

**ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND
TRANSITION PLAN
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK
CALIFORNIA**

AUGUST 2018

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Joshua Tree National Park's Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) includes findings from the self-evaluation process, as well as a plan for improving accessibility park-wide. The Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan resulted from the work of an NPS interdisciplinary team, including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource, visitor safety, maintenance, and accessibility specialists. Site plans, photographs, and specific actions for identified park areas were developed. Associated time frames and implementation strategies were established to assist NPS park staff in scheduling and performing required actions and to document completed work. Park policies, practices, communication, and training needs were also addressed. The goals of the plan 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.

The following are the key park experiences and associated park areas addressed in the transition plan:

- 1) **Dynamic processes that formed the Joshua Tree landscape** – Black Rock Campground and Nature Center, Barker Dam Trail and Trailhead, Hidden Valley Day Use Area, Keys View, Cap Rock, Jumbo Rocks Campground, Live Oak Picnic Area and Trailhead, Split Rock, Skull Rock, Indian Cove Ranger Station, Indian Cove Campground, Oasis of Mara Visitor Center
- 2) **Rich array of prehistoric, historic and contemporary resources that demonstrate the integral connection between desert ecosystems, land use, and human cultures** – Quail Springs, Barker Dam Trail and Trailhead, Hidden Valley Day Use Area, Intersection Rock, Keys View, Cap Rock, Ryan Campground, Jumbo Rocks Campground, Skull Rock, Indian Cove Campground, Oasis of Mara Visitor Center
- 3) **Outstanding diversity of the Mojave and Colorado desert landscapes and the rich system of plant and animal life communities** – Black Rock Campground and Ranger Station, Quail Springs, Barker Dam Trail and Trailhead, Boy Scout Trailhead, Hidden Valley Day Use Area, Cap Rock, Live Oak Picnic Area and Trailhead, Split Rock, Indian Cove Campground, Oasis of Mara Visitor Center, Cholla Cactus Garden
- 4) **Extensive recreational opportunities such as camping, climbing, hiking, biking, and horseback riding** – Barker Dam Trail and Trailhead, Belle Campground, Black Rock Campground and Nature Center, Boy Scout Trailhead, Cap Rock, Cholla Cactus Garden, Hidden Valley Day Use Area, Indian Cove Campground, Intersection Rock, Jumbo Rocks Campground, Keys View, Live Oak Picnic Area and Trailhead, Oasis of Mara Visitor Center, Quail

Springs, Ryan Campground, Ryan Ranch Trail and Trailhead, Skull Rock, Split Rock

- 5) **Full spectrum of scenic landscapes unique to the deserts and character of the park. (such as Joshua Trees, monzogranite boulder formations, and Colorado desert** – Barker Dam Trail and Trailhead, Belle Campground, Black Rock Campground and Nature Center, Boy Scout Trailhead, Cap Rock , Cholla Cactus Garden, Hidden Valley Day Use Area, Indian Cove Campground, Indian Cove Ranger Station, Intersection Rock, Jumbo Rocks Campground, Keys View, Live Oak Picnic Area and Trailhead, Oasis of Mara Visitor Center, Quail Springs, Ryan Campground, Ryan Ranch Trail and Trailhead, Skull Rock, Split Rock
- 6) **Remote and wilderness conditions for introspection, adventure, exploration, inspiration, and night sky viewing** – Black Rock Campground and Nature Center, Boy Scout Trailhead, Live Oak Picnic Area and Trailhead, Split Rock
- 7) **Opportunities for research and education (e.g., citizen science)** – Black Rock Campground and Nature Center, Barker Dam Trail and Trailhead, Boy Scout Trailhead, Intersection Rock, Hidden Valley Day Use Area, Keys View, Cap Rock, Ryan Campground, Jumbo Rocks Campground, Live Oak Picnic Area and Trailhead, Split Rock, Skull Rock, Indian Cove Campground, Oasis of Mara Visitor Center

Overall, similar services, activities, and programs were found throughout park areas, as were assessment findings for physical and program accessibility.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Reoccurring findings were generally identified for parking areas, outdoor recreation routes, picnic areas, campgrounds, and visitor information areas, such as kiosks, bulletin boards, interpretive panels and waysides. Some of these findings included surfaces that were not firm and stable, uneven surfaces, slopes that exceeded allowable standards, and a lack of knee clearance or clear passing space. Some restroom features did not meet required standards, and openings for trash and recycling receptacles were out of reach range. Amenities offered for picnicking and camping, such as tables, fire rings, and water spigots, did not always meet appropriate access route and clearance standards.

Other physical access issues where improvements are recommended include providing signage at trailheads informing visitors of trail conditions and potential hazards, providing adequate space between amenities at shuttle stops, and improving hiking trails to provide more accessible hiking options. In addition, visitor education and information locations such as the Indian Cove Ranger Station and the Black Rock Nature Center need comprehensive improvements in order to make the services provided at these sites more accessible. Shuttle stops at multiple locations were assessed in order to identify barriers and potential improvements. The shuttle system is a pilot program. Vehicles, locations,

routes, and stops are all pending further review at the end of the testing period. Assessments for trails not specifically identified in this plan will need to be conducted in the future. Refer to Appendix H: "Trail Assessment Protocol" for additional information on how hiking trails are assessed and what standards apply.

PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY

Recurring findings related to program accessibility included font and contrast issues at interpretive waysides that require modifications to meet size and readability standards. In general, interpretive panels, waysides, publications, videos, and self-guided tours did not have alternate formats in braille, large print, open captioning, or audio or electronic formats. Assistive listening devices were not available for people with hearing loss for guided tours or special events. Audio description for ranger-led interpretive tours and self-guided tours that describe visual elements to persons with low or no vision were also not available. Tactile exhibits were limited. Some specific program areas such as those that take place at the campground amphitheaters would better serve visitors with increased accessible formats.

PARKWIDE ACCESSIBILITY

Some of the more noteworthy park-wide accessibility challenges that were discussed by the planning team during the self-evaluation and assessment process include: accessible campsites and picnic areas with accessible features and surfaces along routes and trails that are steep or lack firm surfaces due to the sandy terrain of the park.

It is recommended that the park employ trained consultants to assist in determining how best to address accessibility improvements park-wide and to ensure that design and implementation of alternate format programs meet the needs of the intended audiences. Notify visitors through signage placed in appropriate locations and in park publications that alternative formats are available.

Creating park-wide accessibility requires staff awareness, understanding, and appropriate action. The assessment process served as a field training tool that increases staff knowledge and commitment toward embracing accessibility as a core park value. Continued training in physical and programmatic access requirements for all park staff, particularly those in maintenance and interpretation, is strongly advised.

Because of fiscal constraints and limited park resources, staff will need to determine which park area improvements will benefit the greatest numbers of park visitors with disabilities. Suggested implementation time frames and relative costs need to be factored into all accessibility investment decisions.

Joshua Tree National Park strives to be inclusive and welcoming. The self-evaluation process identified a number of strengths. The general awareness and recognition of the importance of accessibility by park staff was evident in the forethought and creativity they demonstrated in the field. Park staff openly explored solutions that may have seemed complicated for some. Conversations would often include basic maintenance tactics to

maintain accessibility on a regular basis. Interpretive staff shared several ongoing projects to improve accessibility throughout the park including new waysides and trail guides.

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INTRODUCTION

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

Many of our national parks were founded because of their stunning views, extreme and unique geography, challenging and sensitive natural environments, and historic, fragile structures. This park, Joshua Tree National Park, and other parks exist because of their history and resources. The NPS mission balances protection of resources (both natural and cultural) with visitation. Facilities, services, activities, and programs were designed and built within parks to accommodate our visitors and help them better understand each park purpose and significance.

Many facilities were constructed prior to the passage of laws and policies that reflect the commitment of 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 (42 USC 12207). The accessibility of commercial services within national parks is also governed by all applicable federal laws. After 100 years of operation, the National Park Service continues to work toward a more inclusive environment. The more than 400 park units that comprise the national park system today include not only the large western parks, for which the agency is well known, but also nationally significant urban parks, historic sites, monuments, parkways, battlefields, and a diversity of other park types across the country.

For a century, the National Park Service has been a leader in connecting people to both our natural and cultural heritage. Visitors today have different needs and expectations, and the agency must adapt to meet these changing demands. Modern scientific research and visitor trend analysis provide new insight into accessibility opportunities and challenges in the national park system. There are approximately 60 million people with disabilities in the United States today, and the number is expected to rise to 71 million in upcoming years as more baby boomers reach retirement age (people 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 against the threat of decreased funding. Adequate planning can identify solutions to challenges and provide services with the knowledge and understanding that serves as a trajectory full of opportunity for current and future visitors. The National Park Service is committed to making NPS facilities, programs, services, and employment opportunities accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK DESCRIPTION

Joshua Tree National Park lies along the east-west transverse ranges of the Little San Bernardino Mountains in southern California. The southern boundary of the park follows the base of these mountains along the northern edge of the Coachella Valley; the northern boundary is defined by the Morongo Basin. Ecologically, Joshua Tree National Park lies at the convergence of two deserts—two large ecosystems whose characteristics are determined primarily by elevation. Below 3,000 feet, the Colorado Desert encompasses the eastern part of the park and features natural gardens of creosote bush, ocotillo, and cholla cactus. The special habitat of the Joshua tree is found in the higher, more moist, and slightly cooler Mojave Desert. In addition to Joshua tree forests, the western part of the park also includes some of the most interesting geologic displays found in California's deserts.

Given its location along a transition line between two desert ecosystems, the park is home to a fascinating diversity of desert plants and animals. There are more than 900 species of flowering plants. The park includes five fan palm oases, which are the few areas where surface water occurs naturally. The oases also support vegetation and wildlife distinct from other species found in the park. Highly diverse fauna, including 250 species of birds, have been recorded at the park, as have many unique species of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and invertebrates. Some examples include the desert tortoise, the California tree frog, the desert bighorn sheep, and a species of tarantula that is found only in the Joshua tree plant community.

The park includes a rich and diverse cultural history. Human occupation dates to the early Holocene period, with what is known as Pinto culture; human occupation continues throughout the historical era with tribes known today as Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, and Serrano. The park preserves sites and materials associated with these four overlapping ethnographic native cultures. In the late 19th century, European American surveyors, cattlemen, miners, and homesteaders began to arrive and, alongside native peoples, created a set of enduring social and cultural legacies for these lands. Historic sites preserve information on the history of the processing of gold ore, cattle ranching, rustling, and homesteading of the southwestern deserts.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established Joshua Tree National Monument as a unit of the national park system. Congress designated 429,690 acres of the monument as wilderness and 37,550 acres as potential wilderness in 1976. Then, in 1984, the monument was designated as part of a biosphere reserve system. In 1994, the California Desert Protection Act added 234,000 acres (including 163,000 acres of new wilderness) to the park, and redesignated the area as Joshua Tree National Park. The park boundary currently contains over 770,000 acres in federal ownership and approximately 20,000 acres of nonfederal lands.

The park lies within both San Bernardino and Riverside counties, approximately 100 miles from the Los Angeles metropolitan area—more than 18 million people live within a three-hour drive of the park. The natural desert expanse of the park provides ideal conditions for campers, photographers, star gazers, naturalists, as well as anyone seeking space for

quiet introspection, exploration, or outdoor learning. The extensive granite rock outcrops, boulder piles, desert mountain ranges, and canyons create a world-class destination for rock climbers, as well as hundreds of miles of scenic trails for hikers and equestrians.

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

In 2015, Joshua Tree National Park completed a foundation document. Foundation documents provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions by identifying the park purpose, significance, and fundamental resources and values. The Joshua Tree National Park foundation plan identifies special mandates and administrative commitments and provides an assessment and prioritization of park planning and data needs. Understanding these elements helps set the stage for appropriately integrating accessibility into the overall park priorities and plans. The following foundation elements were identified for Joshua Tree National Park.

Park Purpose

Joshua Tree National Park preserves and protects the scenic, natural, and cultural resources representative of the Colorado and Mojave deserts' rich biological and geological diversity, cultural history, wilderness, recreational values, and outstanding opportunities for education and scientific study.

Park Significance

1. Joshua Tree National Park preserves a world-renowned, undisturbed population of Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), an integral component of the Mojave Desert ecosystem.
2. Outstanding examples of Mojave and Colorado Desert landscapes that converge at Joshua Tree National Park create a biologically rich system of plant and animal life characterized by iconic Joshua tree woodlands, native palm oases, and vast expanses of creosote scrub that are uniquely adapted to desert conditions. The park also contributes significantly to the connectivity of open lands and large protected areas across the California desert.
3. Joshua Tree National Park provides accessible and diverse opportunities in a remote desert to large and burgeoning urban populations.
4. Joshua Tree National Park preserves a rich array of prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources that demonstrate the integral connection between desert ecosystems, land use, and human cultures.
5. Joshua Tree National Park lies along one of the world's most active earthquake faults, the San Andreas Fault. Geologic processes, including tectonic activity, have played and continue to play a major role in shaping the mountains, valleys, and basins of the park.
6. Joshua Tree National Park offers unparalleled opportunities for research of arid land ecosystems and processes, adaptations of and to desert life, sustainability, and indications of climate change. The proximity of the park to urban regions of

Southern California and Nevada enhances its value for scientific research and education.

7. Huge, eroded monzogranite boulder formations are world renowned natural features that provide unique aesthetic, educational, and recreational opportunities for Joshua Tree National Park visitors.
8. Geologic, climatic, and ecological processes create scenic landscapes unique to deserts and fundamental to the character of Joshua Tree National Park.

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.” It specifically requires parks to document architectural barriers, solutions, and time frames for making improvements to increase accessibility.

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan has been prepared to provide Joshua Tree National Park 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.

All key park experiences and all park areas were identified to ensure that the plan would consider all park programs. Park areas were then evaluated against measurable criteria to determine which would be assessed for purposes of the plan. Each park area assessed was evaluated to identify barriers that prevented participation in park programs, and the best manner in which access could be improved. In some situations, it is not reasonably practicable to create physical or universal design solutions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

One of the goals of the plan is to increase accessibility awareness and understanding among staff and volunteers of Joshua Tree National Park. The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the plan. The park-designated accessibility coordinator ensures adequate communication to park employees and works with the superintendent to follow up on the implementation and relevancy of the plan by documenting improvements and keeping the plan updated.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS

SELF-EVALUATION

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps in the self-evaluation process. Each step is further described in the following text.



Step 1: Identify Key Park Experiences and Park Areas

Key park experiences are those park experiences that are iconic and important for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of the park unit. They are “musts” for park visitors. Park legislation serves as the foundation for key park experiences, which are identified through park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications. Key park experiences were identified at Joshua Tree National Park to ensure that planned improvements were prioritized to best increase overall access to the experiences available at Joshua Tree National Park

- 1) Learn about the dynamic processes that formed the Joshua tree landscape.
- 2) Explore the park’s rich array of prehistoric, historic and contemporary resources that demonstrate the integral connection between desert ecosystems, land use, and human cultures.
- 3) Appreciate the outstanding diversity of the Mojave and Colorado desert landscapes and the rich system of plant and animal life communities.
- 4) Enjoy the extensive recreational opportunities such as camping, climbing, hiking, biking, and horseback riding.
- 5) Take in the full spectrum of scenic landscapes unique to the deserts and character of the park. (such as Joshua Trees, monzogranite boulder formations, and Colorado desert.

- 6) Experience remote and wilderness conditions for introspection, adventure, exploration, inspiration, and night sky viewing.
- 7) Participate in opportunities for research and education (e.g., citizen science).

After key park experiences were identified, all park areas were listed. Next, a matrix was developed to determine which key experiences occurred in each park area. A park area is a place defined by the park for visitor or administrative use. All park areas within Joshua Tree National Park were evaluated per criteria in step 2, to determine which, if not all, areas would be assessed.

Step 2: Identify Park Areas to be Assessed

The criteria below were used to determine which park areas would receive assessments:

- 1) Level of visitation
- 2) Diversity of services, activities, and programs offered in the area
- 3) Geographic favorability (as a whole, the park areas selected reflect a broad distribution throughout the park)
- 4) Other unique characteristics of the site

The areas selected for assessment provide the best and greatest opportunities for the public to access all key park experiences. These park areas received comprehensive assessments as outlined in steps 3 and 4. Areas not assessed at this time are to be assessed and improved as part of future facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

Step 3: Identify Services, Activities, and Programs in Each Park Area

Step 3 is the identification of all services, activities, and programs within each park area. This process ensured that during step 4 all visitor amenities within a park area, including both physical and programmatic elements, are reviewed for accessibility. The comprehensive lists of services, activities, and programs were the basis for conducting the 19 assessments and documenting all elements as they pertain to improving access to park experiences.

Step 4: Conduct Accessibility Assessment

During step 4, an interdisciplinary assessment team identified physical and programmatic barriers and reviewed possible solutions within each park area.

Existing conditions and barriers to services, activities, and programs were discussed on-site by the assessment team. The assessment team then developed a reasonable range of recommended actions for consideration, including solutions that would provide universal

access. Barrier-specific solutions, as well as alternative ways to improve access overall, were addressed and included both physical changes and/or the addition of alternate format methods. In some cases, programmatic alternatives needed to be examined because it was not always possible to eliminate physical barriers due to historic designations, environmental concerns, topography, or sensitive cultural and natural resources. Therefore, a full range of programmatic alternatives was considered that would provide access to the key experience for as many visitors as possible. All field results, including collected data, findings, preliminary options, and conceptual site plans, are organized by park area and formalized with recommendations in the transition plan.

TRANSITION PLAN

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps taken in developing the Joshua Tree National Park transition plan. Public involvement will occur at the draft stage of the transition plan; however, it is recommended that at the beginning of the SETP process parks 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. After the comment period has closed, the park will analyze all comments to determine if any changes to the plan are necessary. Those changes 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.

TRANSITION PLAN



Step 5: Draft and Finalize Transition Plan

The final step of the process is drafting and finalizing the transition plan and implementation strategy. Developing 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. The final plan recommends accessibility improvements, identifies improvement time frames, and identifies responsible parties for such actions.

Implementation time frames are based on the park's ability to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects. Time frames are categorized as follows:

- 1) **Immediate (0–1 year):** Improvements that are easy, quick, and inexpensive to fix internally. It does not require supplemental NPS project funding.

immediate

- 2) **Short-term (1–3 years):** If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will initiate the elimination of the barrier internally; or, if a project is currently scheduled for funding, the improvement will be incorporated into the project and the barrier eliminated.

short-term

- 3) **Mid-term (3–7 years):** The park will develop a proposal and submit it for those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding in the next annual servicewide budget call. For those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding, the park will submit a request in the next budget call. Improvements will be scheduled dependent upon the year funding is received. If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will continue the elimination of the barrier internally.

mid-term

- 4) **Long-term (>7 years):** The park will eliminate the barrier when other work is taking place as part of facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

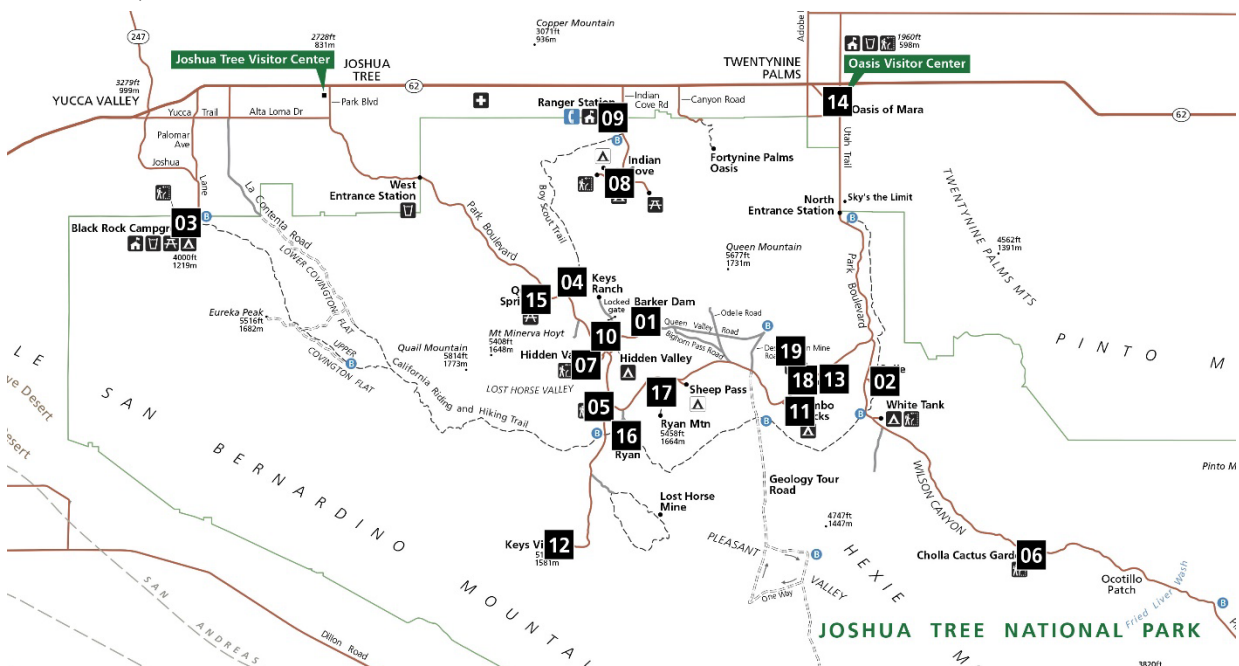
long-term

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

PARK AREAS ASSESSED

All key park experiences at Joshua Tree National Park are represented within the park areas assessed. Park areas not included in the park area list will be upgraded to current code requirements when facility alteration and/or new construction is planned. Each park area identified for assessment is addressed during the implementation strategy exercise. Refer to Appendix D: "Park Areas Not Assessed" for a rationale on why park areas were determined to not be assessed in this planning effort. All park areas assessed are listed in alphabetical order and identified in the associated map below.

- 1) Barker Dam Trail and Trailhead
- 2) Belle Campground
- 3) Black Rock Campground and Nature Center
- 4) Boy Scout Trailhead
- 5) Cap Rock
- 6) Cholla Cactus Garden
- 7) Hidden Valley Day Use Area
- 8) Indian Cove Campground
- 9) Indian Cove Ranger Station
- 10) Intersection Rock
- 11) Jumbo Rocks Campground
- 12) Keys View (accessible and upper viewing areas)
- 13) Live Oak Picnic Area and Trailhead
- 14) Oasis Visitor Center
- 15) Quail Springs
- 16) Ryan Campground
- 17) Ryan Ranch Trail and Trailhead
- 18) Skull Rock
- 19) Split Rock



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR PARK AREAS ASSESSED

The Architectural Barrier Act (ABA) of 1968 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 (UFAS) 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.

Dependent upon the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards apply. In conducting the transition plan facility assessments, the 2011 ABAAS standards were used as the on-site assessments. Although a barrier may be identified by the current assessment for improvement, facilities constructed pre-1984, or between 1984 and 2011, are only required to be in compliance with the standard in place at the time of construction and/or alteration. Therefore, they may not be in violation of ABAAS. However, any renovation or upgrade of that building will be required to meet the most current standard at the time of work.

Recommended improvements for park policies, practices, communication and training are included. Park policies are adopted by the park and are those defined courses of action for reaching a desired outcome. Park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances or operations park staff employs for reaching a desired outcome. Communication and training strategies help park staff keep informed on how to best deliver services, activities, and programs to visitors with disabilities in the most appropriate and accessible formats.

