

TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS

For more information see; [A Summary of Accessibility Standards for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas - United States Access Board.](#)⁴

Trails

Trails are defined in of the Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas can be accessed at <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas/text-of-the-guidelines> 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.

This term “Trail” means an unimproved or sometimes improved recreational facility intended for recreational use such as hiking, mountain biking or equestrians. Care should be taken not to use Share-use path and Trail interchangeably because they have distinctly different design guidelines. However, when any portion of a Trail can be constructed using Share-use path design criteria it should be a nd an over-look or passing area 5 feet by 5 feet shall be constructed to allow users to experience the Trail without blocking the Trail for other users.

For guidance on the design of Outdoor Recreation Access Routes, of the **Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas**, which can be accessed at <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas/text-of-the-guidelines> and the **DCR Greenways and Trails Toolbox**, which can be accessed at http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/greentrailtools.shtml

The scoping provisions for trails are contained in F247, which accessed at <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas/text-of-the-guidelines> 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.