

Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Yellowstone National Park Accessibility Program Revised January 2023



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Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....6

Introduction 7

Brief History of the Accessibility Program in Yellowstone 7

Transition Plan Background 9

Yellowstone National Park 2011 and 2016 Summer Visitor Studies..... 10

Visitor Input..... 10

Broad Goals 11

Specific Goals 11

Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Process 12

Prioritization and Evaluation of High Priority Facilities..... 13

 Visitor Centers and Museums..... 13

 Campgrounds 14

 Amphitheaters..... 14

 Picnic Areas..... 15

 Vault Toilets and Comfort Stations 15

 Existing Trails, New Trails, Trailheads, and Backcountry Campsites 18

 Marinas, Boat Launches, and Fishing Platforms..... 21

 Entrance Stations and Entrance Signs 22

 Viewing Areas and Overlooks..... 23

 Scenic Drives..... 23

 Parking Areas, General 24

 Wayside Exhibits 24

 Other Recreational Features or Site Elements 25

Conducting Accessibility Assessments 26

Identifying a Process to Upgrade Facilities, Services, Activities, and Programs
..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

Timeline for Corrective Action..... 27

How the Plan is Organized..... 27

 Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center..... 28

North Entrance Station 28

North Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

Boiling River Parking Area and Trailhead..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

Mammoth Hot Springs Developed Area/Park Headquarters 29

 Administration Building (Historic Enlisted Men’s Barracks)..... 31

Canteen (Historic Post Exchange).....	33
Mammoth Chapel	34
Mammoth Public Restroom	34
Mammoth Community Center.....	35
Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces.....	37
Mammoth Campground.....	38
Mammoth to Tower Road Corridor.....	42
Lava Creek Picnic Area	42
Undine Falls Overlook	42
Forces of the Northern Range Self-Guiding Trail.....	43
Petrified Tree Parking Area and Wayside Exhibit	44
Tower Junction	44
Tower Junction to Tower Fall	45
Calcite Springs Overlook	45
Tower Fall.....	46
Tower Fall Campground	46
Tower Junction to Northeast Entrance Road Corridor.....	47
Slough Creek Campground	47
Pebble Creek Campground	48
Tower Fall to Canyon (Dunraven Pass) Road Corridor	49
Indian Creek Campground.....	52
Moose Exhibit	53
Obsidian Cliff	54
Norris	56
Norris Geyser Basin Museum.....	56
Museum of the National Park Ranger (“Ranger Museum”).....	57
Norris Campground	58
Norris to Canyon Road Corridor.....	60
Ice Lake Backcountry Campsite	60
Canyon.....	61
Canyon to Fishing Bridge Road Corridor	64
Mud Volcano.....	64
Sulphur Caldron.....	64
Le Hardy’s Rapids	64

Fishing Bridge	66
Fishing Bridge to East Entrance Road Corridor	69
Lake Butte Overlook	69
East Entrance	70
Lake	71
Bridge Bay	71
Bridge Bay Picnic Area	71
Bridge Bay Marina Comfort Station and Ranger Station.....	73
Bridge Bay Campground	73
Amphitheater	74
Bridge Bay to West Thumb Road Corridor	75
West Thumb	76
Grant Village	76
Lewis Lake to South Entrance Road Corridor	82
Lewis Falls	82
Moose Falls	Error! Bookmark not defined.
South Entrance	82
Snake River Ranger Station	82
Snake River Picnic Area	82
Artist Paint Pots	83
Beryl Spring	84
Gibbon Falls.....	84
Madison	87
Comfort Station.....	87
Picnic Area	87
Amphitheater	88
Madison Information Center/Madison Museum	88
Madison to West Road Corridor	89
Madison Campground	89
Mount Haynes Overlook and Fishing Platform	89
Madison to Old Faithful Road Corridor	91
Firehole Canyon Drive	91
Lower Geyser Basin	92
Midway Geyser Basin	94

Black Sand Basin.....	95
Biscuit Basin	96
Old Faithful Developed Area	96
Visitor Center and Restrooms.....	97
Old Faithful Ranger Station and Clinic.....	98
Old Faithful to West Thumb	99
Lone Star Geyser.....	100
Bechler.....	101
Conclusion	102
Preparation and Review of the SETP.....	103
References.....	104
Appendix A: Glossary of Terms.....	105
Appendix B: Applicable Standards	107
Appendix C: A Selection of Wayside Exhibits Assessed.....	113
Appendix D: Popular Trails.....	117

Executive Summary

Yellowstone National Park's Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) is the result of an inventory and assessment of the park's facilities, programs, and services. The SETP was completed by design professionals and accessibility specialists in facility operations, with input from other park staff. The SETP includes findings from a self-evaluation process, as well as a plan for improving accessibility parkwide. Actions for specific park areas were developed. Associated time frames and implementation strategies were recommended to assist National Park Service (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 and services, and 3) instill a culture around creating universal access and accessibility awareness. The Plan will be a "working document" and will be used as the principle guiding document for barrier removal and improved accessibility in Yellowstone National Park.



Introduction

World-wide, more than one billion persons have some form of disability. This corresponds to about 15% of the world's population. In the United States, sixty-one million adults live with a disability; that is one in four adults. According to the Center for Disease Control:

- 13.7 percent of people with a disability have a mobility disability with serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.
- 10.8 percent of people with a disability have a cognition disability with serious difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions.
- 6.8 percent of people with a disability have an independent living disability with difficulty doing errands alone.
- 5.9 percent of people with a disability are deaf or have serious difficulty hearing
- 4.6 percent of people with a disability have a vision disability with blindness or serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses.
- 3.6 percent of people with a disability have a self-care disability with difficulty dressing or bathing.

Physical limitations associated with the aging process, invisible disabilities, and temporary disabilities will affect everyone at some time in their lives. Only 15% of people with disabilities have a visible disability (Accessibility @nps.gov).

Brief History of the Accessibility Program in Yellowstone

The SETP is not the first effort Yellowstone has made to evaluate facilities to improve accessibility. Accessibility coordinators performed assessments in the 1990s. Accessibility Condition Assessment inspections were conducted in 2007 and integrated with the park's Facility Management Software System (FMSS). The Utah Conservation Corps Inclusive Crew performed evaluations in 2009 and 2010. University students have also collected data on trail accessibility at Norris Geyser Basin and Mammoth Hot Springs for school projects and master's theses.

A sampling of projects that are ongoing or have been completed include:

- Construction of accessible boardwalks to popular hydrothermal and other natural features.
- Campground improvements, including access to campsites, comfort stations, and amphitheaters.
- Construction of a boat ramp and fishing platform at the Grant Village marina.
- Construction of a fishing platform at the Mount Haynes overlook.
- Establishment of park standards for picnic tables and fire rings. As picnic tables and fire rings at campgrounds and picnic areas are replaced, accessible models are provided.
- Implementation of additional accessible parking spaces and access aisles.

Staff performing the accessibility assessments also corrected deficiencies in the field; repairing transitions from one walking surface to another, (for example, asphalt to boardwalk, or asphalt to concrete); posting, removing, or replacing the international symbol for accessibility (ISA); installing fire rings, and retrofitting picnic tables.

Yellowstone has had an accessibility coordinator since the mid-1980s. The position has been a collateral duty for more than 35 years. In October 2015, the park hired an accessibility technician to initiate and complete Yellowstone's SETP and to assist with the park's accessibility program. The accessibility program is managed in the Landscape Architecture office, under the branch of Professional Services.

Transition Plan Background

Creation of a transition plan is mandated by regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as they apply to the US Department of Interior. Yellowstone's Self Evaluation and Transition Plan (the Plan) is the product of a review of the facilities, programs, and services that are provided by the National Park Service (NPS) in Yellowstone National Park. The National Park Service is committed to making facilities, programs, services, and employment accessible for visitors and employees with disabilities through compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The accessibility of commercial services within national parks is also covered under all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

In May 2012, the National Park Service formed the Accessibility Task Force to improve an organizational approach to ensuring that national parks can be enjoyed by individuals with disabilities. The task force developed a five-year strategic plan for improving accessibility from fiscal year 2015 to 2020.

- Create a welcoming environment for visitors with disabilities.
- Ensure that new facilities and programs are accessible.
- Upgrade existing facilities to improve accessibility.

Yellowstone has a number of facilities, services, and programs that demonstrate full or partial accessibility. Renovation of the historic Albright Visitor Center in Mammoth Hot Springs and work performed to enhance access at walkways and overlooks at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, are recent accessibility projects (2016-2020). Accessible picnic tables and fire rings have been installed at campgrounds and in some picnic areas. Accessible boardwalks to popular hydrothermal features and audio description of exhibits are on-going improvements. "When we design and build campgrounds, restrooms, trails, and other facilities and programs to accommodate the needs of all individuals, we improve the experience and comfort for everyone." (Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation: A Design Guide, 1993.)

The purpose of this transition plan is to address the physical, structural and programmatic changes that are required to make facilities, programs, services, and activities accessible to and useable by people with disabilities. The term "accessible," as used throughout this document means to be useable by people with disabilities, and in compliance with Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) and Accessibility Standards for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas. The Plan will be used as the principle guiding document for barrier removal and improved accessibility in Yellowstone National Park. The plan will help park employees:

- Identify and document existing barriers (self-assessment).
- Identify a process to upgrade facilities, services, activities, and programs.
- Increase accessibility awareness and understanding.

Yellowstone National Park 2011 and 2016 Summer Visitor Studies

Visitor studies conducted in July 2011 and August 2016, showed nine percent of visitor groups had members with physical conditions affecting their ability to access or participate in activities and services in Yellowstone. Of those visitor groups in 2011 and 2016, 82% had “problems with mobility.” In the 2016 study, “walking” was most frequently mentioned as the activity that members of visitor groups had difficulty participating in (45%). The 2016 study also stated, “Of visitor groups that had at least one member with a physical condition, the members(s) had specific difficulties with hearing (5%).”

Visitor Input

Park visitor centers provide comment forms to visitors (upon request) that would like to provide input on park facilities, services, programs, and experiences. The park also receives comments through visitor Information email and the visitor information phone line. Some comments relate to accessibility concerns, including insufficient accessible parking spaces; lack of truly accessible campsites; poor transitions from boardwalks and ramps to other walking surfaces; lack of accessible fishing opportunities; and restrooms that do not meet federal accessibility requirements.

Broad Goals

The access goals for physical and programmatic alterations to park facilities and sites in Yellowstone include:

- Locations for visitors to orient themselves within the park and obtain information about accessible features, as well as adequate parking.
- Access to wayside exhibits and trailheads.
- Camping experiences, and access to the natural environment.
- Picnicking opportunities.
- Access to ranger-led programs and other services.

Specific Goals

Every vault toilet, comfort station, and restroom, including the access routes to them, will meet federal accessibility standards.

Every campground will have accessible campsites with outdoor constructed features (picnic tables, fire rings, water hydrants) that meet *Accessibility Standards for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas*.

Every picnic area will have accessible picnic tables at 20 percent, or no less than two sites, with an accessible route to them, that meet *Accessibility Standards for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas*.

Parking areas will have the proper number of accessible parking spaces per ABA standards.

Assistive listening devices will be available for use at all visitor centers, amphitheaters, and for guided tours and educational programs.

Disability awareness and universal design training will be provided to employees.

Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Process

Steps in the self-evaluation and transition plan process are listed below.

1. Identify park areas with high use visitor facilities and programs.
2. Prioritize high use visitor facilities and programs.
3. Conduct accessibility assessments.
4. Identify a process to upgrade facilities, services, activities, and programs.
5. Draft a transition plan.
6. Make improvements.
7. Document improvements made.

Field notes and checklists are in the Landscape Architecture office. These checklists will also be useful to Asset Management staff when completing condition assessments.

Identifying park areas with high use visitor facilities

Each major developed area, as well as road corridors throughout the park, have high use visitor facilities. The following park areas were assessed:

North Entrance/Gardiner, MT
North Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs
Mammoth Hot Springs
Mammoth to Tower
Tower Junction
Tower Fall
Tower Junction to Northeast Entrance
Northeast Entrance
Tower Fall to Canyon (Dunraven Pass)
Mammoth to Norris
Norris
Norris to Canyon
Canyon
Canyon to Fishing Bridge (Hayden Valley)
Fishing Bridge
Fishing Bridge to East Entrance
East Entrance
Lake
Lake to Bridge Bay
Bridge Bay
Bridge Bay to West Thumb
Grant
Lewis Lake
Lewis Lake to South Entrance
South Entrance

Norris to Madison
Madison to West
Madison to Old Faithful
Old Faithful
Old Faithful to West Thumb
Bechler

Prioritization and Evaluation of High Priority Facilities

High priority facilities are those that benefit the greatest number of park visitors and have the highest visitation and use. They are utilized by a significantly high number of people—visitors and employees. Visitor centers, campgrounds, picnic areas, and restroom facilities are some of the most heavily used facilities in Yellowstone. The following assets were evaluated:

- Visitor centers, museums, and contact stations (exteriors)
- Accessible campsites at NPS-operated campgrounds and concessioner-managed campgrounds
- Amphitheaters
- Picnic areas
- Vault toilets (pit toilets) and comfort stations (flush toilets)
- Self-guiding trails and boardwalks
- Marinas and boat launches
- Entrance stations (exteriors) and entrance signs
- Viewing areas and overlooks
- Wayside exhibits

The nine hotels and lodges, run by the park concessioner, Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Inc. (Yellowstone National Park Lodges), are not addressed in this plan; nor are Yellowstone General Stores, Yellowstone Park Service Stations, and the park's medical clinics. All park concessioners are bound by contractual obligations to comply with the ABA standards.

This document does not include strategies for retrofitting employee workspaces to be accessible. If a need arises, the supervisor and employee will discuss and determine accommodations for the work environment and determine a plan of action.

