

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

WAPA-AMME
Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

War in the Pacific National Historical Park, Guam
American Memorial Park, Northern Mariana Islands

August 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff at War in the Pacific National Historical Park (WAPA) and American Memorial Park (AMME) are dedicated to serving all park visitors to help them find meaning in the resources of the park and its stories. Recently, park staff embarked on a journey to ensure that key experiences are available to all visitors, regardless of race, nationality, socioeconomic status, or ability. Park staff conducted an accessibility self-evaluation of park facilities, services, activities, and programs and drafted a transition plan that identifies opportunities for improvement and outlines critical steps toward implementing responsive solutions parkwide.

This accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan (SETP) resulted from the work of a National Park Service (NPS) interdisciplinary team, including planning, design, and construction professionals and interpretive, resource, visitor safety, maintenance, and accessibility specialists. The team developed conceptual site plans identifying the location of accessibility barriers and opportunities for each assessed park area and crafted an implementation strategy to assist park staff in scheduling and performing required actions and documenting completed work. The team also assessed park policies, practices, communication, and training needs to improve access to elements of the park that lie outside of direct physical and programmatic access. The goals of the SETP are to (1) document existing park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities; (2) provide an effective approach for upgrading facilities, services, activities, and programs; and (3) instill a culture around creating universal access.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

WAPA and AMME staff have made many strides to improve physical accessibility throughout both parks. Paved parking spaces and routes connect visitors with most primary visitor areas and places of interest. The T. Stell Newman Visitor Center provides accessible parking, restrooms, and exhibits designed with assistive technologies and multilingual support. Manual wheelchairs are available for loan, and verbal description tours can be arranged with advance notice. At American Memorial Park (AMME) on Saipan, accessible pathways connect visitors to memorial monuments, gardens, and contemplative spaces. The Visitor Center houses multilingual audio-visual displays, artifacts, and exhibits that allow visitors of varying abilities to engage with the history of the Marianas Campaign.

Across both parks, recurring accessibility challenges have been identified. Parking areas and outdoor recreation routes sometimes lack firm and stable surfaces, or slopes exceed accessibility standards, creating barriers for wheelchair users. Visitor information areas, including kiosks and interpretive panels, occasionally present content that is out of reach range or difficult to read. Restroom facilities in certain areas do not consistently meet accessibility requirements, and amenities such as picnic tables, fire rings, and water spigots often fail to provide adequate clearance or accessible routes. Additionally, signs are sometimes missing, illegible, or placed in locations that reduce their usefulness for visitors.

with disabilities. These issues highlight the need for consistent application of accessibility standards across both WAPA and AMME.

Both parks have unique opportunities to enhance accessibility and create memorable experiences for all visitors. At WAPA, improving access to historic battlefield sites and coastal defense structures would allow visitors with mobility disabilities to engage more fully with the park's interpretive mission. Enhanced viewing platforms at Asan Beach and Ga'an Point could provide dramatic scenic and historic perspectives for all visitors. At AMME, upgrading accessible routes to the Court of Honor, Flag Circle, and memorial amphitheater would improve access to commemorative ceremonies and contemplative experiences. Expanding tactile and audio interpretive features across both parks would also ensure that visitors with visual or auditory disabilities can connect meaningfully with the cultural and historical narratives preserved at these sites.

PROGRAMMATIC ACCESSIBILITY

At War in the Pacific National Historical Park (WAPA), staff provide accessible programming through the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center, which features interactive exhibits, multilingual support, and audio-visual presentations that highlight personal stories and artifacts from World War II. Verbal description tours can be arranged with advance notice, and assistive services are available for public programs upon request. At American Memorial Park (AMME) in Saipan, the Visitor Center offers multilingual audio-visual displays, verbal description tours, artifacts, and exhibits that allow visitors of varying abilities to engage with the history of the site.

Recurring findings across both parks highlight challenges in interpretive waysides, publications, and exhibits. Many waysides and panels have font and contrast issues, making them difficult to read for visitors with low vision. Alternative formats, such as Braille or large-print materials, are limited, and assistive listening devices are not consistently available for guided tours or public programs. Tactile exhibits are rare, reducing opportunities for visitors with visual impairments to engage with interpretive content. Audio description for tours is not consistently offered, limiting access to those programs for visitors who are blind or have low vision. These recurring issues underscore the need for more consistent integration of accessibility features across interpretive media and programming.

Both parks have unique opportunities to expand programmatic accessibility. At WAPA, developing audio-described battlefield tours and expanding tactile exhibits related to historic artifacts would allow visitors with visual disabilities to connect more deeply with the park's mission. Enhancing captioning and assistive listening systems in the visitor center theater would improve access to multimedia programming. At AMME, installing tactile interpretive displays at the Court of Honor and Flag Circle could enrich commemorative experiences. Improving trailhead and site-specific signs with clear accessibility information would empower visitors to make informed choices about participation in outdoor programs. Together, these enhancements would provide visitors with disabilities more meaningful opportunities to engage with the cultural and historical narratives preserved at WAPA and AMME.

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1916, the National Park Service has preserved, unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system while providing for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations.

Many national parks were founded because of their stunning views, extreme and unique geography, challenging and sensitive natural environments, and historic and fragile structures. WAPA, AMME, and other park units exist because of their history and resources. The NPS mission balances protection of resources (natural and cultural) with visitor enjoyment. Facilities, services, and programs were designed and built in parks to accommodate visitors and help them better understand each park's purpose and significance.

However, many facilities were constructed before the passage of laws and policies requiring the National Park Service to provide access to the widest cross section of the public and to ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The accessibility of commercial services in national parks is also governed by applicable federal laws. After more than 100 years of operation, the National Park Service continues to work toward a more inclusive environment.

Visitors today have unique needs and expectations, and the agency must adapt to meet changing demands. Modern scientific research and visitor trend analysis provide new insights into accessibility opportunities and challenges in the national park system. According to 2020 Center for Disease Control data, there are approximately 61 million people with disabilities in the United States, and this number is expected to rise in the coming years as more people reach retirement age (65 and older). This information helps the National Park Service understand changing visitation patterns, the nexus between resource stewardship and accessibility, and the impacts of managing visitors, resources, and infrastructure with the reality of unpredictable funding. Planning can help identify solutions to challenges and provide a trajectory full of opportunity for current and future visitors. The National Park Service is committed to making park facilities, services, programs, and employment opportunities accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.

WAPA and AMME's existing general management planning documents continue to provide relevant guidance, which may be supplemented through development of additional planning documents such as this one. The accessibility SETP is a component of the park's planning portfolio. This plan documents park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities and provides an effective approach for upgrading park facilities, services, and programs. In addition, the plan helps inform management decisions regarding project prioritization, funding, and compliance.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

The creation of a transition plan is mandated by regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as they apply to the US Department of the Interior, which states that “No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.” The act requires parks to document architectural barriers and identify solutions, time frames, and responsible parties to improve and increase accessibility.

This plan was prepared to provide WAPA and AMME staff with a tool for addressing overall needs associated with making the park accessible when viewed in its entirety. The plan is based on an understanding of key park experiences and establishes a methodical process that identifies, prioritizes, and outlines improvements to park accessibility. The plan proposes strategies for implementation over time and in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS

The process for creating a SETP involves seven steps:

STEPS OF THE SETP PROCESS



1. **Identify Key Park Experiences and Park Areas:** The interdisciplinary team began by identifying the key experiences available to visitors at the park. Key park experiences, which help determine the park areas to assess in step 2, are iconic and important experiences for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of the park. Park legislation is the foundation for key park experiences, which are identified through park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and programs (available in the parks' foundation document at [WAPA-AMME_FD_2017-508.pdf](#)).
2. Key park experiences ensure that planned improvements are prioritized to best increase overall access to park experiences.

