

Draft
**Programmatic Accessibility Standards
For National Park Service Interpretive Media**

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Harpers Ferry Center Accessibility Task Force (pre-May 2006)
HFC Accessibility Committee

Revised July 2006

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Statement of Purpose

This document publishes standards for National Park Service employees to use as they develop interpretive media. Interpretive media like publications, exhibits, and audiovisuals 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 and mental disabilities have a legally established civil right to receive the same information and context that NPS interpretive media products have always provided to their fellow citizens — but delivered in ways that are accessible to their abilities.

Whenever NPS decision makers, writers, designers, media producers, contractors, interpreters, rangers, or superintendents knowingly ignore or minimize the mandate to communicate with people with disabilities, they commit an act of discrimination.

How the National Park Service can provide programmatic access in its interpretive efforts to communicate with people with disabilities is a challenging, complex, and confusing topic. We all need guidance about how to apply standards and best practices servicewide. That is the key function of this document.

These National Park Service Standards define what design and content solutions represent accepted full programmatic access in **most** interpretive media situations. The Standards acknowledge that NPS employees who create and review interpretive media must remain flexible and versatile because park resources and circumstances are so diverse. No one document can prescribe solutions for every situation that arises in the National Park system.

This document also briefly discusses key areas of concern, with practical information organized by media product type. Although we divide the following standards by product type to make it easier to find guidance, NPS employees recognize that no interpretive media product does its work alone. Publications, exhibits, and audiovisuals all have inherent strengths and weaknesses. Park visitors sample and benefit from many interpretive media, not just one product type. Success in improving interpretive programmatic accessibility in national parks occurs when media products are planned to work as a team. Where one product may be weak, another product can be planned to provide programmatic access to that missing interpretive content.

The goal is to fully comply with stated NPS policy:

"... provide the highest level of accessibility possible and feasible for persons with visual, hearing, mobility, and mental impairments, consistent with the obligation to conserve park resources and preserve the quality of the park experience for everyone."

Laws that govern Interpretive Media

Harpers Ferry Center is committed to providing interpretive media that are accessible to all potential users. Media shall be planned, designed, fabricated, and installed in a manner consistent with the following goals. Current standards and specifications used to ensure that these goals are met include:

- National Park Service (NPS) Director's Order #42
www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder42.html
- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (see more information below)
www.section508.gov/
- Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (same as Achitecural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards – ABAAS); federal facilities must use Chapters F1 and F2/Chapters 3-10
www.access-board.gov/ada-aba/index.htm

More information on Section 508 Requirement

The requirement for both captioning and audio description is "specifically mandated" in the U.S. Access Boards standards for Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. The full version of those standards can be found at the following location:

The specific section that relates to video and multimedia products is copied below:

Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards

ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

[Published in the *Federal Register* on December 21, 2000]

§ 1194.24 Video and multimedia products.

(a) All analog television displays 13 inches and larger, and computer equipment that includes analog television receiver or display circuitry, shall be equipped with caption decoder circuitry which appropriately receives, decodes, and displays closed captions from broadcast, cable, videotape, and DVD signals. As soon as practicable, but not later than July 1, 2002, widescreen digital television (DTV) displays measuring at least 7.8 inches vertically, DTV sets with conventional displays measuring at least 13 inches vertically, and stand-alone DTV tuners, whether or not they are marketed with display screens, and computer equipment that includes DTV receiver or display circuitry, shall be equipped with caption decoder circuitry which appropriately receives, decodes, and displays closed captions from broadcast, cable, videotape, and DVD signals.

(b) Television tuners, including tuner cards for use in computers, shall be equipped with secondary audio program playback circuitry.

(c) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission, regardless of format, that contain speech or other audio information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be open or closed captioned.

(d) All training and informational video and multimedia productions which support the agency's mission,

regardless of format, that contain visual information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be audio described.

(e) Display or presentation of alternate text presentation or audio descriptions shall be user-selectable unless permanent.

These section 508 standards have been official since December of 2000.