Visitor Centers and Museums

There are ten visitor centers, museums, and contact stations (information centers) in Yellowstone: Albright Visitor Center, Canyon Visitor Education Center, Fishing Bridge Museum and Visitor Center, Grant Visitor Center, Madison Information and Junior Ranger Station, Museum of the National Park Ranger, Norris Geyser Basin Museum and Information Station, Old Faithful Visitor Education Center, West Thumb Information Station, and the West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center. Each facility provides unique interpretive themes, and all are important for communicating the fundamental

resources and values of the park. Tools for exploring Yellowstone include: a visitor guide (park “newspaper”), exhibits, visitor centers, bookstores, self-guiding trail brochures, park map, handouts (site bulletins), ranger-led programs, and the website. Well-trained staff are a crucial component of accessibility. All staff should be familiar with accessibility requirements and the equipment used to fulfill these requirements. Staff should be able to locate, operate, and maintain equipment, and help visitors that request assistance.

Harpers Ferry Center, the interpretive design center for the National Park Service, has developed guidelines for use by those responsible for the creation of interpretive media in parks. The goal is to ensure the highest level of accessibility for visitors, with a wide range of abilities, is incorporated into the planning, design, and construction of interpretive media. Because there are many programmatic aspects associated with visitor centers, these facilities should be addressed in more detail in a future document.

Campgrounds

There are 12 campgrounds in Yellowstone with more than 2000 campsites. Seven campgrounds (450+ sites) are managed by the NPS: Mammoth, Norris, Tower Fall, Indian Creek, Pebble Creek, Slough Creek, and Lewis Lake. Several NPS campgrounds changed to an on-line reservation system in 2021. Accessible campsites may be reserved on-line through Recreation.gov.

Five campgrounds: Madison, Fishing Bridge RV Park, Bridge Bay, Canyon, and Grant Village (1750+ sites total) are managed by the park concessioner, Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Inc. Visitors may reserve accessible campsites in advance at concessioner-managed campgrounds through a reservation system. Ten accessible RV sites were constructed, and associated visitor services were renovated, at Fishing Bridge RV Park in 2022.

Considering the accessibility of a designated accessible campsite, the park looked at the accessibility of all features related to the site, including toilet facilities, picnic tables, fire rings, and other amenities. Additionally, an accessible route is required to connect the accessible camping areas with the other accessible features. Accessible campsites were evaluated at all campgrounds. Many features did not meet outdoor recreation standards for accessibility.

Amphitheaters

There are amphitheaters at Bridge Bay, Canyon, Grant, Madison, Mammoth, Norris, and Tower Fall campgrounds. Fishing Bridge amphitheater is near the Fishing Bridge Museum, across the road from the Fishing Bridge RV Park. Assessments show that none of the amphitheaters meet accessibility requirements. Most amphitheaters were built before federal accessibility standards were established.

Many amphitheaters have asphalt surfaces that are in very poor condition and need to be replaced. Running slopes and cross slopes exceed standards. Most of the stages

have steps and are inaccessible for a wheelchair user. A few have been retrofitted with ramps, but they are dilapidated and in need of repair. None of the park amphitheaters have portable assistive listening devices for people who are hard of hearing. The amphitheater at Tower Fall Campground is not accessible due to topography. Improvement projects have been submitted through the Project Management Information System (PMIS) to provide accessibility and upgrade audio-visual components at amphitheaters parkwide.

Picnic Areas

There are 53 picnic areas dispersed throughout the park. Forty-seven of the 53 picnic areas have toilets or toilets nearby. Only 15 of those toilets are wheelchair-accessible, including the routes to reach them. While there are accessible picnic tables at some locations, 20% of picnic sites (at each picnic area) should have mobility features. In 2020, the park committed to purchasing only universally accessible tables and fire rings. As picnic tables and fire rings are replaced, they will be replaced with accessible models. In addition, accessible recycling containers were installed in many picnic areas in 2022. Picnic area information is available at visitor centers, on-line, and on the Yellowstone app. Information is updated as accessibility improvements are made.



Whiskey Flat picnic area



Sheepeater Cliff picnic area



Extended table top accommodates wheelchair users

Vault Toilets and Comfort Stations

Parkwide, there are more than 100 vault toilets and 23 comfort stations (flush toilets). Approximately 30% of vault toilets are accessible and have an accessible route leading to them. The most common barrier is a greater than 1/2" rise from the trail or walkway to the concrete pad in front of the toilet door (see below left). Because of this poor transition, wheelchair access may be difficult or impossible, depending on the user. In older vault toilets, grab bars do not meet accessibility standards; they are too low and/or not long enough. A project to retrofit interiors and replace walkways to vault toilets was initiated in 2022. New grab bars were installed in five vault toilets. Hand sanitizer dispensers and toilet paper dispensers were lowered or raised to meet ABA standards.



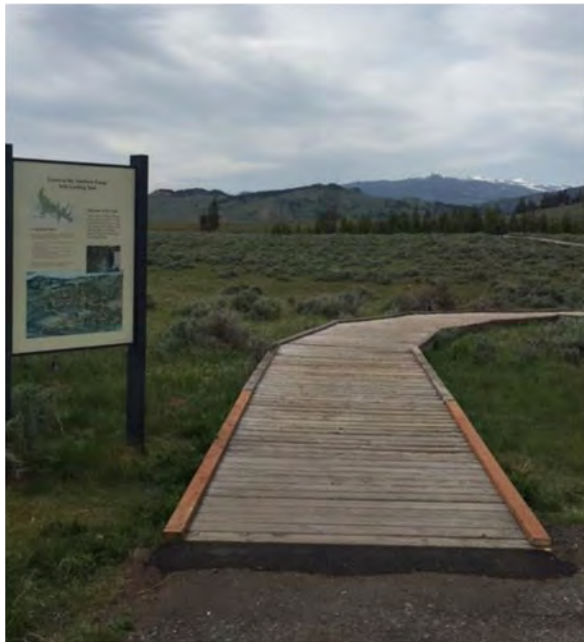
Greater than 1/2" rise at entrance to comfort station



Some grab bars do not meet ABA requirements

Self-Guiding Trails and Boardwalks

There are 13 self-guiding trails in Yellowstone. These trails are associated with historic districts, hydrothermal areas, and areas of natural interest, like the “Forces of the Northern Range” self-guiding trail (below, left) and the Two Ribbons trail along the Madison River (below, right). Not all hot spring and geyser basin trails and boardwalks are accessible to people with mobility impairments, because of steep topography and stairs. Providing access may be technically infeasible. As boardwalks are repaired or reconstructed, routes are reconfigured to improve accessibility, if possible. Transitions between asphalt paths or trails and boardwalks continue to be a maintenance issue. Fortunately, there are opportunities to view many hydrothermal areas from roadsides and scenic drives.



Transition between parking area and boardwalk was repaired at the Forces of the Northern Range self-guiding trail.



Two Ribbons Trail between Madison and the West Entrance



Too much rise between asphalt trail and boardwalk in the Upper Geyser Basin. A large dip and cracked pavement are both safety and accessibility concerns.

Existing Trails, New Trails, Trailheads, and Backcountry Campsites

Existing Trails

A trail is defined as a pedestrian route developed primarily for outdoor recreational purposes. In Yellowstone, boardwalks are considered trails. Pedestrian routes that are developed primarily to connect accessible elements, spaces, and buildings within a site are not trails.

Yellowstone has approximately 1000 miles of backcountry trails and 92 trailheads. A survey of all the trails and trailheads in the park would be daunting and would show that most trails would not have to be substantially improved due to topographic, resource, and administrative reasons. A few popular trails and trailheads were assessed while conducting the self-assessment. Information about these trails is included in the appendix. As trails are rebuilt (altered), current accessibility guidelines will be applied and will result in continually improved access. In addition, the park will determine whether certain trail portions connected to accessible parking areas, picnic areas, or campgrounds can be further improved.

The Lone Star Geyser trail near Old Faithful, the Natural Bridge trail near Bridge Bay, and the Fountain Freight Road, are trails/bike paths that are accessible by wheelchair or other mobility devices.

Yellowstone's Central Backcountry office can provide accessibility guidance for visitors planning to travel within Yellowstone's backcountry. Visitors may call the backcountry office for assistance or use on-line resources. "Backcountry Accessibility," and "Service Animals in Yellowstone National Park," are site bulletins (handouts) available at visitor centers and on the website. "Backcountry Accessibility Guidance for NPS Staff," is available for employees assisting visitors planning a trip into the backcountry.

New Trails

When a new trail is designed for use by hikers or pedestrians and directly connects to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the technical requirements for trails, the trail must comply with the technical requirements of the *Accessibility Standards for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas*. The concept of trail access does not only encompass the length, width, and slope of trails. The standards also call for accessible trailheads for new construction and alterations (work that is done to change the original design, purpose, intent, or function of an existing trail).

Trailheads

Many trailheads are being improved in conjunction with road reconstruction projects. Currently, trailhead signs do not include accessibility information, except in recently redesigned areas including the Canyon Rims, Calcite Springs overlook, and Gibbon Falls. Information about actual trail conditions would assist users in determining whether the trail meets their abilities. The variability of conditions may range from relatively minor variations to extreme conditions. Objective information about the trail conditions would enhance the accessibility, safety, and satisfaction of all trail users, both with and without disabilities. Because trail accessibility varies widely in Yellowstone, information about trail conditions and usability is readily available in electronic and paper formats. The backcountry situation report, available on the park's website, is a helpful resource.



Pebble Creek Trailhead (backcountry trail)



Inspiration Point Trailhead (front country trail)

Backcountry Campsites

There are 296 backcountry campsites in Yellowstone. Though backcountry trails are not modified for mobility devices, there are options for backcountry camping experiences. There are two designated accessible backcountry sites. Goose Lake (0D5) and Ice Lake (4D3). Parties travelling by bicycle (Goose Lake only) or people with accessibility needs may reserve campsites in advance through Recreation.gov. The campsites become available to anyone two days before the reservation date, when it changes to “walk up.”

The Goose Lake backcountry campsite, between Madison and Old Faithful, is 1.5 miles from the Fountain Freight Road trailhead. The trail is a hard-packed, dirt trail that was once a road (photo below). Loose gravel on the trail could be an issue for some users. People using mobility devices may require assistance along the quarter mile spur trail to the campsite and within the campsite. An accessible fire ring was installed in 2019. There is no formal tent pad. The campsite has an open-air, accessible pit toilet.



Trailhead for Fountain Freight Road Trail



Goose Lake Campsite

The Ice Lake backcountry campsite (4D3) has an accessible fire ring, an established tent pad, and pit toilet (photos below). The trailhead is between Norris and Canyon. The trail is less than ¼-mile to the campsite. Mobility device users may require assistance due to obstacles along the trail: rocks, roots and a water bar. A couple short trail sections exceed 5%, and a section near the beginning of the trail has a cross slope of 16%. Trail crew will be consulted to see if the cross slope can be adjusted.



Ice Lake accessible fire ring



Ice Lake pit toilet

Some backcountry campsites on Yellowstone Lake can be reached by motorized or non-motorized boats. Several campsites have pit toilets and there are three campsites with docks. The level of accessibility has not been determined at these sites.

Marinas, Boat Launches, and Fishing Platforms

Bridge Bay Marina operations are managed by a park concessioner. A formal assessment of the facility was not performed by the NPS. Scenic boat cruises are accessible to wheelchair users.

The Grant marina has a wheelchair-accessible fishing platform on Yellowstone Lake. There are two benches with companion seating near the end of the platform. The boat launch is also accessible.

Lewis Lake Boat launch meets outdoor standards for accessibility, though the pavement leading to the gangway needs to be repaired.

There are two accessible fishing platforms in the park; one at the Mount Haynes overlook and the other at Grant Village marina. A fishing platform is proposed at Nez Perce Ford picnic area. Other sites will also be considered.

Entrance Stations and Entrance Signs

Park entrance stations should be accessible to visitors from their vehicles and to employees working in them.

A popular activity for visitors to national parks is a photo opportunity at the iconic park entrance signs. This experience should be accessible to all visitors. Walking surfaces need to be firm and stable. Abrupt edges and drop-offs need to be repaired.



East Entrance sign



South Entrance sign



North Entrance sign with accessible route

Viewing Areas and Overlooks

Accessibility will continue to be improved at viewing areas and overlooks, as road reconstruction projects are completed. Some of the more famous viewing areas, include the Upper and Lower Falls of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Artist Point has accessible features and good overall access. Renovations at Discovery Point and Inspiration Point have been completed. Other popular viewing areas have been made accessible as part of the Canyon Rims project.

Scenic Drives

Scenic drives provide views from the road and from pullouts. Most are open only during the summer season and may close temporarily after heavy rain or snow.

- Old Yellowstone Trail South--two-way, gravel road between Gardiner, MT, and the northern park boundary.
- Upper Terrace Loop--one way, 1.4-mile, paved road, has accessible parking and some accessible boardwalks.
- Blacktail Plateau Drive--one way, seven-mile, dirt road between Mammoth and Tower.
- Firehole Canyon Drive--one-way, two-mile drive approximately one mile south of Madison Junction.
- Fountain Flats Drive--two way, one-mile, paved road, just south of the lower geyser basin; ends at the trailhead for Ojo Caliente.
- Firehole Lake Drive--one-way, three-mile paved road, has accessible parking and boardwalks. (Closed in 2022 due to thermal degradation from the geothermal system and hydrothermal water runoff.)
- Riverside Drive--six-mile, paved road, east of the West Entrance, travels along the Madison River.
- Virginia Cascade Drive--one-way, 2.5-mile paved road, between Norris and Canyon
- Gull Point Drive--one-way, two-mile, paved drive along Yellowstone Lake.



View from Blacktail Plateau Drive



View from Firehole Lake Drive

Parking Areas, General

Parking areas in Yellowstone range from large lots at Old Faithful with more than 1300 spaces, to wayside exhibits at pullouts with four spaces or less. Where parking spaces are provided, parking spaces will be provided in accordance with ABA standards.

Wayside Exhibits

There are almost 400 wayside exhibits in Yellowstone. A selection of roadside exhibits was evaluated at viewing areas and overlooks and are found in Appendix C. Exhibits in large geyser basins and hot springs, or interpretive panels inside visitor centers or backcountry offices, were not assessed. Although many exhibits meet accessibility requirements for font size and installation height, access to them varies. Most wayside exhibits are on pavement or boardwalks. Some waysides are behind logs or boulders, perhaps to protect the exhibits from vehicles. A few wayside exhibits are higher than recommended guidelines, due to large rocks below the ground surface.



