

Ensuring Universal & Remote Access to the Michigan Port & Great Lakes Experience

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Understanding the Minimum Requirements



- *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II applies to all State and Local Government Services*
- *Federal civil rights law administered by the US Dept. of Justice*
- *ADA standards are typically enforced through new construction and renovations for buildings and site elements*

- *Additional guidance and documents such as ADAAG & Outdoor Developed Areas Report available through:
www.access-board.gov*



Access to Recreation Initiative



- From "Able to Play" to "Access to Recreation"
- \$15 million Midwest initiative funded through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation benefiting 4 states & MRPA
- Michigan State Parks received \$2 million towards "above and beyond" types of outdoor recreation projects
- 7 locations with a range of program elements
- \$1 million to leverage community projects through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
- www.AccessToRecreation.org



One Definition of Universal:

- Universal Access – Providing unfettered physical linkages and connections throughout the site and associated amenities while offering alternative formats, materials, and options for inclusion of people of all abilities. Example: Ludington State Park*



Parking / Interpretation



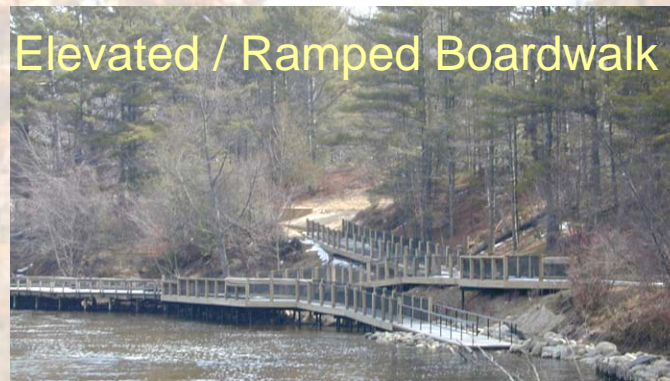
Connectivity Routes



Fishing Decks



Cantilevered Dam



Elevated / Ramped Boardwalk



Controlled River Access

Going Beyond the Minimal Requirements.....

- Offers opportunities for a range of able bodied people*
- Creates inclusive recreational experiences*
- Benefits all people including: parents with strollers, the elderly with walkers & wheelchair users*



Inclusive Focus

- *Department's Mission Statement*
"The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, accessible use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations."
- *Accessibility Advisory Council*
Collaboration of state agencies and advocacy groups to make recommendations to the Director and the Department on a broad variety of programs, facilities and services.
- *Project specific input at the local level from stakeholders, friends groups and groups / individuals with disabilities*
- *Staff training to assess facilities and provide meetings, events and programs in accessible settings*



- *Straits State Harbor – Floating Piers / Slips*
- *Connectivity to city park & downtown amenities*
- *Expanded width on primary piers*
- *Floating system provides easier transition to vessels*
- *Accessible pedestals for full service connections*
- *Includes dock attendant building, comfort station and pumpouts*



- *Grand Haven Municipal Marina – Fixed Piers / Slips*
- *Connectivity to downtown amenities*
- *Expanded width of major pedestrian corridor*
- *Surface connections to accessible site furniture*
- *Fixed pier system with accessible slips*



- *Mitchell State Park – Canal Side Mooring*
- *Connectivity to campsites & other amenities*
- *Expanded sidewalk width for two-way traffic*
- *All routes & directional slopes 2% or less*
- *Cutaway sheet wall section for boat access*
- *Tactile warning indicator*



Brighton Recreation Area – Inland Lake Canoe & Kayak Launch

- Dual, adjustable skid pier system
- On-deck & movable transfer devices
- Expanded width
- Surface transition plates



Palms Book Stat Park – Floating Observation Raft

- One hand operable controls*
- Shaded cover*
- Clear floor space throughout*
- Glass observation sections*





J.W. Wells State Park – Great Lakes Observation

- Lowered wall, 32" continuous height*
- Benches with back support & armrests*
- Clear space between benches & wall*
- Surface transition plate*
- All grades under 2%*



J.W. Wells State Park – Great Lakes Beach & Water Access

- Integrated peron step & ramp structure*
- Observation access to 3 of the 5 steps*
- On-grade boardwalk system into the water*
- Running slopes under 5%*



Port Crescent State Park – Wildlife Observation

- Lowered railing, 32" continuous height*
- Benches with back support & armrests*
- Clear space between benches & railing*
- Seated and standing viewing stands*
- All grades under 2%*

Interpretation

A Miracle of Aerodynamics

When soaring, a red-tailed hawk appears to be flying with ease, wheeling in lazy circles far overhead. For hours they circle, riding thermal updrafts apparently for the sheer enjoyment of it all. But if you can observe them up close with binoculars or a spotting scope, you will note thousands of tiny, rippling wing feather readjustments. Their wings are not locked or set into position, although they appear to be. For a redtail, and for other hawks, staying in the air requires continuous, tweaking of feather positions, accomplished by hundreds of small muscles attached to the flight feathers.

RED-TAILED HAWK



The "fingers"

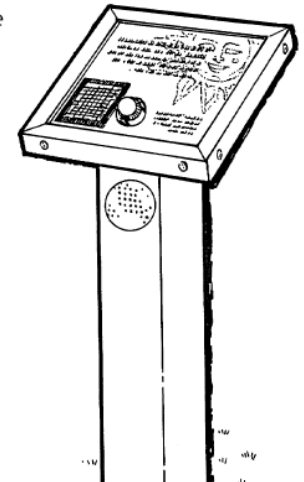
The long, end-of-the-wing primary feathers spread apart like fingers when the hawk soars. Each open-fingered primary acts independently and extends the length of the wing, resulting in great lift. In a dive or in rapid flight, they are pulled together to form an extended single wing surface.

Hawks have pressure- and position-sensing nerves at the base of their large flight feathers that continuously send information to the brain. If a gust of wind strikes the bird's extended wing, the brain instantly responds with signals to feather-position muscles, instructing them to reposition.

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Remote Access to Find Amenities:



There are number of applications for the public to learn where and how the DNR is providing for accessibility:

- "Accessible Recreation" specific webpage*
- Campground and Feature Search Engine*
- "Go Get Outdoors" Guide*
- MRBIS - Michigan Recreation Boating Information System*
- Individual Park and Recreation Area web pages and campground maps*
- CRS - Campground Reservation System*
- Fishing Report Available in TTY (Text Telephone - telecommunication device for the deaf)*
- WiFi Technology*



Resources

- *ADA Information & Technical Assistance*
 - www.ada.gov
- *United States Access Board*
 - www.access-board.gov
- *Outdoor Developed Areas Guidelines*
 - www.access-board.gov/outdoor/index.htm
- *National Center on Accessibility*
 - www.ncaonline.org
- *Great Lakes ADA & IT Center*
 - www.adagreatlakes.org
- *Michigan Department of Natural Resources*
 - www.michigan.gov/dnr

Thank you for this opportunity!

Today's presentation can be found at:

www.michigan.gov/dnr

(quick link: "Accessible Recreation")