Accountability

Park Superintendents: “...Superintendents ensure all of their programs, facilities, and services are accessible, in conformance with applicable laws, regulations, standards and policies. Each superintendent ensures all new programs, facilities and services are designed, constructed and delivered in compliance with accessibility requirements...”

Director’s Order #42

Harpers Ferry Center:

“The HFC is responsible for the overall management and direction of interpretive media and technology throughout the NPS. The HFC works to ensure that the highest level of accessibility that is reasonable is incorporated into all aspects of interpretive media, planning, design and construction. This includes ensuring that all new interpretive media are provided in such a way as to be accessible to and usable by all persons with a disability. It also means all existing practices and procedures are evaluated to determine the degree to which they are currently accessible to all visitors, and modifications are made to assure conformance with applicable laws and regulations.”

Director’s Order #42

Where to find Current Best Practices

Even though most media accessibility requirements are not spelled out like building accessibility codes, you are responsible to use the best practices at the time. These standards are not definitive and there are other sources of guidelines available:

- Principles of Universal Design - www.nps.gov/hfc/univ-design.htm
- Smithsonian guidelines - <http://www.si.edu/opa/accessibility/exdesign/start.htm>
- National Center on Accessibility - <http://www.indiana.edu/~nca/>
- NPS Accessibility: NPS.gov and InsideNPS
- Department of Interior
- DisabilityInfo.gov
- SEGD (Society for Environmental Graphic Design)

Note: previous to the May 2006 edition of these guidelines, this document was titled “Special Populations: Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media.”

Audiovisual Programs

Audiovisual programs include video programs, and audio and interactive programs (a.k.a. multimedia). (Section 508 requires both captioning and audio description of audiovisual programs. The ABAAS requires assistive listening.) As a matter of policy, audiovisual programs produced by the Harpers Ferry Center, including exhibit components, will include captioning, audio description, and assistive listening. The approach used will vary according to the conditions of the installation area and the media format used, and will be selected in consultation with the parks and regions.

Captioning, audio description, and assistive listening methods will be identified as early as possible in the planning process and will be presented in an integrated setting. Park management will decide on the most appropriate operational approach for the particular site.

Audiovisual Program Standards for Visitors with Mobility Impairments

1. The theater, auditorium, or viewing area should be accessible and free of architectural barriers, or alternative accommodations will be provided. ABA Chapter 2: Scoping Requirements.
2. Wheelchair locations will be provided according to ratios outlined in ABA Chapter 2 F221.1, F221.2
3. Viewing heights and angles will be favorable for those in designated wheelchair locations.
4. In designing video or interactive components, control mechanisms will be placed in accessible location, usually between 9" and 48" from the ground and no more than 24" deep.

Audiovisual Program Standards for Visitors with Visual Impairments

Simultaneous audio-description will be provided.

Audiovisual Program Standards for Visitors with Hearing Impairments

1. All audiovisual programs will be produced with captions. If subtitles are used as a substitute they must be readable and follow the captioning format in that they shall identify the speaker and, when appropriate and possible, identify major sound effects and musical interludes.
2. Copies of scripts will be provided to the parks as a standard procedure.
3. Audio amplification and assistive listening systems will be provided. ABA Chapter 2 F219.

4. Background sounds/music shall not compete with the speaker.

Audiovisual Program Standards for Visitors with Learning Impairments

1. Unnecessarily complex and confusing concepts will be avoided.
2. Graphic elements will be chosen to communicate without reliance on the verbal component.
3. Narration will be concise and free of unnecessary jargon and technical information.



Exhibits

Exhibits tell stories about objects using text, lighting, and images. High quality exhibits reveal relationships to park visitors — like context and the meaning of the artefacts the National Park Service has chosen to collect, conserve, and display. Visitors have the sovereignty to move through a series of museum exhibits at their own pace, making their own sense of the ideas presented, similar to turning the pages of a book. Visitors can pick and choose or move on, according to their level of interest.

Even at the start of a new museum project, NPS exhibit designers all too often have little control over defining the available exhibit space. Exhibits sometimes have to be put in places ill suited to serve that purpose. Pre-existing architectural structure or décor may limit many exhibit design decisions or restrict the choices for the most accessible visitor circulation.