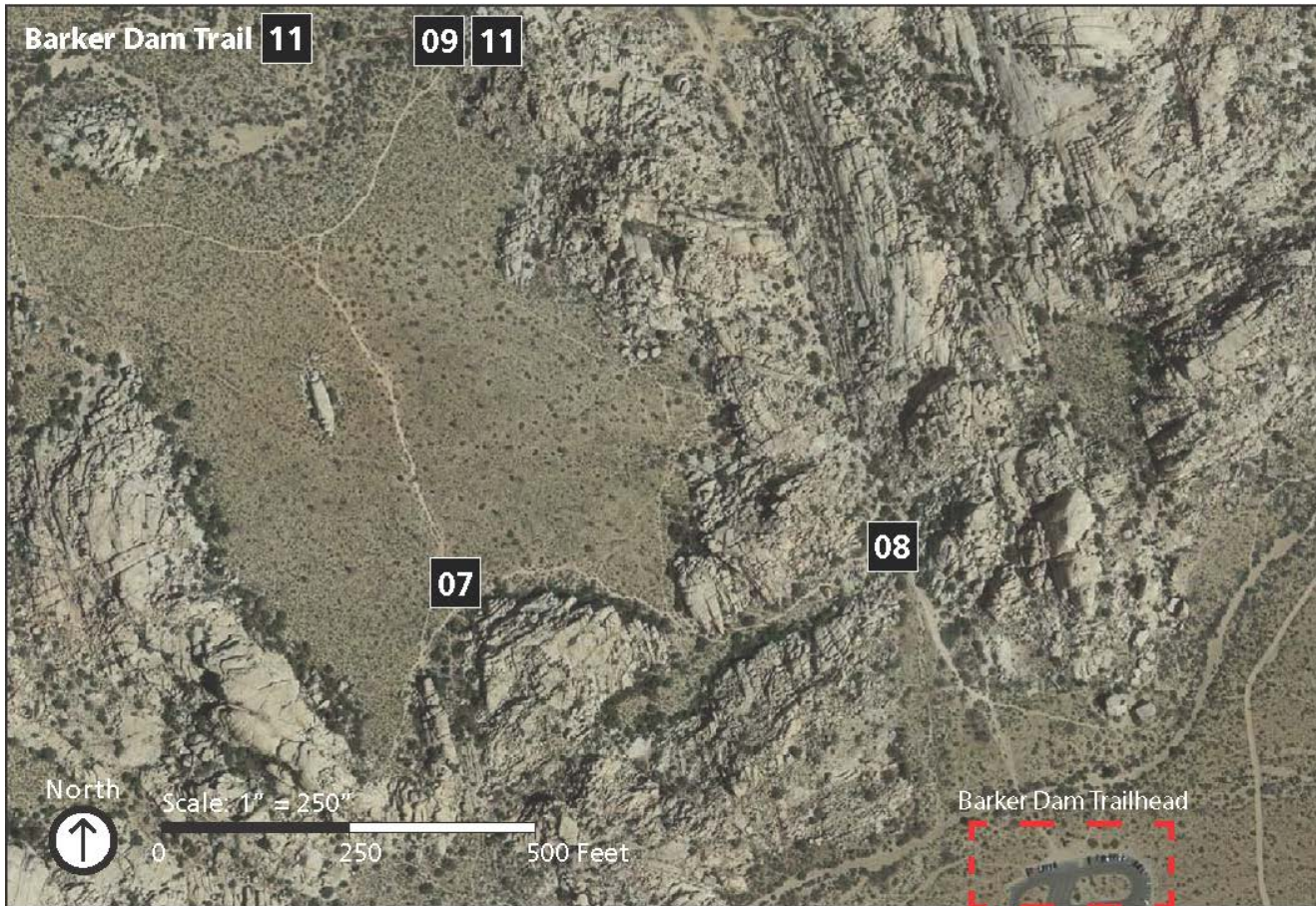
This document does not include strategies for transitioning employee work spaces to be accessible. In the event an employee with a disability is hired by Joshua Tree National Park the supervisor and employee will discuss the employee's needs. The supervisor will then determine what accommodations are reasonable within the given work environment and determine a plan of action to meet those needs.

For each park area, site plans illustrate existing conditions and recommended improvements. During the implementation phase, reassessment of the project site conditions and consultation with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards is necessary to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are addressed correctly. Assistance is available at the Denver Service Center and through the Pacific West Region Accessibility Coordinator.

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BARKER DAM TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Barker Dam Trail and Trailhead is connected to six key park experiences: dynamic processes, rich array of resources, outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. A welcome respite from the surrounding desert, Barker Dam and the water it contains supports a diverse array of vegetation and is a great stop for visitors and animals alike to rest and refuel. Signs of human dependence on areas such as Barker Dam are evident in the landscape including the dam itself and the cattle troughs below as well as from the ancient petroglyphs that can be seen along the trail. In general, accessibility is fair within the trailhead area. Common barriers that could be improved to increase accessibility include parking signage, route and reach range concerns associated with the shuttle stop, and interpretive wayside and informational signage. The Barker Dam trail itself presents a few critical accessibility barriers. At a few locations along the trail, exceptionally steep and rocky terrain prevent accessible passage limiting access to both the pond and the dam. Even before the assessment took place, park staff recognized the opportunity to make this popular experience accessible to more visitors by modifying the trail at one critical rocky juncture. Staff commitment to accessibility and their foresight into where larger barrier removal can make the biggest impact truly makes Joshua Tree a leader in accessibility within the national park system.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Shuttle Stop

- 1) Shuttle stop boarding and alighting areas shall provide a clear length of 96" minimum, measured perpendicular to the curb or vehicle roadway edge, and a clear width of 60" minimum, measured parallel to the vehicle roadway. The surface shall be firm and stable. Parallel to the roadway, the slope of the shuttle stop boarding and alighting area shall be the same as the roadway, to the maximum extent practicable. Perpendicular to the roadway, the slope of the bus stop boarding and alighting area shall not be steeper than 2%.
- 2) Provide a curb ramp at the shuttle stop with a maximum running slope of 8.33% and a maximum cross slope of 2%. Slopes at side flares of the curb ramp shall not exceed 10% slope. The curb ramp shall connect to a landing with a 36" minimum depth and is not to exceed 2% maximum slope in any direction.
- 3) Where provided, benches have a clear ground space of 36" by 48" positioned near the bench with one side of the space adjoining an outdoor recreational access route or trail. The clear space shall not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions or 5% if the surface is other than concrete, asphalt, or board, for drainage purposes.
- 4) As practicable, provide recycling bins with models that have lids within a 15" to 48" reach range.

- 5) As practicable, provide recycling bins with models that have lids within a 15" to 48" reach range.

mid-term

02 Car Parking

- 1) Designate one accessible parking stall as van accessible. Provide one van parking stall measuring 11' wide minimum with an access aisle adjoining the stall along the curb side that measures 5' wide minimum. If the stall is sharing an access aisle with an adjacent car accessible parking stall, the access aisle shall be 8' minimum with a 8' minimum width accessible van parking stall. Accessible car and van parking stalls shall be firm, stable, and not exceed slopes of 2% minimum in all directions.
- 2) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the parking stall that is van accessible.

short-term

03 Recreational and Oversized Vehicle Parking

- 1) As a best practice, provide a minimum of two oversized or recreational vehicle parking spaces measuring a minimum of 20' wide with slopes not exceeding 2% maximum slope in all directions. When two stalls are located next to each other, one stall is permitted to be 16' wide minimum. The location shall be designated as accessible. Suggest marking with painted International Symbol of Accessibility on the parking surface.

mid-term

04 Outdoor Recreational Access Route

- 1) Suggest providing an additional curb ramp for the other access aisle to avoid the potential hazard of having visitors share the vehicular route. A curb ramp shall have a maximum running slope of 8.33% and a maximum cross slope of 2%. Slopes at side flares of the curb ramp shall not exceed 10% slope. The curb ramp shall connect to a landing with a 36" minimum depth and is not to exceed 2% maximum slope in any direction.

mid-term

05 Trailhead

- 1) Provide trailhead signage that includes information on the length of trail or trail segment, surface type, typical and minimum tread width and typical and maximum running slope. Signage shall have clear ground space in front of it measuring 30" by 40" minimum with a maximum cross slope of 2% in all directions. As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no

italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.

mid-term

06

Restrooms

- 1) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed ¼" in height or ½" with a ¼" vertical rise and ¼" beveled rise.

short-term

07

Hiking Trail

- 1) Firm up and maintain areas where the sand creates an unstable surface.

mid-term

08

Hiking Trail

- 1) Build the trail base through the rocks to allow accessible passage. The trail shall be a minimum of 36" wide, firm, stable, and not to exceed a cross slope of 2% in any direction or 5% on surfaces other than concrete, asphalt, or boards, for drainage purposes. Running slopes shall not exceed 12%. Refer to ABAAS Table 1017.7.1 for required interval lengths at different slop ranges. At the beginning and end of each trail segment, provide resting intervals 60" long minimum and measuring at least the full width of the trail. The surface of the resting interval shall be firm, stable, and not to exceed 2% in all directions. Tread obstacles are not to exceed 2" in height on surfaces other than concrete, asphalt, or boards. Passing spaces must be provided every 1,000' and measure 60" by 60" maximum with a firm and stable surface not to exceed 2% slope of 5% slope if the surface is other than concrete, asphalt, or boards.

mid-term

09

Hiking Trail

- 1) Provide a spur trail leading toward the water's edge below the dam for access to views of the cultural and natural resources of the area. The trail shall be a minimum of 36" wide, firm, stable, and not to exceed a cross slope of 2% in any direction or 5% on surfaces other than concrete, asphalt, or boards, for drainage purposes.

Running slopes shall not exceed 12%. Refer to ABAAS Table 1017.7.1 for required interval lengths at different slope ranges. At the beginning and end of each trail segment, provide resting intervals 60" long minimum and measuring at least the full width of the trail. The surface of the resting interval shall be firm, stable, and not to exceed 2% in all directions.

long-term

10 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) Provide firm and stable clear ground space in front of each wayside connecting to the trail on at least one side. Clear space shall measure 30" by 48" minimum and not exceed 2% slope in any direction or 5% on surfaces other than concrete, asphalt, or boards, for drainage purposes.

mid-term

11 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) Recommend providing waysides with images or other programmatic alternatives for hikers who cannot reach certain key areas along the trail.

mid-term

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BELLE CAMPGROUND

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Belle Campground is connected to two key park experiences: extensive recreational opportunities and scenic landscapes. One of the smaller and more remote campgrounds, Belle Campground is an excellent location to view the dark night skies. Campsites are selected on a first-come, first-served basis making it an important overnight option among visitors who were unable to make reservations. In general, the less developed nature of the site lends the area to barriers concerning unstable surface conditions along outdoor recreational access routes and the need for adjustments in the restrooms such as toilet paper dispenser placement and proper location of identification signage. No campsites are currently designated as accessible though several potential sites were identified as needing minimal improvements to make them accessible. The fairly flat nature of the Joshua Tree National Park landscape makes campgrounds in the area great candidates for universal design. While the park staff will identify the final designated accessible sites in the future, they have shown commitment to improve accessibility at all campsites as appropriate and as modifications take place.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Provide a van accessible parking spot for visitors staying at accessible campsites that are far from the front end of the campground so that they can access the information at the kiosk. Provide a van accessible parking stall measuring 11' wide minimum with a 5' wide minimum access aisle in front of the kiosk. The parking stall shall be firm, stable, and not to exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions or 5% for drainage purposes if the surface material is other than concrete, asphalt, or boards.
- 2) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the parking stall that is van accessible.

mid-term

02 Outdoor Recreational Access Route

- 1) Provide an outdoor recreational access route connecting the outdoor recreational access route along the road and from the proposed van-accessible parking stall access aisle to the kiosk.

long-term

03 Informational Signage and Wayfinding

- 1) Provide clear ground space in front of all usable sides of the kiosk measuring 30" by 48" in front of the information board. The surface shall be firm, stable and not to exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

- 2) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.

short-term

04 Campsites

- 1) Improve two campsites to be accessible, with parking, tent pads, grills, picnic tables, and other outdoor constructed features and services that meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F244 and F245) and Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities (subsections 1011-1014 and 1016). Accessible campsites shall be dispersed throughout the campground, including pull-in and pull-through spaces, and located in close proximity to accessible restrooms. Outdoor recreational access routes shall connect amenities within an accessible site. Common use and public use areas serving camping units with mobility features provide outdoor recreational access routes connecting to accessible sites. Common services may include restrooms, trash and recycling receptacles, amphitheaters, common use water hydrants, and any other services present.

long-term

05 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Provide firm and stable clear ground space in front of the recycling bins and trash dumpsters. Clear space shall measure 30" by 48" minimum and not exceed 2% slope in any direction or 5% on surfaces other than concrete, asphalt, or boards.
- 2) As practicable, provide recycling bins with models that have lids within a 15" to 48" reach range.

mid-term

06**Outdoor Recreational Access Route (to restroom near site 6/5)**

- 1) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed ½" measured from the ground surface to the highest vertical point.

short-term

07**Restroom (near site 6/5)**

- 1) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the outlet of the dispenser is located a maximum of 48" above the finished floor and a minimum of 12" of space between the top of the bar and the bottom of the dispenser if the dispenser projects more than 4" from the wall.
- 2) Locate the sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door with the base of the lowest tactile characters 48" minimum in height above the finish floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum in height above the finish floor.

short-term

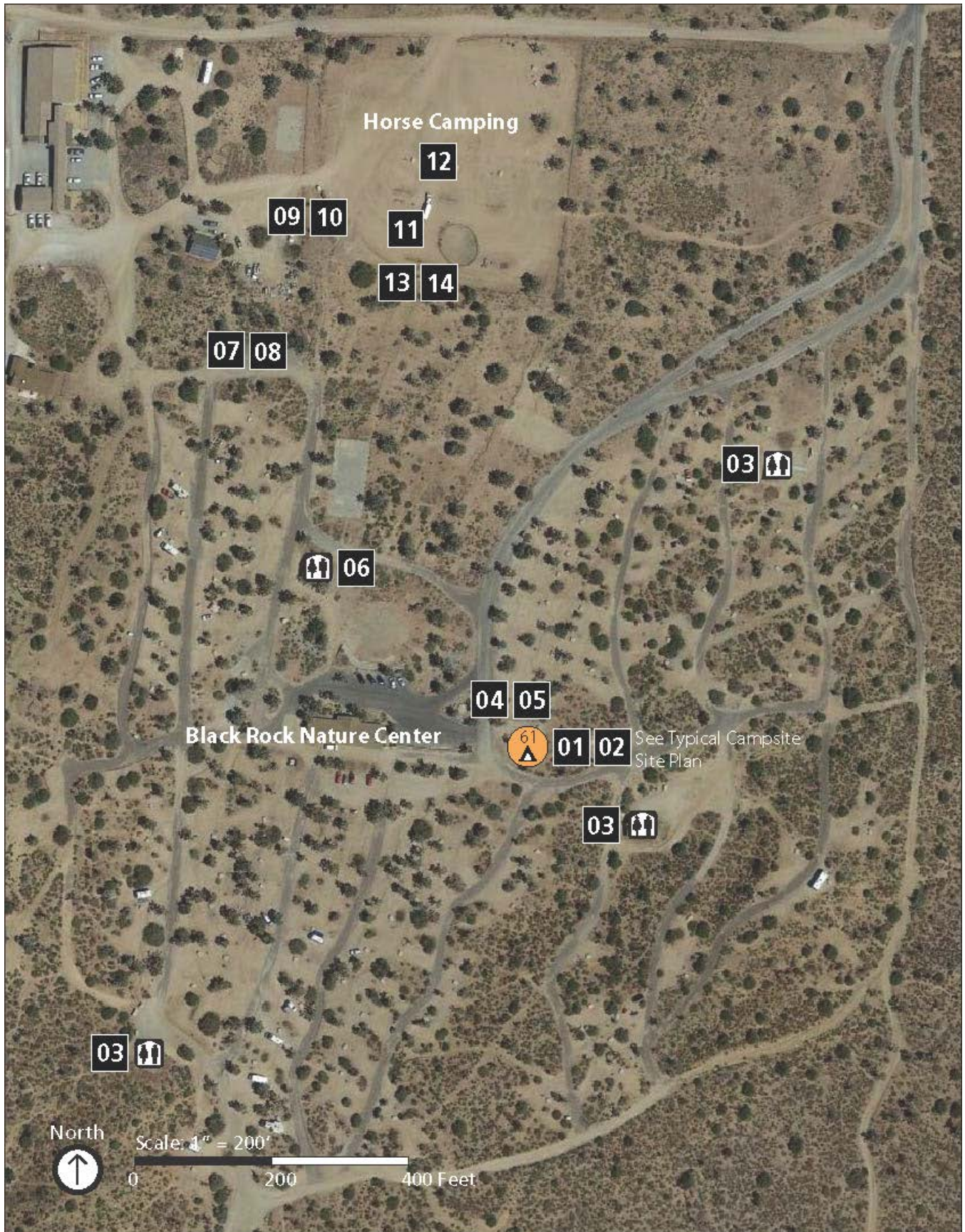
08**Restroom (near site 18)**

- 1) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed ½" measured from the ground surface to the highest vertical point.

short-term

BLACK ROCK CAMPGROUND AND NATURE CENTER

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Black Rock Campground and Black Rock Nature Center are connected to six key park experiences: dynamic processes, outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, remote and wilderness conditions, and opportunities for research and education. Often described as one of the most family-friendly campgrounds in the park, Black Rock Campground is quiet, close to the town of Joshua Tree, and provides all of the typical amenities for a comfortable camping experience. Without leaving the campground, visitors have access to a wide range of interpretive information and park ranger expertise at the Black Rock Nature Center. In general, the park faces quite a few accessibility barriers in the area. Of primary concern is the lack of accessible parking or an accessible route to the Black Rock Nature Center. The campground's only designated accessible site contains several barriers including an inaccessible water pump and fire ring as well as an outdoor recreational access route leading to the restroom with slopes exceeding maximum percentages. The park has identified this area as having great potential for accessibility improvements pending a future restructuring of the campground.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

Black Rock Campground

01 Campsites

- 1) Improve five campsites to be accessible, with parking, tent pads, grills, picnic tables, and other outdoor constructed features and services that meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F244 and F245) and Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities (subsections 1011-1014 and 1016). Accessible campsites shall be dispersed throughout the campground, including pull-in and pull-through spaces, and located in close proximity to accessible restrooms. Outdoor recreational access routes shall connect amenities within an accessible site. Common use and public use areas serving camping units with mobility features provide outdoor recreational access routes connecting to accessible sites. Common services may include restrooms, trash and recycling receptacles, amphitheaters, common use water hydrants, and any other services present.

long-term

02 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) As practicable, provide trash and recycling bins with models that have lids within a 15" to 48" reach range and are operable with a closed fist.

- 2) Relocate the recycling and trash bins so that there is a clear ground space measuring 36" by 38" positioned for a forward approach or a 30" by 60" clear ground space for a side approach. The surface shall be firm, stable, and not exceed 2% slope in all directions.

mid-term

03

Restrooms

- 1) Improve all restrooms servicing accessible sites to be accessible, including doors, toilet, sink, grab bars, and accessory items. They shall meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F212-F213) and Chapter 6 Plumbing Elements and Facilities. Per ABAAS 1011, all outdoor constructed features within a campground shall be connected by an outdoor recreational access route.

mid-term

04

Outdoor Recreational Access Route

- 1) In the interim, remove the tread obstacle so that there is no vertical barrier larger ½" in height along the route to the water pump. Tread obstacles on surfaces other than concrete, asphalt, or boards can be no higher than 1" in height.

mid-term

05

Water Pump

- 1) Provide an accessible water pump in a more centralized location or locations to provide access from other accessible sites and to avoid conflict of use within any particular site. All accessible campsites shall have outdoor recreational access routes connecting campsites to the clear ground space at accessible water pumps. Refer to ABAAS code 1016 and 1011 for technical requirements.

short-term

- 2) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed ¼" in height or ½" with a ¼" vertical rise and ¼" beveled rise.

mid-term

06

Restroom (by site 61 past amphitheater)

- 1) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed ¼" in height or ½" with a ¼" vertical rise and ¼" beveled rise.
- 2) Insulate or otherwise configure exposed pipes under the sink to prevent contact. Remove any sharp or abrasive surfaces under the sink. Relocate tactile signage to be adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door with the base of the lowest tactile characters 48" minimum in height above the

finish floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum in height above the finish floor.

- 3) Replace or reposition the toilet so that the seat height of the toilet is between 17" and 19" from the ground surface. The toilet shall be located between 7" and 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser.
- 4) Relocate or replace the urinal so that the rim is 17" maximum above the finished floor. A clear floor space shall be provided for a forward approach measuring 30" by 48" minimum.

short-term

07 Dump Station

- 1) As an interim measure, provide a mechanism allowing visitors to pull the hose stem down within a reachable range. It shall be operable with a closed fist, no more than 5 pounds of force and all operable parts shall be located between 15" and 48". Provide signage indicating when and where they can request assistance until an accessible dump station is designed and installed.
- 2) As a final solution, redesign the dump station to make it accessible. Provide a firm and stable clear ground space with slopes not to exceed 2% in all directions and measuring 30" by 60" with the long side of the space overlapping or adjoining an adjacent accessible parking location or pull-up space. The clear ground space shall be located so that the hookups are located at the rear center of the space and bollards or other barriers do not obstruct the clear ground space. All operable parts shall be operable with a closed fist, not require more than 5 pounds of force, and be located within reach range, between 15" and 48".

long-term

08 Dump Station

- 1) Relocate the fee collection box so that it has a clear ground space measuring 30" by 48" positioned for a forward or vertical approach. The clear ground space shall connect to an outdoor recreational access route that is 36" wide minimum with a minimum 2% cross slope and 8.33% running slope. In the interim, provide signage indicating that payment can also be received at the nature center during operating hours.

long-term

09 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) As practicable, provide trash and recycling bins with models that have lids within a 15" to 48" reach range and are operable with a closed fist.

mid-term

10 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Relocate the recycling and trash bins so that there is a clear ground space measuring 36" by 38" positioned for a forward approach or a 30" by 60" clear ground space for a side approach. The surface shall be firm, stable, and not exceed 2% slope in all directions.

short-term

11 Water Pump

- 1) Replace the water pump with a model that is operable with a closed fist and with a minimum of 5 pounds of force. The water spout shall be located between 28" and 36" from above the ground. The water pump shall have a clear ground space measuring 72" by 48" with the long side of the space adjoining the outdoor recreation access route. The clear space shall be firm, stable, and not exceed 2% in all directions. The water spout shall be between 11" and 12" from the rear center of the long side of the space.

short-term

12 Fire Rings

- 1) Fire rings shall have clear ground space measuring 48" by 48" on all usable sides of the fire ring. The clear ground space shall be firm, stable, and not exceed 2% slope in all directions.

mid-term

- 2) Replace fire rings with models that have the fire building surface located at 9" minimum above the ground. Where provided, cooking surfaces are a minimum of 15" and a maximum of 34" above the ground. As practicable, operable parts shall not exceed 5 pounds of force to operate and are located between 15" and 48" ground surface.

long-term

13 Informational Signage and Wayfinding

- 1) As a best practice, posted information shall use sans serif fonts, not contain italics or underlined text, use at least 24-point font, and maintains a 70% minimum level of contrast between text and background.

mid-term

14 Mounting Platform

- 1) As a best practice, consider providing an accessible mounting platform so that riders with limited mobility can easily mount their horses.

long-term

Black Rock Nature Center

Car Parking

- 1) In the interim, provide a van-accessible parking stall in the closest feasible location to the existing ramped route. The van accessible stall shall be 11' wide with a 5' access aisle. The access aisle and car parking area shall be firm and stable, and not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

immediate

- 2) Provide a van-accessible parking stall along the west side of the building. The van accessible stall shall be 11' wide with a 5' access aisle. The access aisle and car parking area shall be firm and stable, and not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

- 3) Provide "van accessible" designation on the parking stall that is van accessible. Identification signs the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign for the short-term stall.

