services and activities must be accessible to people with disabilities. The Title II “program access” standard does not require that ALL **existing facilities** are accessible. Instead, it requires that ALL **programs, services and activities** are accessible. At sites where programs, services and activities are offered but that currently are not physically accessible, the public entity is tasked with either 1) making the physical environment accessible to facilitate participation in the program, service or activity; OR 2) relocating the program, service or activity to an accessible location until such time that the existing inaccessible site is made accessible.

As repairs and renovations have been made in parks and recreation facilities, the projects have informally included accessibility improvements. Through its efforts, Park Operations has implemented numerous accessibility improvements without a formalized ADA Transition Plan, an extraordinary effort comparative to its peers nationally.

Recommended: Develop a balanced, equitable process to prioritize accessibility improvements and formally adopt an updated ADA Transition Plan specific to parks and recreation facilities. This plan should identify and prioritize what corrective actions are necessary to achieve PROGRAM ACCESS. These are corrective actions that can ensure people with disabilities have the equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the activities and experiences associated with the program, service, or activity offered by the County, whether it be structured and staffed or non-structured and self-guided.

Recommended: Conduct an interactive review of the assessment data specific to program locations including program directors/coordinators. Identify program locations that are integral to the delivery of the program and update the schedule of corrective actions within the ADA Transition Plan.

Recommended: Designate lead staff to drive the prioritization and scheduling of accessibility improvements, coordinating ADA compliance for the physical environment at County facilities and parks. Incorporate access priorities into an annual capital improvement plan.

Recommended: Convene the responsible units for transition planning semi-annually so that they can report progress on accessibility improvements along with updates on upcoming projects.

Recommended: Develop a process to track and report on completed accessibility improvements. This process should also include tracking actions that are taken in lieu of barrier removal but are necessary to achieve program access.

PROGRAM ACCESS & ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

“Program Access” is the foundational principle for Title II of the ADA. When viewed in its entirety, programs, services, and activities must be accessible to people with disabilities. Sometimes in parks and recreation, the standard is misinterpreted to only include programs that are structured, staffed, and require registrations. This is not the case. The term “program” under the ADA is very broad and really extends to all the experiences offered in parks and recreation settings including, but not limited to:

Banquet rentals	Exercise	Pavilion use
Baseball/softball	Fishing	Picnicking and grilling
Basketball	Fitness course	Pickleball
Beach access	Golf	Playground
Bike access	Inline hockey	Restroom
Boat ramps	Inline skating	Skateboarding
Cabanas	Handball	Soccer
Camping	Hiking	Sports field
Canoeing and kayaking	Historic preservation	Swimming
Concessions	Horseback riding trails	Tennis
Disc golf	Horseshoe pits	Track & field
Dog park	Interpretation of nature and history	Volleyball
Environmental education	Nature area use	Water playgrounds

The majority of these activities are identified in the “park finder” website powered by GIS. These activities are the experiences or “programs” by which the public engages in at a park, nature area or recreation facility. At some sites a program like baseball may be the primary activity or reason that people come to that park and hiking trails may be a secondary experience. At other sites, there may be more than one or even several primary activities or reasons that people come to that site. The public entity should have a thorough understanding of visitor use patterns, including primary and secondary experiences, length of time at a site, volume of use and frequency of use. This data will help to guide prioritization of accessibility improvements.

The Title II “program access” standard does not require that ALL **existing facilities** are accessible. Instead, it requires that ALL **programs, services, and activities** are accessible. At sites where programs, services, and activities are offered but that currently are not physically accessible, the public entity is tasked with either 1) making the physical environment accessible to facilitate participation in the program, service, or activity; OR 2) relocating the program, service or activity to an accessible location until such time that the existing inaccessible site is made accessible. **The focus of this accessibility assessment is to determine what corrective actions are necessary to achieve PROGRAM ACCESS; these are corrective actions that can ensure people with disabilities have the equal opportunity to participate and benefit from the activities and experiences associated with the park, natural area, or recreation facility.**

The assessment team evaluated public spaces for program access and compliance with the accessibility standards and guidelines. The approach to the accessibility assessment is one where the sequence for data collection follows the visitor from the point of entrance to the park or facility and through the use of various programmatic experiences. Common elements for assessment included parking, exterior routes, entrances, interior routes, spaces where programs, services, and activities are conducted, service

counters, concessions, restrooms, interpretive exhibits, and outdoor recreation spaces such as picnic areas, viewing areas, trailheads, sports fields, playgrounds, swimming pools, tennis facilities, and golf courses. Barriers to participation for visitors with disabilities were identified as deficiencies and corrective actions were recommended in the form of work orders/plans and capital improvements. Recommendations for corrective actions are based upon compliance with federal mandates; the state building code in instances where the building code is more stringent; federal rulemaking under development for outdoor developed areas, public rights of way and shared use paths in order to achieve program access; and recognized best practices for interpretive environments and universal design.

The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the ABA Accessibility Standards specific to trails, picnic areas, and scenic viewing areas were the primary referenced standards. Proposed rules were referenced for guidance along with publications of noted best practices.

Referenced Standards & Guidelines	Compliance is REQUIRED	Referenced Guidance	Best Practice
2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design	✓		
Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act: State and Local Government	✓		
State of Florida, 2020 Florida Building Code , referenced building codes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Building Code (IBC)(2018) - ANSI A117.1 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities (current edition as referenced in IBC) 	✓		
Outdoor Developed Areas incorporated into the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards (2013)		✓	
Proposed Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (PROWAG)(2011)		✓	
Advanced Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way - Shared Use Paths (2013)		✓	
Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design Smithsonian Accessibility Program			✓
Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media			✓
Principles of Universal Design			✓

It should be noted that the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design were issued after years of work by the U.S. Access Board to harmonize the standards with the International Building Code (IBC) and the ANSI A.117.1 Accessibility Standards. Periodic updates to the IBC and ANSI A.117 are issued on a 3–5-year cycle and adopted at the state and local levels. The revision and adoption process under the ADA

are significantly longer. Thus, the ADA standards and building codes are quick to fall out of sync in the next cycle of revisions. It will be critical for planners, project managers, contractors, and maintenance personnel to stay abreast of the most current and most stringent accessibility standards for efficient implementation of an ADA Transition Plan. It is recommended that the agency follow the most stringent technical provisions when alterations and corrective actions are made.

There are a number of provisions within the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction (2020) that are significantly more stringent than the ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The state was one of the first to have its state building code certified by the U.S. Department of Justice as substantially equivalent to the Federal ADA Standards. Some of the provisions cited in the accessibility assessment include:

- Opening force for exterior doors. Exterior hinged doors shall be designed so that such doors can be pushed or pulled open with a force not exceeding 8.5 lbs. (FL 404.2.9)
- Width of accessible parking spaces and location of accessible route. Accessible parking spaces with a minimum 12 ft clear width and adjacent access aisles with a minimum 5 ft clear width. Width measurements of parking spaces and access aisles shall be made from the centerline of the white lines. All accessible parking spaces must be located on an accessible route that is at least 44 inches wide so that users are not compelled to walk or wheel behind parked vehicles except behind his or her own vehicle. (FL 502.2)
- Parking signs designating the accessible parking space. Signs shall be 84 inches minimum above the finish floor or ground surface measured to the bottom of the sign. (FL 502.6)
- Lavatory in wheelchair accessible toilet compartment. In new construction, the wheelchair accessible toilet compartment shall contain an accessible lavatory within it. (FL 604.8.1.6)

Because the building code requirements in Florida continue to evolve at a more rapid pace than the IBC or ADA, it is highly recommended that the Florida code be consulted during planning and construction for each new project.

The 2010 ADA Standards do not yet address the scoping and technical provisions for trails, scenic viewing areas, picnic areas, campgrounds, and beaches – features commonly found in the municipal parks and natural areas. The accessibility standards for these features have been adopted under the Architectural Barriers Act and apply to federal land management agencies such as the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the USDA Forest Service. **The ABA Accessibility Standards specific to outdoor developed areas have been referenced in this accessibility assessment as a means to achieve program access.** When accessibility improvements are made to trails, scenic viewing area, picnic areas, and beaches, the more stringent of the ABA, ADA or state code should be utilized. For example, the scoping requirement for picnic areas and the minimum number of accessible picnic tables under the ABA is more stringent (a minimum of 1, 2 or 20%) than the ADA requirement for dining areas (a minimum of 5%). Unfortunately, since the provisions for outdoor developed areas are not part of the ADA accessibility standards yet, public entities are not able to opt to the less stringent standards from the ABA. For example, the ABA standards specific to outdoor developed areas introduce a concept for an “outdoor recreation access route” that connect the accessible features in picnic areas and campgrounds. This outdoor recreation access route allows for a steeper slope, up to 10% for 30 ft. Typically, the maximum slope for an accessible route is up to 5% and anything 5 to 8.33% maximum is a ramp requiring handrails, landings, and edge protection. Because the rulemaking on outdoor developed

areas is not yet part of the ADA standards adopted and enforced by DOJ, it is not yet permissible for an entity covered by the ADA to use this lesser standard.