Because the situations encountered in the visitor centers of the National Park Service are so diverse, it is impossible to create simple, comprehensive exhibit design guidelines that can be applied universally.

Every reasonable effort will be made to eliminate those factors that limit or block communication. In some cases the effort will involve physical modification; in other cases an alternate way of delivering the messages will have to be devised. Thoughtful, sensitive design can go a long way to produce NPS exhibits that can be enjoyed by a broad range of people.

Exhibits Standards for Visitors with Mobility Impairments

1. Height/position of labels: Body copy on vertical exhibit walls should be placed at between **36"** and **60"** from the floor.
2. Artifact Cases:
 - A. Maximum height of floor of artifact case display area shall be no higher than **30"** from the floor of the room. This includes vitrines that are recessed into an exhibit wall.
 - B. Artifact labels should be placed so as to be visible to a person within a **43"** to **51"** eye level. This includes mounting labels within the case at an angle to maximize its visibility to all viewers.
3. Touchable Exhibits: Touchable exhibits positioned horizontally should be placed no higher than **30"** from the floor. Also, if the exhibit is approachable only on one side, it should be no deeper than **31"**.
4. Railings/barriers: Railings around any horizontal model or exhibit element shall have a maximum height of **36"** from the floor.

5. Information desks: Information desks and sales counters shall include a section made to accommodate both a visitor in a wheelchair and an employee in a wheelchair working on the other side. A section of the desk/counter shall have the following dimensions:
 - A. Height from the floor to the top: **28 to 34 inches**. (ADAAG 4.32.4)
 - B. Minimum knee clearance space: **27" high, 30" wide** and **19" deep** of clearance underneath the desk is the minimum space required under ADAAG 4.32.3, but a space **30" high, 36" wide** and **24" deep** is recommended.
 - C. Width of top surface of section: at least **36 inches**. Additional space must be provided for any equipment such as a cash register.
 - D. Area underneath desk: Since both sides of the desk may have to accommodate a wheelchair, this area should be open all the way through to the other side. In addition, there should be no sharp or abrasive surfaces underneath the desk. The floor space behind the counter shall be free of obstructions.
6. Circulation Space:
 - A. Passageways through exhibits shall be at least **36" wide**.
 - B. If an exhibit passageway reaches a dead-end, an area **60" by 78"** should be provided at the end for turning around.
 - C. Objects projecting from walls with their leading edges between **27"** and **80"** above the floor shall protrude no more than **4"** in passageways or aisles. Objects projecting from walls with their leading edges at or below **27"** above the floor can protrude any amount.
 - D. Free-standing objects mounted on posts or pylons may overhang a maximum of **12"** from **27"** to **80"** above the floor. (ADAAG 4.4.1)
 - E. Protruding objects shall not reduce the clear width of an accessible route to less than the minimum required amount. (ADAAG 4.4.1)
 - F. Passageways or other circulation spaces shall have a minimum clear headroom of **80"**. For example, signage hanging from the ceiling must have at least 80" from the floor to the bottom edge of the sign. (ADAAG 4.4.2)
7. Floors:
 - A. Floors and ramps shall be stable, level, firm and slip-resistant.
 - B. Changes in level between **1/4"** and **1/2"** shall be beveled with a slope no greater than **1:2**. Changes in level greater than **1/2"** shall be accomplished by means of a ramp that complies with ADAAG 4.7 or 4.8. (ADAAG 4.5.2)

- C. Carpet in exhibit areas shall comply with ADAAG 4.5.3 for pile height, texture, pad thickness, and trim.
8. Seating - Interactive Stations/Work Areas: The minimum knee space underneath a work desk is **27" high, 30" wide and 19" deep**, with a clear floor space of at least **30" by 30"** in front. The top of the desk or work surface shall be between **28"** and **34"** from the floor. (ADAAG 4.32, Fig.45)

