

## TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS

Trails are defined in *Draft Final Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas* F106.5 as a pedestrian route developed primarily for outdoor recreational purposes. A pedestrian route developed primarily to connect elements, spaces, or facilities within a site is not a trail.\*

The NPRM discussed shared-use paths that are developed for use by pedestrians and other groups such as bicyclists. Shared use paths are also called “hiker-biker trails.” The NPRM indicated that the scoping and technical provisions for trails apply to shared-use paths. The Access Board has further considered this issue and plans to conduct a separate rulemaking in the future to address shared use paths because they are also used for transportation purposes and may be subject to higher design standards.

The scoping provisions for trails are contained in F247. These provisions require trails to comply with the technical provisions for trails in 1017 when all the following conditions are met:

- The trail is newly constructed or altered so that the original design, function, or purpose of the trail is changed. Routine or periodic maintenance activities that are performed to return an existing trail to the condition to which the trail was originally designed are not alterations.
- The trail is designed for pedestrian use.
- The trail connects to a trailhead or to another trail that complies with the technical provisions in 1017.
- The technical provisions for trails in 1017 address surface in 1017.2; clear tread width in 1017.3; passing spaces in 1017.4; obstacles in 1017.5; openings in 1017.6; slopes in 1017.7; resting intervals in 1017.8; protruding objects in 1017.9; and gates and barriers in 1017.10.

The technical provisions are the same as in the NPRM, except as follows:

Conditional exceptions apply to each technical provision for newly constructed and altered trails. The conditional exceptions are discussed under Conditional Exceptions.

The exception based on situations where it is impractical to require the entire trail to comply with the technical provisions is revised. The exception is discussed under Exceptions for Trails and Beach Access Routes.

Where concrete, asphalt, or boards are used, obstacles cannot exceed ½ inch in height and the cross slope and resting interval slope cannot exceed 1:48. These provisions are discussed under Concrete, Asphalt, or Board Surfaces.

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\* Added 7/11