This accessibility assessment should be considered as a conditions assessment, a snapshot in time recording the conditions for visitors with disabilities on that day. Conditions may change due to events such as maintenance, vandalism, and storm damage. Thus, the planning team should always visit the site prior to making corrective actions to verify the present conditions.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT AND DATABASE

The supplemental detail reports for each site follow this section in the appendix. The detail reports, also titled “Accessibility Assessment Conditions Reports,” provide a description of each deficiency, location, recommendation for barrier removal, conceptual projected cost, and digital image. The deficiencies and corresponding corrective actions have been categorized by priorities. The priority definitions are based upon criticality and effect on the disabled visitor’s opportunity to equally participate and benefit from the experience like non-disabled users. The priorities were developed by the project team as follows:

Priorities
Priority 1 – Critical
A Priority 1 is a critical and urgent classification given to those barriers/deficiencies that significantly prohibit people with disabilities from utilizing the program, service, or activity to equally participate and benefit from the experience when viewed in its entirety. These locations are likely to have the highest volume of visitor use and be considered integral to the reason people come to the park or facility. Corrective action here is necessary to achieve “Program Access.” In some instances, a safety concern may also be addressed in this category. Examples: <i>The site lacks an accessible route to the beach high tide water level. The park lacks an accessible route to the sports field, team seating, and spectator viewing area. The accessible parking is surfaced with large stone gravel. There is no accessible picnic unit.</i>
Priority 2 – Serious
A Priority 2 is a serious and urgent classification given to those deficiencies that effectually inhibit a person with a disability from utilizing the facility independently. The deficiency is considered a barrier to a significant number of people with disabilities; the location has a high volume of use and is considered a unique feature to the park or facility. A person with a disability may be able to participate in a limited capacity or with some assistance but is still prevented from receiving the full benefit of the program, service, or activity. Examples: <i>A section of the asphalt park path has a slope 6 to 12%, changes in level or openings in the surface. The restroom lacks accessible room identification signage. There is a change in level at the door threshold. The lock requires twisting, pinching, or grasping.</i>
Priority 3 – Moderate
A Priority 3 is a moderate classification given to those deficiencies that affect the convenience of accessibility for visitors with disabilities. At least one of these features or elements is already considered accessible somewhere else in the park or facility. Corrective action here would provide greater convenience for users. Example: <i>The trash receptacle is located outside of the accessible route and accessible reach range. The accessible toilet stall lacks a door pull on the interior.</i>
Priority 4 – Minor
A Priority 4 is a minor non-urgent deficiency that would be required to be meet the new construction standards should the element undergo alternation or renovation. In most instances, the element is a duplicate and already provided as accessible in another location within the park or facility; or it is considered an area primarily used by employees. Example: <i>The light switch is 52 inches above the finish floor, compliant with the older accessibility standards, but not compliant with the newer 2010 ADA Standards required not to exceed 48 inches.</i>

The detail reports are grouped by open space and then by building. Each grouping is sorted by priority. Thus, all open space recreation areas will be listed at the top of the report and followed by any buildings on site like a visitor center, concession, or restroom. A green dividing line will separate each building and each building is identified with its corresponding asset number. The asset number has been sequentially assigned by the existing Building Number assigned by Park Operations. The detail report components include:

1. Header and Footer
2. Building and asset number
3. Location at the site
4. Solution short description, long description of barrier, and corrective action
5. Priority
6. Conceptual projection cost and note
7. Referenced standard citation
8. Photo
9. Record ID




1 Martin County Parks and Recreation		Accessibility Assessment Conditions Report		
2	Location	Solution / Description and Recommendation	Priority	Cost Estimate
B00328	Bathtub Beach - Bathhouse/Lifeguard Office			
	<u>Men's Restroom</u> 3			
	4 Adjust door opening force and/or evaluate for installation of automatic/power-assisted door system	5 Priority 1 - Critical	6 \$150	
	<p>The opening force for the exterior door is 11 lbs.</p> <p>Adjust the closer on the exterior door to reduce the opening force. Exterior hinged doors shall be designed so that such doors can be pushed or pulled open with a force not exceeding 8.5 lbs. If this is not practical, evaluate this entrance for the installation of an automatic or power assisted door system.</p> <p>Reference: ADA 206.4, 206.5, 404, FL 404.2.9</p> <p>Photo: BathtubBeach-037</p> <p>Record #: 8</p> <p>Cost Note: Estimate to adjust closer on exterior door. 6</p>			
				
	<u>Women's Restroom</u>			
	4 Adjust door opening force and/or evaluate for installation of automatic/power-assisted door system	Priority 1 - Critical	\$150	
	<p>The opening force for the exterior door is 12 lbs.</p> <p>Adjust the closer on the exterior door to reduce the opening force. Exterior hinged doors shall be designed so that such doors can be pushed or pulled open with a force not exceeding 8.5 lbs. If this is not practical, evaluate this entrance for the installation of an automatic or power assisted door system.</p> <p>Reference: ADA 206.4, 206.5, 404, FL 404.2.9</p> <p>Photo: BathtubBeach-044</p> <p>Record #: 15</p> <p>Cost Note: Estimate to adjust closer on exterior door.</p>			
				
	<u>Men's Restroom</u>			
	4 Insulate exposed pipes at lavatory	Priority 2 - Serious	\$60	
	<p>In the wheelchair accessible toilet compartment, the lavatory pipes are exposed.</p> <p>Insulate the exposed pipes at the lavatory to protect from burn or abrasion.</p> <p>Reference: ADA 606.5</p> <p>Photo: BathtubBeach-040</p> <p>Record #: 9</p> <p>Cost Note: Estimate to install lavatory pipe cover.</p>			
				
Skulski Consulting LLC		Bathtub Reef Beach	Report last updated: 2/16/2022	Page 3 of 10

Image 5 Detail of the accessibility assessment conditions report.

Upon receipt of this report, planners, programmers, and facility managers are encouraged to review the data and begin analyzing how the findings and recommendations fit into the master plans and programmatic goals for each park or facility. The detail reports should be consulted whenever:

- ✓ Routine maintenance is performed.
- ✓ Capital projects are planned.
- ✓ Corrective actions are implemented per the ADA Transition Plan.

The priorities DO NOT dictate the order to which corrective actions should be made. Instead, they are defined to give decision-makers a better understanding of the magnitude by which the barrier prohibits a person with a disability from fully experiencing the program or activity offered at the park or facility. It will be at the discretion of administrators to determine the order by which corrective actions are made.

A fully customizable database has been developed in MS Access to facilitate the management of a dynamic, flexible ADA Transition Plan. The ADA Coordinator will be able to update and maintain the data as corrective actions are prioritized and completed.

Within the database, planners can update deficiencies by assigning the target date, budget cycle, and lead department/staff. Planners can differentiate if the project is a capital project or should be submitted as routine maintenance through a work order. Conceptual projection costs can be updated.

The ADA Coordinator can document projects that have been completed or steps that have been taken in lieu of barrier removal including relocating a program to an accessible site. The documentation of

Update Transition Plan

DeficiencyID: 4 Priority: Priority 1 - Critical FY Budget: Target Date:

Property: Bathtub Reef Beach Lead Dept/Staff:

Asset: Capital Project:

Location: Beach Submit for Work Order:

Solution: Provide accessible route at beach to high tide water level Design Services Needed:

Transition Planning Note:

Deficiency Description: There is no accessible route from the site arrival point and entry point for the beach that fully extends to the high tide level.

Recommendation: Provide a beach access route from the point of entry to the beach to the high tide level. The surface shall be firm and stable. The clear width shall be a minimum 60 inches. The running slope is preferred not to exceed 5%, but allowable up to 8-10% with resting intervals. Consider extending the surface for the beach access route parallel with the shoreline to provide lounging positions for multiple user groups.

Cost Estimate: \$12,000 Cost Estimate Note: Estimate for 150 ft x 10 ft accessmat beach mat system.

Corrective Action Complete Completed Date: Actual Cost: \$0.00 In Lieu of Barrier Removal

Description of Corrective Action: Should a corrective action not be made, please describe the alternative means of access in lieu of barrier removal. [Required for ADA Transition Plan]

Image 6 The database to update and maintain the ADA Transition Plan.

scheduled and completed projects can demonstrate the public entity's good faith⁴ effort in achieving ADA compliance. The ADA Coordinator can update the following fields:

- Corrective Action Complete
- Completed Date
- Actual Cost
- Description of Corrective Action
- In Lieu of Barrier Removal
- Description of alternative means of access in lieu of barrier removal

Reports can be generated to include upcoming projects and completed projects available for inspection by the public and presented annually to executive leadership.

An effective ADA Transition Plan is a dynamic working document. It provides a framework and structure for barrier removal; yet it is flexible and fluid to meet the unique needs of the community as public input is gathered, challenges arise, and new opportunities are presented. Rather than simply provide a static written report, an agile database was designed to aid the County in ADA transition planning. If properly utilized and maintained, it can facilitate planning for annual accessibility projects, track progress, record decisions in lieu of barrier removal and provide the most up to date information for public inquiries regarding accessibility improvements at a particular site.

⁴ The general presumption under contract law that the entity will deal honestly and fairly. The Title II and Title III Technical Assistance Manuals describe documentation of planned barrier removal and policy modifications as evidence of good faith.

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Approximately 1,715 deficiencies were identified within the 83 parks and facilities that were assessed. The deficiencies were analyzed and recommendations for corrective actions were developed to achieve compliance with the accessibility standards and the “program access” requirement of Title II. The 10 most frequently cited recommendations for improving access for visitors with disabilities were:

Most Frequently Cited Recommendations	#	Estimated Cost
1. Provide picnic units with mobility features.	145	\$ 500,000
2. Raise/lower toilet paper dispenser.	110	16,550
3. Provide accessible fire ring/grill.	81	98,500
4. Install/replace/relocate toilet for accessible toilet compartment.	78	97,500
5. Adjust door opening force and/or evaluate for installation of automatic/power-assisted door system (exterior doors).	75	12,500
6. Install door pull for toilet compartment.	73	2,880
7. Modify existing pathway.	56	190,400
8. Raise/lower or relocate soap dispenser.	52	2,905
Restripe existing parking lot to include accessible parking spaces and access aisles.	52	101,000
9. Correct changes in level/openings for accessible route.	50	43,250
10. Install/remount grab bars	49	9,480

Broad conceptual projection costs⁵ were assigned based on the *RS Means ADA Compliance Pricing Guide* and input from the project team. **These broad estimated costs should only serve as temporary placeholders and continue to be adjusted through the annual/semi-annual planning process.** The projected cost for individual corrective actions ranges from relocating a paper towel dispenser that protrudes into the circulation route at \$50 to remodeling a restroom to include a wheelchair accessible toilet compartment at \$15,000. These broad conceptual projection costs have been adjusted based on industry data for Q1-2022. The construction industry continues to experience volatile price fluctuations based on supply chain issues, material demands, transportation costs, labor shortages, and inflationary factors. The accessibility management team should continue to make adjustments to the placeholder cost estimates as new information is gathered, and decisions are made more specific to each corrective action. For example, conceptual projection costs have been based on replacing standard fixtures with similar accessible models – a standard wood-top picnic table on aluminum frame would be replaced with an accessible extended wood-top picnic table with aluminum frame. If the County planning team decides it wants to move from wood-top picnic tables to a higher-end powder-coated model at certain sites, the placeholder cost estimate should be adjusted in the database for future budgeting. In addition, there are numerous corrective actions that could be implemented either in-house by the park operations or facility management teams. Alternatively, the volume of similar corrective actions may

⁵ Design services were estimated when new paths would exceed 100+ linear feet to further determine the needs for grading and drainage. In some instances, projected costs for design services may have been split across several corrective actions that need to be addressed at the same time.

merit use of specialized contractors for bulk work orders like installation of tactile restroom signs, adjustments to door closers, offsetting toilet fixtures, or remounting grab bars.

The deficiencies and corresponding corrective actions have been categorized by priorities. In the ADA transition planning process, the accessibility management team should focus on scheduling improvements for deficiencies that have been categorized as either Priority 1 – Critical or Priority 2 – Serious in order to achieve “program access” – when viewed in its entirety, the program or experience is accessible to people with disabilities.