Exhibits Standards for Visitors with Visual Impairments

1. Tactile models and other touchable exhibit items should be used whenever possible. Examples of touchable exhibit elements include relief maps, scale models, raised images of simple graphics, reproduction objects, and replaceable objects (such as natural history or geological specimens, cultural history items, etc.).
2. Typography - Readability of exhibit labels by visitors with various degrees of visual impairment shall be maximized by using the following guidelines. Keep in mind that if one attribute is reduced, for example, lighting, then the other attributes must be increased to compensate for legibility -- like increasing the point size and/or contrast.
 - A. Type size - **No** type in the exhibit shall be smaller than **24 point**.
 - B. Typeface - The most readable typefaces should be used whenever possible, particularly for body copy. Some are: Times Roman, Palatino, Century, Helvetica, Frutiger, Rawlinson and Universe.
 - C. Styles, Spacing - Text set in both caps and lower case is easier to read than all caps. Choose letter spacing and word spacing for maximum readability. Avoid too much italic type.
 - D. Line Length - Limit the line length for body copy to no more than **45 to 50 characters per line**.
 - E. Amount of Text - Each unit of body copy should have a maximum of **45-60 words**.
 - F. Margins - Flush left, ragged right margins are easiest to read.

3. Color:

- A. Type/Background Contrast - Percentage of contrast between the type and the background should be a **minimum of 70%** .
- B. Red/Green - Do not use red on green or green on red as the type/background color combination, because of the largest colorblind group.
- C. Do not place body copy on top of graphic images that impair readability.

4. Samples:

During the design process, it is recommended that samples be made for review of all size, typeface and color combinations for labels in that exhibit.

5. Exhibit Lighting:

- A. All labels shall receive sufficient, even light for good readability. Exhibit text in areas where light levels have been reduced for conservation purposes should have a minimum of 10 footcandles of illumination.
- B. Harsh reflections and glare should be avoided.
- C. The lighting system shall be flexible enough to allow adjustments on-site.
- D. Transitions between the floor and walls, columns or other structures should be made clearly visible. Finishes for vertical surfaces should contrast clearly with the floor finish. Floor circulation routes should have a minimum of 10 footcandles of illumination.

6. Signage:

When permanent building signage is required as a part of an exhibit project, the ADAAG guidelines shall be consulted. Signs which designate permanent rooms and spaces shall comply with ADAAG 4.30.1, 4.30.4, 4.30.5, and 4.30.6. Other signs which provide direction to or information about functional spaces of the building shall comply with ADAAG 4.30.1, 4.30.2, 4.30.3, and 4.30.5. Note: When the International Symbol of Accessibility (wheelchair symbol) is used, **the word “Handicapped” shall not be used** beneath the symbol. Instead, use the word “Accessible”.

Exhibits Standards for Visitors with Hearing Impairments

1. Information presented via audio formats will be duplicated in a visual medium, such as in the exhibit label copy or by captioning. All video programs incorporated into the exhibit which contain audio shall be open captioned.
2. Amplification systems and volume controls should be incorporated with audio equipment used individually by the visitor, such as audio handsets.
3. Information desks shall allow for Text Telephone (TTY) equipment.

Exhibits Standards for Visitors with Learning Impairments

1. The exhibits will present the main interpretive themes on a variety of levels of complexity, so they can be understood by people with varying abilities and interests.
2. The exhibits should avoid unnecessarily complex and confusing topics, technical terms, and unfamiliar expressions. Pronunciation aids should be provided where appropriate.
3. Graphic elements shall be used to communicate non-verbally.
4. The exhibits shall be a multi-sensory experience. Techniques to maximize the number of senses used in the exhibits should be encouraged.
5. Exhibit design shall use color and other creative approaches to facilitate comprehension of maps by visitors with directional impairments.

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Historic Furnishings

Historically refurnished rooms offer the public a unique interpretive experience by placing visitors within historic spaces. Surrounded by historic artifacts visitors can feel the spaces "come alive" and relate more directly to the historic events or personalities commemorated by the park.

Accessibility is problematical in many NPS furnished sites because of the very nature of historic architecture. Buildings were erected with a functional point of view that is many times at odds with our modern views of accessibility.