short-term

Accessible Routes

- 1) Provide an accessible route leading from the access aisle of the proposed accessible parking stall to the nature center entry. The accessible route shall be a minimum of 36" wide, have a firm and stable surface, and have cross slopes that do not exceed 2% maximum cross slope and 5% maximum running slope.

long-term

Picnic Area (next to Nature Center)

- 1) Adjust door hinge mechanism or replace existing doors with new doors and/or automatic openers that require a maximum of 5 pounds of force to operate.
- 2) Provide a minimum of two accessible picnic tables. Accessible picnic tables shall each provide one wheelchair space measuring 30" by 48" for a forward approach. Wheelchair space knee clearance shall be 11" deep minimum at 9" above the finish floor or ground, and 8" minimum at 27" above the finish floor or ground. At the two chosen accessible picnic table locations, provide 36" of clear ground space measured from the back edge of the benches. Clear ground space shall not exceed 2% slope in all directions and be firm and stable.

mid-term

- 3) Recommend relocating the outlet to between 15" and 48" above the ground surface. Provide clear ground space measuring 30" by 48" in front of the outlet for either a side or forward approach. The clear ground space is not to exceed 2% slope in all directions.

short-term

Drinking Fountains

- 1) Spout outlets for visitors in a sitting position or those of shorter stature shall be 36" maximum above the finished floor. Spout outlets of drinking fountains for standing persons shall be 38" minimum and 43" maximum above the finished floor. The spout shall be located 15" minimum from the vertical support and 5" maximum from the front edge of the unit, including bumpers. The spout shall provide a flow of water 4" high maximum and be located 5" maximum from the front of the unit.

mid-term

Gift Shop

- 1) Locate merchandise so that it is between 15" and 48" for a forward reach. If it is an obstructed reach depth that exceeds 20", high forward reach shall be 44" maximum. Merchandise can be positioned in two locations at different heights. Post signs in areas that have merchandise out of reach range that inform visitors to feel free to request assistance at the service counter.
- 2) Provide a minimum width of 36" between merchandise displays.

mid-term

Accessible Routes (interior)

- 1) Handrails must be provided on both sides of the ramp. Handrail gripping surfaces with a circular cross section shall have an outside diameter of 1 and ¼" minimum and 2" maximum. Handrail gripping surfaces with non-circular cross sections have a perimeter of 4" to 6 ¼" maximum and a cross section of 2 and ¼." Top of handrails shall be 34" minimum to 38" maximum vertically above the walking surface. Handrails shall extend 12" minimum beyond the top and bottom of the ramp run.

mid-term

Restrooms

- 1) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the outlet of the dispenser is located a maximum of 48" above the finished floor and a minimum of 12" of space between the top of the bar and the bottom of the dispenser if the dispenser projects more than 4" from the wall. Relocate the mirrors so that the bottom edge of the reflecting surface is 40" maximum above the finished floor.
- 2) Locate the flush control so that it is located on the open side of the water closet.
- 3) Provide tactile signage identifying the accessible restroom. Locate the sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door with the base of the lowest tactile characters 48" minimum in height above the finish floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum in height above the finish floor.

short-term

Service Counter

- 1) As an interim measure, consider providing signage on the high-level checkout counter indicating where the accessible height counter is located.
- 2) Recommend providing the accessible portion of the counter directly adjacent to the higher counter portion and cash register or making the whole sales counter at an accessible height. For a parallel approach, provide a portion of the counter surface that is 36" long minimum and 36" high maximum above the finished floor. For a forward approach, a portion of the counter surface that is 30" long minimum and 36" high maximum shall be provided with knee and toe space complying with ABAAS 305.

long-term

BOY SCOUT TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Boy Scout Trail Trailhead is connected to five key park experiences: outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, remote and wilderness conditions, and opportunities for research and education. Identified as a “challenging” hike on the park’s website, the Boy Scout Trail leads visitors through a solitary and rugged desert experience and the Boy Scout Trail trailhead is its gateway. Accessibility concerns at this site are similar to other sites with the pilot shuttle stops including a lack of clear ground space in front of site features such as benches and trash or recycling receptacles as well as a lack of curb ramps to connect curb level and road level locations. The restroom also contains common barriers related to minor adjustments such as toilet paper dispenser placement and concrete vertical barriers caused by the connection between the foundation of the restroom and the natural surface material of the outdoor recreational access route. While the Boy Scout Trail itself was not assessed and would likely require major modifications or exemptions, the park recognized the importance of creating an accessible trailhead allowing visitors to determine themselves how much of this challenge they feel comfortable tackling.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Shuttle Stop

- 1) Shuttle stop boarding and alighting areas shall provide a clear length of 96" minimum, measured perpendicular to the curb or vehicle roadway edge, and a clear width of 60" minimum, measured parallel to the vehicle roadway. The surface shall be firm, stable. Parallel to the roadway, the slope of the shuttle stop boarding and alighting area shall be the same as the roadway, to the maximum extent practicable. Perpendicular to the roadway, the slope of the bus stop boarding and alighting area shall not be steeper than 2%.
- 2) Provide a curb ramp at the shuttle stop with a maximum running slope of 8.33% and a maximum cross slope of 2%. Slopes at side flares of the curb ramp shall not exceed 10% slope. The curb ramp shall connect to a landing with a 36" minimum depth and is not to exceed 2% maximum slope in any direction.
- 3) Where provided, benches have a clear ground space of 36" in front of the bench that does not overlap into the path of travel, which shall be a minimum of 36" wide. The clear space shall not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions or 5% if the surface is other than concrete, asphalt, or boards, for drainage purposes.
- 4) As practicable, provide recycling bins with models that have lids within a 15" to 48" reach range.

mid-term

02**Car Parking**

- 1) Located the parking stalls along the shortest outdoor recreational access route connecting to site features such as the restroom. Delineate the accessible parking stalls and access aisle with gravel striping, a concrete paved surface for those spaces and the access aisle, or blue curb stops delineating the width of the stalls. Accessible car parking stalls shall measure 8' wide minimum with an adjoining 8' wide minimum access aisle shared by an 8' minimum van accessible parking stall. The surface shall be firm, stable, and not to exceed 2% slope in all directions.
- 2) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the parking stall that is van accessible.

immediate

03**Outdoor Recreational Access Route**

- 1) Provide a landing at the top of the curb ramp connecting to the access aisle for the accessible parking stalls. The curb ramp shall have a maximum running slope of 8.33% and a maximum cross slope of 2%. Slopes at side flares of the curb ramp shall not exceed 10% slope. The curb ramp shall connect to a landing with a 36" minimum depth and is not to exceed 2% maximum slope in any direction.

mid-term

04**Restrooms**

- 1) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the outlet of the dispenser is located a maximum of 48" above the finished floor and a minimum of 12" of space between the top of the bar and the bottom of the dispenser if the dispenser projects more than 4" from the wall. Relocate the hook so that it is mounted between 15" minimum and 48" maximum from the finished floor.
- 2) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed ¼" in height or "with a ¼" vertical rise and ¼" beveled rise.

short-term

05**Trailhead**

- 1) Provide trailhead signage that includes information on the length of trail or trail segment, surface type, typical and minimum tread width and typical and maximum running slope. As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.

mid-term

- 1) Locate the wayside or alter the ground plane so that an unobstructed firm and stable clear ground space is provided in front of the panel for a side or forward approach measuring 30" by 48" maximum and not exceeding 2% slope in all directions.
- 2) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.

mid-term

CAP ROCK

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Cap Rock is connected to six key park experiences: dynamic processes, rich array of resources, outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. At Cap Rock, visitors can enjoy an up-close experience navigating around spectacular monzogranite rock formations and learn about the microclimates nestled between boulder crevices where some species of plants and animals have learned to thrive. In general, accessibility is at a good state in the area. While the Cap Rock Trail is listed as a wheelchair accessible trail, some trail features such as benches and waysides lack firm and stable ground space. There is also an area along the trail with overhanging boulders at head level with no warning for visitors who may have low vision or who are blind. Providing improved trail condition information would allow visitors to better assess their ability to complete the trail. Other barriers are similar to those found throughout other park areas such as proper designating signage for accessible parking, concrete vertical barriers caused by the foundation of the restroom, inaccessible picnic tables, and exceeding slope conditions between picnic features. The park has done a wonderful job of communicating the accessibility of this trail to visitors on its website.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the parking stall that is van accessible.

short-term

02 Recreation and Oversized Vehicle Parking

- 1) As a best practice, provide a minimum of two oversized or recreational vehicle parking spaces measuring a minimum of 20' wide with slopes not exceeding 2% maximum slope in all directions. When two stalls are located next to each other, one stall is permitted to be 16' wide minimum. The location shall be designated as accessible. Suggest marking with painted International Symbol of Accessibility on the parking surface.

mid-term

03 Picnic Area

- 1) Provide an accessible picnic table at a second location. Accessible picnic tables shall each provide one wheelchair space measuring 30" by 48" for a forward approach. Wheelchair space knee clearance shall be 11" deep minimum at 9" above the finish floor or ground, and 8" minimum at 27" above the finish floor or ground.

- 2) At the two accessible picnic table locations, provide 36" of clear ground space measured from the back edge of the benches. Clear ground space shall not exceed 2% slope in all directions and be firm and stable.

short-term

04 Grills

- 1) To the extent practicable, provide or maintain a grill surface that does not require more than 5 pounds of force to operate.

mid-term

05 Restrooms

- 1) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed ¼" in height or ½" with a ¼" vertical rise and ¼" beveled rise.
- 2) Relocate the hook so that it falls within the reach range of between 15" and 48". Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the outlet of the dispenser is located a maximum of 48" above the finished floor and a minimum of 12" of space between the top of the bar and the bottom of the dispenser if the dispenser projects more than 4" from the wall.

short-term

06 Trailhead

- 1) As a best practice, provide detailed trail information in alternative formats such as on the park's website, so that visitors can determine which trails are accessible given their individual abilities before they enter the park.

immediate

- 2) Provide trailhead signage that includes at least the following information; length of trail or trail segment, surface type, typical and minimum tread width, typical and minimum running slope, and typical and maximum cross slope. Sign should also provide warning of protruding boulders that extend into the path of travel.

mid-term

07 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) Provide level landings in front of all waysides or relocate them. The landings shall be 30" by 48" minimum from a forward or side approach and 2% maximum slope in all directions. Landing surface shall be firm and stable and not protrude into the path of travel.

mid-term

- 2) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text.

long-term

CHOLLA CACTUS GARDEN

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Cholla Cactus Garden is connected to three key park experiences: outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, and scenic landscapes. This unusually expansive stand of teddybear cholla cacti provides an out-of-this-world experience as visitors hover just above the canopy of this prickly miniature forest. In general, the area contains minor accessibility barriers such as a lack of clear ground space in front of waysides and the placement of the needle removal kit out of reach range. Trail barriers generally concern vertical barriers created at the transition between surfaces such as concrete or boardwalk planking and the natural ground surface as well as the inherent danger of any cacti growing into the clear trail width. Park staff have been focusing improvement efforts in this area to enhance accessibility on both a physical level through this assessment process and a programmatic level through the creation of new interpretive materials.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Correct the slopes in the designated accessible stall and its associated access aisle so that slopes do not exceed 2% maximum in all directions. The van accessible stall shall be firm, stable, and be 11' wide minimum with a 5' wide minimum access aisle.
- 2) Provide "van accessible" designation in front of the van accessible parking stall. Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign.

mid-term

02 Trailhead

- 1) Provide trailhead signage that includes information on the length of trail or trail segment, surface type, typical and minimum tread width and typical and maximum running slope.

mid-term

03 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.

short-term

- 2) Locate the wayside or alter the ground plane so that an unobstructed firm and stable clear ground space is provided in front of the panel for a side or forward approach measuring 30" by 48" maximum and not exceeding 2% slope in all directions.

mid-term

04

Brochure Holder

- 1) Lower the brochure holder box so that the lid is located between 15" minimum and 48" maximum from the ground surface.
- 2) The brochure holder box shall have a firm and stable clear ground space in front of it measuring 30" minimum by 48" minimum and not exceeding 2% slope in all directions.

short-term

05

First Aid Kit

- 1) Mount the first aid kit in a location so that the lid is located between 15" minimum and 48" maximum from the ground surface. The first aid kit shall have a firm and stable clear ground space in front of it measuring 30" minimum by 48" minimum and not exceeding 2% slope in all directions.

immediate

06

Hiking Trail

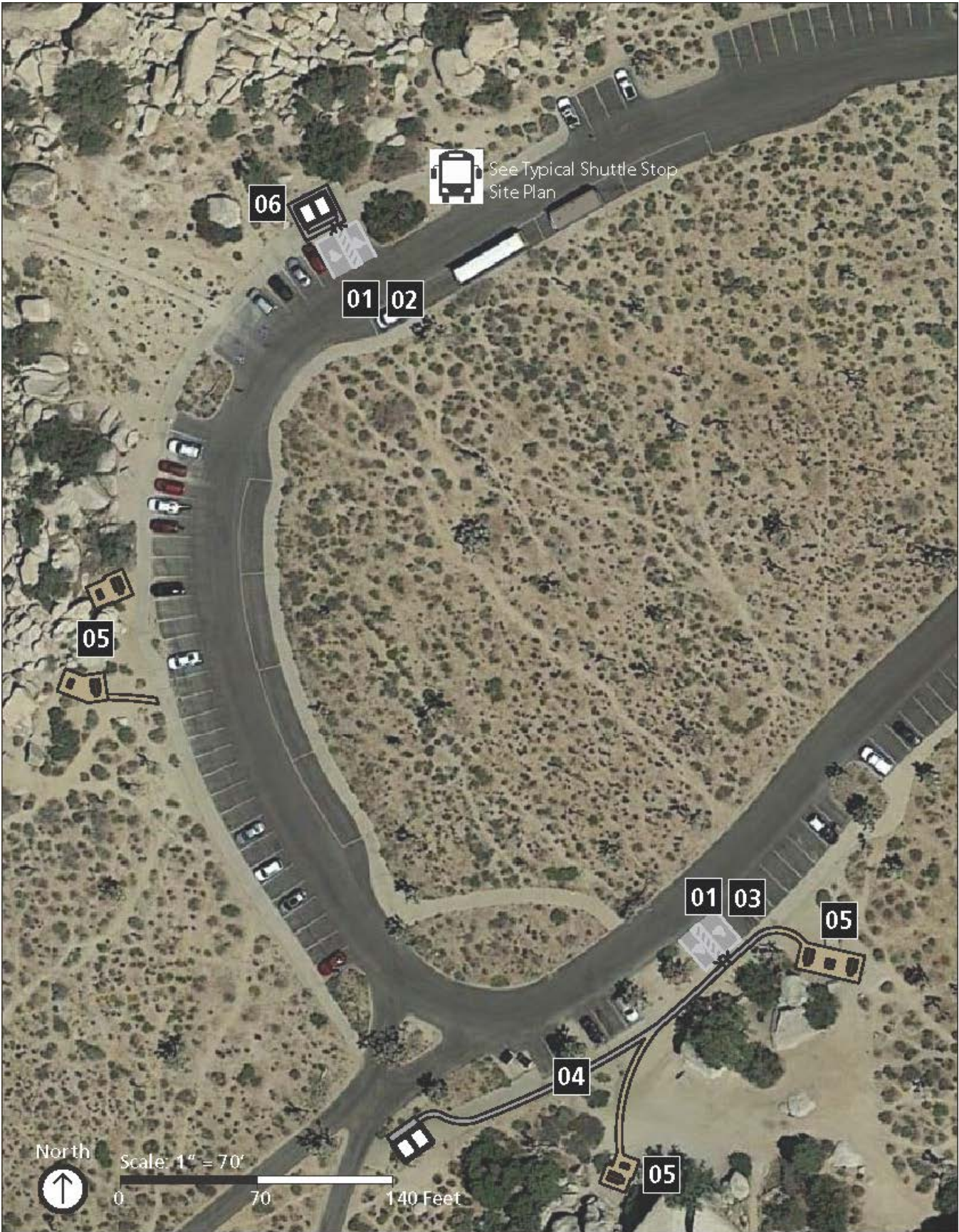
- 1) Correct the tread obstacle so that it does not exceed ½" in height measured vertically from the ground to the highest point.
- 2) Correct cross slopes in areas that exceed 2% or 5% if the surface is other than concrete, asphalt, or boards.
- 3) Correct the tread obstacle so that it does not exceed ½" in height measured vertically from the ground to the highest point.
- 4) Correct areas along the trail where protruding cacti are out of cane detection range and/or protrude into the required clear width of 36" minimum for a trail preventing mobility and increasing the chances of skin contact with needles.
- 5) Correct the tread obstacles so that they do not exceed ½" in height measured vertically from the ground to the highest point.

mid-term

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HIDDEN VALLEY DAY USE AREA

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Hidden Valley Day Use Area is connected to six key park experiences: dynamic processes, rich array of resources, outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. Nestled among towering rock formations, Hidden Valley Day Use Area spans across a large site providing a multitude of different picnicking opportunities. In general, while accessible components are in place at this site, the technical requirements are often not met. While both the upper and lower picnic areas have the required number of designated accessible parking locations, none are properly signed or designated as van accessible and slopes exceed maximum percentages. Parking access aisles may connect to outdoor recreational access routes but the curb ramps lack a level clear landing space and locations along the route have exceeding slope percentages or vertical barriers at material transitions from concrete to natural ground surface. There are no accessible picnic tables and grills are heavy and inoperable with a closed fist. There are many potentially accessible picnic locations within Hidden Valley and most improvements are small but have huge impacts on a visitor's ability to simply enjoy a picnic. Where many typical picnic areas would look at the total accessible picnic and parking requirements for the site and cluster them into one easily accessible area, accessible spaces at Hidden Valley are divided among the north and south halves of the area, providing a choice for visitors with accessibility needs which is often lacking in similar site arrangements.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Parking stalls shall be dispersed to serve both the upper and lower sections of the picnic area. Consider making two stalls van accessible so that each section has a van accessible option.

immediate

02 Car Parking (upper)

- 1) Provide a landing at the top of the curb ramp that measures 36" deep and is at least the width of the curb ramp. It shall be firm, stable, and not to exceed 2% slope in all directions.

mid-term

- 2) Exception: In alterations (as opposed to new construction), where there is no landing at the top of curb ramps, curb ramp flares shall be provided and shall not be steeper than 8.33%.
- 3) Provide one designated van accessible parking stall and one car accessible parking stall. The standard car and van accessible stalls shall be a minimum of 8' wide with a shared 8' wide minimum access aisle. The parking stalls and access aisle shall be firm, stable, and not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

The access aisle shall adjoin an accessible route. Consider moving the accessible stalls closer to the restrooms in the future.

- 4) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on parking stalls that are van accessible.

long-term

03 Car Parking (lower)

- 1) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on parking stalls that are van accessible.
- 2) Provide one designated van accessible parking stall and one car accessible parking stall. The standard car and van accessible stalls shall be a minimum of 8' wide with a shared 8' wide minimum access aisle. The parking stalls and access aisle shall be firm, stable, and not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions. The access aisle shall adjoin an accessible route.

long-term

04 Accessible Routes

- 1) Correct the accessible route so that it does not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

05 Picnic Area

- 1) Improve five picnic units to be accessible, with grills, picnic tables, and any other outdoor constructed features and services provided that meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F244 and F245) and Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities (subsections 1011-1014 and 1016). Picnic units shall be dispersed throughout the upper and lower sections and located in close proximity to accessible restrooms. Outdoor recreational access routes shall connect amenities within an accessible site. Common use and public use areas serving picnic units with mobility features provide outdoor recreational access routes connecting to accessible sites. Common services may include restrooms, trash and recycling receptacles, trailheads, information kiosks, and any other services present.

long-term

- 1) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the outlet of the dispenser is located a maximum of 48" above the finished floor and a minimum of 12" of space between the top of the bar and the bottom of the dispenser if the dispenser projects more than 4" from the wall. Relocate the hook so that it is 15" minimum to 48" maximum above the finished floor.

short-term

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Indian Cove Campground is connected to six key park experiences: dynamic processes, rich array of resources, outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. In this unassuming corner of the park, visitors can camp in quiet sites nestled between towers of rock. Popular among rock climbing enthusiasts, families also enjoy exploring the hidden worlds between boulders and attending interpretive programs at the Indian Cove Amphitheater. In general, accessibility is a challenge in the area due to the soft sandy terrain. However, the topography lends itself to fairly flat terrain and many campsites require minimum corrections to make them accessible. Restroom barriers generally include placement of toilet paper dispensers and the vertical barrier created at the transition from the concrete foundation of the restroom unit to the natural surface of the outdoor recreational access route. Accessing the amphitheater is perhaps one of the largest barriers as the outdoor recreational access route is long and follows a deep and loose sand path. Recognizing the challenges of accessing this area, park staff have already put in place a procedure to ensure that visitors with mobility concerns have the option to drive up to the amphitheater in their personal vehicles if needed.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Campground

- 1) Improve 7 general and 2 group campsites to be accessible, with parking, tent pads, grills, picnic tables, and other outdoor constructed features and services that meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F244 and F245) and Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities (subsections 1011-1014 and 1016). Accessible campsites shall be dispersed throughout the campground, including pull-in and pull-through spaces, and located in close proximity to accessible restrooms. Outdoor recreational access routes shall connect amenities within an accessible site. Common use and public use areas serving camping units with mobility features provide outdoor recreational access routes connecting to accessible sites. Common services may include restrooms, trash and recycling receptacles, amphitheaters, common use water hydrants, and any other services present. Due to the reservation system limitations, it would be preferable to make all of the group campsites universally accessible.

long-term

02 Restrooms

- 1) Improve all restrooms servicing accessible campsites to be accessible, including doors, toilet, sink, grab bars, and accessory items. They shall meet the

requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F212-F213) and Chapter 6 Plumbing Elements and Facilities.

short-term

03 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) As practicable, replace the dumpster with a model where the lid is located between 15" and 48" above the ground surface.
- 2) Ensure that all trash and recycling bins and dumpsters provide firm and stable clear ground space for a forward or side approach measuring 30" by 40" minimum and consist of no more than 2% slope in all directions.

mid-term

04 Amphitheater Seating

- 1) Provide five wheelchair spaces integrated within the seating plan. Wheelchair spaces are firm, stable, do not exceed 2% slope in all directions, and measure 36" wide minimum and 48" deep from a front or rear entry or 60" minimum depth for a side entry. Wheelchair spaces are dispersed both horizontally and vertically and are connected to an outdoor recreational access route. Wheelchair spaces cannot overlap circulation paths. Ensure an SOP is available to staff outlining how to best serve visitors with accessibility needs at this amphitheater.

long-term

05 Outdoor Recreational Access Route (amphitheater)

- 1) Improve outdoor recreational access routes within the amphitheater seating area to be firm, stable, 36" wide minimum, and not to exceed 2% slope in all directions or 5% if the surface material is other than concrete, asphalt or boards. Suggest providing notification wherever Indian Cove Amphitheater programs are listed that informs visitors who to contact if they would like to request assistance in reaching the amphitheater location.