The key park experiences identified for WAPA include the following:

- a. Experience the World War II battlefield landscapes of Guam and commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of all those who participated in or were affected by the campaigns of the Pacific Theater of World War II.
- b. Experience the solemn, peaceful, and reverent space, remember the fallen, and reflect upon the battlefields and their submerged remnants.
- c. Experience a collection of World War II photographs, artifacts, war memorabilia, and oral histories that help tell the diverse stories of the Pacific War and the war years in Guam.
- d. Experience the rare and unique landscapes of limestone forests, tropical savannas, riverine forests, and beach strand communities that support several threatened and endangered plants and animals.

- e. Experience the biologically diverse coral reefs including endangered corals, sea turtles, sharks, protected marine mammals, fish, invertebrates, and productive sea grass habitats, and understand the connection to these resources maintained through traditional Chamorro and recreational fishing.
- f. Experience educational interactions supported by the park that encourage a sense of stewardship and connection to the park's resources and values.

The key park experiences identified for AMME include the following:

- a. Experience the memorials erected to honor those who died during the Pacific Theater of World War II and reflect on the devastating loss of life during the Marianas Campaign.
- b. Experience a bounty of activities such as picnicking, fishing, photography, water sports, tennis, jogging, and bicycling as not only recreational opportunities, but as a communal gesture in remembrance of the American service men and women who sought respite and relaxation along these shores more than half a century ago.
- c. Experience an educational journey through the tragic events, loss, and sacrifices of the Battle for Saipan along with the war events on Tinian and Rota during the Marianas Campaign.
- d. Experience an important migratory bird site in the largest remaining mangrove forest of the Northern Mariana Islands, surrounded by rare flora and fauna such as the endangered Nightingale Reed-warbler.
- e. Experience the expansive collection of World War II memorabilia, artifacts, historic photographs, and oral histories, including prewar and World War II-era historic structures that reflect the military, social, and cultural history of the American invasion of the Japanese-ruled Chamorro and Carolinian homelands.
- f. Experience Micro Beach as the first Carolinian settlers did when they migrated to Saipan and appreciate the traditional legacy of navigational skills and burial rituals as they were passed down from elders to youth.

To prepare for step 2, the team then listed all developed areas of the park in which visitors have access.

3. **Determine Park Areas to Assess:** In some instances, not all park areas can be assessed during this process due to time and funding constraints. Therefore, the interdisciplinary team determined which park areas to assess based on the number of key park experiences, visitation level, diversity of activities and programs, distribution, and unique characteristics. The areas selected for assessment provide the best opportunities for the public to access all key park experiences. Areas not assessed will be assessed and improved as part of future facility alterations or as components of a future planned construction project.
4. **Identify Facilities, Services, and Programs in Each Park Area:** The team identified all facilities, services, and programs in each park area to ensure that all physical and programmatic visitor amenities in each park area were reviewed for accessibility. The comprehensive lists of facilities, services, and programs were the basis for conducting assessments and documenting barriers.
5. **Conduct Accessibility Assessment:** On-site, the interdisciplinary assessment team assessed each park area and identified physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility. The team then reviewed possible solutions and explored options to provide universal access. In some cases, programmatic alternatives needed to be examined because eliminating physical barriers is not always possible due to historic designations, environmental concerns, topography, or sensitive cultural and natural resources. Therefore, a range of programmatic alternatives was considered to provide access to key park experiences for as many visitors as possible.
6. **Draft Transition Plan:** Following the assessment, the team added field results to an implementation strategy table and drafted conceptual site plans to display the locations of barriers and opportunities. An implementation strategy can be complex because of a large range of coordination efforts associated with scheduling accessibility improvements. All improvement efforts need to consider park activities and operational requirements. Improvement efforts need to consider park activities and operational requirements to determine how and when to implement a solution. While some changes can be done quickly at little or no cost, others may be integrated into existing projects or planned as separate projects, and more complex solutions may require advanced planning and requests for funding. Based on these considerations, the team identified an implementation time frame and a responsible park staff member for each barrier and solution. Implementation time frames are based on NPS staff's ability to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects and are as follows:
 - a. Immediate (0–1 year)
 - b. Short term (1–3 years)
 - c. Mid-term (3–7 years)
 - d. Long term (longer than 7 years)

7. **Conduct Public Involvement:** Public involvement occurs at the draft stage of the transition plan; however, it is recommended that at the beginning of the SETP process, park staff initiate public outreach efforts with organizations representing people with disabilities. The draft plan will be released for a 30-day period to solicit input from the public, including people with disabilities and organizations that represent people with disabilities, to provide comments and thoughts on whether the document represents a reasonable review of the park's barriers and a feasible and appropriate strategy for overcoming the barriers.
8. **Finalize Transition Plan:** After the comment period has closed, park staff will analyze all comments to determine if any revisions to the plan are necessary. Those revisions will be made before the implementation strategy is finalized. Once finalized, a notification will be sent to the public to announce the plan's availability.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan, and the accessibility coordinator assists the superintendent by documenting improvements, keeping the plan updated, and communicating to park employees. It's recommended that park staff employ trained consultants and involve the disability community to assist with addressing accessibility improvements to ensure that design and implementation meet the needs of visitors with disabilities. Creating parkwide accessibility requires staff awareness, understanding, and appropriate action. Because of fiscal constraints and limited park resources, staff will need to determine which improvements will benefit the greatest number of visitors with disabilities. Suggested implementation time frames and relative costs need to be factored into all accessibility investment decisions.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR WAPA AND AMME

PARK AREAS ASSESSED

The interdisciplinary team assessed the following park areas for accessibility during the planning effort.

War in the Pacific National Historical Park (WAPA), Guam:

- Apaca and Rizal Points
- Asan Bay Overlook
- Asan Beach
- Ga'an Point
- Piti Guns
- T. Stell Newman Visitor Center



American Memorial Park (AMME), Northern Mariana Islands:

- Memorial Grounds and Micro Beach
- Tennis Courts
- American Memorial Park Visitor Center



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR PARK AREAS ASSESSED

The Architectural Barrier Act requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards and the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities in 1984 and 2006, respectively. Subsequently, in 2011, standards for recreational facilities were incorporated into ABAAS as chapter 10. In 2023, NPS Policy Memorandum 23-01 implemented the most current International Code Council (ICC) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) building codes to supersede ABAAS for building standards. The Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards will continue to provide scoping and technical requirements for outdoor developed areas.

Depending on the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards apply. The interdisciplinary team used checklists that include ABAAS, ICC, and ANSI Standards to conduct the transition plan facility assessments. Although a barrier may be identified by the current assessment for improvement, facilities are only required to follow the standard in place at the time of construction and/or alteration. Therefore, barriers may not be in violation of accessibility standards. However, any renovation or upgrade of that building is required to meet the most current standard at the time of work. In addition, Harpers Ferry Center Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media were followed for facility and program assessments.

This document does not include strategies for transitioning employee workspaces to be accessible. In the event that an employee with a disability is hired by WAPA or AMME, the supervisor and employee will discuss the employee's needs. The supervisor will then determine what accommodations are reasonable in the given work environment and determine a plan of action to meet those needs.