The approach used to convey the experience of historically furnished spaces will vary from site to site. The goals, however, will remain the same, to give the public as rich an interpretive experience as possible given the nature of the structure.

Historic Furnishings Standards for Visitors with Mobility Impairments

1. The exhibit space should be free of architectural barriers or a method of alternate accommodation should be provided, such as slide programs, videotaped tours, visual aids, dioramas, etc.
2. All pathways, aisles, and clearances shall (when possible) meet standards set forth in UFAS 4.3 to provide adequate clearance for wheelchair routes.
3. Ramps shall be as gradual as possible and not exceed a 1" rise in 12" run, and conform with UFAS 4.8.
4. Railings and room barriers will be constructed in such a way as to provide unobstructed viewing by persons in wheelchairs.
5. In the planning and design process, furnishing inaccessible areas, such as upper floors of historic buildings, will be discouraged unless essential for interpretation.
6. Lighting will be designed to reduce glare or reflections when viewed from a wheelchair.
7. Alternative methods of interpretation, such as audiovisual programs, audio description, photo albums, and personal services will be used in areas which present difficulty for visitors with physical impairments.

Historic Furnishings Standards for Visitors with Visual Impairments

1. Exhibit typefaces will be selected for readability and legibility, and conform with good industry practice.
2. Audio description will be used to describe furnished rooms, where appropriate.

Programmatic Accessibility Standards for National Park Service Interpretive Media

3. Windows will be treated with film to provide balanced light levels and minimize glare.
4. Where appropriate, visitor-controlled rheostat-type lighting will be provided to augment general room lighting.
5. Where appropriate and when proper clearance has been approved, surplus artifacts or reproductions will be utilized as "hands-on" tactile interpretive devices.
6. Audio descriptions will be provided for all AV programs relating to historic furnishings.

Historic Furnishings **Standards for Visitors with Hearing Impairments**

1. Information about room interiors will be presented in a visual medium such as exhibit copy, text, pamphlets, etc.
2. Captions will be provided for all AV programs relating to historic furnishings.

Historic Furnishings **Standards for the Visitors with Learning Impairments**

1. Where appropriate, hands-on participatory elements geared to the level of visitor capabilities will be used.
2. Living history activities and demonstrations which utilize the physical space as a method of providing multi-sensory experiences will be encouraged.

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Publications

A variety of publications are offered to visitors, ranging from park brochures which provide an overview and orientation to a park to more comprehensive handbooks. Each park brochure should give a brief description of services available to visitors with disabilities, list significant barriers, and note the existence of TTY phone numbers, if available.

In addition, informal site bulletins are often produced to provide more specialized information about a specific site or topic. It is recommended that each park produce an easily updatable "Accessibility Site Bulletin" which could include detailed information about the specific programs, services, and opportunities available for visitors with disabilities and to describe barriers which are present in the park. A template for this site bulletin will be on the NPS Graphic Identity Program website for parks to create with ease, a consistent look throughout the park service. These bulletins should be in large type, 16 points minimum and follow the large-print criteria below.

Publications Standards for Visitors with Mobility Impairments

1. Park brochures, site bulletins, and sales literature shall be distributed from accessible locations and heights.
2. Park brochures and Accessibility Site Bulletins shall carry information on the accessibility of buildings, trails, and programs.

Publications Standards for Visitors with Visual Impairments

1. Publications for the general public:
 - A. Text:
 1. Size: the largest type size appropriate for the format. preferred main body of text should be 10pt)
 2. **Leading** should be at least 20% greater than the font size used.
 3. Proportional letterspacing.
 4. Main body of text set in caps and lower case.
 5. Margins are flush left and ragged right.
 6. Little or no hyphenation is used at ends of lines.
 7. Ink coverage is dense
 8. Underlining does not connect with the letters being underlined.

9. Contrast of typeface and illustrations to background is high (70% contrast is recommended)
10. Photographs have a wide range of gray scale variation.
11. Line drawings or floor plans are clear and bold, with limited detail and minimum 8 pt type.
12. No extreme extended or compressed typefaces are used for main text.
13. Reversal type should be minimum of 11 point medium or bold sans serif type.