#	Deficiencies & Recommended Corrective Actions	Estimate*
540	Priority 1 – Critical	\$1,741,710
805	Priority 2 – Serious	1,007,040
345	Priority 3 – Moderate	279,575
45	Priority 4 – Minor	3,310

**Estimates are broad-based conceptual estimates and likely to change as more detailed decisions are made addressing construction techniques, materials and finishes.*

Most Frequently Cited PRIORITY-1 CRITICAL Recommendations	#	Estimated Cost
1. Provide picnic units with mobility features.	83	\$ 387,100
2. Adjust door opening force and/or evaluate for installation of automatic/power-assisted door system (exterior doors).	70	11,250
3. Correct clear floor space at toilet.	32	27,580
Provide accessible route to sports field/court.	32	119,800
4. Replace door/gate operating mechanism.	30	11,700
5. Grade, resurface and stripe existing parking lot to include accessible parking spaces and access aisles.	25	138,500
6. Adjust door opening force (interior doors).	20	3,000
Provide accessible route at beach to high tide water level.	20	165,700
7. Install/extend accessible route.	19	100,000
Provide accessible route to team seating areas.	19	135,000
8. Provide dispersed accessible fishing locations.	13	51,500
Designate accessible picnic facilities.	13	--
9. Provide integrated accessible seating at spectator viewing area.	11	32,600
10. Provide accessible boarding pier and/or boat slips.	10	49,000
Modify existing pathway.	10	41,600

When a comprehensive accessibility assessment is conducted for an organization at this scale, certain reoccurring issues begin to emerge. Gaining an understanding of these common issues can help clarify “the big picture” of access across multiple sites and direct resources for transition planning. The following items were identified as issues that affect the experience of a person with a disability to visit, fully participate, and enjoy the benefits of programs, services and activities within Martin County parks and recreation facilities.

1. PLANNING, DESIGN, AND INSPECTION

Approximately 125 corrective actions have been identified where more complex design decisions must be made. The majority of these deficiencies require a new accessible route either by extending the existing park path or installing a new comprehensive path system to connect the site arrival point/parking with the site amenities. The corrective actions have been estimated for design services with the expertise of either a landscape architect or civil engineer to develop plans for pathways, grading, and drainage. In some instances, design services may include the use of an architect to reconfigure a restroom for an accessible toilet compartment or accessible counter and sink in a kitchenette. The Parks and Recreation Department engaged in high level master planning more than 7 years ago. The next round of master planning presents a grand opportunity to include this accessibility data as a layer in both broad strokes and comprehensive detailed plans for each site.

ADA compliance training was conducted for Martin County personnel in June 2021. Staff, mostly from Park Operations and Public Works, participated in the 26 hours of training that covered the accessibility standards, Title II regulations, principles of universal design, and provisions for recreation environments like beaches, picnic areas, trails, swimming facilities, golf courses, sports fields, and playgrounds. The training program included a facilitated discussion of common accessibility issues during a walk-thru of a large waterfront park. During the experiential exercise, operations staff had the opportunity to identify fixtures out of compliance with the accessibility standards and discuss options to improve access for visitors with disabilities. Recreation staff and supervisors also participated in sessions on program access, customer service, and the Title I employment regulations.

The accessibility management team should work closely with planners and designers to improve access and utilize opportunities to design beyond the minimum accessibility standards to more fully embrace the principles of universal design that will serve a much wider spectrum of users. Corrective actions may be completed either in-house or by contractors. Every corrective action should be inspected during construction and upon completion to ensure the project is compliant with the accessibility standards. A comprehensive approach to planning, design, and inspection of accessibility improvements will be a key to the successful implementation of the ADA Transition Plan.

Recommended: Provide continuing education on the accessibility standards and emerging trends in universal design for the accessibility management team and staff with responsibility to oversee and implement accessibility improvements.

Recommended: Assign accessibility and universal design as essential criteria in the design process to ensure equitable access for all park visitors.

Recommended: Utilize the ADA Coordinator and planning teams to research the latest technology advancements and design innovations to ensure inclusion of people with disabilities from the onset of the design process.

Recommended: Incorporate this accessibility data as a layer to guide upcoming master planning.

Recommended: Adopt a process by which construction drawings are reviewed at 40-60% and 90-95% completion for compliance with the accessibility standards.

Recommended: Utilize the expertise of the ADA Coordinator, the accessibility management team, and building code officials/inspectors to review the initial plans for compliance with the accessibility standards.

Recommended: Equip the ADA Coordinator, the accessibility management team, and project supervisors with evaluation tools to monitor and confirm compliance, including a tape measure, a door pressure gauge, and a 2 ft. digital level.

Recommended: Adopt a process by which repairs, alterations, renovation, and new construction projects are inspected for compliance with the accessibility standards prior to receiving ownership of the final completed project/building/site. During this process, an element found out of compliance with the accessibility standards should be corrected at the expense of the contractor.

2. PARKING

The County has implemented an exceptional program for the installation and maintenance of accessible parking spaces. Many large regional sites like Langford Park offered more than the minimum required number of accessible parking spaces. The additional accessible parking spaces are most beneficial at large sites where people with disabilities may be visiting to use specific amenities like the Log Cabin Senior Center, the ball fields, pickleball courts, or Vince Bocchino Community Center. There were only a small number of sites that lacked accessible parking spaces, most commonly at beaches that do not have accessible amenities. These sites should include accessible parking spaces even if the provision of accessible routes to the program require complex planning in the ADA transition planning process.

The provisions for parking in the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction and the Florida Statute §553.5041 are much more stringent than the federal requirements under the ADA. In fact, the Florida requirements should serve as a best practice to other state and local building codes since the accessible parking space and access aisle are a combined foot wider than the van accessible parking space and access aisle. The other important safety factor of note in the Florida code is the location of the accessible route in relation to the accessible parking space and access aisle. The accessible route is to be located forward of the accessible parking space and access aisle so people with disabilities do not have to walk or wheel behind parked vehicles where they may not be seen by drivers backing up or other vehicles. Unfortunately, as the Florida code was updated in 2017, some confusion emerged as to the pavement markings for the accessible parking space and access aisle. In response, the Florida Department of Transportation issued a guidance letter distinguishing white and blue pavement markings⁶. The document clarifies the interplay between the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

⁶ H. Dean Perkins, Architect and A.D.A. Coordinator. Accessible Parking Spaces for Disabled Travelers - Florida Requirements. January 31, 2018. Florida Department of Transportation.

(MUTCD) published by the USDOT Federal Highways Administration and the Florida requirements. "The correct markings for accessible parking spaces have both white and blue stripes and access aisles are marked in white.... FDOT Design Standards show dimensions to the centerline between two adjacent stripes. This is intended primarily for double lines between travel lanes on a roadway. For parking spaces, it is appropriate to dimension to the centerline of the white stripes and then add the blue stripes."

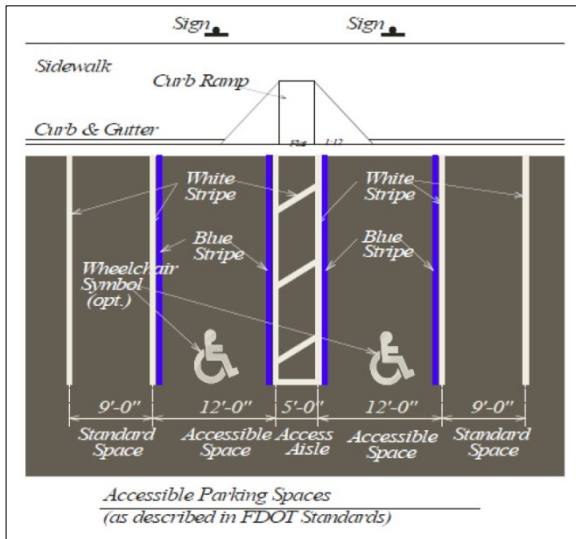


Image 7 FDOT guidance on accessible parking spaces.

FDOT Notes to Drawing:

According to the MUTCD, the pavement markings for the parking space and the access aisle (blue and white stripes) may be either 4" or 6".

If used, a ground-level wheelchair symbol should be white.

If there is a curb, there must be a curb ramp (1:12 max. slope) outside the space and access aisle. A perpendicular curb ramp must have flared sides (1:12 max. slope) if pedestrians may cross it transversely.

A pair of parallel curb ramps may also be used (w/5'-0" landing at the bottom). Wheel stops should be used to limit vehicular encroachment on the sidewalk.

During the accessibility assessment, the most frequently cited issue with accessible parking spaces were the pavement markings being inconsistently striped. The result is a lack of minimum clear width for the accessible parking space and access aisle. Pavement markings may have been striped prior to the change in the state code or following the change but prior to the guidance. Nonetheless, going forward,

MUTCD section 3B-19 "Parking Space Markings" states that "Parking space markings shall be white." This is intended to apply to parking spaces (on-street, off-street, parallel, diagonal, and perpendicular, etc.) and accessory markings. The MUTCD also provides an option: "Blue lines may supplement white parking space markings of each parking space designated for use only by persons with disabilities." Note that the blue markings may 'supplement' the white markings, not replace them.

Sections 553.501-553.513 Florida Statutes, describe the accessibility requirements in Florida. S. 553.5041(6) requires that accessible parking spaces "...must be prominently outlined with blue paint, and must be repainted when necessary, to be clearly distinguishable as a parking space designated for persons who have disabilities...." S. 553.5041(5)(c)1 requires that the "...access aisle must be striped diagonally to designate it as a no-parking zone." Note there is no direction in Statute as to the number of diagonal lines or diagonal stripe angle or direction. Considering the above: in Florida, all accessible parking spaces must be designated with blue paint. In this case, Florida law is applied in addition to the standard described in MUTCD. The correct markings for accessible parking spaces have both white and blue stripes and access aisles are marked in white. Usually this is applied with the blue paint 'inside' the white paint for the space (see drawing below, which illustrates the Florida Department of Transportation Standard Plans, Index 711-001.)

it will be critical that any new pavement markings use both the white and blue paint and adhere to the minimum width requirements as measured appropriately.

Boat launch ramps provide trailer parking spaces. Trailer parking is another type of parking. According to the U.S. Access Board, if RV or trailer spaces are located in parking facilities with car and van parking spaces, scoping should be applied separately to both types which will permit accessible RV or trailer spaces to be located among other RV or trailer spaces so long as they are on the shortest accessible route to facility entrances among such spaces. Access aisles serving accessible spaces must be as long as the vehicle space they serve.