For each park area, this document provides an overview of findings and recommended solutions in a brief narrative and bulleted list and provides corresponding conceptual site plan(s) that illustrate the locations of proposed improvements. For details on each barrier, solution, and time frame, see the companion implementation strategy table at https://parkplanning.nps.gov/WAPA_AMME_SETP. It is important to understand that the site plans and recommendations are conceptual and will require further design development and historic and environmental compliance before construction. SETPs are not to be used as a section 106 compliance review submittal. Consult with cultural and natural resource staff before proceeding with recommended actions. During the implementation phase, the interdisciplinary team must reassess the project site conditions; refer to ICC, ANSI, and ABAAS, as relevant; and consult with the local disability community to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are correctly addressed.



WAPA: APACA AND RIZAL POINTS

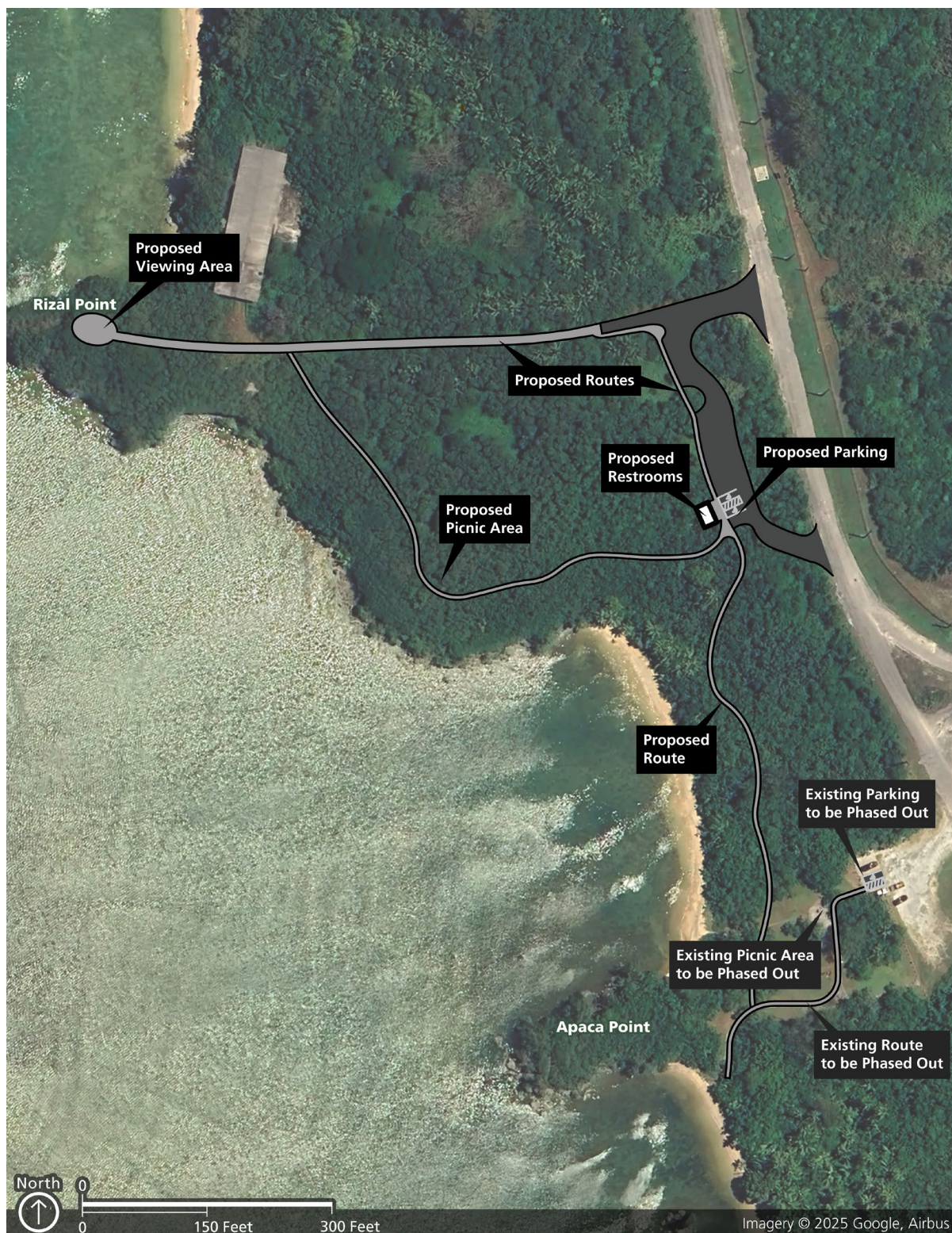
Apaca and Rizal Points are located along the southern stretch of Agat Beach, which was a landing site during the 1944 Battle of Guam. Visitors come to walk the shoreline, enjoy ocean views, and reflect on the historic events that unfolded here. The open coastal setting supports opportunities for photography, quiet reflection, and informal exploration of the battlefield with designated parking and routes that lead to a small picnic area and coastal viewing area. The long-term plan is to focus investments at Rizal Point due to the higher elevation and better resilience to coastal impacts at Rizal Point than Apaca Point. Major improvements for these areas are based on phased development concepts in the 2024 Asan and Agat Units Management Plan. Improvements to the existing features at Apaca Point will be limited to basic maintenance and minor modifications in the interim.

Recommended accessibility improvements include the following:

- **Parking:** Provide designated accessible parking stalls, improve the stability of surfaces, and create direct, barrier-free connections to nearby features.
- **Routes:** Provide pathways with ample width, smooth and stable surfaces, and gentle slopes. Provide clear wayfinding along primary routes.
- **Viewing Area:** Provide expanded viewing pads with firm, stable surfaces and sufficient maneuvering space for all visitors.
- **Picnic Area:** Provide accessible tables with adequate knee-clearance, clear circulation routes around all usable sides, and firm, stable, and level ground surfaces.
- **Restrooms:** Provide accessible entrances, interior circulation space and routes, and restroom fixtures with compliant clearances and reach ranges.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