B. Paper:

1. Surface preferred is a matte finish. Dull coated stock is acceptable.
2. Has sufficient weight to avoid “show-through” on pages printed on both sides.

2. Large-print version publications:

A. Text:

1. Sizes: Title – 55 point; Introduction – 28.5 point; Text – 17.5 point; Headings – 22 point; captions – 16 point.
2. Leading: Text is 17.5 on 22pt. Introduction is 28.5 on 35 point. Captions are 16 on 20 point.
3. Proportional (? check) letterspacing.
4. Main body of text set in caps and lower case.
5. Margins are flush left and ragged right.
6. Little or no hyphenation is used at ends of lines.
7. Two letter spaces at the end of a sentence.
8. One line space between paragraphs.
9. No indentations to delineate paragraphs.
10. Ink coverage is dense.
11. Underlining does not connect with the letters being underlined.
12. Contrast of typeface and illustrations to background: highest possible.

13. Photographs have a wide range of gray scale variation.
 14. Line drawings or floor plans are clear and bold, with limited detail and minimum 14 point (? check) type.
 15. No extreme extended or compressed typefaces are used.
 16. Sans-serif typeface, no italics, no decorative type.
 17. No oblique or italic typefaces.
 18. Use en dashes (longer) instead of regular hyphens in text.
 19. Maximum of 50 (? check) characters (average) per line.
 20. No type is printed over other designs.
 21. Folds: keep as simple and easily understood as possible.
 22. Document has a flexible binding, preferably one that allows the publication to lie flat.
 23. Gutter margins (? check) are a minimum of 22mm; outside margin smaller but not less than 13mm.
- B. Paper:
1. Surface is off-white non-glossy.
 2. Has sufficient weight to avoid “show-through” on pages printed on both sides.
3. Maps:
- A. The less clutter on the map, the more visitors that can use it.
 - B. The ultimate is one map that is large-print and tactile.
 - C. Raised line/tactile maps can be made using our present digital files and for example, a thermaform machine. Lines are distinguished by lineweight, color and height. Areas are distinguished by color, height, and texture.
 - D. The digital maps are available on an accessible web site www.nps.gov/carto.
 - E. Same paper guides as above.
 - F. Contrast of typeface background is high. (70% contrast is recommended)
 - G. Proportional letterspacing.

- H. Labels set in caps and lower case.
 - I. Map notes are flush left and ragged right.
 - J. Little or no hyphenation is used as ends of lines.
 - K. No extreme extended or compressed typefaces are used for main text.
 - L. Sans-serif typeface is used. Simple-serif typeface is used sometimes for a historic look.
- 4. The text contained in the park brochure shall also be available on CD or MP3 and accessible web site. Handbooks and other publications shall be similarly recorded.
 - 5. The official park publication is available in a word processing format. This shall be translated into Braille.

Publications Standards for Visitors with Hearing Impairments

Park site bulletins will note the availability of such special services as sign language interpretation, captioned/audio description programs.

Publications Standards for Visitors with Learning Impairments

- 1. The park site bulletin should list any special services available to these visitors.
- 2. Publications:
 - A. Use language that appropriately describes persons with disabilities.
 - B. Topics will be specific and of general interest. Unnecessary complexity will be avoided.
 - C. Whenever possible, easy to understand graphics will be used to convey ideas, rather than text alone.
 - D. Unfamiliar expressions, technical terms, and jargon will be avoided. Pronunciation aids and definitions will be provided where needed.
 - E. Text will be concise and free of long paragraphs and wordy language.

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Wayside Exhibits

Wayside exhibits, which include outdoor interpretive exhibits and signs, orientation shelter exhibits, trailhead exhibits, and bulletin boards, offer special advantages to visitors with disabilities. The liberal use of photographs, artwork, diagrams, and maps, combined with highly readable type, make wayside exhibits an excellent medium for visitors with hearing and learning impairments. For visitors with sight impairments, waysides offer large type and high legibility.