Exhibit with accessible parking space and access aisle in Lamar Valley



Curb prevents access for users of mobility devices

As wayside exhibits are designed or replaced, attention will be paid to the physical access to the sign or exhibit, turn around space, text and font size, background clarity, and height and tilt from the ground. Exhibits should incorporate symbols, pictographs, pictograms, color, and hierarchical language for effective communication with all people, including persons with cognitive impairments.

Per Harpers Ferry Center guidance, “For standard NPS low-profile exhibits, the recommended height is 32” from the bottom of the exhibit frame to finished grade; for upright exhibits and bulletin boards, the height is 24-36” from the bottom of the exhibit frame to finished grade, depending on panel size.” In addition, Harpers Ferry Center suggests that parks consider posting wayside exhibit content on their websites.

Audio description has been developed for wayside exhibits in Fort Yellowstone and for the Forces of the Northern Range self-guiding trail. An audio-described tour is available for the Albright Visitor Center (building and exhibits) in Mammoth Hot Springs. These audio descriptions are delivered through the official NPS app. In addition, audio tours are available on the NPS app and include:

- Upper Terrace Drive in Mammoth Hot Springs
- “The Tukudika”, a band of Mountain Shoshone. The tour covers Obsidian Cliff, Roaring Mountain, and Sheepeater Cliff).
- Fountain Paint Pot (Lower Geyser Basin)
- Biscuit Basin
- Black Sand Basin
- Old Faithful and the Upper Geyser Basin
- “Building Resilience” (Between Old Faithful Visitor Education Center and Morning Glory Pool)
- West Thumb Geyser Basin
- Mud Volcano

Visitors can also use the app on their mobile device to learn more about park sites, including available services and accessibility options.

Other Recreational Features or Site Elements

Accessible Trash Containers, Recycling Bins, and Bear Boxes

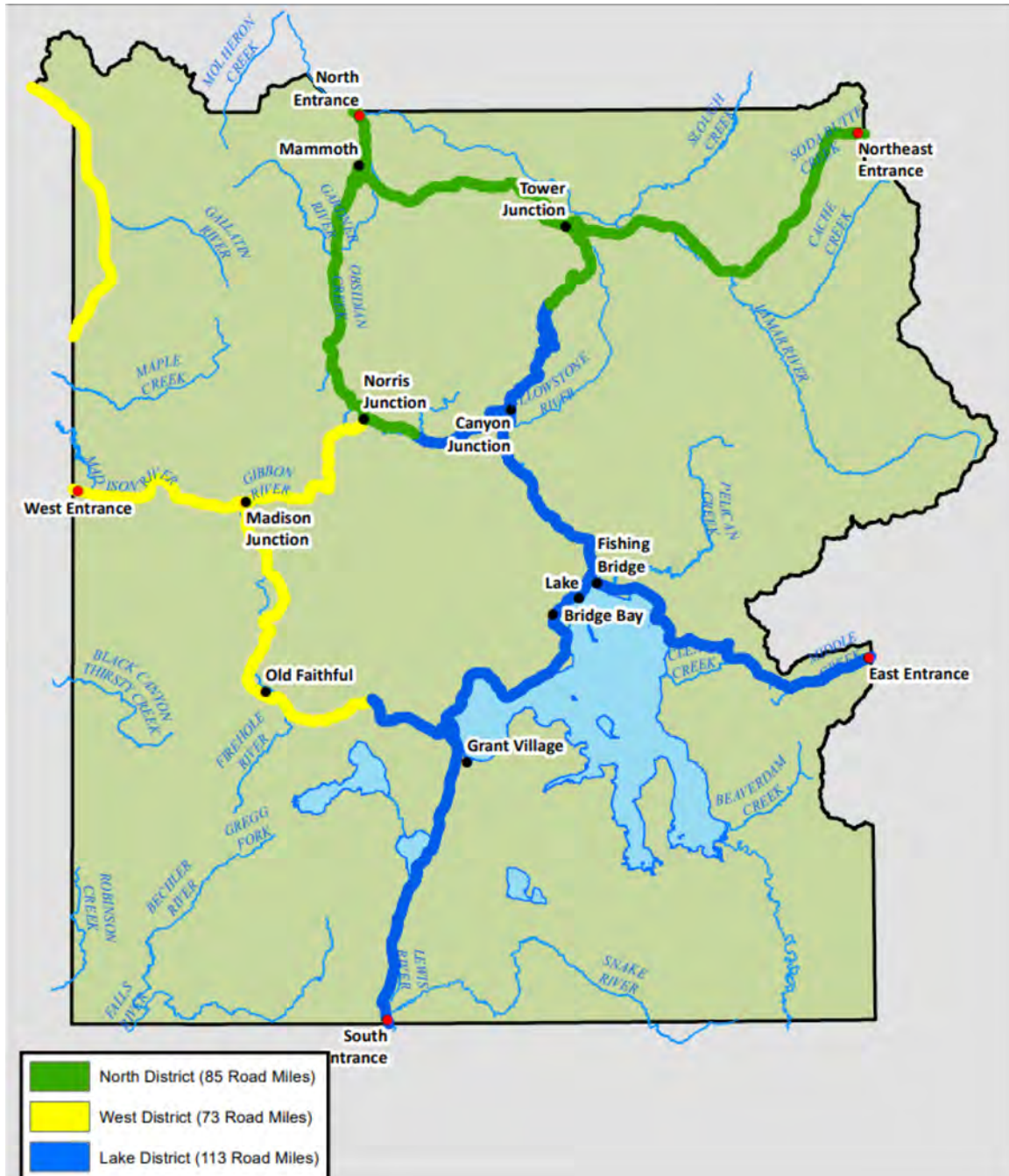
There must be clear space around accessible trash containers, as well as placement on an accessible route. Some trash and recycling receptacles, with hinged lids and latches to keep out large animals, require a person to operate the latch or handle by tightly grasping, pinching, or twisting the wrist, and by applying more than 5 pounds of force. Until products with compliant operable parts become commercially available, compliance is required to the extent practicable.

Dumpster-type trash and large recycling bins are not required to comply with the technical requirements for operable parts because the receptacle openings are typically more than 48 inches above the ground. Smaller accessible recycling bins were installed in some picnic areas in 2022.

Bear boxes that meet reach range requirements are being installed in accessible campsites throughout the park, however, they do not meet grasping requirements.

Conducting Accessibility Assessments

Park staff completed accessibility assessments (a self-evaluation) to identify physical and programmatic barriers parkwide from 2015 to 2021. Checklists based on ABAAS and *Accessibility Standards for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas* were used to evaluate facilities. Evaluation of field data resulted in recommendations for barrier removal and accessibility improvements included in this transition plan.



Timeline for Corrective Action

To better assist the decision-making process and more clearly identify the timeline for deficiencies to be corrected, the transition plan has assigned a rating to each deficiency listed in the corrective action tables found in the body of this document and in the appendix.

- Immediate: from 0-2 years the park will submit a work order, or for larger projects, develop a proposal and submit it for funding
- Short-term: within 2-5 years the park will develop a proposal and submit it for funding or address the item internally
- Long-term: longer than five years or the issue will be addressed when other work is taking place as part of maintenance or as a larger project

Although the rating system provides a standard, the completion time for the removal of any accessibility barrier is up to park managers. Recognition and correction of barriers in this transition plan will allow for efficient progress toward the park's access goals.

How the Plan is Organized

The focus of this plan is on high-use, public facilities managed by the National Park Service. Facilities managed by park concessioners are not included. The park's Business and Commercial Services office ensures concessioners are meeting contractual obligations, which includes the provision of accessible facilities and services to park visitors.

Accessibility issues and deficiencies specific to each developed area and road corridor are identified and described in an area-by-area narrative. Photographs are provided to illustrate deficiencies and improvements. A description of work required to achieve or exceed compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Architectural Barriers Act (1968), and the Final Guidelines for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas (2014) are presented in the body of this document and in the appendix. Hard copies of checklists and field notes (inventories and assessments) for each asset are in the park's Landscape Architecture office.

North Entrance/Gardiner, Montana

The Gardiner Gateway Project began in 2013 and was a collaborative effort of more than 15 local, state, and federal agencies and organizations, to address traffic and pedestrian safety issues on Park Street in Gardiner, Montana and the North Entrance of Yellowstone National Park. Viewing and parking areas around the historic Roosevelt Arch were redesigned, vehicular through-traffic was separated from merchant parking areas. The pedestrian experience was improved to provide universal accessibility for the Gardiner business area and the north entrance to the park.

Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center

In Gardiner, Montana, this fully accessible building, built in 2004, houses the park's research library, herbarium, and archives. Natural and cultural resource exhibits are often featured in the lobby. Necessary minor improvements include replacing faucet handles and providing door pulls on accessible toilet compartments.

North Entrance Station

The North Entrance station is the first public, NPS facility encountered by visitors arriving to Yellowstone from US Highway 89 from the north. A new entrance station was constructed in 2021 and has improved accessibility for employees and visitors.

Mammoth Hot Springs Developed Area/Park Headquarters

The Mammoth Hot Springs developed area has served as park headquarters since the Army era (1886 to 1918). The main NPS public use building in this national historic landmark district is the Albright Visitor Center. Constructed in 1909, the building was once the Bachelor Officers' Quarters and has served as a visitor center since the 1920s. Other NPS-managed public use buildings include the Administration Building, Canteen (Credit Union and Central Backcountry office), Mammoth Chapel, Mammoth Restroom, Mammoth Community Center, and Mammoth Campground registration building.

The Albright Visitor Center reopened in April 2015, after almost two years of extensive renovation that included seismic stabilization, mitigation of health and safety issues, and accessibility improvements. The visitor center has an information desk (with lowered counter), three separate exhibit areas, orientation kiosks, and a large bookstore. Raised symbols and text, describing accessibility features of the visitor center, are posted near the information desk. (Raised lettering is included, but not braille.) Visual and voice notification alarms were installed as part of the renovation and meet all required codes.

A tactile map of the park is adjacent to the orientation kiosks. An assistive listening system (induction loop) is available for people who use hearing aids. Audio description of the building and exhibits is available for people who have low vision or are blind. Open captioning is included on silent videos associated with displays. A written description of the exhibits is available in large print (24pt) from the information desk. The official park map and guide is available in large print and braille. The backcountry office is in the basement of the visitor center. A large print transcript of the backcountry video is available. Open captioning of the backcountry video is needed.



Accessible features available at the Albright Visitor Center are posted near the entrance

Accessible public restrooms and a drinking fountain-water bottle filler are in the basement of the visitor center and can be reached by the elevator or stairs. Minor accessibility improvements need to be made in the restrooms.

Visitor center staff provide interpretive programs, including ranger-led walks and talks in the vicinity of the visitor center, as well as guided walks on the boardwalks of the Mammoth Hot Spring terraces. Most programs are accessible and are noted in the program schedule in the park newspaper, at visitor centers, and on the website.

There are no designated accessible RV parking spaces in the vicinity of the visitor center nor in the Mammoth Hot Springs area.

Albright Visitor Center (exterior), Picnic Area, and Parking Area

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority/Notes
Parking	Two designated accessible spaces. No van-accessible parking. No accessible parking for RVs.	Provide a van accessible parking space. Provide accessible RV parking.	Short-term
Curb cut	No curb cut to picnic area on parade ground.	Provide curb cut to picnic area adjacent to accessible parking.	Long-term
Picnic table	The number of picnic tables varies by season. No accessible picnic tables.	Provide two accessible picnic tables.	Immediate
Ramp to VC	None	No action	N/A
Entrance to VC	None; threshold is < 1/2"	No action	N/A
Power-assist door (front door and inside vestibule)	None	No action	N/A
RV/bus parking	No designated accessible RV/bus space; no access to sidewalk across from large vehicle parking.	Need accessible RV/bus parking space and curb cut across the road.	Long-term
Upright wayside exhibit in front of VC	Sidewalk has > 1/2" drop-off to gravel/soil in front of exhibit.	Extend concrete in front of exhibit panel; concrete pavers were installed in 2017 and provide an improved surface.	Short-term
Bear-proof trash and recycling receptacles at picnic area and in front of VC	Bear-proof trash can (near ramp) is difficult to open. Recycling containers meet requirements.	Compliance not required for bear-proof trash cans.	N/A
Rear entrance ramp to backcountry office and power-assist door	This is not the main entry to the visitor center but is used by employees and visitors to access the basement from the rear of the building. Ramp has a 9% running slope; handrail is too low (31" high). There is no braille on the backcountry office sign. The directional sign for the elevator and backcountry office does not include braille.	Height of handrail should be 34" min. to 38" max. This is a newly remodeled building, and all directional signage and room signs should include braille.	Long-term

The Fort Yellowstone Historic District Walking Tour begins in front of the Albright Visitor Center and is audio-described on the park app. The access route has some tripping hazards due to large gaps at some expansion joints, buckled concrete, and cross slopes exceeding 2%. There are ten wayside exhibits along the route—some are too high. When sidewalks are replaced, waysides should be reset at proper heights.

Administration Building (Historic Enlisted Men's Barracks)

Built in 1909, the Administration Building has restricted access. Public access is for limited purposes. When visitors need to access the building, there is a phone outside each entrance to call any of the offices.

To enter the building, employees enter a code into a keypad or scan their personal information validation (PIV) card. Keypad placement is not always ideal. In one location, the keypad and push plate for the power-assist door are too far apart, and the door closes before one can enter the building. Of the four entrances, the front entrance on the north end of the building is the most easily accessible. Signs have been posted on push plates to indicate the most accessible entrance. New power-assist mechanisms will be installed on one entrance door on each side of the building.

When the building was renovated, entrances were retrofitted by pouring small concrete ramps to provide access to the historic building. The three-story building has an elevator and there are accessible restrooms on each floor. A yearly elevator inspection and maintenance program should be established.