WAPA: Apaca and Rizal Points Conceptual Site Plan





WAPA: ASAN BAY OVERLOOK

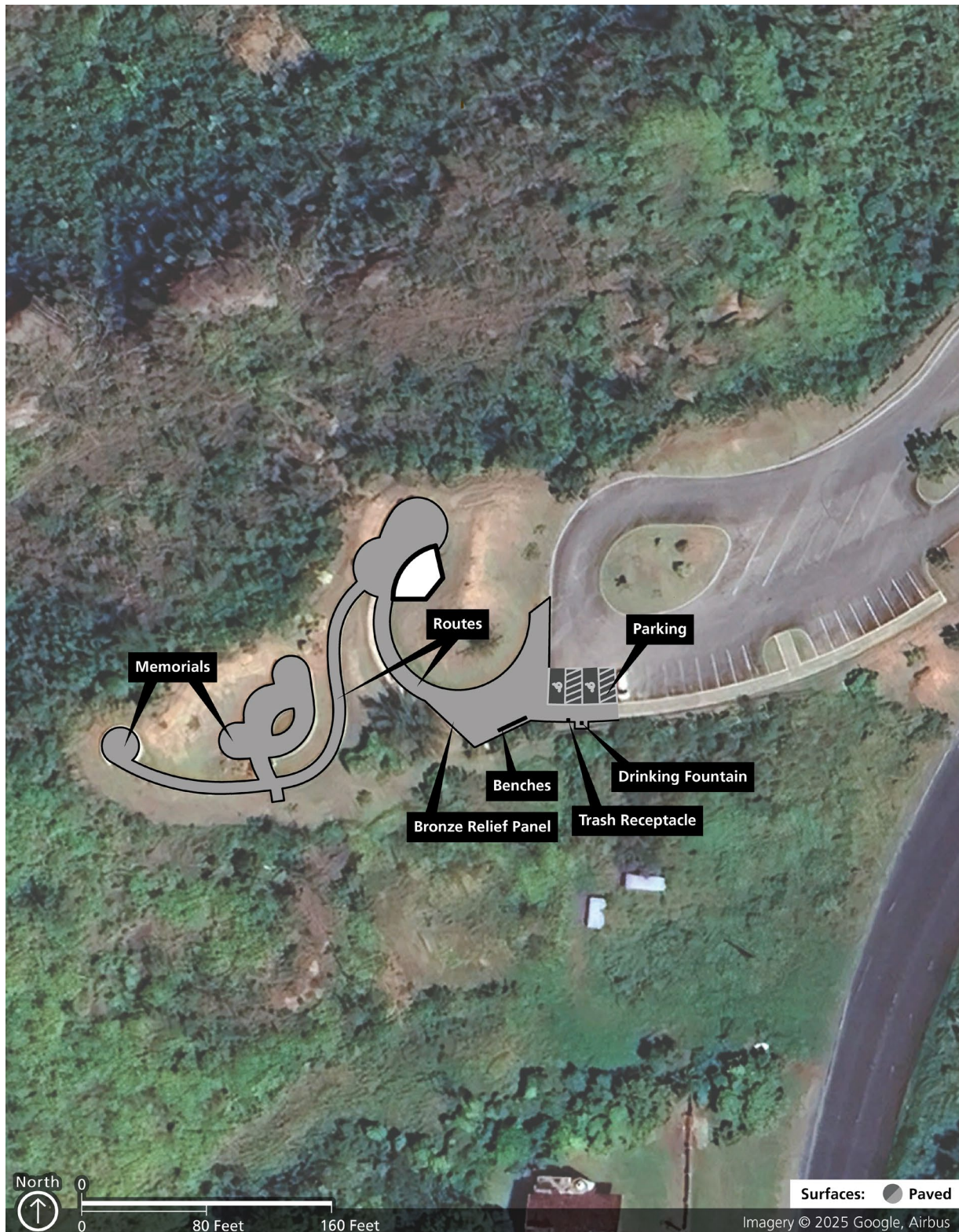
The Asan Bay Overlook features landscaped paths leading to memorials and a viewing platform. The platform displays historic photos to commemorate the events in Guam during the 1941–1944 Imperial Japanese occupation and the Battle of Guam in 1944. The overlook provides a view of the seaside villages of Asan and Piti and an aerial perspective of the landing beaches used by US Marines during battle. A large, paved parking area has designated accessible parking spaces and a drinking fountain nearby. Paved walkways provide access up gentle slopes to the overlooks and memorials, with benches and interpretive waysides along the route.

Recommended accessibility improvements include the following:

- **Parking:** Install an accessible parking sign at each accessible space.
- **Routes:** Provide level landings, improve slopes, ensure clear width on routes, and provide accessible clear ground space at signs and key locations with firm, stable, slip-resistant surfaces.
- **Drinking Fountain:** Provide accessible drinking fountains for both standing and sitting users with accessible clear ground space with knee/toe clearance at each.
- **Benches:** Add companion seating and accessible clear space to 20% of benches.
- **Trash Receptacle:** Provide accessible clear space in front of trash receptacles.
- **Bronze Relief Panel:** Provide accessible clear ground space at the panel.
- **Memorials:** Explore alternate formats for text used on the wall of names and on memorial plaques.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

WAPA: Asan Bay Overlook Conceptual Site Plan





WAPA: ASAN BEACH

Asan Beach is a site of deep historical significance that offers recreational opportunities. Visitors come to walk the shoreline, picnic, swim, and reflect on the events of the 1944 Battle of Guam when US forces landed to liberate the island. The site includes parking, paved routes, restrooms, monuments, interpretive panels, picnic areas, and a hiking trail, making it a popular destination for families and groups. The open coastal setting provides opportunities for photography, quiet reflection, and informal exploration of the battlefield landscape. Accessible features include routes from parking areas to picnic sites and the shoreline, though surfaces vary in firmness and slope. Asan Beach was included in the 2024 Asan and Agat Units Management Plan (UMP). Following typhoon damage in 2026, recommended improvements to Asan Beach have been aligned with the Phase 2 development concepts from the 2024 UMP.

Recommended accessibility improvements include the following:

- **Parking:** Restripe and widen parking spaces, reduce slopes, and add a compliant van space near the restrooms.
- **Routes:** Upgrade curb ramps with proper slopes, landings, and detectable warnings, and widen narrow sections to meet minimum clear widths.
- **Restrooms:** Consider relocation and ensure entries and interiors have adequate turning space, grab bars, accessible fixtures, and improved exterior access.
- **Picnic Areas:** Provide accessible tables, firm surfacing, adequate knee and toe clearances, sufficient circulation space, and connected routes.
- **Beach Access Mat:** Install a firm, stable beach-access mat that extends from an accessible route to the high-tide line.
- **Asan Ridge Trail and Trailheads:** Improve trailhead signs to include trail condition information, improve surface stability, reduce excessive slopes and steps, and add resting intervals.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

WAPA: Asan Beach Conceptual Site Plan





WAPA: GA'AN POINT

Ga'an Point marks a major US Marine landing site during the 1944 Battle of Guam. Visitors come here to walk the shoreline, explore remnants of Japanese fortifications, and reflect on the liberation of the island. The site offers opportunities for photography, quiet contemplation, and informal exploration of historic structures. Facilities include a parking area, shoreline access, and interpretive signs that introduce visitors to the events that unfolded here. Accessible features include routes from the parking lot to the interpretive panels and shoreline overlooks, but surfaces may vary in firmness and slope. Ga'an Point was included in the 2024 Asan and Agat Units Management Plan. Recommended improvements to this area align with the phased development concepts in the plan.

Recommended accessibility improvements include the following:

- **Parking:** Add van-accessible parking with accessible signs and level surfaces.
- **Routes:** Improve paths to meet slope and surface standards and extend access to key viewing areas.
- **Restrooms:** Upgrade signs, fixtures, maneuvering space, and toilet compartments for accessibility.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Modify tables and surfaces to support accessible seating and circulation.
- **Interpretive Waysides and Features:** Enhance access to interpretive panels and features with improved clear ground space.
- **Benches:** Replace benches with accessible designs including backrests and armrests.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