long-term

06 Car Parking Area (amphitheater)

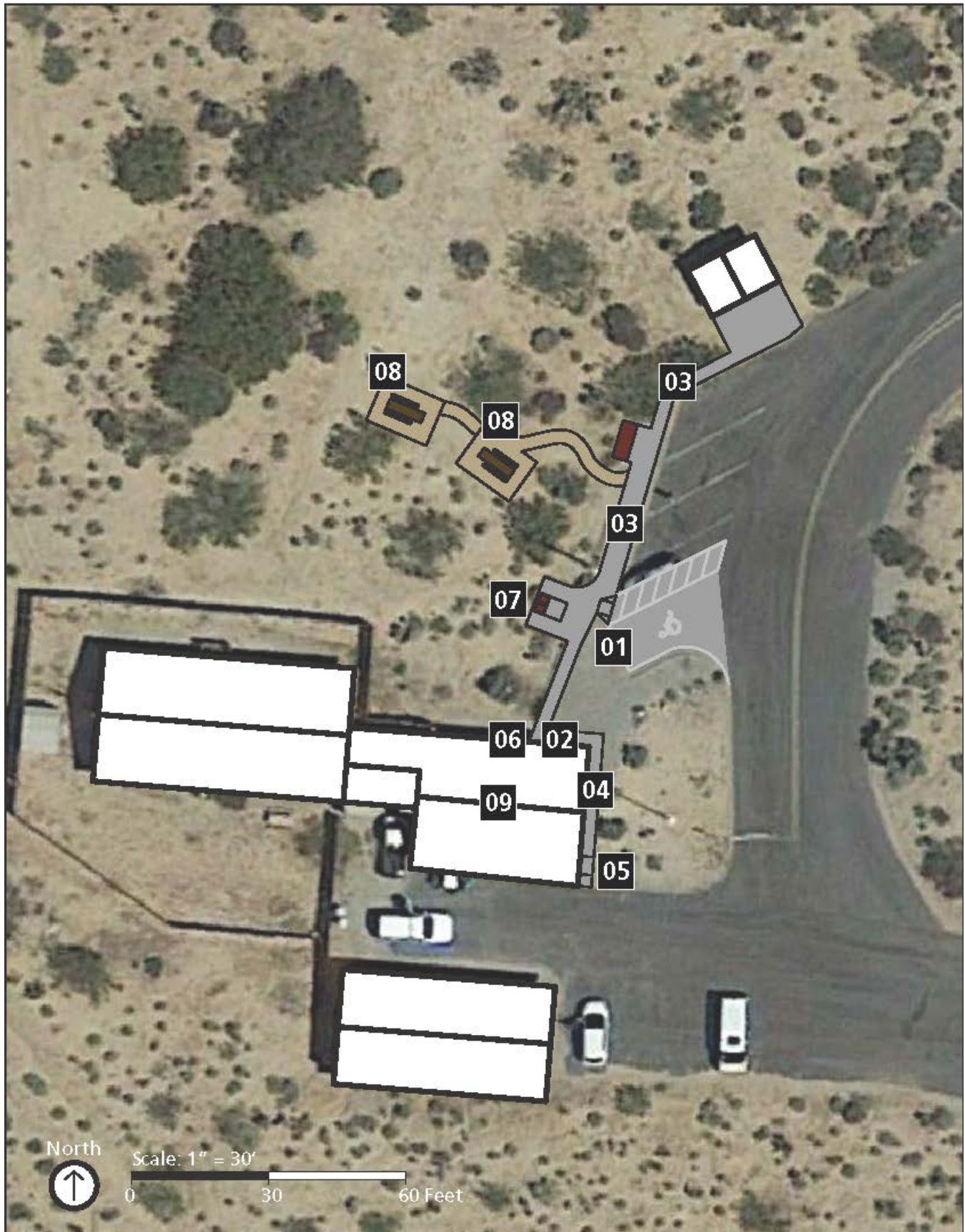
- 1) Provide one van accessible parking location connecting to an outdoor recreational access route leading to the amphitheater seating. The van accessible parking area shall be a minimum of 16' wide. The parking area surface shall be firm, stable, and not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions. Consider stabilizing the full outdoor recreational access route from the road to the amphitheater in the future to allow for independent universal access.

long-term

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INDIAN COVE RANGER STATION

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Indian Cove Ranger Station is connected to two key park experiences: dynamic processes and scenic landscapes. The station serves as the primary visitor contact area for this section of the park, providing critical safety information, processing camping fees, and is often where a visitor's first interactions take place with park staff. In general, accessibility is poor in the area. As a fairly dated site, the Indian Cove Ranger Station has not seen many recent comprehensive site improvements and lacks accessible parking, accessible routes between parking, the restroom, the ranger station entrance, and other site elements such as the inaccessible drinking fountain, picnic table units, or the emergency call box. The information board lacks a level clear ground space and the service counter in the interior of the station is too high for a person using a wheelchair to access. While the current barriers do severely limit access to many of the sites services, the opportunities present to open the area up to more users are extensive and impactful. Simply addressing the parking and accessible route barriers alone would drastically improve accessibility for all of Joshua Tree National Park's visitors.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the parking stall that is van accessible.

short-term

02 Accessible Routes

- 1) Remove the lip causing the vertical obstacle so that it does not exceed ½" from the ground to the highest point of the obstacle. The accessible route shall be a minimum of 36" wide, firm, stable, and not to exceed 2% maximum cross slope and 5% maximum running slope.

mid-term

03 Accessible Routes

- 1) Provide an accessible route connecting the ranger station entrance, accessible car parking access aisle, restrooms, and any other features provided outside of the ranger station along the route. The accessible route shall be firm, stable, a minimum of 36" in width, and not to exceed 2% maximum cross slope or 5% maximum running slope. Provide a curb ramp to connect the access aisle to the accessible route per ABAAS 406. Any vertical changes in height must be removed or altered to not exceed ¼" in height.

long-term

04 Callbox (accessible routes)

- 1) Provide a firm and stable accessible route to the call box measuring 36" wide minimum with a 2% maximum cross slope and 5% maximum running slope. A firm and stable clear ground space shall be provided in front of the phone measuring 30" by 48" with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions. Clear ground space shall not overlap the path of travel.

mid-term

05 Callbox

- 1) Replace the call box with a model that has a TTY device permanently affixed within or adjacent to the telephone enclosure. When in use the TTY keypads shall be 34" minimum above the finished floor. The call box shall include volume controls that are equipped with a receive volume control that provides a gain adjustable up to 20 dB minimum. Operable parts of the call box shall be operable with a closed fist and not require more than 5 pounds of force.

short-term

06 Informational Signage and Wayfinding

- 1) Provide a firm and stable clear ground space measuring 30" by 48" minimum with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

- 2) As a best practice, provide content that uses sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.

short-term

07 Drinking Fountains

- 1) Spout outlets for visitors in a sitting position or those of shorter stature shall be 36" maximum above the finished floor. Spout outlets of drinking fountains for standing persons shall be 38" minimum and 43" maximum above the finished floor. The spout shall be located 15" minimum from the vertical support and 5" maximum from the front edge of the unit, including bumpers. The spout shall provide a flow of water 4" high maximum and be located 5" maximum from the front of the unit.

short-term

08**Picnic Area**

- 1) Provide 36" of clear ground space around all usable sides of the picnic table measured from the back side of the benches. The surface shall be firm, stable, and not exceed 2% slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide two minimum accessible picnic tables. Accessible picnic tables shall each provide one wheelchair space measuring 30" by 48" for a forward approach. Wheelchair space knee clearance shall be 11" deep minimum at 9" above the finish floor or ground, and 8" minimum at 27" above the finish floor or ground.

long-term

09**Service Counter**

- 1) Provide a counter surface that is 36" long minimum and 36" high maximum above the finished floor for a parallel approach or a surface that 30" long minimum and 36" high maximum and toe and knee space complying with ABAAS 306.

long-term

INTERSECTION ROCK

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Intersection Rock is connected to four key park experiences: a rich array of resources, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. Intersection Rock is a must-see area for rock climbers and those who just want to watch the action. As a result, the Intersection Rock area can be crowded and acts as a home base for climbers accessing routes in the area. With services such as a shuttle stop, restroom, and emergency phone box, Intersection Rock also provides critical support for visitor safety. In general, accessibility is good in the area. However, given the safety component of the area, ensuring that certain features such as the emergency call box are fully accessible and that firm and stable clear ground space is provided in front of information boards that provide safety information in accessible formats, is essential. Other barriers are more common to many of the other sites that have been assessed. The shuttle stop and its supporting features such as benches, trash and recycling receptacles, and shuttle schedule signage, need required clear ground space and outdoor recreational access routes connecting them. Accessible parking stalls need required designating signage and outdoor recreational access routes connecting parking access aisles to other site services, activities, and programs. Compaction of the ground surface in the area makes the site easily navigable for those with mobility concerns.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Shuttle Stop

- 1) Provide a curb ramp at the shuttle stop with a maximum running slope of 8.33% and a maximum cross slope of 2%. Slopes at side flares of the curb ramp shall not exceed 10% slope. The curb ramp shall connect to a landing with a 36" minimum depth and is not to exceed 2% maximum slope in any direction.
- 2) Where provided, benches have a clear ground space of 36" in front of the bench that does not overlap into the path of travel, which shall be a minimum of 36" wide. The clear space shall not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions or 5% if the surface is other than concrete, asphalt, or board, for drainage purposes. Provide a firm and stable clear ground space positioned near the bench and measuring 36" by 48" minimum, with one side adjoining the trail and slopes not exceeding 2% in all directions for companion seating.
- 3) As practicable, provide recycling bins with models that have lids within a 15" to 48" reach range.
- 4) Provide firm and stable clear ground space in front of the recycling bin. Clear space shall measure 30" by 48" minimum and not exceed 2% slope in any direction or 5% on surfaces other than concrete, asphalt, or boards.
- 5) As practicable, provide recycling bins with models that have lids within a 15" to 48" reach range.

mid-term

02 Car Parking

- 1) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the parking stall that is van accessible.

mid-term

03 Recreational and Oversized Vehicle Parking

- 1) As a best practice, provide a minimum of two oversized or recreational vehicle parking spaces measuring a minimum of 20' wide with slopes not exceeding 2% maximum slope in all directions. When two stalls are located next to each other, one stall is permitted to be 16' wide minimum. The location shall be designated as accessible. Suggest marking with painted International Symbol of Accessibility on the parking surface.

mid-term

04 Outdoor Recreational Access Route

- 1) Provide a landing at the top of the curb ramp connecting to the access aisle for the accessible parking stalls. The curb ramp shall have a maximum running slope of 8.33% and a maximum cross slope of 2%. Slopes at side flares of the curb ramp shall not exceed 10% slope. The curb ramp shall connect to a landing with a 36" minimum depth and is not to exceed 2% maximum slope in any direction.

mid-term

05 Restrooms

- 1) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the outlet of the dispenser is located a maximum of 48" above the finished floor and a minimum of 12" of space between the top of the bar and the bottom of the dispenser if the dispenser projects more than 4" from the wall.
- 2) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed ½" measured from the ground surface to the highest vertical point.

short-term

06 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.

mid-term

07**Informational Signage and Wayfinding**

- 1) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.
- 2) Provide clear ground space in front of all usable sides of the kiosk measuring 30" by 48" in front of the information board. The surface shall be firm, stable and not to exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

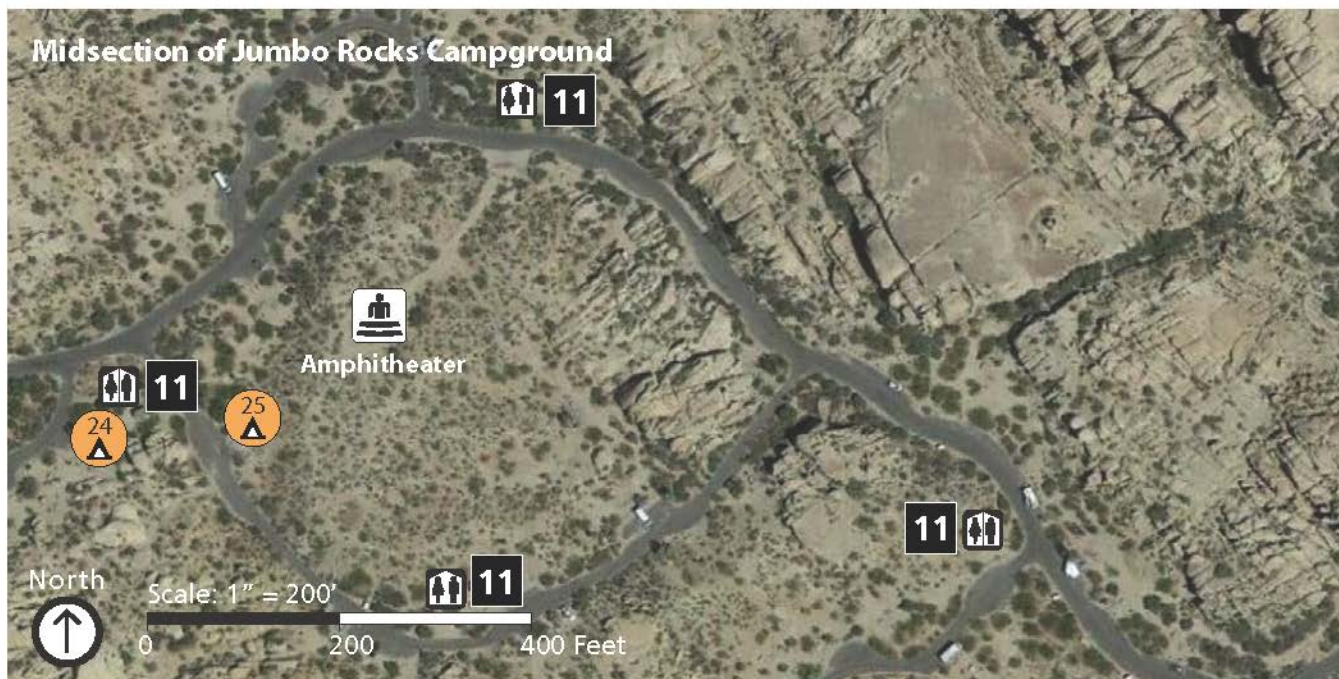
08**Emergency Call Box**

- 1) Replace the call box with a model that has a TTY device permanently affixed within or adjacent to the telephone enclosure. When in use the TTY keypads shall be 34" minimum above the finished floor. The call box shall include volume controls that are equipped with a receive volume control that provides a gain adjustable up to 20 dB minimum. Operable parts of the call box shall be operable with a closed fist and not require more than 5 pounds of force.

short-term

JUMBO ROCKS CAMPGROUND

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Jumbo Rocks Campground is connected to five key park experiences: dynamic processes, rich array of resources, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. The campground is centrally located and along the free park shuttle route making it a great location to begin each day and explore all that Joshua Tree National Park has to offer. Campsites feature sweeping views of the park's iconic rock formations, which, along with the unique flora and fauna of the area, are interpreted through programs held at the campground amphitheater. In general, accessibility is good in the area. Like all other campgrounds in the park, minimum scoping requirements for accessible campsites have not been met. The amphitheater lacks accessible wheelchair seating locations and the outdoor recreational access route connecting a car parking area to the amphitheater is steep and has a soft unstable sand surface. Jumbo Rocks has one of the only truly accessible sites in the park featuring an accessible adjustable fire ring grill surface, accessible picnic table, firm, stable, and flat routes between site features, and a desirable location between dramatic rock formations creating an intimate and memorable camping experience.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Shuttle Stop

- 1) Shuttle stop boarding and alighting areas shall provide a clear length of 96" minimum, measured perpendicular to the curb or vehicle roadway edge, and a clear width of 60" minimum, measured parallel to the vehicle roadway. The surface shall be firm, stable. Parallel to the roadway, the slope of the shuttle stop boarding and alighting area shall be the same as the roadway, to the maximum extent practicable. Perpendicular to the roadway, the slope of the bus stop boarding and alighting area shall not be steeper than 2%.

long-term

- 2) Provide a curb ramp at the shuttle stop with a maximum running slope of 8.33% and a maximum cross slope of 2%. Slopes at side flares of the curb ramp shall not exceed 10% slope. Ramp width shall be a minimum of 36" wide. The curb ramp shall connect to a landing with a 36" minimum depth and is not to exceed 2% maximum slope in any direction.
- 3) Correct the exposed concrete lip so that the obstacle does not exceed ½" in height. Remove sand and maintain clear and swept paved surfaces.
- 4) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.

mid-term

- 5) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and

text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.

long-term

- 6) Provide clear ground space in front of all usable sides of the kiosk measuring 30" by 48" in front of the information board. The surface shall be firm, stable and not to exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

02 Informational Signage and Wayfinding (at Skull Rock Trailhead)

- 1) Provide a firm and stable clear ground space in front of the information board measuring 30" by 48" minimum with a maximum cross slope of 2% in all directions.

mid-term

- 2) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.

long-term

03 Skull Rock Trailhead

- 1) Provide a firm and stable clear ground space in front of the trailhead signage measuring 30" by 48" minimum with a maximum cross slope of 2% in all directions.
- 2) Provide trailhead signage that includes information on the length of trail or trail segment, surface type, typical and minimum tread width, and typical and maximum running slope.

mid-term

04 Amphitheater

- 1) Provide five wheelchair spaces integrated within the seating plan. Wheelchair spaces are firm, stable, do not exceed 2% slope in all directions, and measure 36" wide minimum and 48" deep from a front or rear entry or 60" minimum depth for a side entry. Wheelchair spaces are dispersed both horizontally and vertically and are connected to an outdoor recreational access route. Wheelchair spaces cannot overlap circulation paths.

long-term

05 Car Parking (amphitheater)

- 1) Provide a van accessible parking stall at the base of the path to the amphitheater. The van accessible stall shall be 11' wide with a 5' access aisle. The access aisle and car parking area shall be firm and stable, and not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

- 2) Once a van accessible stall is provided, install an identification sign that shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the parking stall that is van accessible.

long-term

06

Outdoor Recreational Access Route (amphitheater)

- 1) Provide an outdoor recreational access route measuring 36" wide minimum with a firm and stable surface. Cross slopes are not to exceed 2% maximum or 5% maximum if the surface is other than concrete, asphalt, or boards for drainage purposes. Running slopes are not to exceed 8.33% slope for a 50' maximum length segment or 10% slope for a 30' maximum length segment. Resting intervals shall be provided between each segment. Interval points shall be a minimum of 60" long and extend the full width of the route at a minimum of 36" wide.

long-term

07

Trash and Recycling Receptacles (near amphitheater)

- 1) Replace or modify the propane canister recycling bin so that the top surface of the bin is within 15" to 48" maximum above the ground surface and operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force. To the extent practicable, replace or modify the propane canister recycling bin so that the top surface of the bin is within 15" to 48" maximum above the ground surface.

mid-term

08

Restrooms (across from amphitheater)

- 1) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the outlet of the dispenser is located a maximum of 48" above the finished floor and a minimum of 12" of space between the top of the bar and the bottom of the dispenser if the dispenser projects more than 4" from the wall.
- 2) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed ¼" in height or ½" with a ¼" vertical rise and ¼" beveled rise.

short-term

09**Campsites**

- 1) Improve five campsites to be accessible, with parking, tent pads, grills, picnic tables, and other outdoor constructed features and services that meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F244 and F245) and Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities (subsections 1011-1014 and 1016). Accessible campsites shall be dispersed throughout the campground, including pull-in and pull-through spaces, and located in close proximity to accessible restrooms. Outdoor recreational access routes shall connect amenities within an accessible site. Common use and public use areas serving camping units with mobility features provide outdoor recreational access routes connecting to accessible sites. Common services may include restrooms, trash and recycling receptacles, amphitheaters, common use water hydrants, and any other services present.

long-term

10**Trash and Recycling Receptacles**

- 1) Ensure that all trash and recycling bins serving accessible campsites provide firm and stable clear ground space for a forward or side approach measuring 30" by 40" minimum and consist of no more than 2% slope in all directions.
- 2) To the extent possible, provide trash receptacles at accessible campsites that are operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force.
- 3) To the extent possible, provide trash and recycling receptacles at accessible camping sites with operating parts such as lids located between 15" and 48" above the ground surface.

mid-term

11**Restrooms**

- 1) Improve all restrooms servicing accessible sites to be accessible, including doors, toilet, sink, grab bars, and accessory items. They shall meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F212-F213) and Chapter 6 Plumbing Elements and Facilities.

short-term

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KEYS VIEW

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Keys View is connected to five key park experiences: dynamic processes, rich array of resources, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. The expansive views at this location capture the early creation of the iconic landscape of Joshua Tree and make it a popular destination for all park visitors. In general, accessibility is poor at the primary viewing area due to its exceptionally steep slopes and narrow viewing areas at the summit, where crowds of visitors congregate. While there is a separate area with a restroom and accessible parking, the access aisle leads visitors behind the car into the vehicular path and designating signage is mounted too low and does not identify a parking spot as van accessible. There is no outdoor recreational access route connecting the restroom to the viewing area.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the parking stall that is van accessible.

short-term

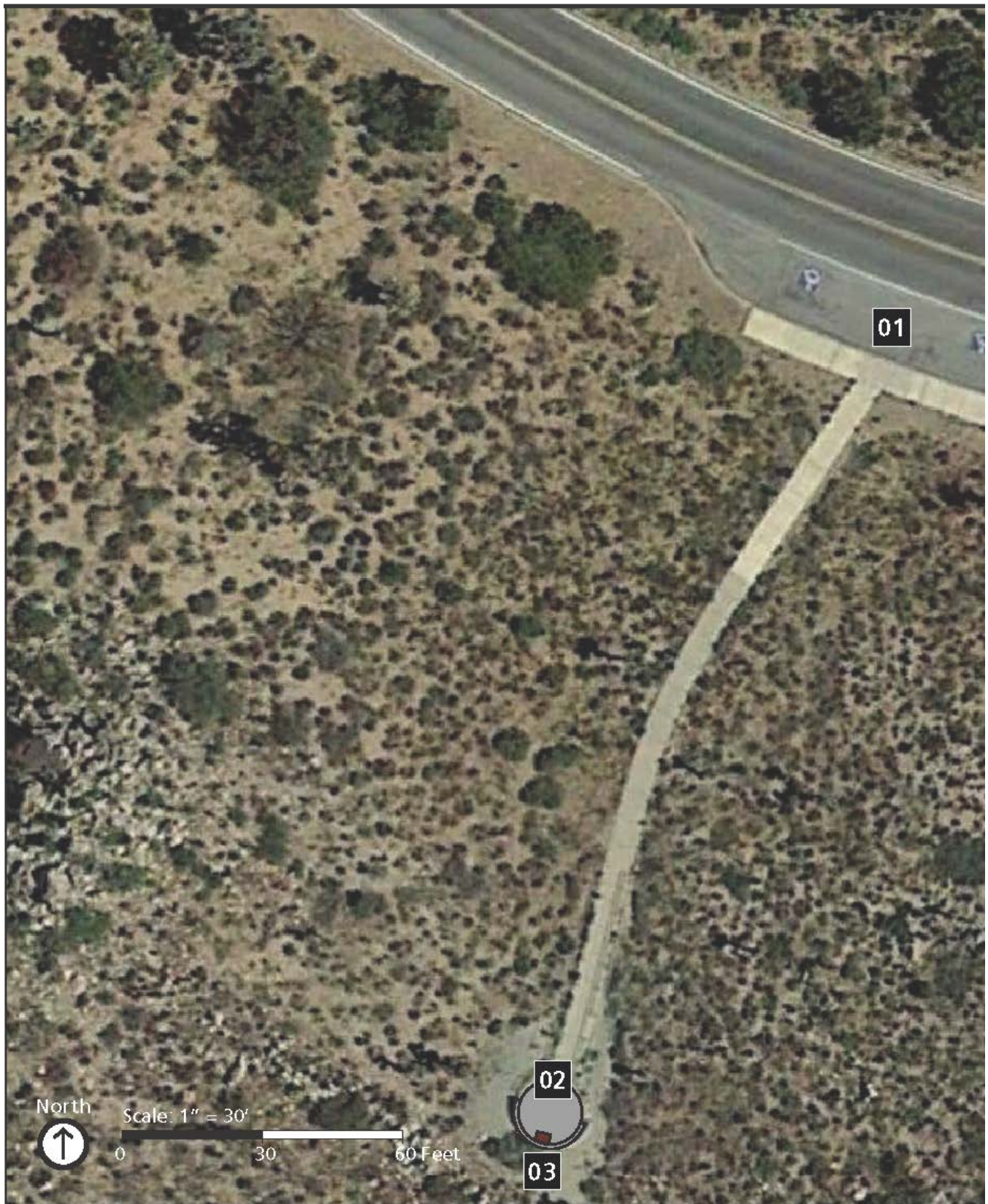
02 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) Provide level landings in front of all waysides or relocate them. The landings shall be 30" by 48" minimum from a forward or side approach and 2% maximum slope in all directions. Landing surface shall be firm and stable and not protrude into the path of travel.
- 2) As best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text.