NPS Administration (Headquarters) Building

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Parking (rear)	none	N/A	
Parking (side)	none	N/A	
Accessible route	Uneven surfaces	Repair asphalt and transitions to other surfaces.	Long-term
Building entrances (front), security phones, power-assist doors	One of two power-assist doors on the south side of the building works sporadically.	Signs have been posted to use another door. Repairs will be made in 2023.	Short-term
Building entrances (rear), security phones, power-assist doors	One of two power-assist doors on the north side of the building work.	Signs have been posted to use another door. Repairs will be made in 2023.	Short-term
Elevator	Call buttons should be no higher than 42". "Up" call button on the second floor is 46". Third floor call button is 43" at center of button.	Lower call buttons when/if elevator is replaced.	Long-term
Bathrooms	There are accessible bathrooms on each floor.	N/A	

Canteen (Historic Post Exchange)

The Canteen was built in 1905, and historically "...provided a gymnasium, as well as the usual canteen functions: sale of sundries and beer, and a place to play cards..." (Haines, 1977). Today, the Canteen serves several functions: a credit union, the Central Backcountry office, Resource Management offices, and the Youth Programs office. The building is not accessible and there are no designated accessible parking spaces. A major renovation of offices spaces, bathrooms, and the kitchen was undertaken during 2020-2021. An accessible entrance was under construction in 2022 and will be completed in 2023.

Canteen

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Accessible parking	No accessible parking.	Two spaces are signed for credit union customers. An accessible parking space will be signed at the side entrance when the accessible entrance is completed.	Short-term
Accessible route	No accessible route. There are stairs.	Provide an accessible public entrance on side of building. Install a lift.	Long-term
Front door	Stairs to front door.	Provide an accessible public entrance on side of building.	Long-term
Side doors	Once inside, there is no access to second floor or basement; and no access to restrooms.	An accessible entrance is being constructed (2022-2023). Install a lift.	Long-term
Restrooms	Restrooms are not accessible. The shower room is not accessible.	Provide an accessible route and provide accessible restrooms. Provide an accessible shower room.	Long-term
Kitchen	The kitchen is not accessible.	Provide an accessible route to an accessible kitchen.	Long-term

Mammoth Chapel

The Mammoth Chapel was built in 1913 and was the last building constructed at Fort Yellowstone. The building is still used for church services and weddings.

Mammoth Chapel

Item	Barrier	Action	Priority
Parking	No striping. No accessible route from the parking lot to the chapel.	Designate accessible parking space in the lot across the road from the chapel and provide a curb cut. An accessible parking space was designated at the end of the sidewalk, east of the building; 185 ft from the ramp.	Short-term
ISAs	No accessible route from parking lot.	Post ISA when parking is designated, and accessible route is provided.	Short-term
Access aisle	None	Stripe access aisles and crosswalk.	Short-term
Accessible route	Five steps lead to front entrance.	Need to redesign and rebuild ramp.	Short-term
Ramp	Ramp is below drip line of the roof. Ice and snow build up on the surface and cause unsafe and inaccessible conditions. Railing gripping surface is too wide (5 1/2 ").	Ramp needs to be redesigned and rebuilt to meet standards and to fit in better with the historic building.	Short-term
Front entrance	Steps to enter.	Provide access from new ramp.	Short-term
Side entrance at end of ramp	Doorknob. Landing in front of door is 4'- 5" w x 3'-9" long. There is a 1" gap between boardwalk and threshold.	Replace doorknob with a lever handle, like historic hardware. Landing should be 5' x 5'.	Short-term
Bathroom	Bathroom is in the basement; stairs lead to entrance and then more stairs down to the bathroom.	Unknown, perhaps a chair lift. May not be possible to provide access.	Long-term

Mammoth Public Restroom

The Mammoth public restroom, built in 2002, is near the Mammoth Hot Spring Terraces and bus parking area. There are two designated accessible parking spaces in front of the restroom. The building needs only minor modifications to comply with ABA standards.

Mammoth Community Center

Due to low enrollment, the Yellowstone Park School closed in 2008 and became the Mammoth Community Center (MCC). The building continues to be used for educational activities, as well as community events. The community center houses a pre-school, emergency medical services (EMS) classroom, training room, distance learning studio for NPS Youth Programs, gym (often used as a gathering space for meetings, community events, and training), a small meeting room, kitchen, and fitness center. A playground, tennis court, and softball field are nearby.



Entrance to Mammoth Community Center (MCC)



Handrails at entrance to MCC

Mammoth Community Center

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Parking (main entrance)	No van-accessible parking.	Provide van-accessible parking space and ISA. Stripe two parking spaces and access aisle.	Immediate
Accessible route	When cars back into parking spaces, sidewalk is narrowed to less than 36".	Provide curb stops. (Or will that cause problems for plows?)	Short-term
Front entrance/door	One door handle is extremely difficult to move and requires more than 5 lbs. of force to open. Grate openings in front of door too large (2" x 1"). Handrails are 28½" high because they were designed for children.	Repair door handle. Adjust door closer. Install power-assist door opener. Replace grate, so openings are not more than ½". Replace handrails so they are 34"-38" high.	Short-term
Southeast entrance door	No accessible parking. No curb cut.	Provide accessible route.	Long-term
Accessible route to playground	8%-15% concrete sidewalk.	Provide accessible route.	Long-term
Playground equipment	Not accessible		Long-term
Picnic table	There are three tables on the patio behind the building; one is accessible. There are also two benches with room for companion seating.	N/A	N/A
Vault toilet	Not accessible. See checklist.		
Outdoor drinking fountain	11% slope from sidewalk, then level for 14'. Not sure if drinking fountain works.	Uneven, grass surface; suggest extending concrete sidewalk to drinking fountain.	Long-term
Girl's and boy's restrooms (inside)	Designed for children.	Remodel or use unisex restroom.	Long-term
Kitchen	Stairs; no accessible route; kitchen is not accessible.	Portable ramp purchased in 2018.	Long-term
Gym	Stairs; no accessible route.	Portable ramp purchased in 2018.	Complete
Stage	No accessible route to the stage	Provide access to stage.	Long-term
Indoor drinking fountain	Very low, designed for children.	Add standing drinking fountain.	Long-term
Unisex restroom entrance	Need 12" clearance on inside of door.	Move coat hooks to provide clearance.	Short-term

Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces

Several of the Lower Terrace boardwalks are accessible for mobility devices, though some transitions from asphalt walkways to boardwalks may be difficult. Improvements need to be made at curb cuts. The Upper Terrace Drive offers views of the hot springs from the road and from boardwalks. Grassy Spring and Canary Spring are accessible, with short grades of 8%-10%. Orange Mound Spring has a short boardwalk (50 yards) with an 8% maximum slope that leads to a wayside exhibit. The *Mammoth Hot Springs Trail Guide*, available at the trailhead and at visitor centers, provides details.

There are five parking lots near the Lower Terraces: three parking lots at the “base” of the terraces; picnic area parking across the street; and the bus parking area near the public restroom. There are more than 100 total parking spaces at the Lower Terraces. The required number of accessible parking spaces has been met, however, there is no accessible parking designated for large vehicles, such as buses and RVs.

Two accessible vault toilets were installed in spring 2016 near the old Mammoth Corrals. Two designated parking spaces, with ISAs, are needed.

Grab bars were replaced in the vault toilet at the south end of the Upper Terrace parking lot. The interior is accessible, but there is no accessible route due to the deteriorated walkway.



Upper Terraces vault toilet



Deteriorated asphalt walkway

Mammoth Campground

Mammoth Campground is approximately ½-mile from Mammoth Hot Springs and five miles from Gardiner, Montana. There are 86 campsites. The registration building is at the entrance to the campground. A short ramp provides access to the front porch. See table below for proposed improvements.

Boardwalk ramps were built in the early 2000s to provide accessible routes to most comfort stations and to the amphitheater. Five campsites were also renovated to be accessible. More accessible sites are needed so there are a variety of sites for tents and RVs. The host site near the registration building should be made accessible. Another accessible host site is needed for a total of two.

Accessible fire rings, picnic tables, and raised tent platforms have been installed during the last 20 years. Only one campsite has an accessible water source (pump) nearby. Many picnic tables were replaced with accessible models in 2021 and 2022.



Accessible picnic table and fire ring at campsite 4



Site 15 with tent platform, accessible table and fire ring

The first public restroom with flush toilets, between the North Entrance and Mammoth, is at the Mammoth Campground. Built in 1939, the interior of the comfort station has been renovated and meets ABA standards. Pavement was replaced in the fall of 2020 and provides an accessible route to the comfort station.



Accessible route to comfort station from parking area



Accessibility improvements provide access to comfort station



No accessible route to comfort station



Drainage and access issues at comfort station

There is an accessible boardwalk to the amphitheater (constructed in 2002), but deep gravel prevents wheelchair users from moving easily from the boardwalk to the seating area. The ramp to the stage has deteriorated and the stage is not wide enough for a wheelchair user. The fire ring is not accessible to visitors or employees due to a drop off from the boardwalk.



Mammoth Campground Amphitheater seating



Ramp to stage



Stage and projection screen

Mammoth Campground

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Registration building	Office doorway is only 28.5" wide. Door has knob. Top of counter is 43". Window above is too high. Registration board: clips at top of board are 72" from finish grade; clips at bottom are 41".	Widen entrance to office to at least 32". Install lever handle on office door. Lower counter to 34" from finish floor. Lower registration board to meet standards or have campground hosts assist.	Long-term
Parking at registration building	No designated accessible parking.	Designate a space? Not sure if possible, due to limited space. Campground volunteer could also go to vehicle.	Long-term
Accessible campsites (4, 15, 36, 42, 55)	See checklists in Landscape Architecture office.		
Host sites (1, 41, 56)	No accessible host sites.	Provide two ABA compliant host sites at sites 1 and 41.	Short-term
Comfort Stations	See checklists in Landscape Architecture office.		
Amphitheater	Loose, deep gravel between boardwalk and benches; access aisles are too steep (running slope up to 15%); existing companion seating for wheelchair is in center of seating area and is not level (6% slope). No assistive listening system.	Provide firm, stable access to benches; provide companion seating on level surface. Provide assistive listening system.	Long-term

Mammoth to Tower Road Corridor

Lava Creek Picnic Area

Due to topography, this picnic area may not be accessible for some mobility devices. Two accessible picnic tables should be provided.

Undine Falls Overlook

Historic stone steps lead to an overlook of the falls. The overlook has a deteriorated asphalt surface with tripping hazards. The surface needs to be repaired or replaced. Better views of the falls should be provided from the parking area for those unable to use stairs.



Steps to Undine Falls Overlook



Undine Falls Overlook

Forces of the Northern Range Self-Guiding Trail

This ½-mile interpretive walk has designated accessible parking and a boardwalk with 10 wayside exhibits. The trail is audio-described on the Yellowstone app. Most exhibits have a tactile component, some with raised relief to help visitors identify different plants and animals of Yellowstone's Northern Range. When wayside exhibits are replaced, exhibit heights should meet standards.



Trailhead for Forces of the Northern Range



Tactile exhibit of aspen leaves and branches



Tactile exhibit of wolf tracks

Petrified Tree Parking Area and Wayside Exhibit

There is no designated accessible parking (the parking lot is not striped), but the petrified tree can be seen from the parking area. Asphalt in front of the wayside exhibit is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. (There is a 2.5" drop-off. See below left.) The trail and parking lot are expected to be part of the Mammoth-Tower Road reconstruction project, date undetermined. Work orders have been entered into FMSS to correct deficiencies in this area.



Petrified Tree wayside exhibit and walkway



Petrified Tree exhibit

Tower Junction

The only NPS public use building at Tower Junction is the Tower Ranger Station and backcountry office (below). The building is not accessible to people using mobility devices due to stairs.



There are two vault toilets south of the ranger station. Both have accessible interiors, but the “old” vault needs an accessible route (walkway).

Tower Junction to Tower Fall

Calcite Springs Overlook

Calcite Springs Overlook is 1.5 miles south of Tower Junction. There are two designated parking spaces. An accessible asphalt path leads to an overlook of the Yellowstone River and Calcite Springs. Depending on the route, distances to the overlook are 280 feet or 530 feet, with a maximum slope of 5.5%. One of the wayside exhibits is too high for wheelchair users and needs to be lowered.



Calcite Springs wayside exhibit



Calcite Springs view from overlook



Signage for accessible route

Tower Fall

A very popular, short walk to an overlook of Tower Fall begins near the Tower Fall General Store, 2.3 miles from Tower Junction. The interior of the comfort station next to the store is accessible, but the entrance is not. A 5' turning radius is needed for wheelchair users. Accessible parking and improved access routes were constructed in 2021. Two accessible vault toilets were installed in the parking area.



Trail to overlook under construction 2021



Overlook surface 2021

Tower Fall Campground

Tower Fall Campground has 32 campsites. Site 10 was made an accessible site in the summer of 2017. Improvements were made by re-grading trails, retrofitting the picnic table, and installing an accessible fire ring. The three vault toilets do not meet accessibility standards. A project to retrofit vault toilets parkwide, by replacing grab bars and providing accessible walkways, is ongoing. The amphitheater is not wheelchair-accessible due to topography.

Tower Junction to Northeast Entrance Road Corridor

There are two campgrounds, three picnic areas, and many pullouts with wayside exhibits, between Tower Junction and the Northeast Entrance.

Slough Creek Campground

The entrance road to Slough Creek Campground is a busy location for wildlife watchers. There are two vault toilets at this location. An accessible vault toilet was installed at the campground entrance road in 2020. The vault toilet at the Slough Creek trailhead is not accessible due to topography.

Slough Creek Campground has 16 campsites. Site 12 is the designated accessible campsite (below left). An accessible picnic table and accessible fire ring were added to the site in 2017. The condition of this campsite is unknown after flooding in 2022. The interior of the nearby vault toilet is accessible, but the route to the toilet is not. Another accessible site needs to be established. Site 1 (below right) is proposed. An accessible fire ring was installed at site 1 in 2020. An accessible picnic table is needed. The vault toilet next to site 1 is accessible.



Slough Creek Campground Site 12



Slough Creek Campground Site 1

Pebble Creek Campground

The information below was written before the flood of June 2022. The condition of the campground was unknown by the author as of November 2022. The campground will be closed in 2023.

There are 27 campsites at Pebble Creek Campground. Site 9 was established as an accessible campsite in 2017. The picnic table was retrofitted, and a new fire ring was installed (below). The vault toilet across from the site is accessible. Site 19 is proposed as an additional accessible site. An accessible fire ring was installed in 2020. An accessible picnic table is needed. The nearby vault toilet is accessible.