A conditions assessment has recently been conducted among County owned and managed parking lots. The assessment determined the condition of the asphalt or concrete pavement. As a result, a parking lot resurfacing schedule has been recommended for adoption. This schedule can also serve as the framework for improvements to accessible parking spaces and access aisles.

Recommended: Adopt a County-wide standard for striping accessible parking spaces and access aisles consistent with the FDOT guidance on the use of blue and white paint.

Recommended: Adopt a design standard for accessible trailer parking spaces at boat launch ramps that are connected on the shortest accessible route.

Recommended: Utilize the schedule for resurfacing parking lots to also address improvements to accessible parking spaces.

3. PATH OF TRAVEL, ACCESSIBLE ROUTES, AND SURFACES

When an alteration is made to an existing site or facility that affects the “primary function,” the path of travel to the altered space or feature is required to be made accessible along with the amenities serving the alteration, like restrooms and drinking fountains. The ADA regulations require that up to 20 percent of the cost of the alteration to the primary function is to be allocated to improving access to the path of travel. There are numerous instances where accessibility improvements have been made at facilities and the path of travel has been made accessible. This is illustrated by the accessibility improvements to the community centers including Costella Williams Learning Center, County Line Community Center, and Hobe Sound Civic Center. During the accessibility assessment, construction was underway to make improvements to the restroom building at Chastain Beach. The restroom building itself was made accessible and can serve as an exemplary model of access. However the path of travel to the restroom building was not addressed during the building renovation. There is no accessible parking space at the site. As the new restroom building sits today, the three steps and steep landing from the parking lot to the path to the restroom building still pose a barrier for people with mobility impairments. As the ADA transition planning process commences, it is imperative that accessibility improvements are made to the path of travel when alterations are made affecting the usability of primary function areas. As a standard practice in new construction and alterations, the accessible route should be the main circulation path for all visitors, whereby we design for inclusion rather than segregation. The accessible route should be continuous, linking each accessible feature or amenity. It should minimize the need for users with disabilities to backtrack the route to get from one destination to another.

Modifying existing pathways is one of the top ten most frequently cited recommendations from the accessibility assessment. For Martin County peers in climates with more active freeze/thaw seasons,

modifying the existing pathway and/or correcting changes in level may be within the top three most frequently cited recommendations. Comparative to its peers, Martin County may not be tasked with grand needs for resurfacing paths. This is a huge advantage in transition planning, but also exemplifies the need to ensure paths are installed as compliant during construction. There are numerous instances where park paths need to serve as the accessible route connecting the site arrival point/parking to the site amenities. Accessible routes are paths where the running slope does not exceed 1:20 (5% when measured with a digital level). When a running slope exceeds 5%, it is permissible to go up to 1:12 (8.33%), but the path is then required to have handrails, edge protection, and level landings at the top and bottom of the ramp run. In outdoor recreation environments, handrails pose an obtrusive look to open green space. Therefore, the preference for park paths that serve as accessible routes connecting the site arrival point/parking to accessible features, the path should not exceed a running slope of 1:20 (5%) and a cross slope of 1:48 (2.08%). The accessibility standards for outdoor developed areas, which are covered under the ABA and currently only apply to the federal land management agencies, distinguish between an accessible route and a new classification, called an "outdoor recreation access route" that links picnic areas, campgrounds and trailheads. This outdoor recreation access route exempts the requirement for handrails, landings and edge protection. However, and unfortunately, because this provision is not yet part of the ADA standards, DOJ does not recognize the exemption for public entities covered by the ADA.

The main paths in parks are mostly surfaced with concrete. Use of asphalt is somewhat limited to parking lots. Crushed coquina shells have been used along the coastal trail. Asphalt millings have been used as some perimeter park paths. Some small beach parking lots have been surfaced with sand and gravel or drifted sand over asphalt. Changes in level along the accessible route were commonly cited at the transition between two surfaces. Changes in level that are greater than ¼ inch vertical or ½ inch beveled pose a challenge for people with mobility impairments. Changes in level most often occur at concrete joints that have heaved and the transitions from one hard, unitary surface, like concrete or asphalt, to a softer, loose fill surface, like crushed shells or hard packed natural surface. Park Operations has implemented an aggressive process to grind and bevel changes in level along concrete park paths. This is an exceptional approach that should be continued as part of the cyclical maintenance program.

Use of the coquina shells and asphalt millings were the two areas of concern regarding the accessibility of the surfaces. When loose fill surfaces are used as part of the accessible route or accessible trail, the land management agency should be concerned on the methods to install and maintain the materials, so they are accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. The accessibility standards require ground surfaces for accessible routes and trails to be "firm and stable." The requirement is one of the only subjective technical provisions in the accessibility standards. As a best practice, the use of an instrumented surface indenter, also known as the Rotational Penetrometer designed by Beneficial Designs, could be adopted as a means to objectively measure the firmness and stability of outdoor surfaces in parks and natural areas. Through this process, the County would define preferred target values for firmness and stability and would test locations along accessible routes and trails upon installation of the surface, during changes in surface conditions, and following maintenance or topdressing. If the coquina shells are installed on trails in layers, compacted at installation, and seasonally top dressed with compaction, the surface material may be considered a firm and stable accessible surface. It is not clear if the same installation technique will benefit the asphalt millings. It may be necessary to pilot test installation of the loose fill material with different binding agents and extensive compaction to provide a firm and stable accessible surface.

Recommended: Adopt a standard to ensure that when alterations or capital improvements are made to sites affecting primary function areas and the usability of the space, the path of travel and amenities serving the space are made accessible at the time of the alteration.

Recommended: Adopt a practice of including remediation to the path of travel for the project budget when capital projects and accessibility improvements are planned. Estimate up to 20 percent more costs to the project budget.

Recommended: Adopt the annual/bi-annual schedule to inspect exterior pathways for surface issues that may result in noncompliance with the accessibility standards as part of the periodic update to the ADA Transition Plan. Utilize this process to prioritize sections for repair or resurfacing; and plan for annual preventative maintenance for pathways connecting visitors to programs, services, and activities at each site.

Recommended: Select surface materials for accessible routes based on volume of visitor use, accessibility, durability, ease of installation, and maintenance.

Recommended: Utilize an instrumented surface indenter to measure the firmness and stability of the surface upon installation and maintenance.

Recommended: Adopt a design standard where park paths that serve as accessible routes, connecting the site arrival point to accessible features, are configured not to exceed a running slope of 5% so as to minimize the need for handrails, landings, or edge protection in the open green space of a park. Consider adopting design standards with construction tolerance at 4.8% for running slopes and 1.8% for cross slopes.

4. EXTERIOR DOORS

The opening force for exterior doors is not specified in the 2010 ADA Standards. However, the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction requires that exterior hinged doors shall be designed so that such doors can be pushed or pulled open with a force not exceeding 8.5 lbs (404.2.9). Many restroom buildings assessed were deemed to have exterior doors with excessive opening force upward of 10-18 lbs.

Recommended: Adopt a preventative maintenance schedule to measure and adjust the opening force for doors. Exterior doors have been recommended for evaluation as to whether the door closers can be adjusted so not to exceed an opening force of 8.5 lbs. If this is not feasible, the installation of an automatic door or power-assisted door system is recommended. Some facilities may have multiple public entrances. In these situations, the 2010 ADA Standards call for 60% of those entrances to be accessible. Therefore, it may be necessary to install automatic or power-assisted doors at multiple entrances for a single facility. This may be a phased approach outlined in the ADA Transition Plan and beginning with the main or most frequently used buildings/entrances.

5. RESTROOMS

Approximately 57 restroom buildings at parks, beaches, and causeways were assessed. Reoccurring deficiencies included the lack of tactile restroom identification signage with braille; missing signs or signs installed on doors; heavy exterior doors; lavatories that lack insulation on exposed pipes; faucet controls that required grasping or self-metering faucets that did not stay open the minimum 10 seconds; mirrors, grab bars, and coat hooks mounted too high; toilet paper dispensers mounted too close to the side grab

bar and thereby obstructing the use of the grab bar; and toilets mounted outside of the accepted height and centerline. At Jensen Causeway, Sandsprit Park, Stuart Beach, and Timer Powers Park, a drain trough runs across the floor along the back wall for the length of the restroom. The 3-6 inch change in level from the floor surface to the drain obstructs the full use of the clear floor space at fixtures including the lavatory and accessible toilet compartment.

Recommended: Adopt a schedule and utilize a team approach for corrective actions at restrooms. The team should be thoroughly trained on the scoping and technical provisions for restrooms to ensure alterations are compliant with the accessibility standards.

6. BEACH ACCESS

Martin County manages 16 coastal beaches and 5 inlet parks with sandy beach and swimming opportunities. The coastal beaches are spread across the County, from Glascock Beach at the north end of Hutchinson Island to Bathtub Beach at the south end, and then 10 miles further south to Hobe Sound Beach at the midpoint of Jupiter Island. The 15 beaches on Hutchinson Island span a distance a little more than 6 miles with 27 beach access points for the public. Ross Witham Beach was included in the accessibility assessment for the programmatic opportunity of scenic viewing for the Georges Valentine Underwater Archaeological Preserve Shipwreck located 100 yards offshore. For the purpose of this discussion on “beach access” as a programmatic opportunity, the Ross Witham Beach is not included since it is not a sandy beach for water play, but rather a rocky viewing opportunity with an Anastasia formation, which is an uneven surface of coquina limestone.

The sandy beaches along Hutchinson Island and at Hobe Sound provide sandy beach and water play experiences from swimming, sunbathing and shelling to surfing. Lack of accessible routes to high tide water levels at public beaches pose the greatest physical barrier to people with mobility impairments seeking to participate in the programmatic opportunity of beach-going at County-managed sites. Most of the coastal beaches have been designed with a boardwalk dune crossing to connect the site arrival point/parking with the sandy perimeter of the beach. However, there is no accessible surface to connect from the dune crossing and sandy perimeter to the high tide water level.