mid-term

ACCESSIBLE KEYS VIEW

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Keys View is connected to five key park experiences: dynamic processes, rich array of resources, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. The expansive views at this location capture the early creation of the iconic landscape of Joshua Tree and make it a popular destination for all park visitors. The park's prior awareness of many of these accessibility concerns inspired the forethought to establish an accessible viewing area for Key's View. Accessible parking is provided at the alternative location, which only requires raising the designating signage. The route to the viewing area meets requirements for outdoor recreational access routes and the need for slope adjustments only occurs at the final viewing area.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign.

short-term

02 Viewing Area

- 1) Provide clear and level ground space in front of all waysides and at viewing areas. The ground space shall be 30" by 48" minimum from a forward or side approach and 2% maximum slope in all directions. The ground surface shall be firm and stable and not protrude into the path of travel.

long-term

03 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text.

mid-term

04 Car Parking

- 1) Consider redesigning the parking lot so that the path of travel does not go behind parking stalls and into the vehicular path.
- 2) Resurface or redesign the parking lot to ensure that slopes at accessible parking locations and the access aisles that serve them do not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

LIVE OAK TRAIL AND PICNIC AREA

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Live Oak Trail and Picnic Area is connected to six key park experiences: dynamic processes, outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, remote and wilderness conditions, and opportunities for research and education. The Live Oak area gives visitors the opportunity for a less crowded experience. A few picnicking tables are provided with a standing grill arranged beneath a wall of boulders. Restrooms and trash and recycling bins are also on site providing similar features as larger, more highly visited areas. A short trail takes visitors to the namesake of the site, a large oak tree that shades a sandy wash and a wall of monzogranite boulders. In general, accessibility is fair within the site given its small and less developed nature. While the picnic tables are accessible, the grill is not, as most models are within the park. While there is no formal parking at the site, ensuring the required space and designation of an accessible parking area is needed. The restroom has a vertical barrier at the transition between the concrete foundation and the natural surface of the route leading up to it. While the oak tree itself cannot be fully accessed due to the sandy wash surrounding it, the trail segment leading from the trailhead to the wash can easily be made accessible with slope modifications and resting intervals.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Provide a van accessible parking stall along the line of boulders to the east of the picnic table area. The van accessible stall shall be 11' wide with a 5' access aisle. The access aisle and car parking area shall be firm and stable, and not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide "van accessible" designation on parking stalls that are van accessible. Identification signs shall be mounted 60" minimum from the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign.

long-term

02 Grills

- 1) To the extent practicable, provide or maintain a grill surface that does not require more than 5 pounds of force to operate.

long-term

03 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) To the extent possible, provide trash and recycling receptacles with operating parts such as lids located between 15" and 48" above the ground surface.

long-term

04**Restrooms**

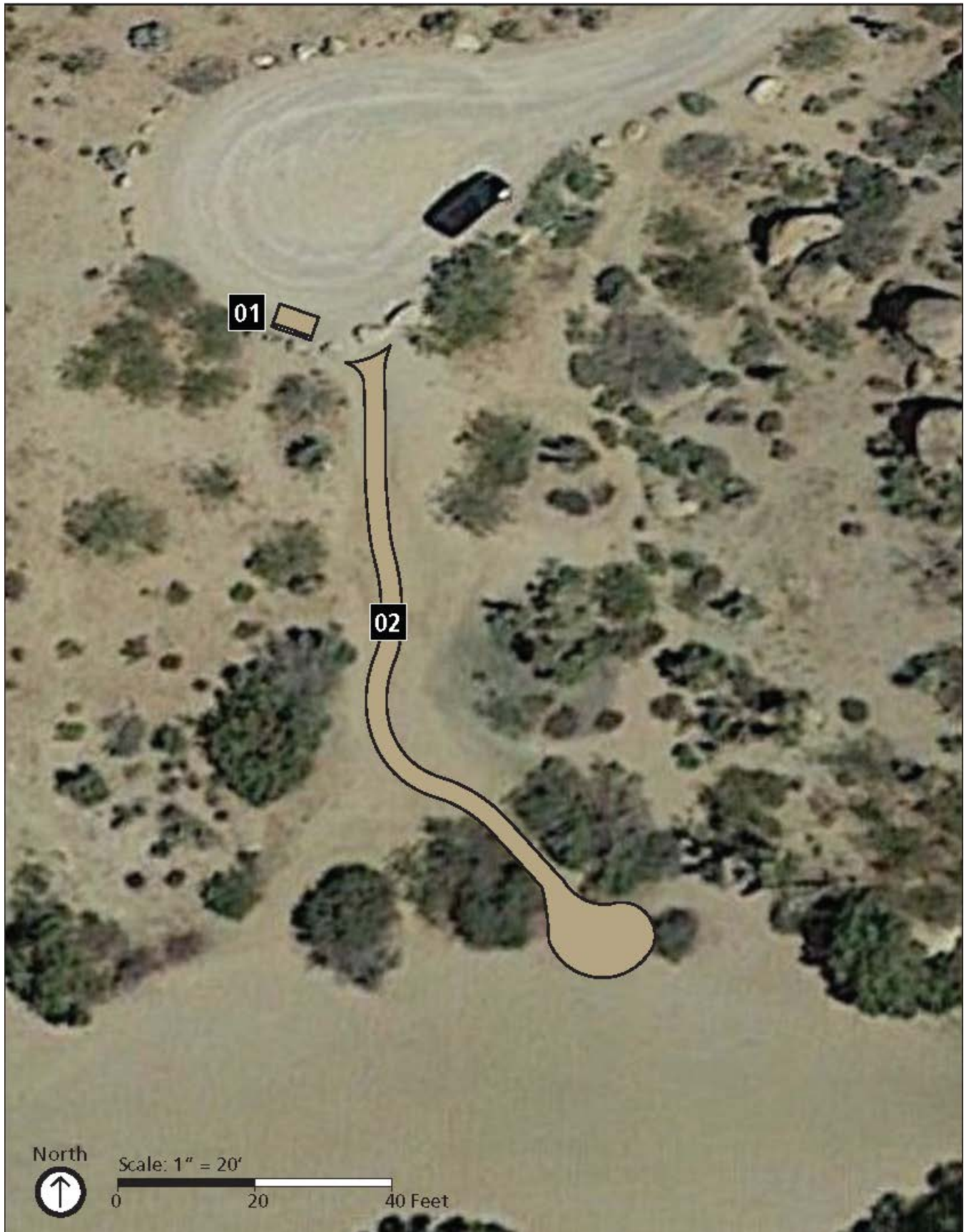
- 1) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ " in height or $\frac{1}{2}$ " with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " vertical rise and $\frac{1}{4}$ " beveled rise.

short-term

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LIVE OAK PICNIC AREA AND TRAILHEAD

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The Live Oak Trail and Picnic Area is connected to six key park experiences: dynamic processes, outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, remote and wilderness conditions, and opportunities for research and education. The Live Oak area gives visitors the opportunity for a less crowded experience. A few picnicking tables are provided with a standing grill arranged beneath a wall of boulders. Restrooms and trash and recycling bins are also on site providing similar features as larger, more highly visited areas. A short trail takes visitors to the namesake of the site, a large oak tree that shades a sandy wash and a wall of monzogranite boulders. In general, accessibility is fair within the site given its small and less developed nature. While the picnic tables are accessible, the grill is not, as most models are within the park. While there is no formal parking at the site, ensuring the required space and designation of an accessible parking area is needed. The restroom has a vertical barrier at the transition between the concrete foundation and the natural surface of the route leading up to it. While the oak tree itself cannot be fully accessed due to the sandy wash surrounding it, the trail segment leading from the trailhead to the wash can easily be made accessible with slope modifications and resting intervals.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Trailhead

- 1) Provide trailhead signage that includes information on the length of trail or trail segment, surface type, typical and minimum tread width and typical and maximum running slope.

long-term

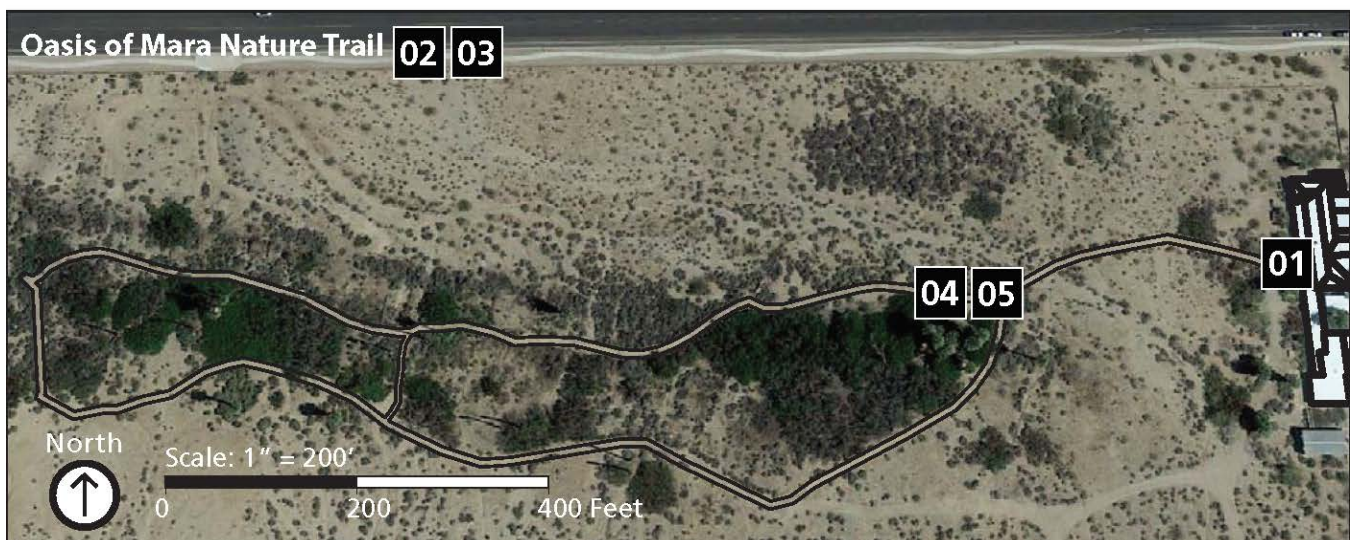
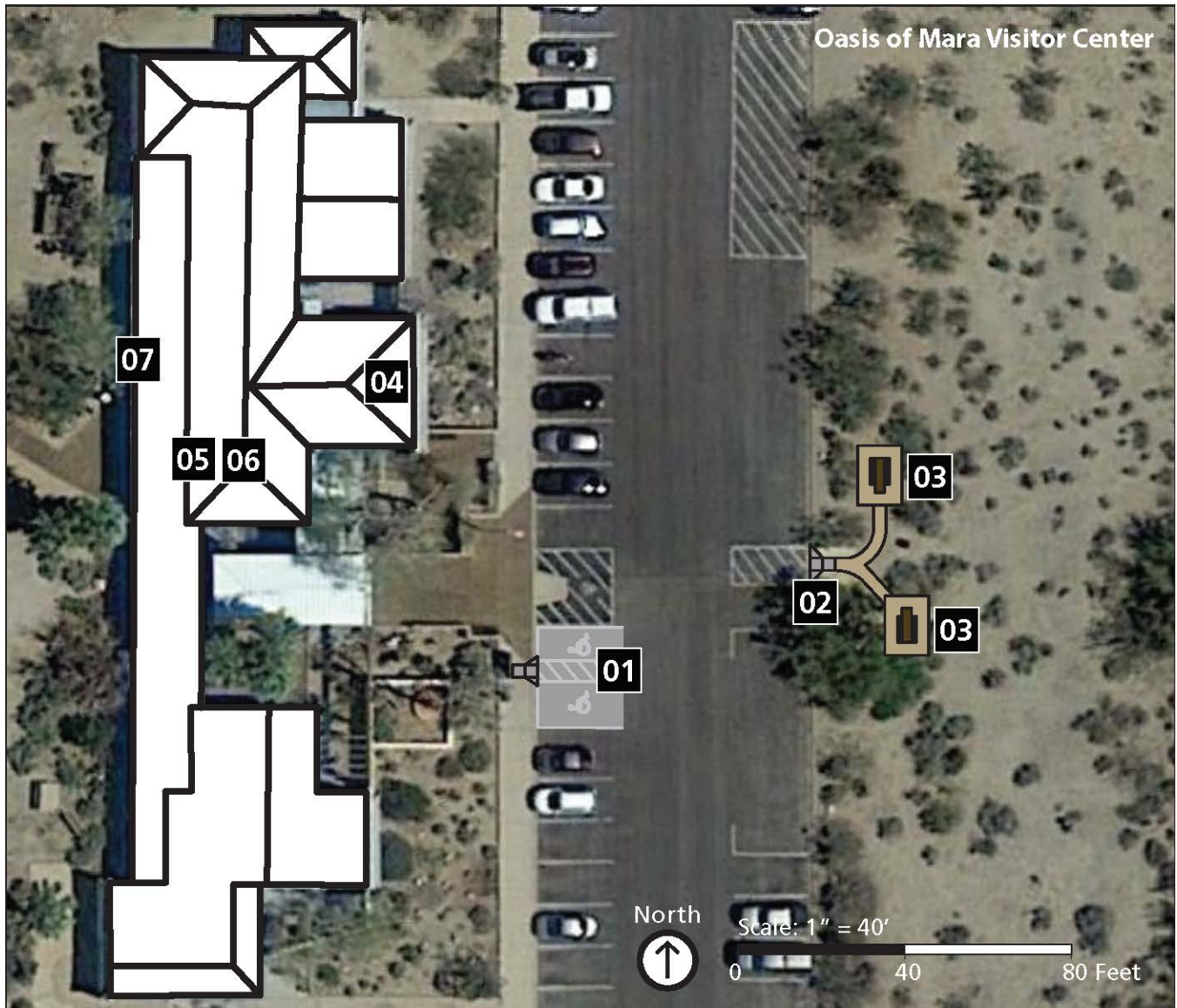
02 Hiking Trail

- 1) Improve the hiking trail to measure 36" wide minimum with a firm and stable surface. Cross slopes are not to exceed 2% maximum or 5% maximum if the surface is other than concrete, asphalt, or boards for drainage purposes. Running slopes are not to exceed 8.33% slope for a 200' maximum length segment, 10% slope for a 30' maximum length segment, or 12% slope for a 10' length segment. Resting intervals shall be provided between each segment. Intervals points shall be a minimum of 60" long and extend the full width of the route at a minimum of 36" wide. Provide a firm and stable clear ground space for viewing the oak tree measuring 36" by 48" minimum and slopes not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions. The clear ground space shall not overlap the path of the hiking trail.

long-term

OASIS OF MARA VISITOR CENTER AND TRAILHEAD

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Oasis of Mara Visitor Center and Trail is connected to six key park experiences: dynamic processes, rich array of resources, outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. The Oasis of Mara has been called the “cornerstone of the Joshua Tree National Park Story.” From the Serrano people who first settled in the area, to visitors at Joshua Tree National Park today, the oasis has called people to its cool respite from the arid desert heat. Even to this day, the Oasis of Mara Visitor Center serves as one of only five park locations where water is available to visitors. The oasis itself still exists and supports a diverse and unique desert community of plants and animals. In general, accessibility is high within the area. The visitor center exterior needs common barrier removal such as a redesign of the accessible parking locations to better align with an access aisle and curb ramp. Accessible picnic tables need to be provided and the transition from the concrete curb ramp to the natural surface of the landing and route to the picnic tables needs to be corrected and maintained to avoid creating a vertical barrier. In the interior of the visitor center, some merchandise in the gift store is out of reach range and many exhibits contain visual barriers such as serif fonts and low contrast between images and text. Other exhibits require some level of operation to flip through pages of information that are currently inoperable with a closed fist. The Oasis of Mara Trail is an outstanding example of an accessible trail. Fully paved in concrete along a flat meandering path, visitors can enjoy a short walk to and around the Oasis of Mara. The primary existing barriers mainly concern clear ground space at the approach to waysides and trash receptacles. The primary trail barrier is a short natural surface spur that leads visitors to the remaining standing water of the oasis. There is a vertical barrier at the transition from concrete to the natural ground surface that obstructs the route. Sand is deep in some areas causing a soft and unstable surface along the path and within the companion seating area adjacent to the bench overlooking the oasis.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

Oasis of Mara Visitor Center

01 Car Parking

- 1) Install designating signage in front of each accessible stall location. Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide “van accessible” designation on the parking stall that is van accessible.

short-term

02 Outdoor Recreational Access Route

- 1) Eliminate or reduce the barrier to a maximum height ½" measured from the ground surface to the highest point.

mid-term

03 Picnic Area

- 1) Provide two minimum accessible picnic tables. Accessible picnic tables shall each provide one wheelchair space measuring 30" by 48" for a forward approach. Wheelchair space knee clearance shall be 11" deep minimum at 9" above the finish floor or ground, and 8" minimum at 27" above the finish floor or ground.

mid-term

04 Restrooms

- 1) Remove the doorstep to ensure that the bottom 10" of the door has a smooth surface. Operable door hardware shall be located at 34" minimum and 48" maximum above the finished floor. Door closures and doorstops shall be located 78" minimum above the finished floor.

short-term

05 Gift Shop

- 1) Locate merchandise so that it is between 15" and 48" for a forward reach. If it is an obstructed reach depth that exceeds 20", high forward reach shall be 44" maximum. Merchandise can be positioned in two locations at different heights. Post signs in areas that have merchandise out of reach range that inform visitors to feel free to request assistance at the service counter.

mid-term

06 Exhibits

- 1) Consider providing a tactile map of the fault lines that helped shaped the creation of the park.

long-term

- 2) As a best practice, provide exhibits that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.
- 3) Replace the binder with a feature that is operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force.

mid-term

01 Picnic Area (in back of visitor center)

- 1) Provide two minimum accessible picnic tables. Accessible picnic tables shall each provide one wheelchair space measuring 30" by 48" for a forward approach. Wheelchair space knee clearance shall be 11" deep minimum at 9" above the finish floor or ground, and 8" minimum at 27" above the finish floor or ground.

short-term

Oasis of Mara Nature Trail

01 Benches (at visitor center rear exit)

- 1) Relocate or improve the area to provide a firm and stable clear ground space measuring 36" by 48" minimum positioned near the bench with one side adjoining the trail, slopes not exceeding 2% in all directions, and free of vertical obstacles.

mid-term

02 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.
- 2) Locate the waysides or alter the ground plane so that an unobstructed firm and stable clear ground space is provided in front of panels for a side or forward approach measuring 30" by 48" maximum and not exceeding 2% slope in all directions.

mid-term

03 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Locate all trash receptacles so that an unobstructed firm and stable clear ground space is provided in front of the receptacle for a side or forward approach measuring 30" by 48" maximum and not exceeding 2% slope in all directions.

mid-term

04 Hiking Trail (at Oasis of Mara)

- 1) The short segment of trail or viewing area at the end of the paved trail to the bench shall have a surface that is firm, stable, and no more than 8.33% running slope and 2% cross slope. Vertical obstacles do not exceed ½" in height from the ground to the highest point of the obstacle.

long-term

Benches (at Oasis of Mara)

- 1) Provide a firm and stable clear ground space positioned near the bench and measuring 36" by 48" minimum, with one side adjoining the trail and slopes not exceeding 2% in all directions. Maintain vegetation from obstructing the clear ground space.

long-term

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QUAIL SPRINGS

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Quail Springs is connected to three park experiences: outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, and scenic landscapes. The Quail Springs area provides a more intimate setting while including a wide array of services, activities, and programs such as picnicking, hiking, and rock climbing, all among one of the iconic monzogranite rock formations. In general, accessibility is good in the area. There is a need to improve the clear ground space at features such as in front of the trash and recycling receptacles, and around the grills and picnic tables. Grills and picnic tables need to be made accessible by meeting operable part and knee clearance requirements. The trailhead is not connected to an outdoor recreational access route, does not have a curb ramp if the vehicular path is used as the path of travel, and very early in the trail, the decision to place the path over a gully prevents further access if a visitor somehow made it to that point. However, Quail Springs is one of the only locations in the park where an intentionally placed accessible picnic area was designed with a hardened accessible route connecting the accessible parking stall to the restroom and to a paved picnic area with a table and grill. The climbing area directly adjacent to the picnic areas has great potential for expanding the rock climbing experience to some visitors with disabilities.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Recreation and Oversized Vehicle Parking

- 1) As a best practice, provide a minimum of one oversized or recreational vehicle parking space measuring a minimum of 20' wide with slopes not exceeding 2% maximum slope in all directions. When two stalls are located next to each other, one stall is permitted to be 16' wide minimum. The location shall be designated as accessible. Suggest marking with painted International Symbol of Accessibility on the parking surface.

mid-term

02 Restroom (men's and women's)

- 1) Reposition the toilet so that the centerline of the toilet is positioned 16" and 18" maximum from the side wall.

long-term

- 2) Relocated the hook so that it falls within the reach range of between 15" and 48". Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the outlet of the dispenser is located a maximum of 48" above the finished floor and a minimum of 12" of space between the top of the bar and the bottom of the dispenser if the dispenser projects more than 4" from the wall.

short-term

03 Picnic Area

- 1) Provide an accessible picnic table at two accessible picnic unit locations. Accessible picnic tables shall each provide one wheelchair space measuring 30" by 48" for a forward approach. Wheelchair space knee clearance shall be 11" deep minimum at 9" above the finish floor or ground, and 8" minimum at 27" above the finish floor or ground.
- 2) At the two chosen accessible picnic table locations, provide 36" of clear ground space measured from the back edge of the benches. Clear ground space shall not exceed 2% slope in all directions and be firm and stable.

mid-term

04 Grills

- 1) To the extent practicable, provide or maintain a grill surface that does not require more than 5 pounds of force to operate.

mid-term

05 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) As practicable, provide recycling bins with models that have lids within a 15" to 48" reach range and are operable with a closed fist.
- 2) Relocate the recycling bin so that there is a clear ground space measuring 36" by 38" positioned for a forward approach or a 30" by 60" clear ground space for a side approach. The surface shall be firm, stable, and not exceed 2% slope in all directions.

mid-term

06 Trailhead

- 1) Provide trailhead signage that includes information on the length of trail or trail segment, surface type, typical and minimum tread width and typical and maximum running slope. Signage shall have clear ground space in front of it measuring 30" by 40" minimum with a maximum cross slope of 2% in all directions.

mid-term

- 1) Provide a curb ramp at the trailhead with a maximum running slope of 8.33% and a maximum cross slope of 2%. Slopes at side flares of the curb ramp shall not exceed 10% slope. The curb ramp shall connect to a landing with a 36" minimum depth and is not to exceed 2% maximum slope in any direction.

long-term

RYAN CAMPGROUND

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Ryan Campground is connected to two park experiences: extensive recreational opportunities and scenic landscapes. The Ryan Campground is one of the few campgrounds in the park that offers horse camping. The campground is centrally located in the park and is also directly adjacent to the California Riding and Hiking Trail and a connector trail to the Ryan Ranch, making it a hub of recreational opportunity. In general, accessibility is fair in the area. There are no designated accessible campsites and the restrooms provided have vertical obstructions at their entrances along the concrete foundation seen in many other restrooms at the park. Interpretive waysides and information boards have content that uses serif fonts and is difficult to read due to lack of contrast in some areas. The relatively flat topography of this campground and its proximity to the Ryan Ranch Trailhead and other activities make the area well worth the barrier removal to improve accessibility.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Campsites

