

## Appendix G.



### Access Recreation Group, LLC

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## Inclusive Universally Accessible and ADA Compliant Water Trail Launch Site Features

Paddlers of all abilities want to launch and land smoothly without capsizing or damaging their watercraft. They need firm surfaces that support their movement from their arrival place to the launch at water's edge and sufficient space to accommodate the length of their watercraft during put-in and take-out. In addition, paddlers must be able to stabilize their watercraft during transitions into and out from their vessel and into and out from the water. It is important to consider universal design practices in the development of the complete water access facility, from car to launch. Simply put, universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

Launch sites that provide inclusive universal accessibility for everyone, including paddlers with disabilities, have the following site design features and amenities that are easy to use by everyone together:

- Improved surface accessible route with slopes no greater than 5% & at least 6' wide from parking to restrooms & water source, information kiosks, and to launch at water's edge. Route widths 6 to 12 feet wide best accommodate a two person watercraft carry and it provides enough space for two people to pass by;
- Routes that have switch back turns need level landings at every change of direction and the landing must be large enough to accommodate a two-person carry down w/vessel to make the turn without stepping off the route surface or encountering elevated barriers such as handrails or landscaping;
- Gangway and ramp slopes that are below 8.33%, which is the maximum slope allowed in the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessible Design Guidelines (and the hardest slope allowed by law);
- Accessible restrooms with at least one universally accessible single-user unisex restroom so opposite gender care givers can provide assistance, there is enough interior space for someone using a walker or wheelchair to maneuver &/or parents of young children have space for strollers & to assist kiddo's;
- Accessible potable water source that is approachable on all sides and that is operable with one hand, doesn't require pinch grasp or wrist twist, and requires less than 5#s of force to operate. Water spigots for filling water bottles where the water flow stays on so you can fill a bottle with one hand;

- Kiosk information provided in accessible formats and approachable via accessible surface surrounding the kiosk;
- Accessible parking space(s) located nearest the accessible route to the launch at water's edge, including both car and car/trailer parking spaces;
- At least one accessible design picnic table, grill, etc. all of which are useable by everyone together and located on an accessible route;
- Universally accessible canoe/kayak launch system such as the EZ Launch that is connected to the accessible route; at least 25 feet long to allow paddlers "dry" access to entire length of their watercrafts when preparing to enter/exit the craft prior to launching; a means of transfer/boarding assistance such as boarding bench that centers the paddler over the craft to enter/exit; pull rails & rollers to assist moving the vessel into and out of the water on a surface that stabilizes the craft and doesn't damage the crafts bottom;
- Indicate accessibility features on maps, web-sites (this could be a drop down list with descriptions). Launch sites that meet all of the above could be identified by the Access to Recreation logo on the signs on the water trail and on information kiosks. Web-sites and maps could list features. Ex A2R logo = parking, restrooms, picnic, water, EZ Launch, etc.;
- If there is NOT an EZ Launch... a good description & photo(s) of the water's edge exit/entry point should be provided (so the paddler can decide if it's useable for them) along with information about any accessibility features at the location. This can be on the web-site to help paddlers planning. On maps indicate fully accessible sites with the A2R logo and indicate those sites that only meet minimal ADA access & provide a list of features that are;

We are currently working to put accessibility information on the [greatlakeswatertrail.org](http://greatlakeswatertrail.org) web site which will identify the location of all EZ Launch locations in the great lakes region!!