At this time, the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the Florida Building Code do not yet include provisions for beach access routes. The absence of enforceable standards does not preclude an entity from its responsibility to meet the “program access” standard in Title II. As such, the scoping and technical provisions set forth under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) should be referenced for guidance in order for the County to achieve program access at beaches. The ABA calls for at least one beach access route for each one-half mile of beach shoreline administered or managed by the same entity (F248.2). Beach access routes must coincide with or be located in the same general area as pedestrian access points that serve the beach (F248.3). The beach access route can be permanently constructed or be part of a temporary path/mat installation. Under the ABA, beach access routes are required when an entity that administers or manages a beach constructs or alters any circulation paths, parking facilities, toilet facilities, or bathing facilities that serve the beach (F248.1.1). The entity is not required to spend more than 20 percent of the costs of constructing or altering these facilities to

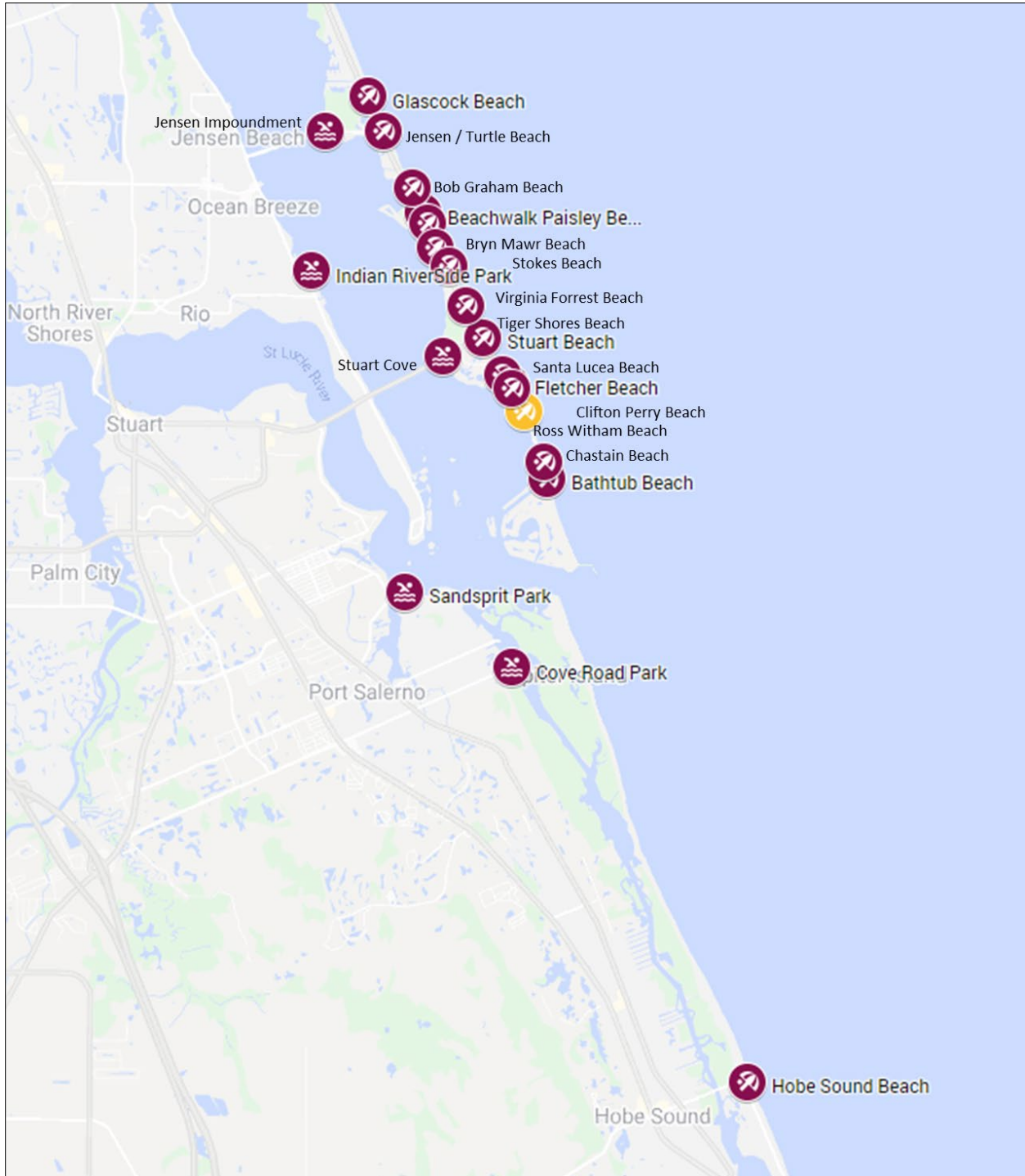


Image 8 Sandy beach opportunities in Martin County.

provide beach access routes (F248.1.1). Beach access routes are also required when the entity that administers or manages the beach undertakes a beach nourishment project (F248.1.2). The 20 percent disproportionate rule applies here for beach nourishment projects as well.

Martin County beaches are physically located in intervals as close as 0.3 mile, but with the majority greater than one-half mile apart. Scheduled beach nourishment in Martin County occurs on an eight-year cycle and is generally based on funding opportunities.⁷ The upcoming beach nourishment project coupled with capital improvement projects present opportunities to improve access for people with mobility impairments by the installation of beach mat systems across the sand to the high tide level.

Park and recreation staff participated in a planning charette during the ADA training in June 2021. Staff evaluated various beach-going opportunities and presented options for prioritizing installation of beach access routes. Staff recommended a phased approach whereby pilot installations of beach mats would be installed at high use sites with restrooms and public input would be sought. The phased approach would enable park operations staff to build competencies in the installation and maintenance of the beach mat systems.

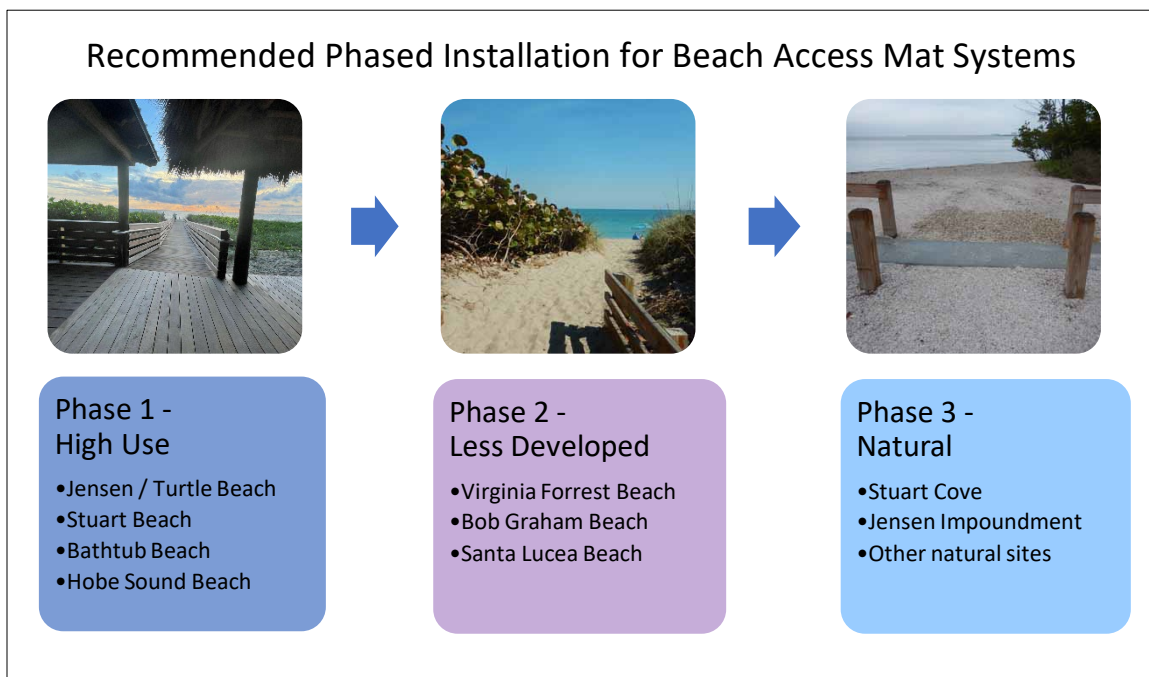


Image 9 Staff recommended phased approach to the installation of beach access routes.

The phased approach would also enable the accessibility management team to gather input from the public, specifically beachgoers with mobility impairments. Public input could help narrow the selection of the preferred mat system, preferred width, and connection to other amenities such as parking, restrooms, picnic areas, and lifeguard stations with beach wheelchairs. Beach access mat systems are available through a variety of manufacturers and those most well-known, [AccessRec](#) and [Mobi-Mat](#). A variety of systems should be pilot tested. Staff may find that one style is preferred for certain settings while another style is preferred at other locations.

As previously mentioned, several sites have boardwalk dune crossings constructed of wood or plastic lumber. At some locations, blowing and drifting sand has completely covered the ends of the boardwalk. A boardwalk accessible ramp was installed at Jensen Beach to connect the café to the

⁷ Beach Nourishment. Martin County Coastal Engineering Division. www.martin.fl.us/beach-nourishment.

beach. Unfortunately, the structure was covered with sand at the time of the accessibility assessment and unusable by people with mobility impairments. Other newer dune crossings constructed with plastic lumber have excessive running slopes. At some locations, an effective beach access route may combine permanent ramps, such as wood boardwalks or concrete paths, with the temporary beach mat systems. Where permanent ramps are installed as dune crossings, the ramps should be constructed not to exceed a running slope of 8.33% with handrails and landings, like those required in buildings. If the permanent ramp can be constructed with a lesser slope, that would be preferred. Beach access routes should be a minimum of 5 ft wide. To combat blowing and drifting sand, consider designing new dune crossings and boardwalks to accommodate mechanical equipment like a Bobcat® or Gator™ with rolling brush attachment. Designing paths to facilitate sand removal allows staff to schedule the task for daily/weekly/seasonal maintenance.



Image 10 Boardwalk ramp at Jensen Beach covered by sand.



Image 11 Beach wheelchair stored at lifeguard station for Hobe Sound Beach.

The ADA regulations and technical guidance do not address beach wheelchairs. The provision of this type of equipment has evolved as a best practice of parks in recreation. Large tire beach wheelchairs are available for use at guarded beaches including Bathtub Beach, Hobe Sound Beach, Jensen Beach, and Stuart Beach. The challenge with the design of these beach wheelchairs is that the user needs to be pushed by another individual. These beach wheelchairs do not allow for independent use by a person with a mobility impairment. The location at the lifeguard stations also poses a challenge as it requires an able-bodied person to retrieve the beach wheelchair while the person with a disability waits in the parking lot. Offering a variety of beach wheelchairs can further facilitate independent use and accommodate a wide range of functional limitations. Consider pilot-testing additional models of beach wheelchairs like the [Hippocampe](#) all-terrain beach wheelchair, the [Beach Bomber](#) offroad wheelchair, the [Mobi-Chair](#), the [Nomad](#), and others. Staff are also encouraged to explore means by which the beach wheelchairs can be stationed (and staffed) conveniently at site arrival points/parking.