- 1) Improve three standard and two equestrian campsites to be accessible, with parking, tent pads, grills, picnic tables, and other outdoor constructed features and services that meet the requirements of ABAAS, including Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements (subsections F244 and F245) and Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities (subsections 1011-1014 and 1016). Accessible campsites shall be dispersed throughout the campground, including pull-in and pull-through spaces, and located in close proximity to accessible restrooms. Outdoor recreational access routes shall connect amenities within an accessible site. Common use and public use areas serving camping units with mobility features provide outdoor recreational access routes connecting to accessible sites. Common services may include restrooms, trash and recycling receptacles, amphitheaters, common use water hydrants, and any other services present.

long-term

02 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Provide a firm and stable clear ground space in front of the receptacles that measures 48" by 30" minimum for a forward or a parallel approach. The surface shall not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

03 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Replace or modify the propane canister recycling bin so that the top surface of the bin is within 15" to 48" maximum above the ground surface.

mid-term

04 Outdoor Recreational Access Route (to restroom by site 5)

- 1) Correct the lip up to the paved portion of the walk so that it does not exceed ½" in height measured vertically to the highest point.

short-term

05 Restroom (by site 5)

- 1) Locate the sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door with the base of the lowest tactile characters 48" minimum in height above the finish floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum in height above the finish floor.

short-term

06 Restroom (by site 16)

- 1) Locate the sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door with the base of the lowest tactile characters 48" minimum in height above the finish floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum in height above the finish floor.
- 2) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed ¼" in height or ½" with a ¼" vertical rise and ¼" beveled rise.

short-term

07 Restroom (by site 30)

- 1) Locate the sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door with the base of the lowest tactile characters 48" minimum in height above the finish floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum in height above the finish floor.
- 2) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the outlet of the dispenser is located a maximum of 48" above the finished floor and a minimum of 12" of space between the top of the bar and the bottom of the dispenser if the dispenser projects more than 4" from the wall.

short-term

08 Information Signage and Wayfinding

- 1) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text.

mid-term

09

Interpretive Waysides

- 1) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text.

mid-term

10

Interpretive Waysides

- 1) Provide a firm and stable clear ground space in front of the interpretive panel that measures 48" by 30" minimum for a forward or a parallel approach. The surface shall not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

RYAN RANCH TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Ryan Ranch Trail and Trailhead are connected to four key park experiences: rich array of resources, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. The Ryan Ranch Trail provides the opportunity to take visitors back in time to the Ryan Adobe, which still stands visible today. The vastness of the landscape that surrounds visitors on the trail reminds one of just how isolated and independent early American settlers were. In general, accessibility is good in the area considering it includes a half-mile trek through desert terrain. Some sections of the trail have a rugged rocky surface or deeper sand, making the trail unstable. However, these areas are small and can be easily corrected. The trailhead itself has some concerns with the accessible parking access aisle being placed in the rear of the stall and a lack of designating signage. Trailhead signage is lacking more specific trail condition information that would help users better understand whether their physical ability aligns with the difficulty of the trail. Overall, the park's recognition of the potential for this trail to be made more accessible is on target. With only a few barrier removals, accessible hiking trail conditions can be maintained almost the entire way up to the Ryan Adobe itself. The potential for a trail reroute beginning from the other side of the parking lot could achieve complete access.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the parking stall that is van accessible.

short-term

- 2) Restripe the parking surface so that the van parking space is 11' wide minimum with an access aisle adjoining the stall along the curb side that measures 5' wide minimum.

immediate

02 Outdoor Recreational Access Route

- 1) Correct the berm so that the obstacle does not exceed ½" in height. Where the surface is other than concrete, asphalt, or boards, obstacles shall be permitted to not exceed 1" in height.

mid-term

03 Trailhead

- 1) Provide trailhead signage that includes information on the length of trail or trail segment, surface type, typical and minimum tread width and typical and maximum running slope. Signage shall have clear ground space in front of it measuring 30" by 48" minimum with a maximum cross slope of 2% in all directions.

mid-term

04 Restrooms

- 1) Locate the sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door with the base of the lowest tactile characters 48" minimum in height above the finish floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum in height above the finish floor.
Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the outlet of the dispenser is located a maximum of 48" above the finished floor and a minimum of 12" of space between the top of the bar and the bottom of the dispenser if the dispenser projects more than 4" from the wall.
- 2) Correct the lip at the entry so that the change in level does not exceed ¼" in height or ½" with a ¼" vertical rise and ¼" beveled rise.

short-term

05 Interpretive Waysides

- 1) As a best practice, provide waysides that use sans serif fonts, no italics, no all caps, 24-point minimum font, and images with 70% contrasting images and text. Avoid the use of colors such as green and red to distinguish between content.

mid-term

06 Hiking Trail

- 1) Firm up and maintain areas where the sand creates an unstable surface. Remove rocks that are scattered along some sections of the trail.

mid-term

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SKULL ROCK

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Skull Rock is connected to five key park experiences: dynamic processes, rich array of resources, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. Long ago, water began to slowly erode this pile of massive granite boulders, eventually forming one of the favorite stops for visitors, Skull Rock. Along with other recognizable rock formations, Skull Rock rests hidden from passing vehicles while visitors on foot explore the area, looking for more of nature's creations, from granite formations to the unique flora of the Joshua Tree landscape. In general, accessibility is difficult in the area. There are no designated parking locations though there is a wide marked shoulder where visitors can pull off. Once visitors are out of their cars, there are no curb ramps provided to connect visitors from the road to the sites on either side. While the majority of the trail around the rock formations is generally not accessible, the initial segment on route to Skull Rock would need minor barrier removal to allow visitors with mobility disabilities to reach a point where the rock formations can be viewed.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Outdoor Recreational Access Route

- 1) Provide curb ramps at trailheads on both sides of the road with a maximum running slope of 8.33% and a maximum cross slope of 2%. Slopes at side flares of the curb ramp shall not exceed 10% slope. Ramp width shall be a minimum of 36" wide. The curb ramp shall connect to a landing with a 36" minimum depth and is not to exceed 2% maximum slope in any direction.

long-term

02 Trailhead

- 1) Provide trailhead signage that includes information on the length of trail or trail segment, surface type, typical and minimum tread width and typical and maximum running slope.

mid-term

03 Hiking Trail

- 1) Provide an accessible portion of the trail from the trailhead to a point in the trail where the Skull Rock and other formations are visible. The trail shall be 36" wide minimum and have a maximum cross slope of 2% or 5% if the surface is other than concrete, asphalt, or boards for the purpose of drainage. Running slope is not to exceed 8.33% for a maximum of 200', 10% for a maximum of 30' or 12% for a maximum of 10'.

long-term

Viewing Area

- 1) Provide an area for viewing the rock formations for visitors that cannot physically access the full length of the trail. The clear ground space for the viewing area shall not overlap the hiking trail, be firm and stable, measure 36" by 48", and not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

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SPLIT ROCK

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Split Rock Picnic Area is connected to six key park experiences: dynamic processes, outstanding diversity of plant and animal communities, extensive recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, remote and wilderness conditions, and opportunities for research and education. The Split Rock picnic area provides visitors with the opportunity to enjoy a picnic while surrounded by magnificent granite rock formations, most notably, Split Rock. While the Split Rock Loop Trail wasn't assessed, the trailhead is accessed from this location and connects to other trails such as Skull Rock. In general, accessibility is fair to poor in the area considering the more undeveloped nature of the site. There are no paved surfaces including the road and parking loop. The parking lot is seasonally striped so when striping is absent, there is no designated accessible parking stall. There are no outdoor recreational access routes between site services, activities, and programs such as accessible parking locations, picnic areas, trash receptacles and restrooms. Picnic tables are not accessible. Reach ranges for trash and recycling receptacles as well as for toilet paper fixtures in the restroom are out of their required reach ranges. While there are many gravel parking areas within the National Park Service, few parks go as far as striping their lots. Joshua Tree National Park is a model for accessibility awareness in the efforts the staff has made over the years to increase access to all of the park.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Car Parking

- 1) Provide a van accessible parking stall near the restroom and connecting to an outdoor recreational access route. The van accessible stall shall be 11' wide with a 5' access aisle. The access aisle and car parking area shall be firm and stable, and not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Identification signs shall be posted 60" minimum above the finished floor or ground surface measuring to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the parking stall that is van accessible.

immediate

02 Picnic Area

- 1) Provide a minimum of two accessible picnic tables. Accessible picnic tables shall each provide one wheelchair space measuring 30" by 48" for a forward approach. Wheelchair space knee clearance shall be 11" deep minimum at 9" above the finish floor or ground, and 8" minimum at 27" above the finish floor or ground.
- 2) Provide 36" of clear ground space around all usable sides of the picnic table measured from the back side of the benches. The surface shall be firm, stable, and not exceed 2% slope in all directions.

mid-term

03

Restroom

- 1) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the outlet of the dispenser is located a maximum of 48" above the finished floor and a minimum of 12" of space between the top of the bar and the bottom of the dispenser if the dispenser projects more than 4" from the wall. Relocate the hook so that it is 15" minimum to 48" maximum above the finished floor.

short-term

04

Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) As practicable, provide recycling bins with models that have lids within a 15" to 48" reach range and are operable with a closed fist.

mid-term

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TYPICAL CAMPGROUND

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

Campgrounds at Joshua Tree National Park provide one of the most unique camping experiences within the national park system. The dramatic monzogranite formations emerge from the steady rolling flats of the desert floor creating islands of shelter and biological diversity. Many of the campgrounds within the park are located near these boulder islands placing campers directly in the midst of climbing activities, exploration, and nature viewing. Despite the number of campgrounds within the park, few campsites are actually designated as being accessible. Fortunately, the mild topography and nature of the desert landscape make most campsites easily corrected to provide access to all park visitors. Due to having so many potentially accessible campsites and upcoming projects for some campground facilities, the park will be making final selections of accessible sites in the near future. During the assessment, potential sites were identified to keep in consideration and are identified on campground site plans with orange circles and the current numerical designation of the site. Potential sites were chosen primarily based on available clear ground space around campsite features and the routes connecting them as well as the accessibility of the features themselves. Outdoor recreational access routes connecting potentially accessible sites to common use facilities such as restrooms, amphitheaters, and water pumps were also considered.

Due to the pending projects and final selections for accessible campsites, this Self Evaluation and Transition Plan is providing a typical site plan for a campsite demonstrating the most common barriers and solutions found within campsites. All of the barriers called out here as well as any other unique or site-specific barriers that may be identified in the future must be addressed at final selected site locations. Services, activities, and programs addressed in the typical campsite site plan include; scoping for the required number of accessible campsites, tent pads, fire rings, picnic tables, recreational vehicle and standard vehicle parking, trash and recycling receptacles, dumpsters, restrooms, and the outdoor recreational access routes connecting them. Some services, activities, and programs not numerically called out on the site plan can be found under "Other" in the implementation table. Those categories include; camp shelters, grills, utility and sewage hookups, and water hydrants.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Campsites

- 1) Improve two campsites to meet accessibility scoping requirements.

02 Car Parking

- 1) Parking spaces for other vehicles, not recreational vehicles within camping units and picnic units with mobility features and for pull-up spaces at dump stations, are 16' wide minimum.
- 2) The surface of parking spaces and pull-up spaces shall be firm and stable.

- 3) The slope of the surface of parking spaces and pull-up spaces shall not be steeper than 2% in all directions.

03

Dumpster-style Receptacles

- 1) Provide clear ground space measuring 36" by 48" positioned for forward approach to the receptacle opening; or 30" by 60" positioned for a parallel approach to the receptacle opening. Slopes of the clear ground space are not to exceed 2% in all directions or 5% if required for drainage and the surface material is other than asphalt, concrete, or boards.
- 2) As a best practice, refer to the following ABAAS requirements. Where a forward reach is unobstructed, the high forward reach shall be 48" maximum and the low forward reach shall be 15" minimum above the finish floor or ground. Where a high forward reach is over an obstruction, the clear floor space shall extend beneath the element for a distance not less than the required reach depth over the obstruction. The high forward reach shall be 48" maximum where the reach depth is 20" maximum. Where the reach depth exceeds 20", the high forward reach shall be 44" maximum and the reach depth shall be 25" maximum. Where a clear floor or ground space allows a parallel approach to an element and the side reach is unobstructed, the high side reach shall be 48" maximum and the low side reach shall be 15" minimum above the finish floor or ground.
- 3) To the extent practicable, operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds maximum. Operable parts shall be placed within one or more of the reach ranges specified in 308.

05

Outdoor Recreational Access Route

- 1) Provide outdoor recreational access routes connecting the campsite to the restroom and other services. The surface of outdoor recreation access routes, passing spaces, and resting intervals shall be firm and stable.
- 2) The clear width of outdoor recreation access routes shall be 36" minimum.
- 3) Outdoor recreation access routes with a clear width less than 60" shall provide passing spaces at intervals of 200' maximum. Passing spaces and resting intervals shall be permitted to overlap.
- 4) The passing space shall be 60" by 60" minimum.
- 5) Obstacles on outdoor recreation access routes, passing spaces, and resting intervals shall not exceed ½" in height measured vertically to the highest point.
- 6) Openings in the surface of outdoor recreation access routes shall not allow the passage of a sphere more than ½" in diameter. "
- 7) The running slope of any segment of an outdoor recreation access route shall not be steeper than 10%. Where the running slope of a segment of an

outdoor recreation access route is steeper than 5%, the maximum length of the segment shall be in accordance with Table 1016.7.1, and a resting interval complying with 1016.8 shall be provided at the top and bottom of each segment.

- 8) Constructed elements on outdoor recreation access routes, passing spaces, and resting intervals shall comply with 307. Objects with leading edges more than 27" and not more than 80" above the finish floor or ground shall protrude 4" maximum horizontally into the circulation path.

06

Picnic Areas

- 1) Relocate the table to provide clear ground space measuring 36" on all usable sides of the table measured from the back edge of the benches. The size and location of the clear ground space shall be in accordance with Table 1011.2.1. Unless otherwise specified in Table 1011.2.1, one full unobstructed side of the clear ground space shall adjoin or overlap an outdoor recreation access route or a trail, as applicable, or another clear ground space.
- 2) The tops of picnic tables shall comply with 902.3. The tops of dining surfaces and work surfaces shall be 28" minimum and 34" maximum above the finish floor or ground.
- 3) Space under the picnic table between the finish floor or ground and 9" above the finish floor or ground shall be considered toe clearance and shall comply with 306.2. Toe clearance shall extend 25" maximum under an element. Where toe clearance is required at an element as part of a clear floor space, the toe clearance shall extend 17" minimum under the element. Space extending greater than 6" beyond the available knee clearance at 9" above the finish floor or ground shall not be considered toe clearance. Toe clearance shall be 30" wide minimum.
- 4) Provide space under an element between 9" and 27" above the finish floor or ground shall be considered knee clearance and shall comply with 306.3. Knee clearance shall extend 25" maximum under an element at 9" above the finish floor or ground. Where knee clearance is required under an element as part of a clear floor space, the knee clearance shall be 11" deep minimum at 9" above the finish floor or ground, and 8" deep minimum at 27" above the finish floor or ground. Between 9" and 27" above the finish floor or ground, the knee clearance shall be permitted to reduce at a rate of 1" in depth for each 6" in height. Knee clearance shall be 30" wide minimum.
- 5) Picnic tables shall provide at least one wheelchair space for each 24 linear feet of usable table surface perimeter. Wheelchair spaces shall be 30" by 48" minimum by 48" minimum. Wheelchair spaces shall be positioned for a forward approach to the table and provide knee and toe clearance complying with 306 under the table.

07

Recreational Vehicle Parking

- 1) Parking spaces and pull-up spaces for recreational vehicles within camping units and picnic units with mobility features and for pull-up spaces at dump stations are 20' wide minimum.
- 2) The surface of parking spaces and pull-up spaces shall be firm and stable. The slope of the surface of parking spaces and pull-up spaces shall not be steeper than 2% in all directions.

08

Tent Pads and Platforms

- 1) Clear ground space on all usable sides of tent pads and tent platforms is 48" wide minimum. The surface of the clear ground space provided on all usable sides of tent pads and tent platforms is firm and stable and allows use of tent stakes and other tent securement devices.
- 2) The slope of the surface of tent pads, tent platforms, and clear ground spaces is no more than 2% in any direction.

09

Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Provide clear ground space measuring 36" by 48" positioned for forward approach to the receptacle opening; or 30" by 60" positioned for a parallel approach to the receptacle opening. Slopes of the clear ground space are not to exceed 2% in all directions or 5% if required for drainage and the surface material is other than asphalt, concrete, or boards.
- 2) Where a forward reach is unobstructed, the high forward reach shall be 48" maximum and the low forward reach shall be 15" minimum above the finish floor or ground. Where a high forward reach is over an obstruction, the clear floor space shall extend beneath the element for a distance not less than the required reach depth over the obstruction. The high forward reach shall be 48" maximum where the reach depth is 20" maximum. Where the reach depth exceeds 20", the high forward reach shall be 44" maximum and the reach depth shall be 25" maximum. Where a clear floor or ground space allows a parallel approach to an element and the side reach is unobstructed, the high side reach shall be 48" maximum and the low side reach shall be 15" minimum above the finish floor or ground.
- 3) Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds maximum. Operable parts shall be placed within one or more of the reach ranges specified in 308.

Camp Shelter

- 1) A clear ground space 36" by 48" minimum is provided for a parallel approach at the entrance to the camp shelter. One full unobstructed side of the clear ground space adjoins or overlaps and outdoor recreation access route, trail or another clear ground space.

- 2) The surface of the clear ground space at shelters is firm and stable and not steeper than 2% in any direction.
- 3) The camp shelter floor at the entrance is 19" high maximum measured from the clear ground space.
- 4) Camp shelters providing roll-in access have a level or sloped entry route meeting outdoor recreational access route standards.
- 5) A 60" by 60" turning space is provided within the camp shelter.
- 6) The floor surface provided within camp shelters is firm and stable and not steeper than 2% in any direction.

Grills

- 1) Fire building surfaces shall be 9" minimum above the ground. Where provided, cooking surfaces shall be 15" minimum and 34" maximum above the ground. Where fire rings, grills, or fireplaces are constructed with raised edges or walls, the depth of the raised edge or wall shall be 10" maximum.
- 2) Provide a clear ground space measuring 48" by 48" on all usable sides of the grill. Center the space on each usable side of the grill. The size and location of the clear ground space shall be in accordance with Table 1011.2.1. Unless otherwise specified in Table 1011.2.1, one full unobstructed side of the clear ground space shall adjoin or overlap an outdoor recreation access route or a trail, as applicable, or another clear ground space.
- 3) To the extent practicable, operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds maximum.

Utility and Sewage Hookups

- 1) Provide a clear ground space measuring 30" by 60" with the long side of the space adjoining or overlapping an accessible parking space or pull-up space for recreational vehicles. Locate the space so that the hook-ups are at the rear center of the space. Bollards or other barriers shall not obstruct the clear ground space in front of the hook-ups.
- 2) To the extent practicable, operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds maximum. Operable parts shall be placed within one or more of the reach ranges specified in 308.

Water Hydrants

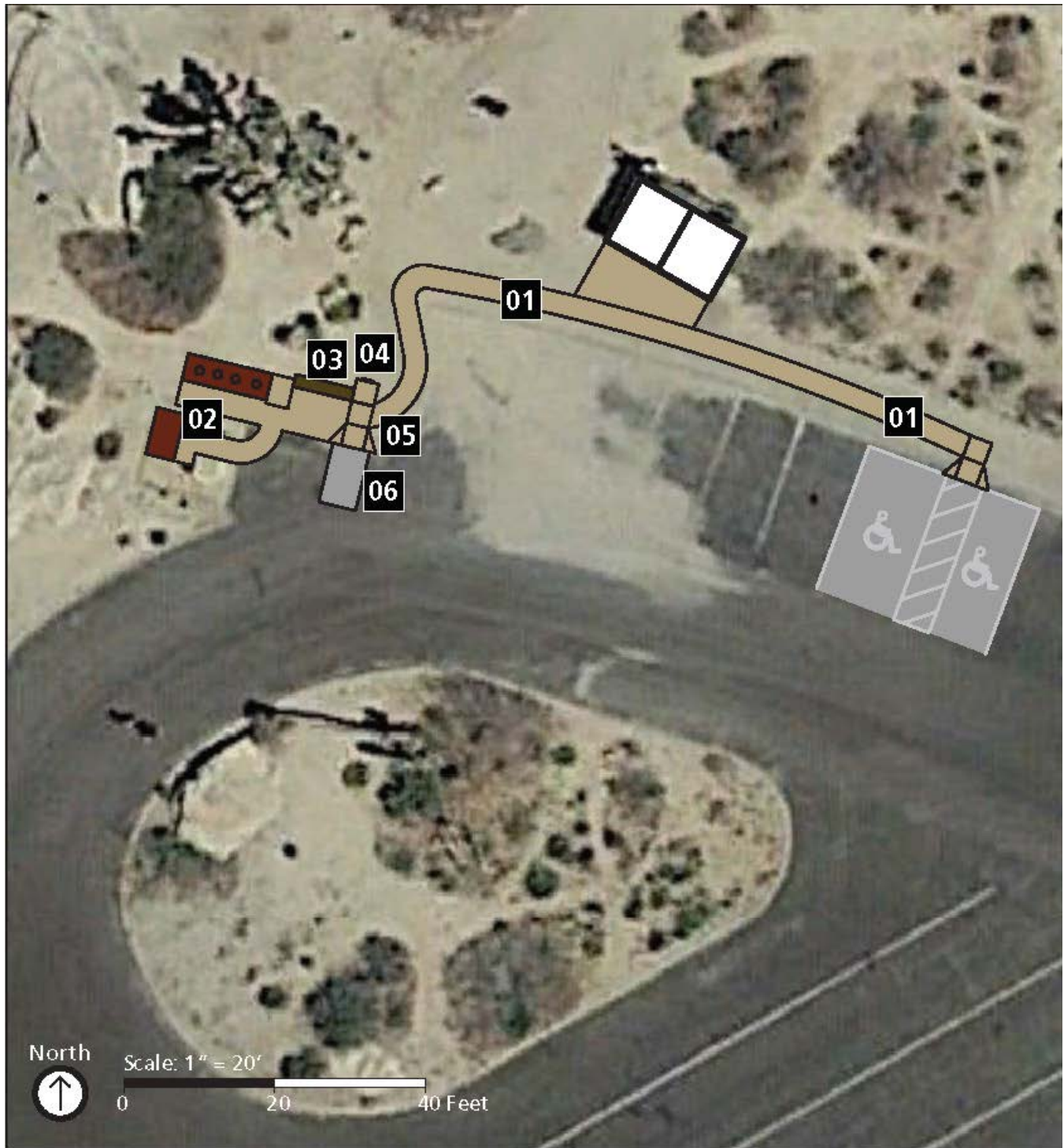
- 1) Provide a clear ground space measuring 72" by 48" with the long side of the space adjoining or overlapping an outdoor recreation access route or trail, as applicable, or another clear ground space.
- 2) Locate the space so that the waterspout is 11" minimum and 12" maximum from the rear center of the long side of the space.

- 3) To the extent practicable, operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds maximum. Operable parts shall be placed within one or more of the reach ranges specified in 308.
- 4) Water spouts at water hydrants and water utility hook-ups shall be 28" minimum and 36" maximum above the ground.

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TYPICAL SHUTTLE STOP

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

With the increasing population of surrounding metropolitan areas and a general increase in visitation across most national parks, transportation and other visitor use management-related issues at Joshua Tree National Park have become a common topic of discussion. One congestion management tool being considered is a shuttle system to transport visitors to common destinations in order to reduce the number of individual vehicles on park roads and in parking lots.