WAPA: Ga'an Point Conceptual Site Plan





WAPA: PITI GUNS

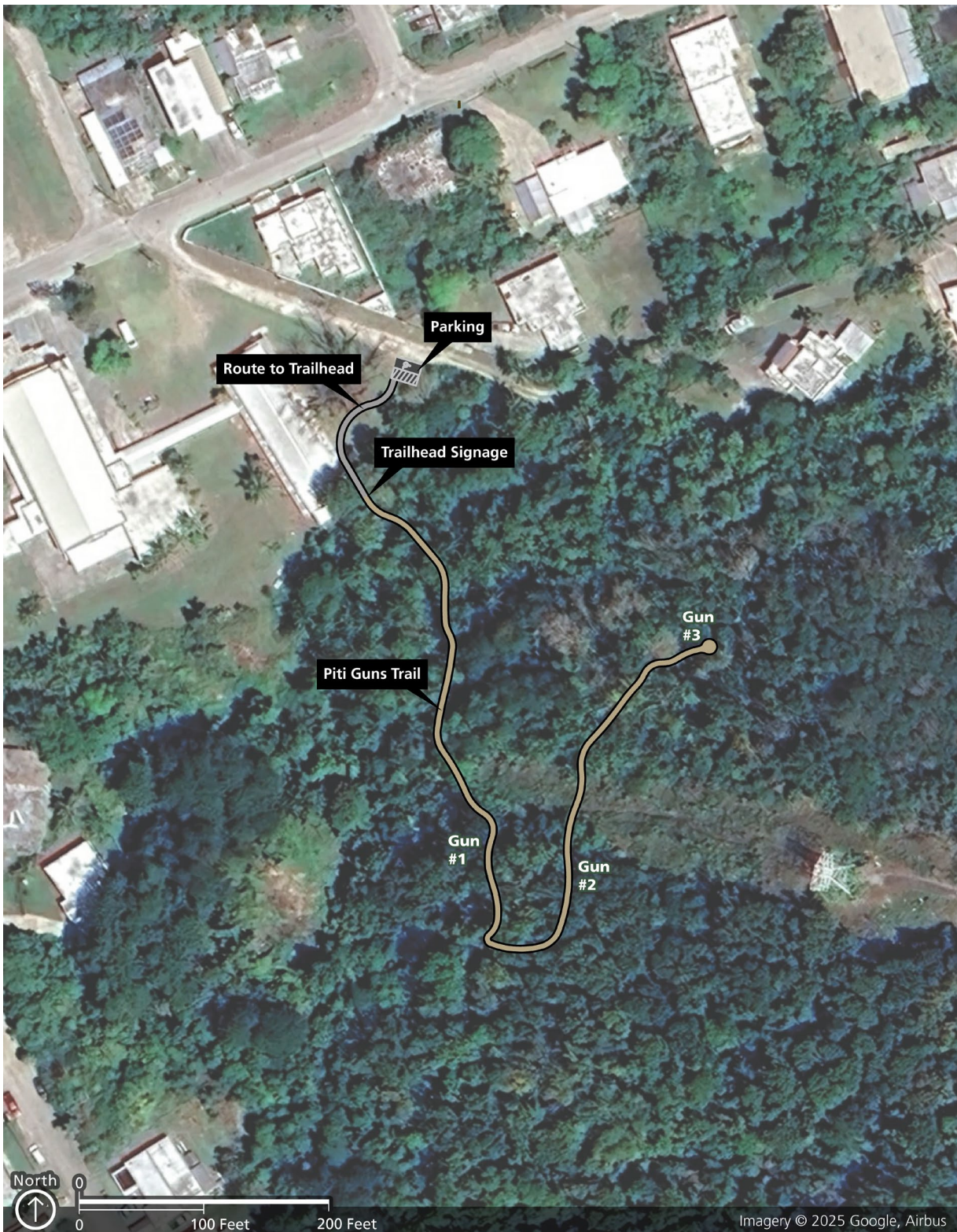
The Piti Guns Unit is a hillside site featuring three large Japanese coastal defense guns installed during World War II. Visitors hike a short, forested trail to reach the gun emplacements, where they can view the preserved artillery and learn about their role in Guam's wartime history. The site offers opportunities for hiking, photography, and historic interpretation with interpretive panels that provide context about the Japanese occupation and the Battle of Guam. Facilities supporting these activities include a trailhead parking area, signs, and interpretive panels at the gun sites. The trail is relatively short but involves uneven terrain, steps, and moderate slopes. The park provides audio tours and online accessibility information that supplement the on-site experience for visitors who may not be able to physically reach the emplacements.

Recommended accessibility improvements include the following:

- **Parking:** Coordinate with landowner to discuss potential for providing an accessible parking space with appropriate signs and a firm, stable surface.
- **Route to Trailhead:** Coordinate with landowner to discuss potential for providing a smooth, accessible route from the parking area to the trailhead with minimal obstacles. Consider providing a new route to the trail that is on NPS-owned land.
- **Trailhead Signs:** Install trailhead signs that clearly communicates key trail conditions and accessibility information.
- **Piti Guns Trail:** To the extent practicable, improve trail to have firm, stable surfaces with accessible slopes and widths.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

WAPA: Piti Guns Conceptual Site Plan





WAPA: T. STELL NEWMAN VISITOR CENTER

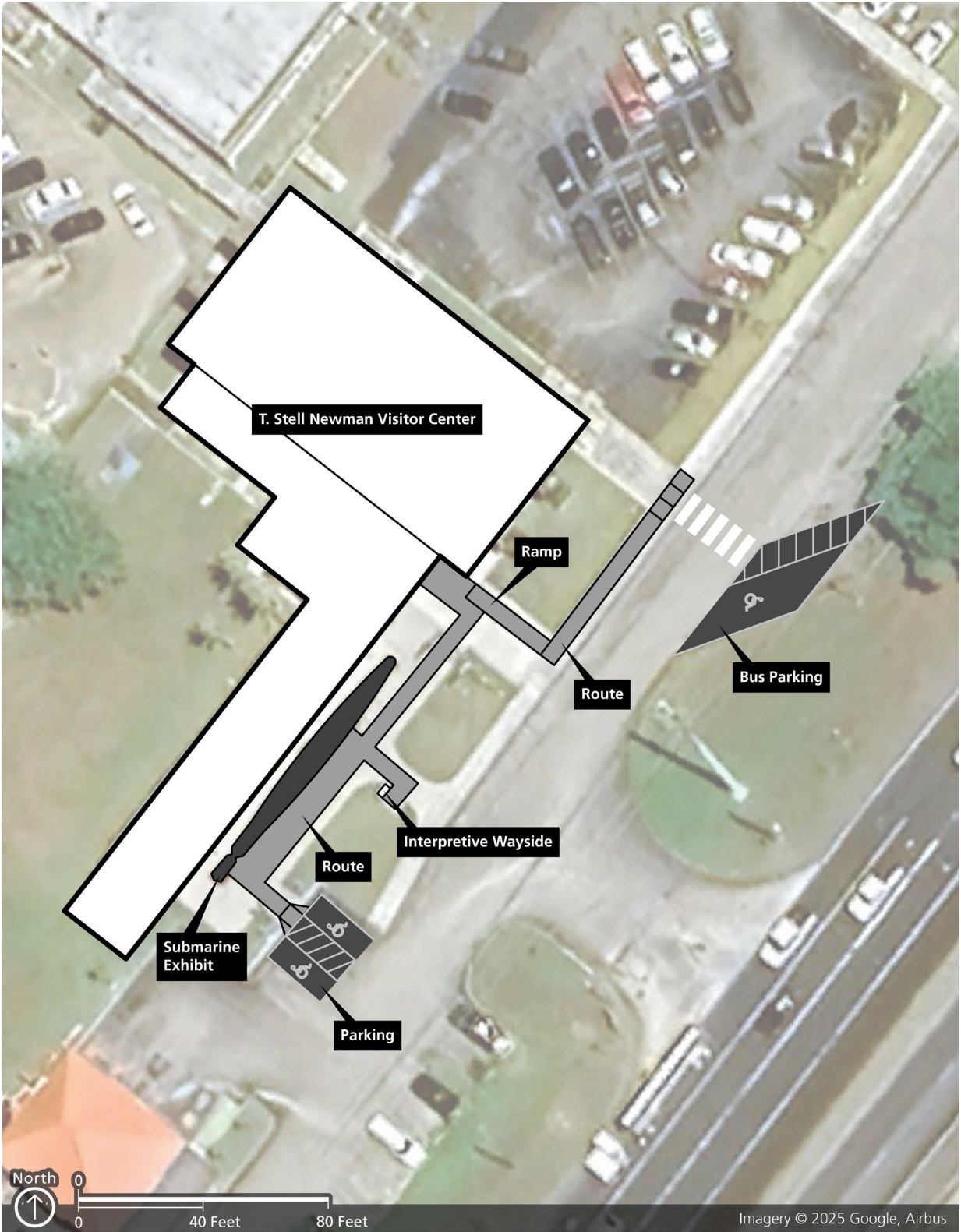
The T. Stell Newman Visitor Center serves as the main gateway to War in the Pacific National Historical Park. Visitors explore exhibits, watch interpretive films, attend ranger-led programs, and gather information about the park's sites. The center features interactive exhibits, artifacts, and multimedia presentations interpreting Guam's World War II history, including the Japanese occupation and the 1944 Battle of Guam. A theater provides additional historical context, and staff offer maps, brochures, and assistance for planning visits. Supporting facilities include accessible parking, restrooms, and circulation routes. Exhibits incorporate multilingual content, audio-visual elements, and assistive technologies. Wheelchairs are available for loan, and verbal tours can be arranged in advance.