Pebble Creek Campground Site 9



Pebble Creek Campground Site 19

An accessible route to the water hydrant (pump) near site 19 is needed. (There is a 4" high concrete pad that prevents wheelchair access.) The pump handle should be adjusted or replaced to be operational with one hand at less than 5 lbs. of force.

Picnic Areas

The Yellowstone River picnic area and trailhead is just east of Tower Junction. Individual picnic sites are fairly level. There are eight picnic tables, but none are accessible. The vault toilet is not accessible. This picnic area is being redesigned as part of the Yellowstone River Bridge replacement project. The Soda Butte picnic area was heavily impacted by flooding in 2022. Warm Creek Picnic Area, near the Northeast Entrance has seven, level picnic sites. There is an accessible vault toilet with designated parking. A picnic table was retrofitted in 2018. Some picnic sites were impacted by the 2022 flood.

Northeast Entrance

The only public buildings at the Northeast Entrance are the historic entrance station and a nearby vault toilet. Visitors access the entrance station from their vehicles. Accommodations would be made for employees working at the entrance station, if needed. The access route to the vault toilet has a 15% slope, due to topography.

Accessible flush toilets are available at the Cooke City Chamber of Commerce visitor center, approximately 5 miles east of the entrance station.

Tower Fall to Canyon (Dunraven Pass) Road Corridor

A picnic area was re-established at Buffalo Paddock in 2021. An accessible vault toilet was installed and accessible tables were installed in 2022. An accessible route to at least one picnic table is needed.

The vault toilets and overlooks near the Chittenden Road and the Washburn Hot Springs overlook (Sulfur Creek) are accessible. The access route to the Washburn Hot Springs overlook will be improved when road improvements are made. The vault toilet at the Dunraven Pass trailhead is also accessible, but the metal door is difficult to close.

The Chittenden Road leads to a trailhead to Mount Washburn and spectacular views of the surrounding landscape. The parking area was improved in 2022, with a paved surface and accessible parking. The vault toilet has an accessible route, but the interior needs to be remodeled to meet standards.



Mt Washburn Trailhead



Vault Toilet Near Mt Washburn Trailhead

Picnic Areas: Dunraven Pass to Canyon to Fishing Bridge

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Dunraven Road	>1" opening between concrete pad in front of toilet and toilet floor. Cannot close and lock door at same time. Grab bars are too low.	Fill opening. Repair door closer. Replace grab bars and mount at appropriate height. New grab bars were installed in 2022.	Short-term
Cascade Lake	none		
Chittenden Bridge/Wapiti Lake	Access aisle near vault toilet is not striped. Grab bars in vault toilet are too low. Topography prevents access to picnic area.	Delineate access aisle. Replace grab bars and mount at appropriate height.	Short-term
Otter Creek	Access aisle is not delineated and cars park in front of curb cut.	Stripe access aisle.	Immediate
LeHardy	No curb cut. 4" step to vault toilet.	Provide curb cut and accessible route to vault toilet.	Long-term
Cascade Creek	No accessible picnic tables.	Install two accessible picnic tables	Short-term
Nez Perce Ford	No accessible picnic tables. Interior of vault toilet is not accessible.	Install two accessible picnic tables; replace grab bars and mount at standard height.	Short-term

Mammoth to Norris Road Corridor



Sheepeater Cliff picnic site

An accessible parking space was designated, and stone curbing was removed to allow for an accessible route to the picnic area at Sheepeater Cliff. A picnic table was retrofitted with longer boards to provide knee and toe space for wheelchair users. This picnic area will be redesigned as part of the park's ongoing road reconstruction program.

Picnic Areas: Mammoth to Norris

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Sheepeater Cliff	Access route to toilet is too steep (17%).	Toilet will be replaced as part of a road reconstruction project.	N/A
Indian Creek	none	N/A	N/A
Apollinaris	No accessible tables. ½" rise between asphalt path and concrete pad in front of vault toilet.	Provide two accessible picnic tables. Repair space between asphalt path and concrete pad.	Short-term
Beaver Lake	No accessible tables. No accessible route to the toilet. Grab bars are too low.	Provide two accessible picnic tables. Provide an accessible route to the vault toilet. Replace grab bars. Grab bars were replaced in 2022.	Short-term

Indian Creek Campground

There are 70 campsites at Indian Creek Campground, with a variety of sites for tents, pop-up campers, and small RVs. There are two accessible campsites; 8 and 58. Tables were retrofitted, and accessible fire rings installed in 2016. The Indian Creek Campground fire circle is accessible.

The trail to the registration building is compacted soil leading to stairs and a boardwalk ramp. The ramp averages a 7% slope. The ramp railing needs to be replaced. Recommendations for minor improvements are in the table below.



Indian Creek Campground site 8



Indian Creek Campground registration station

Indian Creek Campground Registration Building

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Parking at registration building	None	None, there are only four parking spaces.	N/A
Accessible route	Some loose gravel, but otherwise meets standards.	Compact loose gravel.	Short-term
Handrail	Height is 33" and is in disrepair.	Replace handrail. Should be 34" minimum. Repair proposed for 2023.	Short-term
Registration window and counter	Bottom of window is 36.5" and counter is 34.5"	No action	N/A
Registration board	Clips do not meet reach range requirements. Lowest clips are 51", highest clips are 75".	Lower registration board so clips are within reach range of 15"-48" or campground hosts can assist.	Short-term
Brochure board	Bottom of board 23", top of board 60".	No action	N/A
Information board next to window (weather forecast, etc.)	Bottom of board 40", top of board 76".	No action	N/A
Envelope dispenser	52" high	Lower to 48" when replaced.	Long-term
Fee envelope drop box	57" high	Lower to 48" when replaced.	Long-term

Moose Exhibit

As part of a road improvement project, the historic Moose Exhibit was moved closer to the parking area, with an accessible parking space and route to the exhibit.



Moose exhibit near Willow Park

Obsidian Cliff

An accessible parallel parking space, with a curb cut, will accommodate passenger cars, vans, or RVs (27' long) at the Obsidian Cliff exhibit. The 3' wide, paved trail, with 5' wide pull-offs is accessible for those using mobility devices. The wayside exhibit, at the end of the trail, meets standards.



Obsidian Cliff parking



Path to wayside exhibit



Wayside exhibit

Roaring Mountain, Frying Pan Spring, Clearwater Spring, and Nymph Lake, between Norris and Mammoth; demonstrate improved accessibility, with designated accessible parking, sidewalks, and/or boardwalks.



Roaring Mountain



Nymph Lake



Boardwalk to Frying Pan Spring



Boardwalk to Clearwater Spring

Norris

Norris Geyser Basin Museum

The geyser basin museum, built in 1930, is a 200-yard walk from the parking area. There is designated accessible parking, but there are no curb cuts at the access aisles. There is a curb cut at the trail entrance, but deteriorated asphalt and cross slopes create a difficult route. The parking area and trail to the museum are being redesigned and will be reconstructed as part of a Federal Highways road project; date to be determined. New exhibits and a ramp were installed in the south wing of the museum in 2020 to allow access for users with mobility devices.

There is a comfort station with flush toilets in the Norris Geyser Basin parking lot. The comfort station does not meet accessibility requirements. There are four vault toilets in the parking lot; one is accessible. These toilet facilities will be replaced as part of the aforementioned project.

Two loop trails leave from the museum for a total of 2¼ miles. Efforts continue to provide more accessible routes in the geyser basin. An accessible route from the museum to Porcelain Basin is proposed. Additionally, better transitions are needed from boardwalks to trails throughout the basin.



Stairs leading to Porcelain Basin

Museum of the National Park Ranger (“Ranger Museum”)

The Ranger Museum, originally the Norris Soldier Station (built in 1908), was rehabilitated in 1991 and is wheelchair accessible. The boardwalk around the building is accessible and has wayside exhibits along the route. The asphalt walkway needs repair.



Improper striping



Restriped in 2019

The closest comfort station to the Ranger Museum is at Norris Campground. Pavement repairs made in the fall of 2020 improved access to the comfort station. The interior of the comfort station is accessible.



Norris Campground

Norris Campground has 100 campsites; two are accessible. The campground ranger station is not accessible. The campground was closed in 2021 and 2022.

Norris Campground Ranger Station/Registration Building

Item	Barrier	Action	Priority
Parking	Closest designated accessible space is across the street at the comfort station.	Designate an accessible parking space at ranger station? Not sure this will work.	Short-term
Accessible route	One step to enter ranger station.	Need to add a ramp in the future.	Short-term
Threshold	None		N/A
Doorway	None	40.5" wide. Entrance door is always open. Screen door is easy to open.	N/A
Clear space	None	N/A	N/A
Counter height	Main counter is 42.5"; there is no lowered counter.	If lower counter was needed, table just inside front door could be used. Office will be remodeled in the future.	Long-term
Aisle	Aisle is 27"; a wheelchair user could not access space.	Office will be remodeled in the future.	Long-term
Information board/kiosk	None	N/A	N/A

There are two designated accessible campsites in Loop A; sites 2 and 3. Loop B sites, 39 and 40, are proposed as accessible sites. Accessible picnic tables and fire rings have been installed at all four sites.

Traditional evening campfire programs are offered at the Norris amphitheater. The rustic venue seats approximately 60 people. Seating for wheelchair users is at the top of the amphitheater because of topography.



Norris campsite 2



Norris campsite 3



Norris Amphitheater seating



Rustic fire ring

Norris to Canyon Road Corridor

Ice Lake Backcountry Campsite

The Ice Lake backcountry campsite, 4D3, is between Norris and Canyon. The trail is a little over a ¼ mile long (one way), and is hard-packed soil, and fairly level. The campsite has an accessible fire ring, typical tent pad and a pit toilet that meets accessibility standards, minus grab bars. Also see backcountry campsite section.



Ice Lake trailhead



Ice Lake fire ring

Picnic Areas: Norris to Canyon

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Norris Meadows	No accessible picnic tables. The vault toilet is not accessible due to a 2" rise between asphalt path and concrete pad. Asphalt is deteriorated. Grab bars do not comply.	Provide two accessible tables. Provide accessible route to toilet. An accessible fire ring was installed in 2020. New grab bars were installed in 2022.	Short-term
Virginia Cascade	No accessible picnic tables.	Provide two accessible picnic tables.	Short-term

Canyon

The Canyon Visitor Education Center was reconstructed and reopened in 2006. There are five designated accessible parking spaces, with curb cuts, for the visitor center, backcountry office, and restrooms--all housed in the same building. There is a power-assist door at the restroom entrance that also provides access to the visitor center. The information desk at the visitor center is accessible to wheelchairs with a side approach.



Canyon Visitor Education Center

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority/Notes
Parking	Five designated accessible spaces.	None	N/A
Curb cut	No curb cut at parking space closest to building.	Provide a curb cut	Long-term
RV/bus parking	No designated accessible RV/bus space.	Designate accessible RV/bus space	Short-term
Entrance door to visitor center	No power-assist door at entrance to visitor center.	There is a power-assist door at the entrance to the restrooms, down the hall from the visitor center lobby.	N/A
Information desk	none	none	N/A
Signage in lobby for restrooms	Symbol is difficult to see because it's up so high. From floor to bottom of sign is 67".	Lower symbol so bottom of the sign is 40" above the finish floor. Need to check character height to confirm.	Short-term
Restrooms	See checklists		

Canyon Campground is managed by a park concessioner. There are three accessible sites, with picnic tables and fire grates. Minimal changes are needed to meet accessibility requirements. Comfort stations are accessible, except for some minor needs.

The Canyon amphitheater (adjacent to the campground) was built in 1957 and does not meet accessibility requirements. The amphitheater is being redesigned and implementation is proposed for 2023.



Canyon Amphitheater

Major renovation of the Canyon Rim overlooks began in 2006-2008 with accessibility and safety improvements at Artist Point. The project continued at the Brink of the Upper Falls and the Brink of the Lower Falls in 2020.



Inspiration Point



Overlook designed so children and people of shorter stature can view the canyon

There are views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River along the North Rim Drive, from the Brink of Lower Falls, Inspiration Point, Lookout Point, and Grand View overlook. There are views from the Upper Falls Viewpoint, Discovery Overlook, and Artist Point on the South Rim Drive. The overlooks were also designed for children or persons of shorter stature. Rustic stone seating, with companion seating was built with mobility device users in mind. Firm, stable walking surfaces and new railings provide safety and stability.



Walkway to Discovery Overlook



View from Discovery Overlook

Canyon to Fishing Bridge Road Corridor

The road south from Canyon to Fishing Bridge travels through scenic Hayden Valley, famous for wildlife watching. Mud Volcano is just south of the valley, with mudpots, fumaroles, and hot springs.

Mud Volcano

There are six accessible parking spaces in the area. Another accessible parking space is recommended at the boardwalk trail. There are no RV parking spaces that meet access requirements. The loop trail at Mud Volcano is approximately .6 miles. A shorter loop from Mud Volcano to Dragon's Mouth Spring is accessible for wheelchair users; however, a short section has a maximum running slope of 11%. The walking surfaces are boardwalk and asphalt.

Sulphur Caldron

The accessible parking space is on the far end of the parking lot from the feature and should be moved to the closest parking space to Sulphur Caldron.

LeHardys Rapids

LeHardys Rapids is a cascade on the Yellowstone River, three miles north of Fishing Bridge. The northern pullout provides the best access to the boardwalk and compacted soil trail along the river. Visitors with wheelchairs may require assistance due to uneven ground. The picnic table should be replaced with an accessible model.

The southern part of the boardwalk has stairs. An accessible vault toilet is at the southern pullout. A work order was submitted to construct a new curb cut, stripe the access aisle, and install a new sign directing visitors to the accessible route.