A pilot shuttle system has been initiated over the past year that required the installation of shuttle stops throughout the park. While not all shuttle stops throughout the park were assessed due to the pilot status of the shuttle program and time restrictions, accessibility improvement needs at all shuttle stops located at assessed areas were identified in the implementation tables under their respective sites and are identified by a shuttle symbol. A typical site plan for shuttle stops throughout the park was created to reference and apply at any finalized existing or future shuttle stop locations. Services, activities, and programs addressed in the typical shuttle stop site plan include accessible routes, trash and recycling receptacles, dumpsters, benches, informational signage, and boarding and alighting areas.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

01 Accessible Route

- 1) Shuttle stop boarding and alighting areas shall be connected to streets, sidewalks, or pedestrian paths by an accessible route complying with 402. The running slope of walking surfaces shall not be steeper than 5%. The cross slope of walking surfaces shall not be steeper than 2%. The clear width of walking surfaces shall be 36" minimum.

02 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) As practicable, provide recycling bins with models that have lids within a 15" to 48" reach range.
- 2) Provide firm and stable clear ground space in front of the recycling bin. Clear space shall measure 30" by 48" minimum and not exceed 2% slope in any direction or 5% on surfaces other than concrete, asphalt, or boards.

03 Benches

- 1) Where provided, benches have a clear ground space of 36" by 48" positioned near the bench with one side of the space adjoining an outdoor recreational access route or trail. The clear space shall not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions or 5% if the surface is other than concrete, asphalt, or board, for drainage purposes.

- 2) Where provided, benches have a clear ground space of 36" in front of the bench that does not overlap into the path of travel, which shall be a minimum of 36" wide. The clear space shall not exceed 2% maximum slope in all directions or 5% if the surface is other than concrete, asphalt, or board, for drainage purposes.

04 **Informational Signage**

- 1) Provide firm and stable clear ground space in front of the shuttle stop sign. The clear ground space shall measure 30" by 48" minimum and not exceed 2% slope in any direction or 5% on surfaces other than concrete, asphalt, or boards.

05 **Accessible Route**

- 1) Provide a curb ramp at the shuttle stop with a maximum running slope of 8.33% and a maximum cross slope of 2%. Slopes at side flares of the curb ramp shall not exceed 10% slope. The curb ramp shall connect to a landing with a 36" minimum depth and is not to exceed 2% maximum slope in any direction.

06 **Boarding and Alighting**

- 1) Shuttle stop boarding and alighting areas shall provide a clear length of 96" minimum, measured perpendicular to the curb or vehicle roadway edge, and a clear width of 60" minimum, measured parallel to the vehicle roadway. The surface shall be firm and stable. Parallel to the roadway, the slope of the shuttle stop boarding and alighting area shall be the same as the roadway, to the maximum extent practicable. Perpendicular to the roadway, the slope of the bus stop boarding and alighting area shall not be steeper than 2%.

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Park Features



Where Two Deserts Meet

Two distinct desert ecosystems, the Mojave and the Colorado, come together in Joshua plants and animals make their homes in a land sculpted by strong winds and, once on history and natural geologic features add to the wonder of this quiet wilderness in ar



Implementation Strategy

Park policies and practices are specific to the park unit and provide guidance for reaching desired outcomes. Park policies are defined courses of action adopted by the park, while park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances of operations that the park employs.

Posting and Publications

01 Accessibility Flyers Posted in Common Areas

- 1) Place posters in common areas of staff and visitor buildings that provide accessibility-related information, including requirements, contacts, questions, and complaints.

immediate

02 Publications

- 1) Provide Braille publications and tactile wayfinding maps.

immediate

- 2) Add accessibility information in all publications, as they relate to services, activities, and programs.

mid-term

03 Publicly Shared Documents

- 1) Review publically shared documents. If discriminatory language is present, revise publicly shared documents to delete discriminatory language.

short-term

Staff Training and Park Protocols

04 Accessibility Awareness Training

- 1) Provide ongoing accessibility awareness training for all staff, including permanent and nonpermanent employees.

immediate

05 Accessible Facilities and Maintenance Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for maintenance staff on planning, maintaining and constructing accessible facilities, including, but not limited to, restrooms, walks and trails, door pressure requirements, assistive devices, accessible routes, and universal design principles.

immediate

06 Accessibility for Project Managers Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for project managers to address project accessibility requirements, (e.g., entering accessibility projects in Project Management Information System (PMIS), understanding universal design principles, and overseeing quality control of projects and designs).

immediate

07 Accessible Interpretive Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for the interpretation and education division.

Training may include, but is not limited to, how to evaluate programs for accessibility compliance; which websites offer more information; information about service animals; information about Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs); how and when to offer live audio description programming; accessibility specifications for interpretive tactile models and maps; what assistive technologies are available; universal design principles; visitor services and communication about accessibility. It is also important to provide regular and ongoing visitor information and interpretive staff training in use of, distribution, and procedures for wheelchairs and assistive technology—assistive listening devices, T-coil hearing loops, neck loops, and text telephone machines.

immediate

08 Communication with Law Enforcement

- 1) Provide a standard operation procedure that outlines methods for law enforcement to communicate with a person with a disability.

mid-term

09 Emergency Preparedness

- 1) Develop, distribute, and practice standard operating procedures for assisting people with disabilities in the case of an emergency.

mid-term

10**Movable Seating**

- 1) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable cubicles and conference rooms, so there is adequate clear space and accessible routes to all elements in a room or building. Post a map in an area with accessible layout and instructions for use of the space.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable seating arrangements and moving things to create an accessible route and maintain integrated accessible seating. Post a map in an area with accessible layout and instructions for use of the space.

short-term

11**Service Animals**

- 1) Provide guidance or policy regarding service animals within the park.

immediate

Audio and Visual Programs**12****Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)**

- 1) Purchase assistive listening transmitters and devices. Provide these devices at visitor centers, educational programs, and guided tours with audio components.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance for checking out and returning assistive listening devices.
- 3) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance describing protocol for pre -and post-inspection of the devices and for cleaning and maintaining all devices.
- 4) Provide signage and information where programs are offered stating device availability. Verbally inform visitors and program participants that auxiliary aids are available. Add information to all publications and communications stating that assistive listening devices are available and provide information on how they can be obtained.

long-term

13 Live Audio Description

- 1) Provide live audio descriptions on guided interpretive tours when needed.

short-term

14 Open Captioning and Audio Description

- 1) Provide open captioning on videos and indicate its availability on the park's website.
- 2) Provide audio description of all images shown on the videos.

long-term

15 T-Coil Hearing Loops or Neck Loops

- 1) Purchase T-coil hearing loops and neck loops. Inform visitors and program participants that auxiliary aids are available and provide information on check-out procedures. Post signage in appropriate locations and in all publications specifying availability of services.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedure or guidance for checking out and returning T-coil hearing loops and neck loops.
- 3) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance for pre-and post-inspection of T-coil hearing loops and neck loops and cleaning and maintenance of all devices.

long-term

16 Text Telephone (TTY) Machines

- 1) Include TTY number on publications and on the park's website with the park contact information and phone number
- 2) Provide a standard operating procedure or guidance describing use and protocol for pre- and post-inspection of TTY machines. Address cleaning and maintenance of all devices.

long-term

Visitor Information

17 Communication

- 1) Provide park e-mail address and telephone number on the park's website and in publications for questions: patty_gerhardt@nps.gov or 760-367-5502 for questions and jotr_info@nps.gov for comments.

immediate

- 2) Develop an accessibility guide for Joshua Tree National Park that outlines accessible services, activities, and programs.

short-term

18 Outreach

- 1) Conduct outreach via social media (Pinterest, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.) to describe accessible programs, services, and activities available at the park.

short-term

- 2) Conduct outreach via traditional media and other advertising methods to describe accessible programs, services, and activities available at the park.

immediate

- 3) Contact groups with disabilities to inform them about the accessible programs, services, and activities that have become available at the park as solutions are implemented.

short-term

- 4) Outreach to and engage groups with disabilities to determine appropriate ways to involve them in park accessibility improvement projects as they occur (case-by-case basis).

immediate

19 Reservations

- 1) On the park website, identify the following Federal Relay Service phone numbers: Voice (1-866-377-8642), Voice Carry Over (1-877-877-6280), Speech-to-Speech (1-877-877-8982), and Telebraille (1-866-893-8340). Note that for some of these services (Voice and Voice Carry Over), a user may also dial 711.

immediate

20 Signage

- 1) Provide signage at visitor center that states availability of accessible alternative formats.

short-term

21 Website

- 1) Provide information on the park's website that accessible programs, services, and activities are available, including, but not limited to, audio description, assistive listening devices, Braille/tactile features, accessible tours, open captioning, trails, etc.
- 2) Provide a manual switch on all websites to enable changing font size. Provide flush left and rag right alignment. Avoid hyphens. Use black or white type color. Avoid the use of red or green text. Avoid italicized and underlined text. Avoid use of all caps or italics. Provide graphics with at least 70% contrast. Provide Word documents as an alternative to PDFs.

immediate

Tours, Programs, and Special Events

22 Tours (Guided and Self-Guided), Educational Programs, and Special Events

- 1) Upon request, provide alternative formats such as trail information in large print; audio descriptions for tours; educational programs; or special events. Provide alternative formats on park website and in publications at visitor center.
- 2) Provide information on the physical conditions of the tour, education program, or special event (e.g., number of steps, slopes, other barriers that exist, etc.) on-site, in a publication and/or on a website.

mid-term

short-term

- 3) Provide designated stopping points or resting areas for the tour, education program, or special event, with 2% maximum cross and running slopes, firm and stable surfaces, and a minimum 30" by 48" clear space.

mid-term

25 Sign Language Interpreters

- 1) Develop the process for requesting sign language interpreters. Provide sign language interpreters within five days of request.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for contacting and scheduling sign language interpreters.

immediate

26 Special Events

- 1)
 - a. Provide a system for people to call in and request a sign language interpreter within five days of service.

immediate

- b. Provide assistive listening devices and a T-coil or neck loop system.
 - c. Post signage indicating devices and systems are available for special events.

long-term

- d. Provide large print of any handouts or waivers being provided.
 - 2) Provide information on how people can contact the park for accommodations for special events, and release event announcements in a variety of accessible methods (e.g., large-print flyers, electronic accessible PDFs, etc.)
 - 3) Develop and distribute a standard operating procedure on how to post accessibility information and how to request accommodations on event announcements.

short-term

Concessions and Partnerships

25 Park Partner, Lessee, and Concessionaire Services, Activities, and Programs

- 1) Prepare a standard operating procedure for lessees and park partners about providing accessible programs, services, and activities within the park unit.
- 2) Develop and distribute a standard operating procedure for presentations provided by outside groups regarding accessibility and assistive listening devices.

short-term

- 3) Architectural Barriers Act for Accessibility Standards applies to all lands funded by the federal government. Communicate with park partner and/or concessioners to ensure accessible services, activities, and programs are provided. The National Park Service will conduct an assessment, develop a transition plan, and address park partner concessioner services.

mid-term

CONCLUSION

Joshua Tree National Park is committed to providing all visitors the opportunity to connect with and learn about the park's unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Accessibility improvements identified in the Joshua Tree National Park Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan 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 park. Implementation of the plan will ensure that Joshua Tree National Park will continue to work toward accommodating all park visitors while sustaining its legacy to preserve and protect the scenic, natural, and cultural resources under its care and provide outstanding opportunities for recreation, education and scientific study to all visitors that flock to this iconic desert landscape.

The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for Joshua Tree National Park is a living document intended to be used as a guiding reference for the park as it implements accessibility upgrades and documents accessibility accomplishments. As barriers to accessibility are removed and/or improved, the changes will be updated in this plan. The park will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate and update conditions to reflect accomplishments and to 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.

The primary goal of the transition plan is to define key park experiences and document modifications needed to provide independent program participation for the widest range of disabilities possible. As the park works towards its accessibility goals and makes the implementation strategy a reality, both physical and programmatic accessibility will improve across the breadth of key park experiences at Joshua Tree National Park.

For visitors with mobility disabilities, access will be improved from the moment they enter the park. Facilities, as well as numerous programs, services, and activities the park offers will be more universally accessible. Experiences such as hiking through remote and scenic landscapes, camping, picnicking, rock climbing, and learning about the human history and environment of the park, will be enhanced.

Park programs will be created and delivered for all visitors, including visitors with mild to severe disabilities impacting their mobility, vision, hearing, and/or cognitive abilities. Ranger led walks/talks, visitor center exhibits, films, trail waysides, and all materials that interpret park resources to the public will be provided in formats that allow visitors with disabilities to participate fully. Some of those formats include, but are not limited to: large-print transcripts for printer materials, audio description for exhibits and films, assistive listening devices and sign language interpreters for ranger-led tours and programs, T-coil hearing loops for park films.

Over time, the results of this collective effort will make Joshua Tree National Park a truly welcoming and accommodating place for all visitors and will provide equal opportunity to access the many places, resources, stories, and experiences the park has to offer.

APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

As a national park, Joshua Tree National Park is 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 specifically pertain to Joshua Tree National Park.

LAWS AND STANDARDS

A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision. A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

Architectural Barriers Act of 1968

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards/guide-to-the-aba-standards>

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 requires physical access to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with federal funds. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) are the design guidelines used as the basis for enforcement of the law. The UFAS regulations were adopted in 1984. Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were revised and adopted in November 2005. Four federal agencies are responsible for the standards: the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the General Services Administration, and the US Postal Service. The United States Access Board was created to enforce the Architectural Barriers Act, which it does through the investigation of complaints. Anyone concerned about the accessibility of a facility that may have received federal funds can easily file a complaint with the United States Access Board.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

To the extent that section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 applies to departments and agencies of the federal government, the parks operated by the National Park Service are subject to the provisions of that statute. As will be discussed in the following text, both section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act require the application of stringent access standards to new construction and the alteration of existing facilities. The Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978 (PL 95-602) extends the scope of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (PL 93-112) to include Executive Branch agencies of the federal government. As amended, section 504 states:

Section 504: No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, as defined in Section 7 (6), shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance or under any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency or by the United States Postal Service. The head of each such agency shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the amendments to this section made by the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Act of 1978. Copies of any proposed regulation shall be submitted to appropriate authorizing committees of Congress, and such regulation may take effect no earlier than the thirtieth day after the date on which such regulation is so submitted to such committees.

As noted above, section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act govern new construction and alterations. However, as a civil rights law, section 504 goes further. Unlike the construction-driven ABA mandates, section 504 also requires covered entities to consider the accessibility of programs, services, and activities.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

<http://www.section508.gov/>

In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities. Inaccessible technology interferes with an ability to obtain and use information quickly and easily. Section 508 was enacted to eliminate barriers in information technology, open new opportunities for people with disabilities, and encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals. The law applies to all federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. Under section 508 (29 USC §794 d), agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to access available to others. It is recommended that you review the laws and regulations discussed in the following sections to further your understanding about section 508 and how you can support implementation.

Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>

Achieving accessibility in outdoor environments has long been a source of inquiry because of challenges and constraints posed by terrain, the degree of development, construction practices and materials, and other factors. The new provisions address access to trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes, and other components of outdoor developed areas on federal sites when newly built or altered. They also provide exceptions for situations where terrain and other factors make compliance impracticable. In 2013, this final rule amended the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines by adding scoping and technical requirements for camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing

areas, trails, and beach access routes constructed or altered by or on behalf of federal agencies. The final rule ensures that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The final rule applies to the following federal agencies and their components that administer outdoor areas developed for recreational purposes: Department of Agriculture (Forest Service); Department of Defense (Army Corps of Engineers); and Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service). The final rule also applies to nonfederal entities that construct or alter recreation facilities on federal land on behalf of the federal agencies pursuant to a concession contract, partnership agreement, or similar arrangement.

Accessibility Standards for Shared Use Paths

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/shared-use-paths>

Shared use paths provide a means of off-road transportation and recreation for various users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, and others, including people with disabilities. In its rulemaking on public rights-of-way and on trails and other outdoor developed areas, comments from the public urged the board to address access to shared use paths because they are distinct from sidewalks and trails. Shared-use paths, unlike most sidewalks, are physically separated from streets by an open space or barrier. They also differ from trails because they are designed not just for recreation purposes but for transportation as well.

In response, the board is supplementing its rulemaking on public rights-of-way to also cover shared-use paths. The proposed rights-of-way guidelines, which address access to sidewalks, streets, and other pedestrian facilities, provide requirements for pedestrian access routes, including specifications for route width, grade, cross slope, surfaces, and other features. The board proposes to apply these and other relevant requirements to shared-use paths as well. This supplementary rulemaking also would add provisions tailored to shared-use paths into the rights-of-way guidelines.

Draft Accessibility Standards for Public Rights-of-Way

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way>

Sidewalks, street crossings, and other elements in the public right-of-way can pose challenges to accessibility. The United States Access Board's ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines focus mainly on facilities on sites. While they address certain features common to public sidewalks, such as curb ramps, further guidance is necessary to address conditions and constraints unique to public rights-of-way.

The board is developing new guidelines for public rights-of-way that will address various issues, including access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain. The new guidelines will cover pedestrian access to sidewalks

and streets, including crosswalks, curb ramps, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other components of public rights-of-way. The board's aim in developing these guidelines is to ensure that access for persons with disabilities is provided wherever a pedestrian way is newly built or altered, and that the same degree of convenience, connection, and safety afforded the public generally is available to pedestrians with disabilities. Once these guidelines are adopted by the Department of Justice, they will become enforceable standards under ADA Title II.

Effective Communication

<http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>

People who have vision, hearing, or speech disabilities ("communication disabilities") use different ways to communicate. For example, people who are blind may give and receive information audibly rather than in writing and people who are deaf may give and receive information through writing or sign language rather than through speech. The ADA requires that Title II entities (state and local governments) and Title III entities (businesses and nonprofit organizations that serve the public) communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities. The goal is to ensure that communication with people with disabilities is equally effective as communication with people without disabilities.

- The purpose of the effective communication rules is to ensure that the person with a vision, hearing, or speech disability can communicate with, receive information from, and convey information to, the covered entity.
- Covered entities must provide auxiliary aids and services when needed to communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities.
- The key to communicating effectively is to consider the nature, length, complexity, and context of the communication and the person's normal method(s) of communication.

The rules apply to communicating with the person who is receiving the covered entity's goods or services, as well as with that person's parent, spouse, or companion in appropriate circumstances.

Reasonable Accommodations

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/>

Federal agencies are required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified employees with disabilities. The federal government may provide reasonable accommodation based on appropriate requests (unless so doing will result in undue hardship to the agencies). For more information, see the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's [Enforcement Guidance: Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship under the Americans with Disabilities Act \(external link\)](#).

Reasonable accommodations can apply to the duties of the job and/or where and how job tasks are performed. The accommodation should make it easier for the employee to successfully perform the duties of the position. Examples of reasonable accommodations include providing interpreters, readers, or other personal assistance; modifying job duties; restructuring work sites; providing flexible work schedules or work sites (i.e., telework); and providing accessible technology or other workplace adaptive equipment. [Telework \(external link\)](#) provides employees additional flexibility by allowing them to work at a geographically convenient alternative worksite, such as home or a telecenter, on an average of at least one day per week.

Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. To request reasonable accommodations:

- Look at the vacancy announcement.
- Work directly with person arranging the interviews.
- Contact the agency [Selective Placement Program Coordinator](#).
- Contact the hiring manager and engage in an interactive process to clarify what the person needs and identify reasonable accommodations.
- Make an oral or written request; no special language is needed.

Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices

<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAREgs2010.htm>

The definition and regulation to permit the use of mobility devices has been amended. The rule adopts a two-tiered approach to mobility devices, drawing distinctions between wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices such as the Segway Human Transporter. Wheelchairs (and other devices designed for use by people with mobility impairments) must be permitted in all areas open to pedestrian use. Other power-driven mobility devices must be permitted for use unless the covered entity can demonstrate that such use would fundamentally alter its programs, services, or activities, create a direct threat, or create a safety hazard. The rule also lists factors to consider in making this determination.

Service Animals

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/service-animals.htm>

[The following is excerpted from the Department of Justice and Americans with Disabilities Act Revised Regulations \(effective 3/15/2011\).](#)

34.104 Definitions: Service animal means any dog [or miniature horse as outlined in the following text] that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability.

Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

- a. General. Generally, a public entity shall modify its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability.
- b. Exceptions. A public entity may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if-
 - (1) The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or
 - (2) The animal is not housebroken.
- c. If an animal is properly excluded. If a public entity properly excludes a service animal under § 35.136(b), it shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises.
- d. Animal under handler's control. A service animal shall be under the control of its handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means).
- e. Care or supervision. A public entity is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.
- f. Inquiries. A public entity shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, but may make two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal. A public entity may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. A public entity shall not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. Generally, a public entity may not make these inquiries about a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a

person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability).

- g. Access to areas of a public entity. Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of a public entity's facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.
- h. Surcharges. A public entity shall not ask or require an individual with a disability to pay a surcharge, even if people accompanied by pets are required to pay fees, or to comply with other requirements generally not applicable to people without pets. If a public entity normally charges individuals for the damage they cause, an individual with a disability may be charged for damage caused by his or her service animal.
- i. Miniature horses.
 - (1) Reasonable modifications. A public entity shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
 - (2) Assessment factors. In determining whether reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures can be made to allow a miniature horse into a specific facility, a public entity shall consider-
 - i. The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
 - ii. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
 - iii. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
 - iv. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

(C) Other requirements. Paragraphs 35.136 (c) through (h) of this section, which apply to service animals, shall also apply to miniature horses.

Section 17.549 Program Accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.549>

Except as otherwise provided in §17.550, no qualified handicapped person shall, because the agency's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by handicapped persons, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the agency.

The reference to §17.550 in the below quotes is intended to address exclusions available to covered entities in connection with existing facilities.

Section 17.550 Program Accessibility: Existing Facilities

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

(a) General. The agency shall operate each program or activity so that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This paragraph does not:

- (1) Necessarily require the agency to make each of its existing facilities or every part of a facility accessible to and usable by people with disabilities;
- (2) In the case of historic preservation programs, require the agency to take any action that would result in a substantial impairment of significant historic features of an historic property; or
- (3) Require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with §17.550(a) would result in such an alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the agency head or his or her designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that handicapped persons receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

(b) Methods.

- (1) **General.** The agency may comply with the requirements of this section through such means as redesign of equipment, reassignment of services to accessible locations, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, home visits, delivery of services at alternate accessible sites, alteration of existing facilities and construction of new facilities, use of accessible rolling stock, or any other methods that result in making its programs or activities readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. The agency is not required to make structural changes in existing facilities where other methods are effective in achieving compliance with this section. The agency, in making alterations to existing buildings, shall meet accessibility requirements to the extent compelled by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 USC 4151–4157) and any regulations implementing it. In choosing among available methods for meeting the requirements of this section, the agency shall

give priority to those methods that offer programs and activities to qualified handicapped persons in the most integrated setting appropriate.

- (2) **Historic preservation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section in historic preservation programs, the agency shall give priority to methods that provide physical access to handicapped persons. In cases where a physical alteration to an historic property is not required because of paragraph (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this section, alternative, methods of achieving program accessibility include:
- (i) Using audio-visual materials and devices to depict those portions of an historic property that cannot otherwise be made accessible;
 - (ii) Assigning persons to guide people with disabilities into or through portions of historic properties that cannot otherwise be made accessible; or
 - (iii) Adopting other innovative methods.
- (3) **Recreation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) in recreation programs, the agency shall provide that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. When it is not reasonable to alter natural and physical features, accessibility may be achieved by alternative methods as noted in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

Section 17.551 Program Accessibility: New Construction and Alterations

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.551>

Each building or part of a building that is constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of the agency shall be designed, constructed, or altered so as to be readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. The definitions, requirements, and standards of the Architectural Barriers Act (42 USC 4151–4157) as established in 41 CFR 101 – 19.600 to 101 – 19.607 apply to buildings covered by this section.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR’S ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

Director’s Order 16A

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder16a.html>

Director’s Order 16A establishes the framework for meeting reasonable accommodation requirements in all areas of employment, including: application, hiring, retention, promotion, recognition, and special hiring authority. Within this framework, NPS Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Program officials will take the lead in providing specific

guidance and services to applicants, employees, and supervisors and other managers with respect to the provision of reasonable accommodation.