Recommended accessibility improvements include the following:

- **Parking:** Coordinate with the US Navy to improve slopes at accessible parking spaces and restripe stalls to provide compliant van and standard parking spaces.
- **Routes:** Coordinate with the US Navy to reduce slopes on routes and ramps; improve ramp level landings; improve clear widths, transitions, and cane-detectability; and connect route to bus parking.
- **Restrooms:** Improve toilet and grab bar placement, lower fixture heights, improve door maneuvering clearances, and incorporate an adult changing station as feasible.
- **Drinking Fountains:** Lower the spout and adjust water pressure.
- **Exhibits:** Provide tactile and multisensory elements, ensure operable parts do not require tight grasping, and maintain reach ranges and knee/toe clearances.
- **Theater:** Improve wheelchair seating spaces and companion seating spaces.
- **Bookstore:** Improve accessible route widths, provide required clear floor spaces, and place items within accessible reach ranges or near signs offering assistance.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

T. Stell Newman Visitor Center Conceptual Site Plan





AMME: MEMORIAL GROUNDS AND MICRO BEACH

The Memorial Grounds at American Memorial Park are the centerpiece of the park's commemorative mission. Visitors come to walk the landscaped grounds, attend ceremonies, reflect at monuments, and participate in cultural programs that honor the sacrifices of US service members and the Chamorro and Carolinian people during World War II. The Marianas Memorial and Court of Honor feature inscribed names of those who gave their lives in the Marianas Campaign. The Flag Circle displays the flags of the service branches that were pivotal in the Battles for Saipan, Tinian, and the Philippine Sea. The Saipan American Memorial commemorates the Americans and the Chamorro and Carolinian people who died during the liberation of Saipan, Tinian, and Guam from June 15 to August 11, 1944. Supporting facilities include paved pathways, seating areas, and signage that guide visitors through the grounds. Nearby Micro Beach provides additional amenities, including parking, a picnic area, benches, and convenient shoreline access. Accommodations such as assistive services for ceremonies and programs can be arranged with park staff in advance.

Recommended accessibility improvements include the following:

- **Routes:** Improve surfaces to be firm and stable with gentle slopes and minimal openings and level changes. Provide accessible connections to memorial destinations and visitor facilities. Provide accessible beach access.
- **Picnic Area:** Add another accessible picnic table so that at least 20% of tables are accessible. Ensure firm, stable, and clear ground space on all usable sides of grills.
- **Benches:** Improve 20% of benches to have accessible route connections, accessible seat heights, an armrest, and a backrest.
- **Micro Beach Restroom Parking:** Raise sign height and reduce excessive cross slopes so that accessible stalls meet required visibility and surface-slope standards.
- **Micro Beach Restrooms:** Improve signs, lower operable parts, reposition toilets and grab bars, correct toilet paper dispenser placement, cover exposed pipes, and remove obstructions from clear floor space.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

AMME: Memorial Grounds and Micro Beach Conceptual Site Plan





AMME: TENNIS COURTS

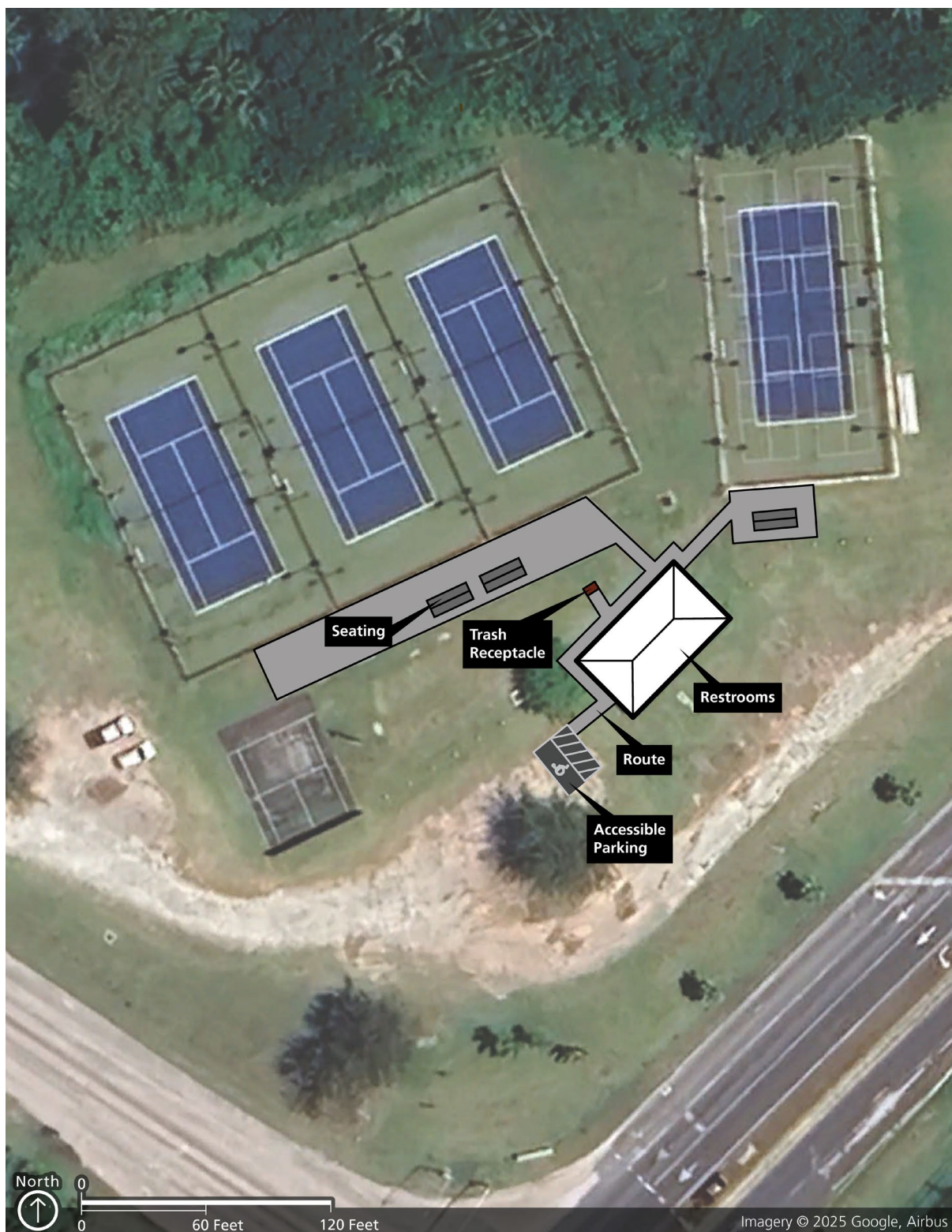
The tennis courts at American Memorial Park provide visitors with opportunities for recreation, exercise, and community engagement. The tennis courts contribute to the park's dual identity as both a memorial and a community gathering space. Locals and visitors alike use the courts for casual play, organized matches, and fitness activities. The courts are located within the broader park grounds, offering a recreational complement to the park's commemorative and interpretive spaces. Supporting facilities include adjacent parking areas, nearby restrooms, and seating, making the courts accessible for both players and spectators. The courts are part of the park's effort to balance commemoration with community recreation, ensuring that the grounds serve multiple purposes for residents and visitors.