LeHardys Rapids



Parking and boardwalk at LeHardys Rapids (north end)

Picnic Areas: Canyon to Fishing Bridge (Hayden Valley)

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Chittenden Bridge/Wapiti Lake	Picnic area is not accessible due to topography. Grab bars do not comply with ABA.	Replace grab bars.	Short-term
LeHardy	No accessible route to picnic area (no curb cut). 4" rise to vault toilet.	Provide a curb cut. Provide accessible route to toilet.	Short-term
Cascade	none	N/A	N/A
Nez Perce Ford	No accessible picnic tables. Grab bars do not meet standards.	Provide two accessible picnic tables. Replace grab bars to meet ABA standards.	Short-term
Otter Creek	Access aisle is not striped and cars park in front of curb cut.	Stripe access aisle.	Short-term

Fishing Bridge

The historic Fishing Bridge spans the Yellowstone River at the outlet of Yellowstone Lake. The existing bridge was built in 1937 and was closed to angling in 1973. Since then, Fishing Bridge has been a popular place to observe fish, especially during the spawning season. Accessibility on the bridge, in associated parking areas, and at exhibits was improved as part of the Fishing Bridge to Indian Pond road project.

The Fishing Bridge Museum and Visitor Center, built 1930-1931, is a National Historic Landmark. A new access route was constructed in 2019 (below left). The main hall of the museum is accessible, but the two wings are not. (A portable ramp is available.) Renovation of the building interior and exhibits is in progress.



Fishing Bridge Visitor Center entrance ramp



Steps to exhibit area and drinking fountain

Fishing Bridge Museum and Visitor Center

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Parking	Only one designated accessible space close to the visitor center. No van-accessible parking.	Parking area will be redesigned as part of road project.	Short-term
RV/bus parking	No designated accessible RV/bus space.	Parking area will be redesigned as part of road project.	Short-term
Access route	Deteriorated asphalt, with potholes; historic stone detail before ramp is > ½".	Repaired in 2019	N/A
Ramp to VC	9% slope; handrails are too low at 29½".	Access was redesigned and constructed in 2019.	N/A
Doorway	Threshold is > ½"; door is difficult to open; exceeds 5 lbs. of force.	Repair threshold and adjust door opener.	Short-term
Information desk	Too high, 42"	Lower counter or a portion to 34" max. (There is currently a step stool for children.)	Short-term
Main exhibit area	none	N/A	N/A
Relief map wing	Two steps up. Not enough knee space beneath tactile map (24"). Drinking fountain is at the top of the stairs--not enough clear floor space. Push button on front of drinking fountain doesn't work.	Portable ramp available upon request. Raise map, if possible, so there is 27" min. knee space. Provide bottled water at information desk for those unable to access drinking fountain.	Long-term
Bookstore wing	Two steps up. Checkout counter is 41" high.	Portable ramp available upon request. Lower checkout counter, or a portion, to 36" max.	Short-term
Rear entrance	This is not the main entry to the visitor center, but provides access to an outdoor exhibit and views of Yellowstone Lake. Stairs have no handrails.	Install handrails in keeping with historic fabric of the building.	Long-term

There are no restrooms in the visitor center, but there are restrooms in a separate building approximately 200 yards away. Two designated accessible parking spaces are near the restroom. The curb ramp is 12% and will be corrected as part of a road reconstruction project. Door openings to the historic comfort station are only 31" and should be modified to 32" to allow wheelchair access, if possible. Recent interior renovations have improved accessibility, but sinks are too low.



Fishing Bridge comfort station

The amphitheater is adjacent to the visitor center. The assembly area meets accessibility requirements. There is no access to the stage for a wheelchair user.

The Fishing Bridge picnic area is next to the amphitheater. There is no accessible parking near the picnic area and the only accessible route is on the roadway. Picnic tables meet standards. Barriers to accessibility in the Fishing Bridge parking area will be addressed as part of a road reconstruction project.

There is a vault toilet across the street from the Fishing Bridge General Store. The vault toilet meets accessibility standards, except for the urinal and one of the toilet paper holders that was installed above the grab bar. The toilet paper dispenser should be raised so the outlet is 12" above the grab bar.

Fishing Bridge to East Entrance Road Corridor

Picnic Areas between Fishing Bridge and East Entrance

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Fishing Bridge	No accessible parking nearby.	Parking will be improved as part of a road project.	Short-term
Steamboat Point	Topography prevents access to picnic area and toilet.	Improve route to toilet. Replace grab bars and install at correct height.	Long-term
Sedge Bay	No accessible route to vault toilet due to 8" step. Gravel and sand surface.	Provide accessible route.	Long-term
Sylvan Lake	No accessible tables. No accessible route to vault toilet.	Provide two accessible tables. Provide accessible route to toilet.	Long-term
Eleanor Lake	Topography prevents access.		N/A

Lake Butte Overlook

There is accessible parking and an exhibit with views of Yellowstone Lake at the Lake Butte overlook. The vault toilet is not accessible.



Lake Butte wayside exhibit



Accessible parking space and access aisle

Sylvan Pass

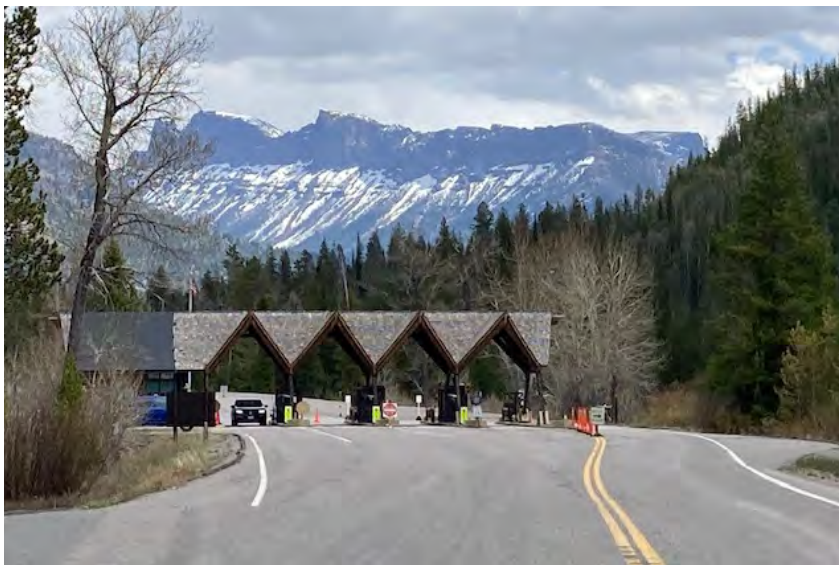
Overlooks on Sylvan Pass and the vault toilet are accessible.



Sylvan Pass vault toilet and parking

East Entrance

Visitors access the East Entrance station from their vehicles. Because there are steps to enter, accommodations would be made for employees working at the entrance station. Two vault toilets, near the entrance station, were replaced with accessible models in 2019. There is designated parking. Sidewalks need to be installed.



East Entrance Station

Lake

Most of the facilities in the Lake area are managed by park concessioners. There is a small picnic area west of the Lake Hotel maintained by the NPS. The picnic area is level, with views of Yellowstone Lake. Two of the four picnic tables should be accessible models. There is no toilet at the picnic area, however, there is a comfort station near the Lake General Store.

Access to the Lake comfort station is restricted by a greater than 1/2" rise at the entrances to the men's (2") and women's (1") rooms. The comfort station interior meets accessibility requirements, with a few exceptions: the faucet handles need to be replaced with paddle-type handles and there are no door pulls on the accessible toilet compartment doors.

Bridge Bay

Bridge Bay Picnic Area

The Bridge Bay picnic area is near the marina. The sidewalk to the picnic area has slopes ranging from 4%-12%. There are 24 picnic tables. One table was retrofitted in 2017. There are three pedestal grills. One accessible pedestal grill is needed.

The interior of the comfort station near the picnic area is accessible, with a few minor modifications. The access route to the comfort station was improved in 2019.



Bridge Bay picnic area comfort station (women's)



Bridge Bay picnic area comfort station (men's)

The RV dump station, across from the picnic area, is not accessible. Curbs limit access and reach ranges exceed standards.



Potable water



RV dump station

Bridge Bay Marina Comfort Station and Ranger Station

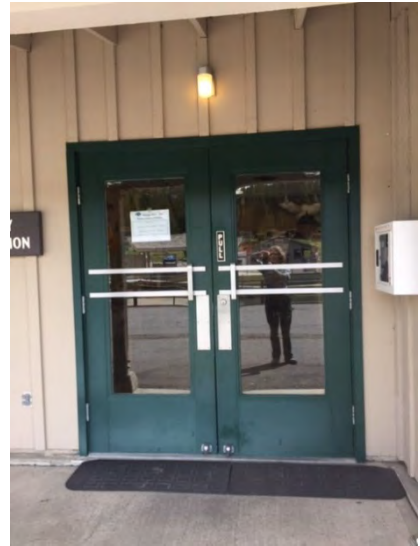
Threshold ramps and edge transitions were installed to allow access to the comfort station and ranger station. However, the interior of the comfort station is not wheelchair-accessible.



Marina comfort station (men's)



Ranger Station entrance



Ranger Station entrance with threshold transition

One entrance to the ranger station is accessible (photos above center and right). The other entrance, facing the marina, has a rise of 1" to 2.5". The entrance doors are heavy and close too quickly, so the door closer should be adjusted. The counter inside the ranger station is 40.5" high and there is no lowered counter that meets the 36" requirement.

Bridge Bay Campground

Bridge Bay Campground is managed by the park concessioner. A private firm, contracted by Xanterra, completed an assessment of the campground during the summer of 2019. Recommendations for accessibility improvements were made and the concessioner is moving forward.

Amphitheater

The NPS amphitheater is across the road from campground Loop D. There is no designated accessible parking, nor is there an accessible route to the seating area.



Bridge Bay amphitheater projection screen and seating



Deteriorated steps and railing to amphitheater seating

Bridge Bay to West Thumb Road Corridor

Picnic Areas Between Bridge Bay and West Thumb

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Gull Point	No accessible tables. Grab bars are too low.	Provide two accessible picnic tables. Replace grab bars and mount at appropriate height.	Short-term
Sand Point	No access to picnic area due to curb and topography. No accessible tables.	Provide curb cut. Provide two accessible picnic tables.	Short-term
“Contrasting Forests” exhibit	Along the lakeshore. Not accessible, due to topography. Toilet paper holder is too low.	Raise toilet paper holder so outlet is 12” above the grab bar.	Short-term
Pumice Point	Along lakeshore. Not accessible.	None	N/A
Angler’s Bluff (previously known as Fisherman’s Access)	Slope to picnic area is 12% for 16’. Roots in trail. No accessible picnic tables. Urinal in vault toilet protrudes into clear space. Toilet paper holder is too low.	Remove roots to provide smoother surface? Provide two accessible picnic tables. Remove urinal. Raise toilet paper holder to 12” above the grab bar.	Short-term
Hard Road to Travel	Picnic area is not accessible, due to topography. Handle on toilet door is too low.	Replace door handle.	Short-term
West Thumb	RV parking space is not wide enough.	Widen one RV space to 20’.	Short-term

West Thumb

West Thumb Geyser Basin overlooks Yellowstone Lake. The boardwalk trail has two loops. The outer loop is a ½-mile, and the inner loop is a ¼-mile in length. There is designated accessible parking. Four of six vault toilets are accessible. A picnic area is nearby. The boardwalk and picnic area meet requirements for federal outdoor recreation standards.

The West Thumb Information Center is an historic ranger station-residence, built in 1931 and remodeled in the 1960s. The building is a bookstore in the summer and a warming hut in winter. The entrance door meets standards, but only one interior doorway is wide enough for a wheelchair. The bookstore does not have a lowered sales counter. A wood stove, for winter warming hut operations, protrudes into the access route near one interior doorway.



West Thumb Geyser Basin



West Thumb Information Center

Grant Village

Grant Village is two miles south of West Thumb, on the shore of Yellowstone Lake.

Visitor Center and Backcountry Office

A ramp and stairs provide access to the visitor center, restrooms, and backcountry office. An automatic door opener is recommended for the visitor center entrance. Only minor modifications are needed for the restrooms to meet standards. The backcountry office can be reached via the visitor center ramp. The width of the door is 33", but the turning radius is less than 5' at the office entrance.

Amphitheater

There is no designated parking or curb cut at the signed entrance to the amphitheater, however, there is designated parking at the visitor center and an accessible route from there. The assembly area has a 13% slope. There is no integrated seating or companion seating, due to the slope, so wheelchair users need to sit at the top or bottom of the amphitheater.



Grant Amphitheater stage and projection screen



Ramp to stage



Grant Amphitheater



Fire ring

Picnic area

The Grant picnic area has one accessible picnic site. The accessible table is on a concrete pad near the comfort station. The fire ring should be replaced with an accessible pedestal grill for ease of use. The comfort station requires some minor changes to meet accessibility standards.



Grant picnic area comfort station

Grant Campground

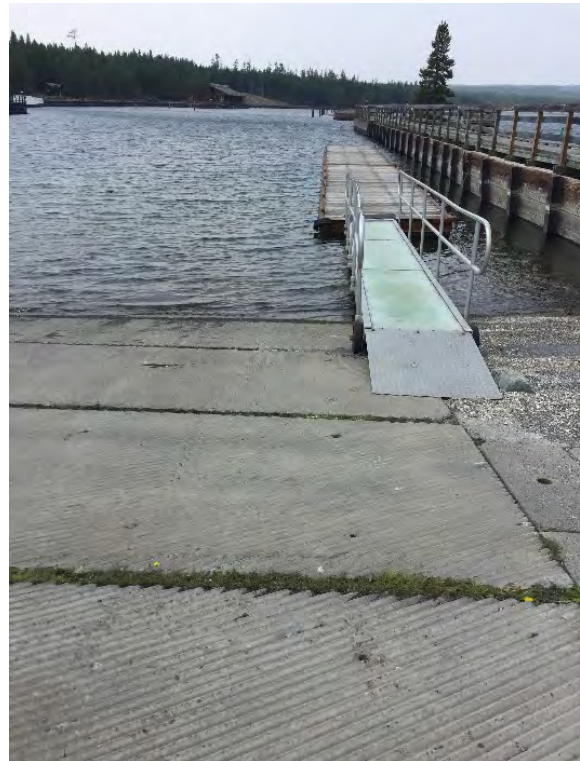
Grant Campground has 430 sites and is managed by park concessioner, Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Inc. There are three accessible campsites that can be reserved. Recommendations for improvements to two pedestal grills (lowered cooking surfaces) and water spigots have been made to the concessioner.