Although a limited number of NPS wayside exhibits will always be inaccessible to visitors with mobility impairments, the great majority are placed at accessible pullouts, viewpoints, parking areas, and trailheads.

The NPS accessibility guidelines for wayside exhibits help insure a standard of quality that will be appreciated by all visitors. Nearly everyone benefits from high quality graphics, readable type, comfortable base designs, accessible locations, hard-surfaced exhibit pads, and well-landscaped exhibit sites.

While waysides are valuable on-site "interpreters," it should be remembered that the park resources themselves are the primary things visitors come to experience. Good waysides focus attention on the features they interpret, and not on themselves. A wayside exhibit is only one of the many interpretive tools which visitors can use to enhance their appreciation of a park.

Please visit with Wayside Exhibit website for the following links:
www.nps.gov/hfc/products/waysides/way-process-access.htm

- NPS Wayside Exhibit Map Standards
- NPS Wayside Exhibit Typographic Standards

Wayside Exhibits Standards for Visitors with Mobility Impairments

1. Wayside exhibits will be installed at accessible locations wherever possible.
2. Wayside exhibit panels will be installed at heights and angles favorable for viewing by all visitors, including wheelchair users. For standard NPS low-profile exhibits the recommended height is 30" from the bottom of the exhibit frame to finished grade; for upright exhibits and bulletin boards the height is 24-28" from the bottom of the exhibit frame to finished grade, depending on panel size.
3. Trailhead exhibits will include accessibility advisory information.
4. Wayside exhibits will have level, hard-surfaced exhibit pads.
5. Exhibit sites will offer clear, unrestricted views of park features referred to in the exhibits.
6. In addition, the park should consider posting wayside content (excluding copyright material) on the park's website.

Wayside Exhibits Standards for Visitors with Visual Impairments

1. Exhibit typography will be legible and readable, according with the NPS Wayside Exhibit Typographic Standards.
2. Panel colors will be selected to reduce eyestrain and glare and to provide excellent readability under field conditions. Because of its reflectivity, white will not be used as a background color.
3. Selected wayside exhibits will incorporate tactile elements such as models, texture blocks, and relief maps.
4. Selected wayside exhibits will incorporate audio stations.
5. For all major features interpreted by graphic wayside exhibits, the park will offer non-visual interpretation (i.e. audio description) covering the same subject matter. Examples include audio tours such as digital audio players, radio systems or dial-up messages for cellular phone users, and ranger talks. In the spirit of Universal Design, we strongly encourage audio descriptions designed for the benefit of all visitors rather than a separate program.
6. In addition, park should consider posting wayside content on the park's website.

Wayside Exhibits Standards for Visitors with Hearing Impairments

1. Wayside exhibit panels will communicate visually and will rely heavily on graphics to interpret park resources.
2. Essential information included in audio station messages will be duplicated in written form, either as part of the exhibit text or in a publication.

Wayside Exhibits Standards for Visitors with Hearing Impairments

1. Wayside exhibit panels will communicate visually and will rely heavily on graphics to interpret park resources.
2. Essential information included in audio station messages will be duplicated in written form, either as part of the exhibit text or in a publication.

Wayside Exhibits Standards for Visitors with Learning Impairments

1. Topics for wayside exhibits will be specific and of general interest. Unnecessary complexity will be avoided. Information will be presented in a clear hierarchical manner.
2. Easy-to-understand graphics will be used to convey ideas, rather than text alone.

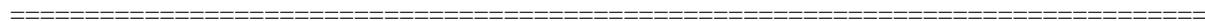
3. Unfamiliar expressions, technical terms, and jargon will be avoided. Pronunciation aids and definitions will be provided where needed.
4. Text will be concise and free of long paragraphs and wordy language.

Wayside Exhibits Comprehensive Planning

Wayside exhibit planning begins with comprehensive park wide interpretive planning. Early recognition of, and sensitivity to, accessibility issues will result in the most successful waysides.



Web Based Media



Park Signage



Glossary