Recommended: Adopt a comprehensive plan to provide beach access routes at a variety of locations so that the programmatic experience, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

Recommended: Develop a process to introduce and pilot-test temporary beach mat systems at high-use beaches including Jensen/Turtle Beach, Stuart Beach, Bathtub Beach, and Hobe Sound Beach. The mats may be coupled with permanent ramp structures.

Recommended: Prioritize paths and dune crossings designated as beach access routes for daily/weekly/seasonal maintenance including removal of blowing and drifting sand.

Recommended: Seek public input to offer a wide variety of beach wheelchairs with models that facilitate independence.

7. PICNIC FACILITIES: PICNIC TABLES, GRILLS, AND TRASH RECEPTACLES

The County offers numerous opportunities for picnicking at parks, sports fields, natural areas, and beaches. Approximately 151 picnic pavilions were evaluated for the accessibility assessment. The frequency by which Martin County provides accessible picnic facilities is much higher than its peers of similar size, a testament to the proactive approach implemented by park operations staff. Great efforts have been undertaken to ensure the County's large parks include multiple accessible picnic facilities. Sites with multiple picnic pavilions like the Jensen and Stuart Causeways, Halpatiokee Park, and Indian RiverSide Park have been purposefully planned to offer more than two accessible pavilions, and those are usually dispersed to give park visitors with disabilities options based on locale to other park amenities. Sites with picnic tables placed in the open area did not have the same level of access for people with mobility impairments but can easily be scheduled for improved access. There were 26 open space recreation areas identified where only standard picnic tables are provided, usually in grass, and lack a connection by accessible route. As master planning commences at these sites, consideration should be made to include accessible open space picnic areas for any future upgrades. Among all types of picnic facilities, the most commonly cited deficiencies from the accessibility assessment were facilities where the minimum number of accessible picnic tables had not been met; picnic tables that lacked the minimum knee and toe clearance or minimum width for a wheelchair seating location; installations that lacked clear ground space around all usable sides of the accessible picnic table; and grills with cooking surfaces that lacked the required minimum clear width around the usable sides.

Single and double pedestal grills are often provided at picnic pavilions. Most purposed accessible picnic pavilions have pedestal grills that have been installed on an accessible route. Most common barriers for these grills were instances where the accessible surface did not fully extend for the minimum clear width around all usable sides or where grills had been mounted in grass, which typically is not considered an accessible surface.

The most common barriers for trash receptacles and dog waste bag dispensers were instances where the units were installed outside of the reach range of the accessible route.



Image 12 The picnic pavilions at Porter Park lack an accessible route and tables with wheelchair accessible seating.



Image 13 The picnic pavilions at Joch Leighton Park serve as a great example with multiple accessible shelters connected by an accessible route giving many choices to park visitors.

Recommended: Utilize the ABA accessibility standards as guidance to designate accessible picnic areas and achieve program access at each recreation site. While the 2010 ADA Standards do not specifically address access to picnic areas yet, the ABA accessibility standards for outdoor developed areas should be referenced to achieve program access. Accessible picnic units should be dispersed throughout each park. Existing sites should be selected and prioritized to be made accessible based upon location, popularity amongst visitors, and proximity to other unique features within the park. As picnic units are made accessible, they should be noted on maps and the park website.

Recommended: At existing sites with multiple picnic pavilions, provide at least 20 percent of picnic units with mobility features including accessible outdoor constructed features, location on an accessible route, and wheelchair seating. Use the “not less than 2” rule so that when there are 2 or more picnic pavilions, at least 20 percent and not less than 2, are accessible.

Recommended: Design a floor plan for each picnic pavilion, designating the placement of picnic tables. Placement of the accessible picnic tables should be specified with space for wheelchair seating at least 30 inches wide with knee clearance and a minimum 36-inch clear width around all usable sides of the accessible picnic tables as measured from the back edge of the bench. Picnic units with mobility features don’t have to be identified by signs. However, information on the location of picnic units with mobility features should be provided for reservation and permit systems, web sites, brochures, and on the information kiosks at the site or park.

Recommended: Adopt a picnic tabletop resurfacing standard for accessible units. As existing metal frame picnic tables are resurfaced with wood tabletops, ensure the minimum length and width of the top is provided in relation to the frame. The accessible picnic table shall have at least one wheelchair seating space a minimum of 30 by 48 inches for each 24 linear feet of usable space around the perimeter of a tabletop. Knee clearance must be at least 30 inches wide and 8 inches deep at 27 inches above the ground surface. Toe clearance must be at least 30 inches wide and 17 inches deep and extend at least 9 inches above the ground surface. Tabletops shall be 28 to 34 inches above the floor or ground surface.

Recommended: Adopt a design standard for accessible picnic pavilions. If grills or other amenities are to be included at the site, make sure the outdoor constructed features are installed to be accessible.

Accessible grills should have a fire building surface 9 inches minimum from the ground, a cooking surface 15 to 34 inches maximum from the ground, and 48 x 48-inch clear ground space on all usable sides.

Recommended: Adopt a design standard for the placement and installation of trash receptacles and dog waste bag dispensers. The units should be installed within the reach range of the accessible route. The outlet for the dog waste bag should be installed no greater than 48 inches above the ground surface or 44 inches for an obstructed reach over the trash receptacle.

Recommended: Provide seasonal refresher training to park maintenance personnel on the accessibility features for each picnic area. Staff should be proficient on the placement of picnic tables on the accessible routes and the need to maintain clear widths around the usable sides; heights for the cooking surfaces on fire rings and grills; and locations of trash receptacles so that they are within the reach range but do not obstruct other outdoor constructed features.

8. SPORTS FIELDS

There were 32 locations at sports fields, such as baseball diamonds, football fields, and soccer fields, that lack accessible routes connecting the main paths/circulation routes for the park or facility to the field of play, team seating, and spectator viewing areas. In many instances, users must leave the main path and traverse through grass to get to the sports fields or team seating area. Where accessible routes are provided, instances were noted with changes in level at transitions between the accessible route and the sport field surface. At baseball fields, the main concrete park path would end behind the team dugout where players and coaches with mobility impairment would need to traverse through grass and enter the ball field in order to enter the dugout. Some spectator viewing areas with bleachers may lack connection by an accessible route and space for wheelchair seating. Some bleachers are placed in grass while others have been installed on concrete or asphalt pads that lack clear floor space for adjacent wheelchair seating. The press boxes (scorer or officiating tables) at the ball fields for Hidden Oaks Middle School and LCpl Justin Wilson Memorial Park are located on the second floor without vertical access to the work/volunteer station.

Recommended: Provide an accessible route to each sports field, team seating area, and spectator viewing area. Options might include either permanent paved paths or the installation of temporary path systems. Factors influencing the prioritization of barrier removal may include the type of play, whether it is organized league play, tournaments or pick-up games with picnic shelter rentals.

Recommended: Provide wheelchair accessible seating and companion seating at each spectator viewing area. This may require the addition of an accessible route and widening the existing concrete or asphalt pad to include the clear floor spaces for wheelchair seating and approach/turning space. When the bleachers are replaced, select a design that accommodates wheelchair accessible seating with adjacent shoulder to shoulder companion seating.

Recommended: Implement a procedure to immediately relocate the functions for the upper floor of the press box/scorer building to the ground floor upon request of an individual with a disability who may be an employee, volunteer, coach, official, visitor, or other. This may require the acquisition or installation of new technology to remotely operate the score board or use the public address (PA) system from the ground floor. All new construction spaces purposed to serve as a press box/scorer

building should be designed for an accessible route and accessible entrance, especially since the ADA “elevator exemption” does not apply to Title II public entities.

9. BOATING FACILITIES, BOAT RAMPS, AND BOARDING PIERS

Martin County provides a wide variety of locations to put both recreational and commercial boats into the waterways. There were 11 locations cited in the accessibility assessment with courtesy docks at the boat launch ramps that lack connection by an accessible route. It is important for decision-makers to understand that each boat ramp location connects to a different experience in the waterways. The new Jensen Boat Launch Ramp with connecting accessible courtesy dock is an exemplar design that can serve as a model to future planned facilities. Consider convening a focus group of boaters with disabilities on site to evaluate the new design and provide input for future planning.



Image 14 The exemplar accessible courtesy dock at Jensen Boat Launch Ramp.

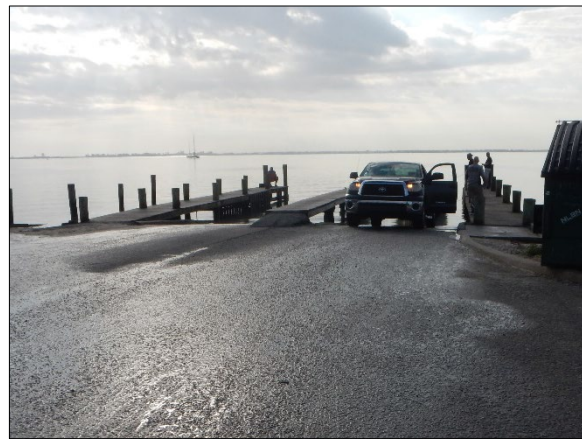


Image 15 Each of the courtesy docks at Stuart Causeway have abrupt changes in level at the entry points.

Recommended: Seek input from boaters with disabilities to assist in prioritizing and scheduling accessibility improvements to boating facilities dispersed throughout the County properties.

Recommended: Develop a comprehensive plan to provide an accessible route connecting the site arrival point/parking to at least one boarding pier at each boat launch ramp. While the portion of the accessible route located within the launch ramp is not required to comply with the slope requirements for accessible routes, lengthening the floating gangway or extending the fixed pier may provide a lesser slope that is more usable by people with mobility impairments. Gangways connecting floating boarding piers may exceed the maximum slope specified in the guidelines, if the total length of the gangway is at least 30 ft.

Recommended: Provide information to the public on the location of accessible boat launch ramps and accessible boat slips as the projects are completed.

10. KAYAK AND CANOE LAUNCHES

Designated kayak experiences are offered as part of the Martin County Blueway Paddling Trails program. The program has mapped designated kayak launches which may be sandy shoreline or docks. Some docks have the AccuDock Safe Launch installed as part of the kayak slip dock coupled with the AccuDock “ADA Compliant Transfer System.” The AccuDock solution is a result of work with federal land management agencies and in response to its competitor, the Deaton Docks EZ Dock. The EZ Dock was designed and pilot tested with Michigan county governments and people with disabilities. The federal accessibility standards are not specific on the means to access/board passenger vessels. A transfer method for boarding kayaks has emerged as a universal design that benefits people with mobility impairments and other individuals who may have difficulty balancing. However, at this time there is no qualitative research identifying the effective features of a dock system that are preferred by people with disabilities.