Recommended accessibility improvements include the following:

- **Parking:** Provide at least one van-accessible parking space with an adjacent access aisle; ensure that the surface is firm, stable, and nearly level.
- **Routes:** Make outdoor routes to amenities firm and stable with gentle slopes and resting areas. Accessible routes should have minimal slope for ease of use.
- **Restrooms:** Increase clear widths and lower thresholds at doors. Cover pipes under sinks and position grab bars for proper reach and support. Position toilet on the open side of the toilet compartment. Mount hooks, dispensers, and trash openings within easy reach. Provide a self-closing door for the accessible stall and maintain firm, stable flooring.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

AMME: Tennis Courts Conceptual Site Plan





AMME: AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK VISITOR CENTER

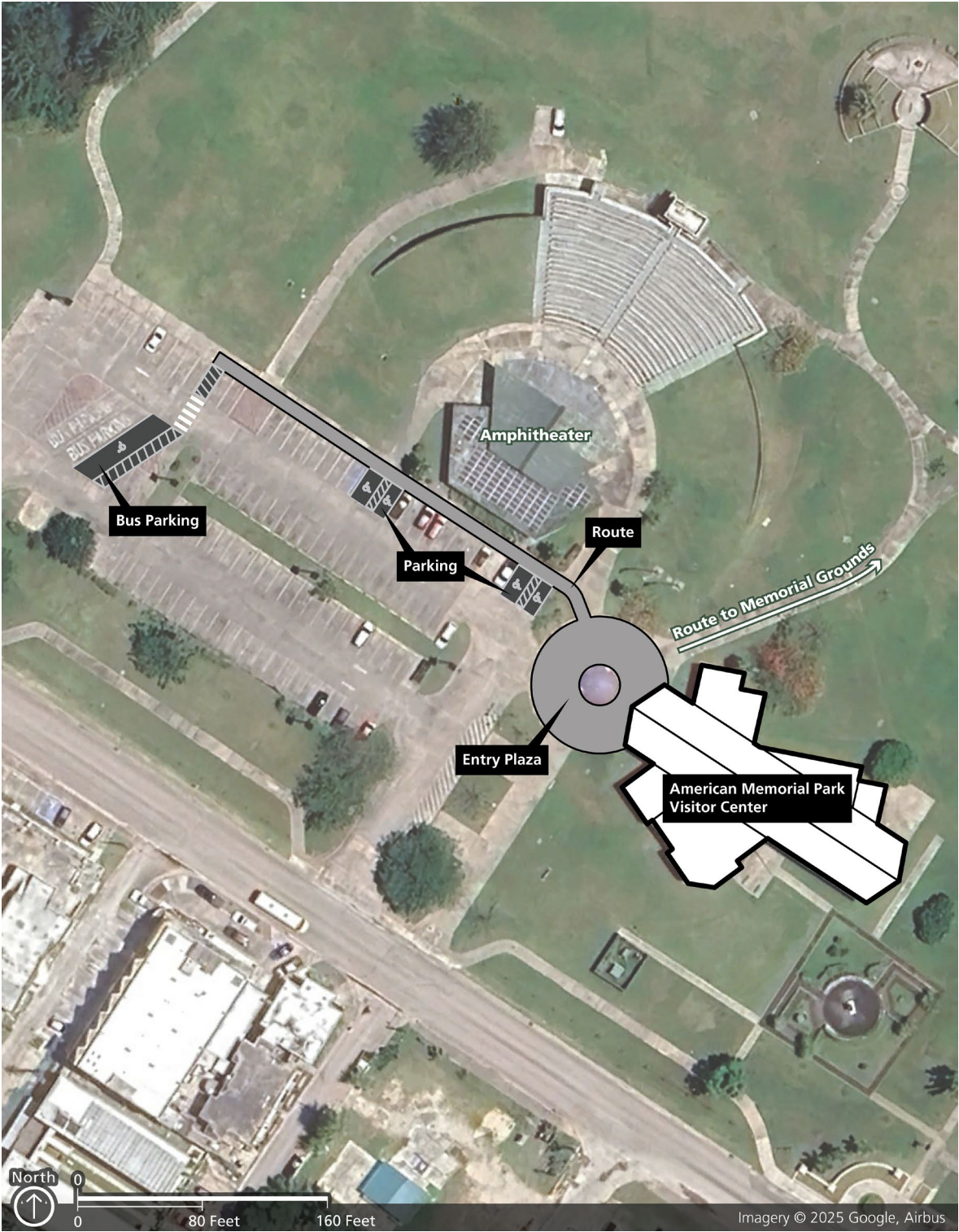
The American Memorial Park Visitor Center serves as the park's interpretive hub, welcoming visitors to learn about the Marianas Campaign and the sacrifices made during World War II. Guests explore exhibits, view artifacts, watch films, and attend ranger-led programs on the history of the Northern Mariana Islands during the war. The center provides maps, brochures, and staff assistance for planning visits to the memorial grounds, amphitheater, and gardens. It offers accessible parking, restrooms, and circulation routes. Wheelchairs are available for loan to visitors. Exhibits include multilingual audiovisual displays and interpretive panels for visitors of diverse backgrounds, and the theater presents films about the Marianas Campaign.

Recommended accessibility improvements include the following:

- **Parking:** Widen the van-accessible parking space and raise the height of signs.
- **Routes:** Add a curb ramp with level landings, gentle slopes, and smooth transitions.
- **Benches:** Provide armrests and companion seating spaces to entry plaza benches.
- **Entryway:** Improve the door opener's force and placement, refresh accessibility markings, lower dispensers, and remove obstructions on the door's lower surface.
- **Bookstore:** Maintain circulation space and clear checkout counter space.
- **Theater:** Add tactile signs, reduce door thresholds and operating force, widen doorways and routes, and include an additional wheelchair seating space.
- **Exhibits:** Make displays cane-detectable, enhance tactile and reachable elements, improve maneuvering clearance, and angle flat-mounted text for seated visitors.
- **Restrooms:** Add tactile signs, lower items to reachable heights, improve operability of fixtures, maintain maneuvering space, and consider an adult changing station.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

AMME: American Memorial Park Visitor Center Conceptual Site Plan





WAPA AND AMME PROGRAMS

War in the Pacific National Historical Park (WAPA) and American Memorial Park (AMME) showed strengths in their interpretive exhibits, ranger-led programs, and commemorative events. Both parks provide visitors with opportunities to learn about World War II history through films, interactive displays, public ceremonies, all of which are supported by multilingual content and accessible facilities at their respective visitor centers. The parks do not currently offer consistent tactile exhibits, audio-described tours, or comprehensive assistive listening systems across all programs. Unique opportunities exist to offer expanded tactile interpretation, audio-described battlefield tours, and enhanced assistive listening services to engage staff and further support visitors with disabilities. Park staff are aware of these areas for improvement and are committed to addressing them.