Director's Order 42

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder42.html>

Director's Order 42 addresses accessibility for visitors with disabilities in National Park Service programs and services. It is the goal of the National Park Service to ensure that all people, including persons with disabilities, have the highest level of access that is reasonable to NPS programs, facilities, and services. The order gives detailed guidance based on the minimum requirements set forth in laws, rules, and regulations with the goal to provide the highest level of access that is reasonable, exceeding the minimum level of access required by law. The order sets forth six implementation strategies:

1. to increase employee awareness and technical understanding of accessibility requirements
2. to ensure all new and renovated buildings and facilities, and all new services and programs (including those offered by concessioners and interpreters) will be "universally designed" and implemented in conformance with applicable regulations and standards
3. to ensure existing programs, facilities and services will be evaluated to determine the degree to which they are currently accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities
4. to ensure that barriers that limit access be identified and incorporated into the NPS Assets Management Program
5. to develop action plans identifying how identified barriers will be removed (where feasible)
6. to ensure action will be taken on a day-to-day basis to eliminate identified barriers, using existing operational funds or other funding sources or partnerships

National Park Service Management Policies: Section 1.9.3 – Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html>

All practicable efforts will be made to make NPS facilities, programs, services, employment, and meaningful work opportunities accessible and usable by all people, including those with disabilities. This policy reflects the commitment to provide access to the widest cross section of the public and ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Specific guidance for implementing these laws is found in the Secretary of the Interior's regulations regarding enforcement and nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in Department of the Interior programs (43 CFR par 17, subpart E), and the General Service Administration's regulations adopting accessibility standards for the Architectural Barriers Act (41 CFR part 102-76, subpart C).

A primary principle of accessibility is that, to the highest degree practicable, people with disabilities should be able to participate in the same programs, activities, and employment opportunities available to everyone else. In choosing among methods of providing accessibility, higher priority will be given to methods that offer programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate. Special, separate, or alternative facilities, programs, or services will be provided only when existing ones cannot reasonably be made accessible. The determination of what is practicable will be made only after careful consultations with persons with disabilities or their representatives. Any decisions that would result in less than equal opportunity is subject to the filing of an official disability right complaint under the departmental regulations cited above.

GUIDELINES

A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media

<http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/>

The "Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media" is for media specialists, superintendents, and other NPS employees and contractors who develop and approve interpretive media. Publications, exhibits, audiovisual programs and tours, wayside exhibits, signage, and web-based media provide park visitors with information and context so that their experience of visiting national parks can be both safe and meaningful. Park visitors who have physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities have legally established civil rights to receive the same information and context that NPS interpretive media products have always provided to their fellow citizens.

APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accessibility assessment: A process in which physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility are identified at a park unit.

Accessibility assessment team: This group is a subgroup of the Interdisciplinary Design Team (see definition below) and includes an accessibility specialist and/or technician, coordinators, a regional representative, the primary facilitator for the process, architect, engineer and/or landscape architect, and typically the chiefs of interpretation, resources management, and facilities management.

Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan: A tool that establishes a methodical process for identifying and improving parkwide access and proposes strategies for implementing the plan over time, in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS): Standards issued under the Architectural Barriers Act apply to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with certain federal funds. Passed in 1968, the Architectural Barriers Act is one of the first laws to address access to the built environment. The law applies to federal buildings, including post offices, social security offices, federal courthouses and prisons, and national parks.

Barrier: Architectural and programmatic obstacles to accessibility that make it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for people with disabilities to maneuver, understand, or experience.

Best practice: A method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark for meeting accessibility requirements.

Consultation: A formal or informal process for discussing an action or process for implementing a solution, such as section 106 (cultural resource compliance), or design for an Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

Facility Management Software System (FMSS) work order: The process for documenting work needs and collecting information to aid the work scheduling and assignment process within the Facility Management Software System. Information collected should include labor, equipment and material costs, hours, types, and quantities.

Guideline: A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

Interdisciplinary design team: This team is composed of all the people involved in the workshop at the park unit, potentially including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource (natural and cultural), visitor safety, maintenance and accessibility specialists.

Key park experience: For the purpose of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, key park experiences are those experiences that are iconic and essential for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of a given park unit. They are those experiences that are “musts” for all park visitors. Key park experiences can be identified through a consideration of park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications.

Law: A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements: NEPA defines a process that federal agencies must follow when proposing to take actions that have environmental impacts. NEPA requires federal agencies to fully consider the impacts of proposals that would affect the human environment prior to deciding to take an action. NEPA also requires federal agencies to involve the interested and affected public in the decision-making process.

Park area: A park area is the geographic location that is home to a single or multiple key park experience(s).

Park Asset Management Plan-Optimizer Banding (PAMP-OB): Provides a 5-year asset management strategy for park units, allowing for annual updates that coincide with the budget and planning processes already occurring in park units. As this approach includes life cycle total cost of ownership, analysis, processing, and calculations, it also helps park units and the service as a whole to manage the gap between what should be spent on facilities and what is actually being spent.

Park policy: A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

Park practice: Those habitual and/or customary performances or operations for reaching a desired outcome that the park employs.

People-first language: A type of disability etiquette that aims to avoid perceived and subconscious dehumanization when discussing people with disabilities. It emphasizes the person rather than the disability, noting that the disability is not the primary defining characteristic of the individual but one of several aspects of the whole person.

Project Management Information System (PMIS) Facility: A separate and individual building, structure, or other constructed real property improvement.

Project Management Information System (PMIS) Nonfacility: A project that includes anything not covered by the definition for PMIS facility

Project Management Information System (PMIS) # (number): A unique Project ID Number that is automatically generated when adding a new project into the Project Management Information System

Project planning team: This group is a subgroup of the interdisciplinary design team and includes DSC planners and PWR staff. This team collects baseline data, facilitates calls, develops the participant guide, plans for and facilitates the workshop, and produces the draft and final documents.

Readily achievable: Easily accomplished and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense.

Recommended solution: The action to eliminate the identified barrier.

Responsible person: The person/position responsible for seeing that the elimination of a barrier is completed.

Service, activity, and program: A service, activity, or program that is undertaken by a department and affords benefits, information, opportunities, and activities to one or more members of the public.

Standard: A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

Time frame: Time frames for implementation of a recommended solution are primarily based on park's ability of the park to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects. They describe when staff will eliminate the barrier. Recommended solutions are divided into four time frames including: immediate, short-term, mid-term, and long-term.

APPENDIX C: CONTRIBUTORS

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

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Laura Watt, Contract Editor

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APPENDIX D: PARK AREAS NOT ASSESSED

The following park areas are those not assessed for this Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. The selection process determined that key park experiences provided in these park areas were available in an equivalent way within the areas that were assessed. If any of the park areas not assessed are improved by new construction or alterations in the future, the area will be assessed and improved to comply with the current Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards.

Rationales are provided below for park areas not assessed for this plan:

Park Area	Rationale
Bajada Nature Trail	The Bajada Nature Trail is connected to four key park experiences—Joshua Tree landscape; diversity of the Mojave and Colorado Desert landscape; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; and scenic landscapes. The Bajada Nature Trail offers a low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has low visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Cap Rock.
Cottonwood Campground	The Cottonwood Campground is connected to five key park experiences—Joshua Tree landscape; prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; scenic landscapes; and opportunities for research and education. The Cottonwood Campground offers a moderate number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has moderate visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at Black Rock Campground.
Cottonwood Visitor Center	The Cottonwood Visitor Center is connected to four key park experiences—Joshua Tree landscape; prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources; scenic landscapes; remote and wilderness conditions; and opportunities for research and education. The Cottonwood Visitor Center offers a moderate number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has high visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Oasis Visitor Center.
Covington Flat	Covington Flat is connected to five key park experiences—diversity of the Mojave and Colorado Desert landscape; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; scenic landscapes; remote and wilderness conditions; and opportunities for research and education. Covington Flat offers a low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has low visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Boy Scout Trail.
Geology Tour Road	The Geology Tour Road is connected to six key park experiences—Joshua Tree landscape; prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources; diversity of the Mojave and Colorado Desert landscape; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; scenic landscapes; and remote and wilderness conditions. The Geology Tour Road offers a low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has low visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Boy Scout Trail.
Hidden Valley Campground	The Hidden Valley Campground is connected to four key park experiences—prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; scenic landscapes; and opportunities for research and education. The Hidden Valley Campground offers a fairly low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has high visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Ryan Campground.
Joshua Tree Visitor Center	The Joshua Tree Visitor Center is connected to three key park experiences—Joshua Tree landscape; prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources; and opportunities for research and education. The Joshua Tree Visitor Center offers

Park Area	Rationale
	a high number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has high visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Oasis Visitor Center.
Keys Ranch	Keys Ranch is connected to five key park experiences—Joshua Tree landscape; prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources; diversity of the Mojave and Colorado Desert landscape; outdoor; scenic landscapes; and opportunities for research and education. Keys Ranch offers a fairly low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has low visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Ryan Ranch.
Lost Horse Mine	The Lost Horse Mine is connected to six key park experiences—Joshua Tree landscape; prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources; diversity of the Mojave and Colorado Desert landscape; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; scenic landscapes; and remote and wilderness conditions. The Lost Horse Mine offers a very low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has moderate visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Ryan Ranch.
Lost Palms Oasis	Lost Palms Oasis is connected to six key park experiences—prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources; diversity of the Mojave and Colorado Desert landscape; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; scenic landscapes; remote and wilderness conditions; and opportunities for research and education. Lost Palms Oasis offers a very low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has moderate visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Oasis of Mara trail at the Oasis Visitor Center.
North Entrance Exhibit Parking	The North Entrance Exhibit Parking area is connected to four key park experiences—prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; scenic landscapes; and remote and wilderness conditions. The North Entrance Exhibit Parking area offers a very low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has very low visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Black Rock Campground and Nature Center.
North Entrance Station	The North Entrance Station is connected to one key park experiences—Joshua Tree landscape; prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources; diversity of the Mojave and Colorado Desert landscape; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; scenic landscapes; remote and wilderness conditions; and opportunities for research and education. The North Entrance Station offers a very low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has moderate visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Indian Cove Ranger Station.
Ryan Mountain	Ryan Mountain is connected to five key park experiences—diversity of the Mojave and Colorado Desert landscape; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; scenic landscapes; remote and wilderness conditions; and opportunities for research and education. Ryan Mountain offers a low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has high visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Barker Dam Trail and trailhead.
Sheep Pass Group Campground	The Sheep Pass Group Campground is connected to three key park experiences—diversity of the Mojave and Colorado Desert landscape; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; and scenic landscapes. The Sheep Pass Group Campground offers a low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has moderate visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Indian Cove Campground.
West Entrance Station	The West Entrance Station is connected to two key park experiences—scenic landscapes, and opportunities for research and education. The West Entrance Station offers a low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has high visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Black Rock Nature Center.

Park Area	Rationale
White Tank Campground	The White Tank Campground is connected to four key park experiences—Joshua Tree landscape; prehistoric, historic, and contemporary resources; outdoor, extensive recreational opportunities; and scenic landscapes. The White Tank Campground offers a low number, type, and uniqueness of services, activities, and programs and has high visitation. A similar key park experience is provided at the Jumbo Rocks Campground.

APPENDIX E: ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PARK

Identification no. _____

Record this identification number in the implementation table where this action is identified. Use this template to track and document accessibility actions and accomplishments throughout the park.

Action Taken by Joshua Tree National Park

Location: [Park Area]

Barrier:

Action taken:

Date work was completed:

PMIS Number(s) and Title(s):

Cost:

Photograph(s), sketches, or notes documenting completed work:

Submitted by:

Date:

APPENDIX F: GUIDANCE FOR PREPARING PMIS PACKAGES FOR ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Project description: Clearly identify what improvements will be addressed as part of the package. Also identify the park location and facility for planned work. Reference work orders for all applicable types of planned work, e.g., deteriorated conditions to be improved (deferred maintenance), health and safety improvements, and code compliance issues such as accessibility improvements. Provide measurements of areas to be improved, e.g., square footage, lineal footage, etc.

Project justification: Reference the recently completed “Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan” for your park and the implementation strategy dates. Identify the number of visitors affected and other beneficial aspects of the project. You can cite legal and management policies as noted below:

- The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968 requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. In addition, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires covered entities to consider the accessibility of programs, services, and activities. In 2006, the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities. Subsequently in 2011, standards for Recreational Facilities were added to ABAAS as Chapter 10.
- The National Park Service recommitted to making our parks and programs truly accessible to all in the “*A Call to Action*”. The recently released “*ALL IN! Accessibility in the National Park Service 2015-2020*” included three goals for improved visitor access. This project addresses: Goal 1: Create a welcoming environment by increasing the ability of the National Park Service to serve visitors and staff with disabilities; Goal 2: Ensure that new facilities and programs are inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities; and Goal 3: Upgrade existing facilities, programs, and services to be accessible to people with disabilities.

Potential eligible fund sources: Accessibility projects are potentially eligible for a number of NPS fund sources and can be competitive in regard to the capital investment strategy. The following is a list of possible fund sources:

1. Repair/rehabilitation program—identify all work orders that pertain for deferred maintenance, code compliance, health and safety, etc.
2. Flex park base—accessibility is a NPS emphasis area for years 2015-2020.
3. Recreation fee 80% park—excellent fund source for accessibility as the project provides for visitor improvements. This should be a top choice for Fee80 parks.
4. Recreation fee 20% park—excellent fund source for accessibility as the project provides for visitor improvements.

5. Concession/permitted facilities—consider these fund sources when the facility is included in a Concession contract or permit.
6. Regular cyclic maintenance—excellent fund source for replacement of picnic tables, grills, trash containers, etc.
7. Exhibit cyclic maintenance—excellent fund source for replacing non-compliant waysides, exhibits, etc.
8. FLHP—include accessibility improvements with parking lot, parking spaces, accessible routes, curb cuts, sidewalks, signage, etc. as part of road improvement projects where appropriate.
9. Line item construction (LIC) —if you have a project in the LIC program, ensure inclusion of all appropriate accessibility improvements.

PMIS packages: Conduct a search in PMIS for projects previously funded for accessibility.

APPENDIX G: TRAIL SUMMARY SHEETS

[NAME OF TRAIL]

Instructions: Remove this appendix if trails are not pertinent to the park.

Trail Access Information Summary

Park Name	[Park]	
Trail Name	[Name of trail]	
Segment	[Segment information]	
Type	—	—
Length	[Length information]	—
Elevation Gain	[Elevation gain] file]	—
Elevation Loss	[Elevation loss information]	—
Trail Uses Allowed	—	—
—	—	—
—	—	—
Trail Uses NOT Allowed	—	—
—	—	—
—	—	—
Typical Grade	[%]	Max = [X%]
Intermediate		—
Maximum		—
—	Standard Ramp Grade is [X%]	—
Typical Cross Slope	[%]	Max = [X%]

Trail Access Information Summary

Park Name	[Park]		
Trail Name	[Name of trail]		
Segment	[Segment information]		
Type	—	—	
	Intermediate	—	
	Maximum	—	
Typical Tread Width	[X in (X cm)]	Min = [X in (X cm)]	
	Intermediate	—	
	Minimum	—	
Surface Type	[Surface Type]	—	
Surface Category	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]	
—	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]	
—	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]	—	
Firmness	Typical: X	Minimum: X	
Stability	Typical: X	Minimum: X	
Obstructions:	—	—	
Type:	Size (Height):	Remaining Tread:	Location:
X	X in (X cm)	X in (X cm)	X ft (X m)
X	X in (X cm)	X in (X cm)	X ft (X m)
X	X in (X cm)	X in (X cm)	X ft (X m)
Warning: [Add notes from rtf file]			
[Add notes from rtf file]			

Trail Access Information Summary

Park Name	[Park]
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Trail Name	[Name of trail]
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Segment	[Segment information]
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Type	—	—
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Signage created by Beneficial Designs Inc. from data collected by a Certified Trail Assessment Coordinator using the High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP).

APPENDIX H: TRAIL ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

References: Architectural Barrier Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS)

- Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements: Section F247 Trails, Section F216.13 Trailhead Signs
- Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities, Section 1017 Trails, Section 1019 Condition for Exceptions

Background standards: The ABAAS trail accessibility requirements are included in “Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements” and “Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities.” Refer to ABAAS for the complete standards prior to planning any trail work or conducting assessments; the following bullets highlight some pertinent sections of the standards in regard to conducting assessments:

- F216.13 Trailhead Signs. Where new trail information signs are provided at trailheads on newly constructed or altered trails designed for use by hikers or pedestrians, the signs shall comply with 1017.10.
- F247.1 General. Where a trail is designed for use by hikers or pedestrians and directly connects to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the requirements in 1017, the trail shall comply with 1017. A trail system may include a series of connecting trails. Only trails that directly connect to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the requirements in 1017 are required to comply with 1017.
- F247.1 Advisory Trails. Trails that have a designed use for hikers or pedestrians are required to comply with 1017. Trails that have a designed use for other than hikers or pedestrians are not required to comply with 1017.
- F247.2 Existing Trails. Where the original design, function, or purpose of an existing trail is changed and the altered portion of the trail directly connects to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the requirements in 1017, the altered portion of the trail shall comply with 1017.
- F247.4 Advisory Trail Facilities. Facilities are required to comply with F247.4 regardless of whether the trail complies with 1017. (Note: this includes camping facilities, picnic facilities, and viewing areas that must comply with appropriate standards.)
- F247.5 Outdoor Constructed Features. Where outdoor constructed features are provided on trails, other than within facilities specified in F247.4, at least 20 percent, but not less than one, of each type of outdoor constructed feature at each location shall comply with 1011.
- 1017.1 General. Trails shall comply with 1017.
 - Exception 1. When an entity determines that a condition in 1019 (see below) does not permit full compliance with a specific provision in 1017 on

a portion of a trail, the portion of the trail shall comply with the provision to the extent practicable.

- Exception 2. After applying Exception 1, when an entity determines that it is impracticable for the entire trail to comply with 1017, the trail shall not be required to comply with 1017.
- 1017.1 Advisory General Exception 2. An entity must apply Exception 1 before using Exception 2. The entity should consider the portions of the trail that can and cannot fully comply with the specific provisions in 1017 and the extent of compliance where full compliance cannot be achieved when determining whether it would be impracticable for the entire trail to comply with 1017. The determination is made on a case-by-case basis. Federal agencies must document the basis for their determination when using Exceptions 1 or 2, and must notify the Access Board when using Exception 2.
- 1019.1 General (Conditions for Exceptions). Exceptions to specific provisions in 1017 shall be permitted when an entity determines that any of the following conditions does not permit full compliance with the provision:
 - 1) Compliance is not practicable due to terrain.
 - 2) Compliance cannot be accomplished with the prevailing construction practices.
 - 3) Compliance would fundamentally alter the function or purpose of the facility or the setting.
 - 4) Compliance is limited or precluded by any of the following laws, or by decisions or opinions issued or agreements executed pursuant to any of the following laws:
 - Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.);
 - National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.);
 - National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 470 et seq.);
 - Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1131 et seq.); or
 - Other federal, state, or local law the purpose of which is to preserve threatened or endangered species; the environment; or archaeological, cultural, historical, or other significant natural features.
- 1019.1 Clarification. Entities should consider all design options before using the exceptions. On trails, the exceptions apply only on the portion of the route where the condition applies. The trail is required to fully comply with the provisions in 1017, as applicable, at all other portions of the route where the conditions do not apply. There are additional exceptions that apply to an entire trail in 1017.1.

Identifying trails for assessments: Parks vary considerably in what key experiences are provided to visitors. A small historical park may have minimal or no trails but will have various walks and outdoor recreation access routes providing universal access. Some

parks may have a few identified trails that they provide for universal access. While at other parks, the primary key experience for visitors may be the recreational trail system.

There are various sources of information to inform a decision on which trails to assess as part of the SETP process. The following sources can be researched and actions taken when identifying what trails are appropriate for assessment:

Sources:

- Trails that the park has identified in visitor information as being wheelchair accessible to visitors with disabilities.
- There are five classifications of trails defined within FMSS including:
 - Class 1 primitive/undeveloped
 - Class 2 simple/minor development
 - Class 3 developed/improved
 - Class 4 highly developed
 - Class 5 fully developed.

Note: Class 4 and class 5 trails by definition have potential for universal access.

- FMSS trail listings in which parks have identified those trails that are ABA compliant and/or ABA designated trails. In December 2015, there were 98 trails in 32 parks identified in the region meeting those requirements.

Actions:

- Select a representative number of trails for assessment to provide visitors the maximum access to key park experiences. Eliminate those trails that are not practical because of terrain, cannot be altered to meet standards with prevailing construction practices, or exempt as a result of environmental or historical laws. For each trail, document within the park evaluation the reasons for elimination.
- Outdoor recreation facilities are often targeted in ABAAS to provide for access to at least 20% of the facilities but not less than one of each type of facility at each location. The 20% figure could be used as a general guide in identifying the number of trails to be assessed at various locations.
- Evaluate what is a reasonable expectation for making trail improvements in the 10-year time-frame of the transition plan. Possibly four to six trail assessments would be the maximum scheduling capacity for trail improvements at a park within 10 years. Identify planned trail assessments and improvements for each time frame category.

Requirements for trail assessments: ABAAS Section 1017 provides the access standards for constructing and altering trails. These standards shall also be used for the assessment process. It is critical to note that although a trail may not meet Section 1017 accessibility standards, all constructed facilities on the trail or at the destination must

comply with ABAAS standards, i.e., camping, picnicking, view areas, restrooms and other constructed facilities. Many visitors with disabilities can navigate non-standard trails into the backcountry but upon arrival may be unable to use constructed facilities with physical barriers. The only exemption for backcountry facilities is the primitive outhouse with riser on a hole dug into the ground.

Trailhead signs: Trail information signs at trailheads shall include the following:

1. Length of the trail or trail segment
2. Surface type
3. Typical and minimum tread width
4. Typical and maximum running slope
5. Typical and maximum cross slope

Conducting trail assessments: The High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP) tool provides the most effective means of conducting trail assessments. This tool is a wheeled carriage (baby jogger size) with a mounted computer that stores photos, barrier observations, and field data such as length, running slope, and cross-slope measurements at designated intervals. A Rotational Penetrometer (RP) should be used in tandem with the HETAP tool to measure the firmness and stability of the trail surface. The data collected can be used for evaluating the trail in meeting ABAAS Section 1017 requirements, including trail length, width, surface, running slope, cross slope, and tread obstacles. The park can generate a report from the data to estimate and plan trail improvements. In addition, the data can be used in providing information for trailhead signage. The final HETAP trail data is presented in excel spreadsheets and should be left with the park for future planning purposes. If HETAP equipment is not available, information can be collected by a measuring wheel, tape measure, and smart level. (Note: The HETAP equipment is manufactured by Beneficial Design, Inc. and is used by several parks. Other manufacturers may carry this equipment.

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN [DATE]

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort between Joshua Tree National Park, Pacific West Regional staff, and the Denver Service Center and is recommended for approval by the superintendent.

Approved

Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park

Date



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.

JOTR [TIC number ###/#####]

[Date]

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