A map of the blueway paddling trails is provided as an information kiosk at some park sites. The sign is complex with an aerial photo layer, symbols, and a table. The information may be too complex for some visitors with visual, cognitive, or sensory impairments. A simplified map limiting the use of colors, symbols, and text could support effective wayfinding.

During the planning charette, staff identified existing locations, that with modifications, could be the first designated as accessible kayak launches including Joe’s River Park, Clifton Perry Beach, Stuart Cove Park, Jimmy Graham Park, and the Rowing Club launch at Charlie Leighton Park.



Image 16 The Martin County Blueway Paddling Trails map at Cove Road Park.



Image 17 The AccuDock Safe Launch and transfer platform at the Rowing Club at Charlie Leighton Park.

Recommended: Designate accessible kayak launches at the most frequented waterways to provide “program access” to the linear water trail experience for paddlers with disabilities and communicate the location through various marketing including the website, brochures, and information on the paddling trail signage.

Recommended: Gather input from paddlers with disabilities on their preferences for kayak launch locations, amenities, design features, and a system being either the AccuDock or EZ Dock kayak launches.

Recommended: Work with a cartographer to design a simplified blueway paddling trail map and gather input from different user groups to adopt a new sign standard for the information.

11. FISHING FACILITIES

Unmarked shoreline fishing opportunities are available at several natural areas. While there are some locations at fishing piers where sections of the railing have been lowered to accommodate people with disabilities seated in a wheelchair or scooter, the railing may still be too high, lack the minimum clear floor space, or edge protection. Fish cleaning stations are often provided as a convenience at parks and causeways. In an effort to connect to a water source, the work stations are located outside of the accessible route. The work surface is commonly too high and the water faucet controls require tight grasping, pinching, and twisting of the wrist. Unfortunately, prefabricated accessible fish cleaning stations are not readily available. It may be necessary to purchase the prefabricated tabletop and install it with adjustable or custom posts so the top of the work surface is 30-34 inches above the ground surface and the furnishing allows for a forward approach with unobstructed knee and toe clearance.

Recommended: Disperse accessible fishing locations both by the use of an accessible fishing pier and by connecting locations along the waterfront to an accessible route with accessible surfacing. Provide anglers with disabilities the same opportunity of choice between multiple locations as anglers without disabilities.

Recommended: Provide accessible fish cleaning stations utilizing the accessibility standards for work surfaces, knee and toe clearance, and operable controls.

12. PLAYGROUNDS

County playgrounds are surfaced with engineered wood fiber (EWF), poured-in-place rubber, and sand. There were 18 play areas where either the surface material is inaccessible or the intended accessible surface has not been installed and maintained to provide an accessible route at the point of entry and egress from accessible play components. According to case law and findings from ADA complaints, sand is not considered an accessible surface. There are three playgrounds completely surfaced with sand: Phipps, LCpl Justin Wilson Memorial, and Paul Larson Parks. There are two playgrounds surfaced with a combination of poured-in-place rubber and sand: Pettway and Timer Powers Parks. Sand is considered a contaminant that fills in the pores of the rubber surface and causes the unitary surfaces to harden faster. The majority of playgrounds are surfaced with EWF. Most often the undulation of the EWF surface material exceeds the maximum allowable 6.25% slope for the accessible route to play components. Manufacturers may recommend the use of rubber wear mats placed at the points of egress for slides and swings. However, the mats are not large enough to provide a 30 x 48 inch clear floor space for both a parallel egress and a perpendicular egress to an assistive device. Lack of maintenance of the EWF results in excessive changes in level between the rubber mats and loose fill material. Consistent maintenance of the kick out areas under the slides and swings is necessary whether or not mats are installed. Without mats, the clear ground space must be maintained at a slope

of less than 2.08% in all directions. With mats, the transition between the mat and EWF must be less than 1/2 inch change in level. If the mats are to be used at this site, they should be changed out to 48 x 48 inches, or preferably 60 x 60 inches. It is critical that EWF be installed and maintained as accessible with a slope less than 6.25%, following the recommended installation technique of the International Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA). EWF requires frequent and consistent maintenance such as raking the surface level, replenishment of the surface material and compaction for both accessibility and impact attenuation. It is likely the frequency by which the EWF is replenished and compacted must increase in order to provide playground locations that are accessible during all days/hours the sites are open for public use.

Recommended: Discontinue the use of sand as a primary or secondary playground surface. Use of sand as a play experience is permitted, but it should be contained in an area where it will not contaminate other surfaces.

Recommended: Utilize a capital program for playground equipment replacement to maximize resources and also address accessibility improvements as part of the ADA Transition Plan.

Recommended: Adopt a new design for the point of entry into the play area, preferably utilizing a blended transition and minimizing or eliminating the use of the wood timber border at the entry.

Recommended: Adopt a more frequent maintenance schedule for EWF-surfaced playgrounds including top dressing and compacting the surface at the beginning of each spring. Conduct seasonal safety inspections that also factor in accessibility issues such that site improvements complement both safety and accessibility. Continue to utilize the seasonal inspection process to support the County's long-term planning for playground equipment and surface replacement.

13. SWIMMING POOLS

Following the release of the 2010 ADA Standards, the County purchased three swimming pool lifts for the outdoor aquatic facility. A pool lift has been installed as a stationary unit at the lazy river and two SR Smith PAL Aquatic Lifts are mobile on deck to serve the competition and therapeutic pools. The pool lifts were not fully assembled or fixed for operation at the time of the accessibility assessment. It could not be determined if the pool lifts were independently operable and had the ability to be called from the deck to the water position.

Recommended: Consult with the pool lift manufacturer to determine if a control system is available as an add-on feature to facilitate independent operation while seated in the chair and with the control ability to call the lift from the deck to the water position. If the control system is not available from the manufacturer, it may be necessary to replace the swimming pool lift with a current model in compliance with the accessibility standards.

Recommend: As part of the seasonal operation, ensure that the pool lifts are fully assembled with footrests, armrests, and controls. Conduct daily inspections and confirm preferred placement on the deck to immediately facilitate independent use at the competition and therapeutic pools.

14. GOLF FACILITIES

The parking lot and practice facility at the golf course were undergoing major construction during the accessibility assessment. At the time of the assessment, staff confirmed that the golf course does not have a single rider golf car to support the needs of golfers with mobility impairments. While the ADA does not specify a requirement for a single rider golf car, case law and best practices in recreation have identified single rider golf cars as a preferred method for people with mobility impairments to fully participate in the game of golf. The adaptive golf car enables the golfer to drive with hand controls and hit from a seated position in swivel/tilted seat.

Recommended: In order to achieve program access and minimize the disparate impact on the golfer with a disability, evaluate the option to provide at least 1 adaptive single rider golf cart on-site and make it available to golfers with disabilities at all times.

Recommended: Market the availability of the single rider golf car and provide opportunities to practice from the device to encourage use by more golfers with disabilities who may need the mobility features of the device.

Recommended: Adopt a policy to inspect, service and prep the single rider golf car so that it can quickly be utilized on any given day that it may be requested.

15. TRAILS AND SHARED USE PATHS

As the County plans for future expansion of pedestrian trails and shared use paths, the following recommendations are presented to facilitate access for people with disabilities.

Recommended: Adopt a trailhead design standard where a trail map and trail conditions are posted at the point of entry to pedestrian trails and shared use paths. The more objective information on the trail characteristics that can be provided to visitors in advance, the better they can make educated decisions on the most appropriate trails for their abilities. Trail information can be provided on websites, maps and even smartphone apps. For new trails, the ABA standards require visitor information be provided on trailhead signage including the length of the trail or trail segment; surface type; average and minimum tread width; average and maximum running slope; and average and maximum cross slope. This practice is recommended for existing trails as well as a means to achieve “program access.” Also consider providing redundant signage at different points of the trail for wayfinding. Tactile or raised line maps are recommended to provide orientation and wayfinding information to visitors with visual and cognitive impairments.

Recommended: Develop a trailhead sign standard for the points of entry to shared use paths that also include objective information on the path including the length of the path or path segment; surface type; average and minimum tread width; average and maximum running slope; average and maximum cross slope; and location of accessible features such as restrooms.

Recommended: For pedestrian trails, adopt a design, installation and maintenance specification for the use of alternative surfaces like decomposed granite, crushed limestone, or crushed coquina shells. Consider utilizing an instrumented surface indenter to measure the firmness and stability of the surface

upon installation and maintenance. A resurfacing schedule should also include seasonal replenishment for trail segments.

16. SCENIC VIEWING AREAS AND BENCHES

Scenic viewing areas and benches are located throughout parks. The benches are mounted in grass or on concrete along shared use paths, trails, picnic areas, and playgrounds. The scoping and technical provisions for accessible benches have changed dramatically between the proposed and final rules under the ABA. The final rule does not specify benches to have either back supports or arm rests, however advisory recommends a design with both. Now the technical provisions simply address the clear ground space for a bench, 36 by 48 inches positioned near the bench with one side of the space adjoining an outdoor recreation access route or trail, as applicable. The clear ground space may not overlap the outdoor recreation access route or trail or another clear ground space.

Recommended: As benches are installed along park paths, trails, picnic areas, scenic viewing areas, playgrounds, and other outdoor developed areas, it is recommended they be installed with adjacent clear ground space for shoulder to shoulder companion wheelchair seating as standard operating practice. The addition of the clear ground space adjacent to all newly installed or resurfaced paths creates access for strollers, coolers, tackle boxes, bicycles, and other gear. As benches are replaced, it is recommended that a minimum 25-50% of new benches include a back support and at least one armrest. It is understood that benches come in all shapes and sizes. This approach gives planners the flexibility to select multiple designs or stick with one standard design.

Recommended: Where scenic viewing areas are located at decks, platforms, or overlooks, ensure the prominent feature can be viewed from a seated position that is not obstructed by the guardrail. The viewing space must be clear of obstructions 32 to 51 inches above the ground. This may require the use of different materials at locations with guardrails such as the use of steel cable railing systems or railings lowered to 32 inches at the viewing space. Where viewing scopes are provided, a minimum of 20% should be accessible, which means installed on the accessible route with knee clearance and the eyepiece 43 to 51 inches above the ground surface.