Marina

A fishing platform, adjacent to the boat launch, has lowered railings for fishing on Yellowstone Lake. The platform is level except for an 8% cross slope (for about 5') on the ramp that leads to the platform. There are two benches, with room for companion seating. The boat launch has a 14% slope. There is a 16% slope for approximately 9 feet, in front of the dock and gangway. The ramp to the gangway is 7%. There is an accessible vault toilet with designated accessible parking nearby.



Grant Marina fishing platform



Gangway to dock



Parking and access to fishing platform

Grant to Lewis Lake Road Corridor

Lewis Lake Campground

Lewis Lake Campground is about eight miles from the South Entrance. There are 85 sites, with one designated as accessible (C30). Campsite B50 is recommended as an additional accessible site.

Only two of the five toilets at Lewis Lake Campground have accessible routes leading to them, and none have accessible interiors. Grab bars do not meet standards.

A picnic table was retrofitted, and an accessible fire ring was installed at site C30 in the summer of 2017. The site is level, except for a few tree roots that can be avoided. There is no accessible route to the toilet or pump. Neither meet ABA standards.



Lewis Lake Campground site C30

Picnic Area and Boat Launch

There are two vault toilets near the picnic area and boat launch (below left). The toilets are not accessible. The picnic area is not accessible, due to topography, though a picnic table could be placed on a level site close to parking.

The boat launch has a slope of approximately 12% and the gangway to the dock is 3' wide. The paved surface to the gangway needs improvement.



Boat launch, gangway, and dock



Deteriorated path to gangway

Lewis Lake to South Entrance Road Corridor

Lewis Falls

The Lewis River Bridge will be replaced and will include 6' wide pedestrian walkways on both sides. The bridge is under construction.

South Entrance

Snake River Ranger Station

The Snake River Ranger Station is just inside the south entrance to the park. There is no designated accessible parking for the ranger station or vault toilets. The ranger station is not accessible, due to stairs. There is a ramp that leads to the ranger's office, but there is no access to the public ranger station from there. Doorknobs on the ranger station door need to be replaced with lever handles. The interior of the ranger station is easy to move around in, but the counter is 44.75" high and there is no lowered counter. A 36" high counter should be provided.



Snake River Ranger Station



Snake River picnic area

Snake River Picnic Area

The Snake River picnic area has separate spurs for each level picnic site. As of 2020, none of the tables were accessible. New accessible grills were installed in 2020. The vault toilet is accessible.

Norris to Madison Road Corridor

Artist Paint Pots

There is accessible parking at the trailhead. The trailhead sign gives length and surface information, but trail designations lack contrast and readability. A new trailhead sign is being designed.

The distance from the parking lot to the thermal features is approximately .3 miles on a level, hard-packed dirt trail. The lower boardwalk is signed as accessible, but some transitions between the trail and boardwalk at the basin need repair.



Artist Paint Pots orientation sign



Repairing transition from trail to boardwalk

An accessible vault toilet was installed at the Artist Paint Pots parking area in the fall of 2015. An accessible parking space is needed closer to the toilet. A parallel parking space could be delineated nearby.



Beryl Spring

An accessible parking space is signed and there is a curb cut. A short, level boardwalk leads to Beryl Spring. There is a passing space with a bench provided along the route.



Beryl Spring

Gibbon Falls

Parking, walkways, and overlooks at Gibbon Falls were redesigned in 2009 as part of the park's road reconstruction program. Construction was completed in 2010 and meets accessibility requirements. An accessible vault toilet was installed in 2018.



Walkway to Gibbon Falls



Walkway with railing leading to Gibbon Falls

Picnic Areas: Norris to Madison

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Gibbon Meadows	No accessible tables. Toilet paper holder is too low.	Provide two accessible tables. Raise toilet paper holder to 12" above grab bar.	Short-term
Caldera Rim	Toilet paper holder is too low.	Raise toilet paper holder to 12" above grab bar.	Short-term
Iron Spring	Log curbing prevents access to picnic units. Toilet paper holder is too low.	Cut log curbing so it is level with ground surface and there is a 36" wide opening. Raise toilet paper holder to 12" above grab bar.	Short-term
Gibbon	Most sites are not accessible, due to topography.	There is one location on level terrain that could be made into an accessible picnic site.	Short-term
Tuff Cliff	Toilet paper holder is 6" above grab bar.	Raise toilet paper holder so outlet is 12" above grab bar. New accessible table installed in 2022.	Short-term



Gibbon Picnic Area vault toilet



Gibbon picnic site

Terrace Spring

Terrace Spring is just north of Madison Junction. There is an accessible parking space, access aisle, and curb cut. One section of boardwalk has a running slope up to 14% and a cross slope up to 10% (photo below). When the boardwalk is reconstructed, grades should be improved.



Terrace Spring boardwalk

Madison

Comfort Station

The asphalt walkway from the parking area to the comfort station is uneven, with surface irregularities. The grate in front of the entrance does not meet ABA standards; the horizontal openings are 4" wide x 1" long. The grate should be replaced. The comfort station interior is accessible.

Picnic Area

The asphalt walk from the parking area to the picnic area is too steep (15%). An accessible route is needed, as well as an accessible table and fire ring. The water spigot is not accessible and should be replaced.



Madison Junction picnic area parking



Potential accessible route to picnic area



Drinking fountain and spigot

Amphitheater

The Madison amphitheater is in poor condition and does not meet accessibility standards.



Madison amphitheater



Fire ring, stage, and projection screen

Madison Information Center/Madison Museum

Several paved walkways and trails lead to the Madison Museum. The most accessible route is through the middle of the amphitheater. The entrance threshold was retrofitted with a small ramp many years ago (below right). The information desk is 42 ½" high and does not meet accessibility standards. The museum was built in 1930.



Madison Information Center



Madison to West Road Corridor

Madison Campground

Madison Campground is managed by a park concessioner. There are three accessible sites, with picnic tables and fire grates that meet requirements. Comfort stations are also accessible.

Mount Haynes Overlook and Fishing Platform

Approximately 3.5 miles west of Madison Junction, a level boardwalk leads to the Madison River. The pullout has no formal parking. An accessible parking space could be designated on the road near the boardwalk. Three benches with companion seating provide places to rest and view Mount Haynes and the river.



Mount Haynes



Boardwalk to fishing platform

Picnic Areas: Madison to West

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Madison River/Seven Mile Bridge	No accessible tables.	Provide two accessible tables.	Short-term



Accessible recycling containers were installed at the Madison River/Seven Mile Bridge picnic area in 2022.

Two Ribbons trail

The Two Ribbons trail is a level, ¾-mile boardwalk, with wayside exhibits along the Madison River.



Two Ribbons trailhead

West Entrance Station and Entrance Sign

Visitors access the West Entrance station from their vehicles. There are curb cuts at the entrance kiosks. Accommodations would be made for any employees working at the entrance station. A double vault toilet, near the entrance station, is accessible. There is no public access to the ranger station at the entrance station.

Madison to Old Faithful Road Corridor

Firehole Canyon Drive

The Firehole swimming area, and nearby vault toilets, are not accessible due to stairs and topography.

Picnic Areas: Madison to Old Faithful

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Firehole River	No accessible table. Toilet grab bars do not meet standards.	Provide two accessible tables. Replace grab bars and mount at appropriate height.	Short-term
Nez Perce	Trail on east side of picnic area has a drop off from the pavement and is < 36" wide. No accessible tables or fire rings. ISA on toilet is not tactile/braille symbol.	Create accessible route to picnic sites. Repair transition from parking lot to trail. Widen path to 36". Provide two accessible picnic tables. Replace three fire rings with accessible pedestal grills. Replace ISA on toilet.	Short-term
Whiskey Flat	ISA on toilet does not meet standards.	Replace ISA on toilet.	Immediate
East Lot	ISA at parking space is too low. Accessible picnic table is in disrepair. Dead bolt on toilet requires > 5 lbs. of force to open. Grab bars do not meet standards.	Raise ISA, so bottom of symbol is 5' above ground (will need a new post). Replace boards on accessible picnic table or replace table. Replace grab bars and mount at appropriate height.	Short-term

**Lower Geyser Basin
Fountain Paint Pot Nature Trail**

Three accessible parking spaces have pavement markings, but there are only two ISAs posted at Fountain Paint Pot. A curb cut should be added at the end of the parking lot closest to the trailhead (see below) or the parking lot restriped.



Accessible parking space and access aisle (no curb cut)

The ramp to Silex Spring has a slope up to 12% for 50'. From Silex Spring to Fountain Paint Pot the slope is 11% for about 50'. When boardwalks are replaced, grades should be reduced, if possible. The ramp to Jelly, Clepsydra, and Spasm geysers does not exceed 9%. This is acceptable in an outdoor environment. Additional benches are recommended for resting along the ½-mile trail.

Vault toilets

There are four vault toilets at Fountain Paint Pot. There is a curb cut, but there are no designated accessible parking spaces at the toilets. The route to the toilets is not accessible, due to a gravel surface with a 3” rise from the ground to the top of the concrete pad. See photos below.



Formal complaints have been submitted regarding these barriers. A hardened surface is recommended.

Firehole Lake Drive

This scenic two-mile, one-way drive has accessible parking, wayside exhibits, and boardwalks at Great Fountain Geyser, Firehole Lake, and Steady Geyser. Only one accessible parking space is needed directly adjacent to the boardwalk at Great Fountain Geyser. (All of the parallel parking spaces are marked with the ISA.) Firehole Lake Drive was closed in 2022.



Midway Geyser Basin

Grand Prismatic Spring at Midway Geyser Basin is one of the most popular features in Yellowstone. Parking is limited due to hydrothermal activity. There are four accessible parking spaces with 6' access aisles and curb cuts near the walkway to the geyser basin. There are pavement markings, but two additional ISAs should be posted at the parking spaces, if approved by the park geologist. Oversized vehicle parking is not delineated and needs to be striped. In addition, there is no accessible RV parking delineated. There are two single and one double vault toilet at the parking area. Accessible parking near the vault toilets is needed.

The boardwalk ramp that leads to Grand Prismatic Spring does not exceed a 9% running slope. Installation of benches is recommended at the first landing for resting (below left).



Boardwalk to Grand Prismatic Spring



Grand Prismatic from boardwalk

Fairy Falls Trailhead

This trailhead leads to Fairy Falls and to an observation deck with views of Grand Prismatic Spring. The trailhead is extremely congested and has only one accessible parking space and no access aisle. In 2017, a temporary gravel lot was constructed nearby to accommodate overflow parking at this popular area. There is no accessible route and there are no accessible parking spaces designated in the gravel lot. These parking areas will be redesigned.

Upper Geyser Basin

Black Sand Basin

Black Sand Basin is one mile northwest of the Old Faithful developed area. There are two accessible parking spaces for passenger cars. A designated accessible RV space is recommended. Two short sidewalks, leading to the level boardwalk, have 9% and 12% slopes, due to topography.



Black Sand Basin orientation sign



Boardwalk at Black Sand Basin

Biscuit Basin

Biscuit Basin is three miles north of the Old Faithful development. Historic stone curbing and poor drainage creates difficult access from the accessible parking space. Because there are 45 head-in parking spaces, the parking lot should be restriped with two accessible spaces and an access aisle.



Biscuit Basin trailhead



Biscuit Basin accessible parking space

Old Faithful Developed Area

The most accessible routes in the Upper Geyser Basin include the level boardwalk around Old Faithful geyser and a paved trail (2.8 miles round trip) from the Old Faithful Inn parking lot to Morning Glory Pool.

Some walking paths have been improved, but there are many paths that would be safer and provide better mobility for all users if they were repaired or replaced.



New pavement at the Upper Geyser Basin



Pavement in need of repair in the Upper Geyser Basin

In 2019, a new path was constructed from Grotto Geyser to Riverside Geyser. A vault toilet was installed as well. Because the walkway was built before the toilet was installed, minor modifications are needed to improve access to the toilet.



Improved walkway to Riverside Geyser

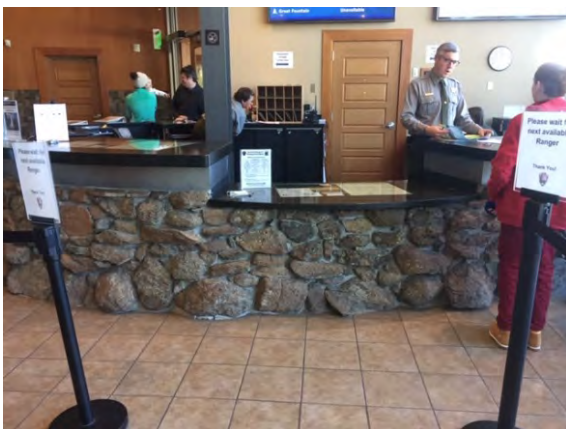


An accessible route is needed to the new vault toilet

Most of the facilities in the Old Faithful developed area are managed by park concessioners, except the visitor center, public restrooms, and ranger station.

Visitor Center and Restrooms

The visitor center information desk has a 30" lowered counter that meets requirements. The men's and women's restrooms meet all ABA requirements, except the height of the coat hooks. The door to the family or unisex restroom is very difficult to open; otherwise, the single user toilet room meets standards. An evaluation of the visitor center exhibits was not performed.



Old Faithful Visitor Education Center information desk



Visitor Education Center restroom

With approximately 1300 parking spaces in the east, west, and Old Faithful Inn parking lots, there should be at least 23 accessible parking spaces available, per ABA standards. There are 18 designated spaces near the Old Faithful VEC. Only two RV spaces are designated as accessible.

There are public restrooms across from the Upper General Store that are maintained by the NPS. These restrooms are not accessible and there is a plan to renovate the building. Accessible parking is across the street.



Public restroom across from Upper General Store



Accessible parking spaces across from the restroom

Old Faithful Ranger Station and Clinic

The Old Faithful Ranger Station, backcountry office, medical clinic, and restrooms are housed in one building. There is a ramp at one end of the front porch, but the handrails are too wide. The ranger station is not open to the public, but the other spaces are. The backcountry office is accessible, except for the counter that is 41.5" high. A section of counter should be lowered to 36". Until the counter is lowered, rangers can come around to the front of the counter to assist visitors. The separate men's and women's toilet rooms are outside the backcountry office and clinic. A moveable bench, inside the men's room, should be removed to provide room for a wheelchair user. Otherwise, the toilet rooms meet ABA standards.