Recommended accessibility improvements include the following:

- Publications:** Publications should be expanded to include large-print and Braille formats, as well as digital versions compatible with screen readers. Interpretive brochures and trail guides should provide clear accessibility information about routes, facilities, and programs, empowering visitors to make informed decisions.
- Audiovisuals:** Films and multimedia presentations in visitor centers should have assistive listening devices available in theaters and during public programs. Expanding tactile components in exhibits would provide additional engagement for visitors with visual disabilities.
- Website and Social Media:** The parks' websites and social media platforms should include comprehensive accessibility information, such as details on accessible routes, facilities, and programs. Online content should be screen-reader compatible, captioned, and available in multiple languages, ensuring inclusivity for diverse audiences.

- **Walks, Talks, Tours, and Special Events:** Ranger-led walks, battlefield tours, and commemorative ceremonies should incorporate assistive listening systems, audio description, and tactile interpretive materials. Trailhead signage should provide specific accessibility information about terrain and conditions, enabling visitors to assess usability. Special events should include captioning and accessible seating arrangements to ensure full participation.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.



WAPA AND AMME POLICIES, PRACTICES, COMMUNICATION, AND TRAINING

War in the Pacific National Historical Park (WAPA) and American Memorial Park (AMME) show strengths in their commitment to visitor services, staff responsiveness, and adherence to NPS accessibility policies. Staff are proactive in providing accommodations when requested, such as wheelchair loans, verbal description tours, and multilingual interpretive support. The parks do not currently offer comprehensive staff training programs focused on accessibility, standardized communication protocols for accessibility information, or formalized partnerships with disability advocacy organizations. Unique opportunities exist to offer structured accessibility training, proactive communication strategies, and collaborative partnerships to engage staff and further support visitors with disabilities. Park staff are aware of these areas for improvement and are committed to addressing them.

Recommended accessibility improvements include the following:

- **Staff Training and Park Protocols:** The park should strengthen its overall accessibility framework by expanding staff training and formalizing clear protocols that support inclusive visitor experiences. This includes regular instruction on accessibility standards, disability awareness, emergency response, communication practices, and the proper management of assistive devices. At the same time, the park should improve its communication and outreach by integrating accessibility information across all visitor-facing materials and building ongoing partnerships with local disability organizations. Together, these efforts ensure that accessibility policies are well-understood, consistently implemented, and informed by the needs of the communities the park serves.
- **Communications and Partnerships:** Accessibility communications should be strengthened by integrating clear, consistent information into all visitor-facing materials, including signs, publications, and digital platforms. Outreach should include regular engagement with people with disabilities and local advocacy groups to share updates and invite input on accessibility improvements. Partnerships with

community organizations, schools, and service providers will help ensure that park policies and programs reflect the needs of diverse users and promote inclusive participation.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

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CONCLUSION

AMME and WAPA staff are committed to providing all visitors with the opportunity to connect with and learn about the parks' unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Accessibility improvements identified in the SETP will make it easier for individuals with cognitive, hearing, vision, and mobility disabilities to discover, understand, and enjoy the range of experiences available at the parks. Park staff will continue to work toward accommodating all visitors while sustaining the parks' legacy to preserve and protect the historic battlefields, coastal ecosystems, memorial landscapes, and cultural resources that define Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The primary goal of the plan is to consider universal design strategies and document modifications needed to provide access to park facilities, services, activities, and programs for all visitors. As park staff work toward implementing the plan, physical access to and within assessed park areas will be improved, and park information and programs will be enhanced or created for all visitors across the breadth of key experiences at WAPA and AMME. These include tours, commemorative ceremonies, interpretive exhibits, ranger-led walks, and community recreation programs. Accessibility-related recommendations tied to these experiences include expanding tactile and audio-described interpretation, improving assistive listening systems for ceremonies and films, enhancing trailhead signs with accessibility information, and ensuring that publications and digital platforms provide alternative formats. Together, these improvements will ensure that visitors of all abilities can fully participate in the parks' commemorative, educational, and recreational opportunities.

The WAPA and AMME SETP is a living document intended to be used as a guiding reference for the parks as park staff implement accessibility upgrades and document accessibility accomplishments. As barriers to accessibility are removed and/or improved, changes will be updated in the implementation strategy table. Park staff will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate and update conditions to reflect accomplishments and document new programs or other changes that occur over time. Revisions to the plan may include conducting additional assessments for areas not originally conducted as a part of this plan.

Over time, the results of this collective effort will make WAPA and AMME truly welcoming and accommodating sites for all visitors and will provide equal opportunity to access the places, resources, stories, and experiences at the parks.

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APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO WAPA AND AMME

As National Park Service sites, WAPA and AMME are required to comply with specific federal laws that mandate that discriminatory barriers be removed to provide equal opportunities to persons with disabilities. The following laws, design guidelines, and director's orders pertain to WAPA and AMME.

LAWS

- Architectural Barriers Act of 1968: <https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides>
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>
- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: <http://www.section508.gov>
- Effective Communication: <http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>
- Reasonable Accommodations: <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations>
- Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices: <https://www.ada.gov/opdmd.htm>
- Service Animals: https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm
- 43 CFR, Section 17.549 Program Accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.549>
- 43 CFR, Section 17.550 Program Accessibility: Existing Facilities: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>
- 43 CFR, Section 17.551 Program Accessibility: New Construction and Alterations: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.551>

NPS DIRECTOR'S ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

- Director's Order 16A: *Reasonable Accommodation for Applicants and Employees with Disabilities*: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO_16A_5-4-1999.pdf
- Director's Order 42: *Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities*: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO_42_11-3-2000.pdf
- National Park Service *Management Policies 2006*, Section 1.9.3 Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf>

GUIDELINES

- Draft Accessibility Standards for Public Rights-Of-Way: <https://www.access-board.gov/prowag>

- Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media:
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/hfc/accessibility.htm>

APPENDIX B: RESOURCES

Many of the resources listed below for trainings, accessibility assessments, project development, and implementation are currently located on the Pacific West Region Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Planning SharePoint site (<https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-PWR-AccessibilitySETP?CT=1649343052705&OR=OWA-NT&CID=204c2563-b913-0894-1cae-52bc8f021fcf>). In the near future, this information will be available to all NPS staff and will be uploaded to the Park Facility Management Division's "Accessibility for Visitors and Employees with Disabilities" web page (<https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-pfmd/SitePages/Access-for-Visitors-and-Employees-with-Disabilities.aspx>). This information includes specific accessibility resources for concessions, facilities and maintenance, interpretation and education, and law enforcement staff. Resources include the following:

- A glossary of accessibility terms
- Reference information and links to laws and policies
- Accessibility assessment checklists and videos
- Accessibility training links and materials
- Templates that help track and document accessibility actions and an accessibility guide
- Guidance for making historic sites accessible
- Guidance for service animals in parks, accessible publications and programs, signs, and audio description
- Disability dialogue information and trainings
- Guidance for preparing PMIS packages for accessibility improvements
- Trail assessment protocols and summary sheets

APPENDIX C: CONTRIBUTORS

WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (WAPA)

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WAPA AND AMME ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN AUGUST 2026

This accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort between WAPA and AMME staff, Regional Office staff serving Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12, and Denver Service Center staff and is recommended for approval by the superintendent.

Approved

Date

Barbara Alberti, Superintendent, WAPA and AMME



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

WAPA 483/200010

AMME 474/200011

August 2026

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