17. VISITOR INFORMATION, ORIENTATION, AND WAYFINDING

It often takes people with disabilities, family members, and friends longer to plan an outing as they need to collect information on the accessibility of a site, location of accessible parking, accessible routes, availability of restrooms, water, sitting areas, service animal relief areas, auxiliary aids, and other features. While lists of parks and recreation facilities are posted in guidebooks, there is not a comprehensive list of parks and amenities available to the public. The main page for the Parks and Recreation website only highlights large parks, parks with field or facility or pavilion rentals, and specialty sites like the golf course, aquatic facility, mooring field, and guarded beaches. There is limited information on the accessible features at these sites. Instead of a full list of parks, there is a link to the park maps, which is a dynamic park finder website powered by ESRI ArcGIS. The challenges with making park information only available through this tool are numerous: to find a park, the user must either know the name of the park or the specific amenities; there is no ability for the user to browse parks; the park maps only display as parcels of land with limited information, if any, on the location of features like picnic shelters, playgrounds, restrooms, sports fields, trails, and drinking fountains; and lastly, the

information is not easily navigated for people with disabilities using adapted technologies like screen readers or tab functions instead of mouse-overs.

Some sites provide road signs, regulatory signs, posted maps, and information kiosks to orientate visitors to the location of features and amenities. The size of the text may be considered too small for the viewing distance from the sign. Some maps may also be considered too complex, with text over typographic backgrounds. In some locations, there are directional signs to park features, but no information on whether the feature is accessible. Understanding and navigating a large space like a park can be challenging for people with visual and cognitive impairments. In large parks with multiple amenities, tactile maps, and signs provide orientation and wayfinding cues. A tactile map can help a person with a visual impairment understand the site and the location of features like picnic shelters, restrooms, playgrounds, ball fields, and fishing areas. The map can also provide information on the accessible routes and features for people with mobility impairments. The accessibility standards do not specifically address visitor orientation or wayfinding. Thus, we must look to the best practices in universal design, visitor use, and parks for guidance.

Recommended: Adopt a sign plan and style guides for informational kiosks, exterior directional signs, and roadside signs to provide orientation and wayfinding information to park visitors. Consider the consistent use of colors, textures, and symbols to convey locations of prominent park features and amenities. A tactile map outlining the park boundaries and prominent features is helpful for orientation to people with low vision or no vision. Consistent use of colors and symbols for ball fields, playgrounds, concessions, picnic areas, and restrooms is helpful for people with cognitive impairments.

Recommended: In mid- to large size parks, install redundant park maps at information kiosks so visitors can orientate to their new location and in relation to other park features.

Recommended: Utilize the web page for each park and on-site information kiosks to provide visitors with information on accessibility features. At sites where features are not accessible, make recommendations to other parks that provide accessible features.

18. INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

Interpretive signs and wayside content were found to be provided singularly as written text with graphics. While the 2010 ADA Standards do not specifically address informational signs like interpretive signs, the font size on many panels and labels is too small for the relative viewing distance and people with visual impairments. Some panels lack a minimum 70% contrast between the background color and foreground text. People with hearing, visual, or cognitive impairments are not able to gather or process information when it is not available in alternate formats.

Recommended: Evaluate the current interpretive content for interpretive sites to develop a comprehensive plan for the waysides and other interpretive signs where content is provided in multiple modes including text, graphics, aural, audio, and tactile experiences. Waysides should be installed on the accessible route with clear floor space for a forward approach at the fixture. Text is recommended as sans serif at a font sized appropriately for the viewing distance. Consider developing a tactile map or model to orientate visitors to the site and other tactile features with significant relevance to the story.

The interpretive content and tactile features should be accompanied by an audio description component.

Recommended: As new interpretive exhibits, panels, and programs are developed, provide content in multiple modes including text, graphics, aural, audio, and tactile experiences. Be prepared to make text and graphic information available in audio format and audio description to benefit people with visual and cognitive impairments. Conversely, be prepared to make audio content accessible via captions for people with hearing impairments. Utilize the [Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design](#) and the [Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media](#).

NEXT STEPS

Successful inclusion of people with disabilities starts with a commitment from the top, quality customer service on the frontline, and a thorough understanding of the standards, regulations, and emerging best practices.

PARTICIPATION BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Title II, § 35.105(b) Self-Evaluation and § 35.150(d) Transition Plan of the ADA require a public entity provide an opportunity to interested persons, including individuals with disabilities or organizations representing individuals with disabilities, to participate in the self-evaluation process and the development of the transition plan by submitting comments. The ADA Coordinator should take the lead to assure that people with disabilities are represented on advisory committees, boards, commissions, and executive positions throughout County activities.

Required: Provide opportunities for interested persons, including individuals with disabilities or organizations representing individuals with disabilities, to participate in the self-evaluation process and the development of the transition plan by submitting comments.

Recommended: Convene a disability advisory committee including members with disabilities, parents, and disability advocates to guide County policy.

Recommended: Continually seek public input specific to accessibility issues through relationships with local disability advocacy organizations, individuals with disabilities, and the advisory committee specific to disability issues in the County.

Recommended: Utilize events such as the anniversary of the ADA to update residents and disability advocacy organizations on the efforts the County has made to achieve compliance with the ADA and provide inclusion supports to facilitate participation in County programs, services, and activities.

Recommended: Develop a publication such as a brochure or e-newsletter to inform residents on the accessibility of County facilities and the availability of disability-related accommodations in County programs, services, and activities.

Recommended: Provide training on ADA compliance for elected and appointed officials, especially on the Title II requirement for “program access.”

Recommended: Encourage participation and appointment to the Parks and Recreation Board ensuring representation of people with disabilities.

Recommended: Actively engage with local disability advocacy organizations and individuals with disabilities to develop relationships and recruitment channels to communicate open leadership positions.

ADA ACTION PLANNING

An effective accessibility management/compliance program utilizes a team approach that includes representation of key decision-makers. Simply, ADA compliance is not just one person's - the ADA Coordinator's - job; it must be everyone's responsibility. The Park and Recreation Department is encouraged to work together with programmers, operations staff, planners, and the ADA Coordinator. This group, informally the Accessibility Management Team, should be meeting on a regular basis, at a minimum quarterly, to schedule accessibility improvements as part of the County ADA Transition Plan and to facilitate community engagement to seek input from people with disabilities. By working together, the Accessibility Management Team can implement an effective ADA Transition Plan that is a dynamic working document. Implementation of the ADA Transition Plan can provide a framework and structure for barrier removal that it is flexible and fluid to meet the unique needs of the community.

RESOURCES

For questions about the policy review or technical assistance on the ADA regulations under Title II, the accessibility standards or best practices of universal design, contact:

Jennifer Skulski, Principal
Skulski Consulting LLC
(317) 408-4424
jennifer@skulskiconsulting.com

U.S. Department of Justice
(800) 514-0301
www.ada.gov

U.S. Access Board
(800) 872-2253
www.access-board.gov

Southeast Regional ADA Center
(800) 949-4232
www.adasoutheast.org

Job Accommodation Network (JAN)
(800) 526-7234
www.askjan.org

APPENDIX – ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS CONCEPTUAL ESTIMATED COST BY PROPERTY

Property	Conceptual Estimated Cost
Bathtub Reef Beach	\$29,250.00
Beachwalk Pasley Beach	\$31,500.00
Bob Graham Beach	\$64,200.00
Bryn Mawr Beach	\$14,500.00
C-23 Canal	\$9,500.00
Cassidy Center	\$9,600.00
Charlie Leighton Park	\$27,150.00
Chastain Beach	\$38,000.00
Citrus Grove Park	\$8,920.00
Clifton Perry Beach	\$7,100.00
Costella Williams Learning Center	\$15,820.00
County Line Community Center	\$20,550.00
County Line Park	\$10,200.00
Cove Road Park	\$22,200.00
David Anderson Middle School	\$13,620.00
Eastridge Park	\$31,990.00
Fire Station #36 Park	\$16,600.00
Fletcher Beach	\$11,700.00
Glascoek Beach	\$11,700.00
Greenfield Park	\$14,700.00
Halpatiokee Park	\$123,780.00
Halpatiokee Park - Albiez Building	\$9,550.00
Hidden Oaks Middle School	\$50,620.00
Hobe Sound Beach	\$33,260.00
Hobe Sound Civic Center	\$26,270.00
Hosford Park	\$34,600.00
Indian RiverSide Park	\$90,500.00
J & S Boat Ramp	\$11,500.00
Jensen Beach Boat Ramp	\$13,420.00
Jensen Beach Causeway	\$104,110.00
Jensen Beach Elementary School	\$17,660.00
Jensen Beach Impoundment	\$11,800.00
Jensen/Sea Turtle Beach	\$87,470.00
Jensen/Sea Turtle Beach Sand Dune Café	\$16,750.00
Jimmy Graham Park	\$21,100.00
Joch Leighton Park	\$38,680.00
Joe's River Park	\$16,100.00
JV Reed Park	\$72,300.00
Lamar Howard Park	\$41,460.00

Langford Park	\$130,395.00
LCpl Justin Wilson Memorial Park	\$154,750.00
Log Cabin at Langford Park	\$18,140.00
Maggy's Hammock Park	\$21,700.00
Manatee Park	\$16,200.00
Martin County Golf Course	\$37,190.00
Mary Brogan Park	\$28,820.00
Murray Middle School	\$19,700.00
New Monrovia Park	\$35,700.00
Operations Compound	\$14,450.00
Owen Murphy Memorial Boat Ramp	\$9,500.00
Palm City Recreation Center	\$7,800.00
Paul Larson Park	\$23,000.00
Peck Lake Park	\$83,970.00
Pendarvis Cove Park	\$33,880.00
Pettway Park	\$32,300.00
Phipps Park	\$111,180.00
Pineapple Park	\$93,830.00
Port Salerno Civic Center	\$18,675.00
Porter Park	\$8,100.00
Rio Civic Center	\$15,450.00
Rio Nature Park	\$17,200.00
Ross Witham Beach	\$500.00
Sailfish Splash Water Park	\$71,450.00
Sandsprit Park	\$139,390.00
Santa Lucea Beach	\$26,600.00
SSgt Justin Johnson Park	\$28,105.00
Stokes Beach	\$10,600.00
Stuart Beach	\$122,830.00
Stuart Causeway	\$77,160.00
Stuart Cove	\$9,750.00
Tiger Shores Beach	\$20,200.00
Timer Powers Park	\$99,510.00
Tropical Farms Park	\$29,800.00
Twin Rivers Park	\$24,300.00
Vince Bocchino Community Center	\$25,685.00
Virginia Forrest Beach	\$9,500.00
William 'Doc' Myers Park	\$74,935.00
Wojcieszak Park	\$66,360.00
Zeus Park	\$23,300.00
Zeus Pocket Park - Grant(NE)	\$2,500.00
Zeus Pocket Park - Jackson(NW)	\$2,500.00

Zeus Pocket Park - Lee(SE)	\$2,500.00
Zeus Pocket Park - Sheridan(SW)	\$2,500.00