Old Faithful Ranger Station and Clinic



Ramp and parking at clinic

Old Faithful to West Thumb

Kepler Cascades

A level boardwalk leads to a view of Kepler Cascades. Accessible parking is provided. When the lot is re-stripped, a van-accessible parking space should be delineated.



Kepler Cascades boardwalk



Kepler Cascades

Lone Star Geyser

The Lone Star Geyser trailhead (3.5 miles southeast of the Old Faithful overpass) is just east of the Kepler Cascades pullout. There is an accessible vault toilet and accessible parking space at the trailhead. The level trail (an old road) and bicycle path follow the Firehole River to Lone Star Geyser and is 4.8 miles round trip. There may be some difficult transitions for mobility device-users where the trail meets the bridge over Spring Creek. There are also some areas of broken asphalt. The trail surface changes from an old roadbed to a natural surface trail near Lone Star Geyser (photo below right).



Transition between trail and bridge at Spring Creek



Transition from paved trail to natural surface near Lone Star



Board to cross thermal runoff



Lone Star Geyser

Picnic Areas: Old Faithful to West Thumb

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Spring Creek	No accessible picnic tables. Access route to toilet is too steep, due to topography.	Provide two accessible picnic tables.	Short-term
DeLacy Creek	No accessible picnic tables.	Provide two accessible picnic tables.	Short-term
East Divide	No accessible picnic tables. Access route to toilet is too steep, due to topography.	Provide two accessible picnic tables.	Short-term

Bechler

The Bechler region is in the southwest corner of Yellowstone, near the Wyoming-Idaho state line and the park's southern boundary. This isolated development is 26 miles from Ashton, Idaho, at the end of a twelve-mile gravel road, and is not connected to any park roads. The area is a popular day hike and backpacking destination. Due to high snow levels, the area is not open in the winter. The only public building at Bechler is the ranger station/backcountry office/visitor contact station. As part of the Bechler Improvement Plan, appropriate vehicle and pedestrian circulation patterns that provide easy access to trails, the historic district, and the visitor contact station, will be developed.



Bechler Ranger Station-Backcountry Office



Bechler Ranger Station and Shop (behind)

Conclusion

The Self Evaluation and Transition Plan is a working document that will be used as a guiding reference as the park implements accessibility improvements and documents accomplishments. The plan will be updated as barriers are removed, and improvements made. Revisions to the plan may include additional assessments of facilities, services, and programs not originally conducted as part of this plan.

Yellowstone 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 Self Evaluation and Transition Plan will enhance and improve the visitor experience for all users.

Preparation and Review of the SETP

The Self Evaluation and Transition Plan was prepared or reviewed by the following people:

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Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

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

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 Standards (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.

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 includes 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, non-mandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

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.

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.

Project Management Information System (PMIS): Project Management Information System (PMIS) is a servicewide intranet application within the National Park Service (NPS) to manage information about requests for project funding. It enables parks and

NPS offices to submit project proposals to be reviewed, approved and prioritized at park units, regional directorates, and the Washington office.

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.

SHPO: State Historic Preservation Office

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 or action are primarily based on the park's ability 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 three timeframes including: immediate, short-term, and long-term.

Appendix B: Applicable Standards

There are a number of access laws and regulations that govern the design and construction of buildings, facilities, and sites; as well as laws and regulations that require that the programs, services, and activities operated or offered by the park are accessible to and useable by people with disabilities. The applicable laws and regulations are: *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973* and the *Architectural Barriers Act of 1968*.

Section 504

To the extent that *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973* applies to departments and agencies of the Federal government, parks operated by the NPS are subject to the provisions of that statute. *Section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA)* 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* (P.L. 95-602) extends the scope of *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*: (P.L. 93-112) to include the 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.

In order to comply with Section 504, the Department of the Interior enacted regulations found at 43 CFR part 17.501-17.570. As to new construction and altered facilities, section 17.551 of 43 CFR part 17 states:

Section 17.551 – Program Accessibility: New construction and alterations. 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 U.S.C. 4151 – 4157) as established in 41 CFR 101 – 19.600 to 101 – 19.607 apply to buildings covered by this section.

Section 504 Requirements for the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

In accordance with Section 504, Yellowstone National Park is conducting a self-evaluation of accessibility of its programs, policies, and practices to determine whether accessibility may be addressed through changes in the way such programs and services are provided. In the event that structural changes are necessary to meet the requirements of Section 504, then a transition plan shall be developed to complete such changes. The transition plan will:

- (1) Identify physical obstacles in the park that limit the accessibility of its programs or activity to individuals with disabilities.
- (2) Describe in detail the methods that will be used to make the program or facility that is not readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.
- (3) Specify the schedule for taking the steps necessary to achieve full program accessibility and if the transition plan is longer than one year, identify steps that will be taken during each year of the transition plan period.
- (4) Identify the persons responsible for implementation of the transition plan.

Application of the ABA

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (the ABA), as amended, states that buildings and facilities covered by the ABA must be designed, constructed, and altered to insure, whenever possible, that people with disabilities will have ready access to, and use of, such buildings.

The law covers a wide range of facilities, including U.S. post offices, Veterans Affairs medical facilities, national parks, Social Security Administration offices, federal office buildings, U.S. courthouses, and federal prisons. It also applies to non-government facilities that have received federal funding, such as certain schools, public housing, and mass transit systems.

In 1984, the relevant agencies issuing standards under the Architectural Barriers Act promulgated the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard (UFAS), which was developed from the Minimum Guidelines and Requirements for Accessible Design that had been developed by the United States Architectural Barriers Compliance Board. The UFAS standards were replaced with the new ABA standards in 2006.

Program Access Requirements of Section 504

As noted above, Section 504 and the ABA govern new construction and alterations. However, as a civil rights law, Section 504 goes farther. Unlike the construction driven mandates of the ABA, Section 504 also requires covered entities to consider the accessibility of programs, services, and activities. Section 17.549 reads as follows:

§17.549 Program accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited

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 above quote is intended to address exclusions available to covered entities in connection with existing facilities. § 17.550 states:

§17.550 Program accessibility: Existing Facilities

(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 U.S.C. 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.

In assessing the various areas addressed by this Plan, the nature of the specific buildings, facilities, features and sites must be considered with respect to the broad nondiscrimination and program access requirements of Section 504 and the Department of the Interior's implementing regulations found in 43 CFR part 17.501 – 17.570. Certain types of facilities and buildings can be compared to the construction regulations of the ABA that specifically address and govern the construction of such features.

However, the fact that specific types of features, sites, and facilities are not considered in the ABA does not eliminate the requirement to consider accessibility in connection with such features, sites and facilities.

Guidelines Applicable in the Outdoor Developed Environment

Achieving accessibility in outdoor environments has long been a source of inquiry due to challenges and constraints posed by terrain, the degree of development, construction practices and materials, and other factors (US Access Board website).

Final Guidelines for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas were published on September 26, 2013, as a supplement to the ABA Accessibility Guidelines. On November 25, 2013, requirements for the Federal Outdoor Developed Areas became mandatory as part of the ABA Accessibility Standards. These standards apply to national parks and other outdoor areas developed by the federal government. 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. The new requirements are in sections [F201.4](#), [F216.3](#), [F244](#) to [F248](#), and [1011](#) to [1019](#) of the ABA Standards.

Access requirements are limited within proposed wilderness areas. Section 507(c) of the ADA states:

(c) Specific Wilderness Access

(1) In general. - Congress reaffirms that nothing in the Wilderness Act [16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.] is to be construed as prohibiting the use of a wheelchair in a wilderness area by an individual whose disability requires use of a wheelchair, and consistent with the Wilderness Act no agency is required to provide any form of special treatment or accommodation, or to construct any facilities or modify any conditions of lands within a wilderness area in order to facilitate such use.

(2) Definition. - For purposes of paragraph (1), the term "wheelchair" means a device designed solely for use by a mobility impaired person for locomotion, that is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area.

Application of National Park Service Management Policies 2006

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

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 of nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in Department of the Interior programs (43 CFR part 17, Subpart E), and the General Services 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 consultation with persons with disabilities or their representatives. Any

decision that would result in less than equal opportunity is subject to the filing of an official disability rights complaint under the departmental regulations cited above.

Application of Director's Order No. 42 (DO-42)

To achieve the goals and objectives of this Director's Order, the NPS will implement the following strategies: (1) NPS will increase employee awareness and technical understanding of accessibility requirements; (2) All new and renovated buildings and facilities, and all new services and programs--including those offered by concessioners and by interpreters, will be "universally designed" and implemented in conformance with applicable regulations and standards; (3) Existing programs, facilities and services will be evaluated by programs and park units to determine the degree to which they are currently accessible to and usable by people with disabilities; (4) Barriers that limit access will be identified and incorporated into the NPS Assets Management Program; (5) Each unit will develop action plans identifying how, where feasible, those barriers will be removed; and, (6) Actions will be taken, on a day-to-day basis to eliminate the identified barriers, utilizing existing operational funds or other funding sources or partnerships. Projects requiring large expenditures of funds will be identified and entered into the Project Management Information System (PMIS) so special attention can be given to them in setting regional and national funding priorities.

Appendix C: A Selection of Wayside Exhibits Assessed

Wayside Exhibits: Mammoth to Norris

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
"The Fires of '88" and "Burn Mosaic"	None	N/A	N/A
Golden Gate	No designated parking	Exhibit is accessible. Parking will be addressed as part of the Norris to Golden Gate road reconstruction project.	Long-term
"The Gallatin Range" (Swan Lake Flat)	No accessible route	An accessible viewing platform will be constructed as part of the Norris to Golden Gate road reconstruction project.	Long-term
Roaring Mountain	No van accessible parking	Establish van accessible parking space	Short-term
"Cavalry in Yellowstone" (across the river from the Norris Soldier Station)	Four-inch curb does not allow access to exhibit.	An accessible route will be provided as part of the Norris to Golden Gate road reconstruction project.	Long-term

Wayside Exhibits: Museum of the National Park Ranger (Norris)

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
"The Norris Area: Orientation"	Large pothole in walkway; 4" drop-off from sidewalk in front of exhibit	Repair pothole and drop-offs.	Short-term
"Norris Soldier Station"	Asphalt deteriorated or missing, with 1-1.5" drop-offs from adjacent boardwalk; exhibit is 34" from finish grade to bottom of sign	Repair/replace asphalt; lower exhibit to 32" when replaced.	Short-term
"Norris Soldier Station" in front of museum, with photo of Philetus Norris	none	none	N/A

Wayside Exhibits: Lamar Valley

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
“Phantom Glaciers”	Erosion and drainage issues; turning space not large enough for wheelchair user	Repair erosion and drainage issues and create a 60” diameter turning space in front of the exhibit.	Short-term
“Food for the Masses” and “A Range of Complexities”	none	N/A	
“Not for the Faint of Heart”	none	N/A	
“Watching Wildlife” and “Stop, Look...and Listen” at Fisherman’s pullout	Striping is faded	Re-paint parking spaces and access aisle	Short-term
“The Wolf Effect”	none	N/A	
“A History of Persecution” and “Return of the Native”	Striping is faded	Re-paint parking spaces and access aisle	Short-term
Buffalo Ranch (across the road)	Unstable surface; 4” drop off, steep slope	Move exhibit when replaced	Long-term
“Running on Solar” and “Yellowstone by Night” at Buffalo Ranch bathhouse	Exhibits are too high	Ensure exhibits are at appropriate height when replaced	Long-term
Soda Butte	Historic, wood routed exhibit panel	N/A	

Wayside Exhibits and Overlooks: Fishing Bridge to East Entrance

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
Steamboat Point overlook; "Mysteries of the Deep"	No pavement markings; curb cut is at far end of parking area from exhibit	Create an accessible parking space near curb cut. Stripe access aisle in front of curb cut.	Short-term
Lake Butte overlook; "Wild Serenity"	none	N/A	

Wayside Exhibits: Hayden Valley

Item	Barrier/Deficiency	Action	Priority
River Feast	No curb cut at parking area. Gravel is too large and deep for mobility devices; exhibit is too low.	Provide a curb cut. Pave or use smaller compacted gravel for access route. Raise exhibit)	Long-term
Three small exhibits: "Water Wilderness," "Whirling Disease," "Trout Migration" (near Nez Perce Ford)	Posted on top railing too high; 35" above boardwalk	When replaced, post so bottom of exhibit is 32" above ground	Long-term

Appendix D: Popular Trails

A number of popular trails and trailheads were assessed. The statement “not accessible” or “not accessible to persons using mobility devices,” is based on federal accessibility standards for slopes and tread surface and is not intended as a determination of an individual’s ability.

- Rescue Creek Trail is not accessible to persons using mobility devices, due to topography.
- Lava Creek Trail (north end near Mammoth Campground)
The first 250 feet of the trail is accessible, with a level surface of hard-packed soil. Beyond, there is a steep grade down to the Gardner River. The southern trailhead is not accessible, due to topography.
- Beaver Ponds Trail is not accessible to persons using mobility devices, due to topography
- Wraith Falls trail is not accessible due to topography. The last 245’ of the trail is steep and rocky, with steps.
- Garnet Hill trail is an 8-mile loop trail that is not accessible, due to topography.
- Ice Lake Trailhead is less than one-half mile from the campsite. Mobility device users may require assistance due to obstacles along the trail: rocks, roots and a water bar. A couple short trail sections exceed 5%, and a section near the beginning of the trail has a cross slope of 16%.
- Grebe Lake trailhead is 3.5 miles west of Canyon Junction. There is no designated accessible parking. The level trail is firm and stable for the first quarter mile until the obsidian sand surface may be too deep to maneuver mobility devices.
- Cascade Lake trailhead is one quarter mile west of Canyon on the Canyon to Norris Road. This trail is not accessible for mobility devices.
- Cascade Creek trail is 1.25 miles from Canyon Junction on the Canyon to Tower Road at the Cascade Lake picnic area. This trail is wheelchair-accessible for the first 200’, with short spans up to 11% running slope. Beyond this point, obstacles (water bars) could make access difficult.
- Natural Bridge Trail is a 2.5-mile, semi-paved accessible trail just south of Bridge Bay.