PARKS & BENEFITS
Baltic protected areas and tourism

# Master guide on accessibility of protected areas for all


Source: www.europeforall.com

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**Masterguide on accessibility of protected areas for all**

**Contents**

# 1 Background

Experiencing unspoiled nature has become one of the most important leisure and holiday activities in our fast moving every-day-life in a mostly cemented surrounding. But what most people enjoy very easily and in different activity forms provides a barrier for those who have got a physical handicap either in mobility or perception. Those who are dependent to wheelchair fail at sandy or muddy paths as well as steps and stairs. Blind people do fail at only visually provided information and have severe difficulties to orientate themselves within nature or a building. For deaf people the audio information in communication situations, in guided tours and nature films is not accessible. Whereas people with limited cognitive skills can not percept sophisticated language with many technical expressions.

There are a large number of barriers for people with a handicap. For a long time conventional planning of goods and services took a “fictive average person” as basis. Public spaces do nowadays integrate solutions for particular handicaps. But what might be good for people in a wheelchair is not reasonable for deaf or visually impaired people.

Against the background of an aging society it is not the special solution for specific groups of handicapped people that is needed but a planning that considers “accessibility for all”. This is the barrier free approach the partners of the Parks & Benefits project want to apply in their actions - including the travel to and the mobility within protected areas. The partnership provides a perfect opportunity to develop and test blue print solutions of an improved infrastructure within the protected areas adapted to the needs of handicapped and elderly people. This master guide assembles the users’ needs and demands on barrier-free solutions in nature areas, the criteria for infrastructure solutions to guarantee the accessibility of the park, the mobility within and the barrier-free usability of its attractions and furniture.[1]

[1] Source: Natur für alle – Planungshilfen zur Barrierefreiheit. Lebenshilfe Wittmund e.V., 2003

# 2 User's Needs and demands on barrier-free solutions in nature areas

The Danish Accessibility Association provides on their website www.godadgang.dk detailed information on accessibility criteria of facilities for seven different disability categories:

- Wheelchair users
- People with reduced mobility, arm and hand impairments
- People with visual impairments
- People with hearing impairments
- People with asthma or allergy
- People with learning disabilities
- People with reading difficulties

The criteria are already well established in an Accessibility Label which is granted to 304 restaurants, 184 conference, exhibition and meeting venues as well as 211 museums and indoor attractions across Denmark. The Parks&Benefits partners decided to apply these criteria to improve their infrastructure, outdoor furniture, attractions and facilities:

**Disability Groups**

## 2.1 Wheelchair users

People with functional impairments because of weakened arm, leg and body muscles and joints are referred to as people with reduced mobility. Some mobility impaired people's leg and body muscles and joints are so weak that they have to use a wheelchair to move around.

Wheelchair users have either manual or motorised wheelchairs. Motorised wheelchairs normally have four wheels, but there are also scooter models with three wheels. The scooter models are generally used outdoors for shopping and similar activities.

A manual or hand-operated wheelchair normally has two big wheels at the back and two small wheels at the front. The big wheels have a metal ring on the outside, which the person in the wheelchair uses to push the chair forwards or backwards. More strength is needed to push the chair backwards or forwards when the surface is loose and/or uneven, just as more strength is needed to negotiate upward slopes.

Motorised wheelchairs are controlled by a joystick. They are heavier and require more space than manual wheelchairs. Three-wheeled chairs may be difficult to manoeuvre if there are two tracks in the surface.

Wheelchair users cannot reach very long, and their eye level is low. This is important in terms of the things they want to see or need to operate with their hands, eg information stands, pay phones and automatic teller machines.

**People who sit in wheelchairs need:**

- Firm, even surfaces providing level access (without level changes).
- Slopes that are not too steep, whenever they have to overcome level changes.
- Easy-to-open doors offering sufficient clear width.
- Sufficient space for passage and manoeuvring. Furniture, equipment, etc at suitable heights. Lifts to overcome level differences inside buildings.
- Accessible toilets.
- Dedicated parking spaces close to main entrance

## 2.2 Reduced mobility, arm or hand impairment

There are two overall groups of people with reduced mobility:

1. People with leg and body impairments of such a nature that they have difficulty walking. In this context we refer to them as **people with reduced mobility**.
2. People with arm or hand impairments of such a nature that their arm or hand strength is significantly reduced, which means that they cannot reach very far to grasp or operate objects. They may also have difficulty controlling their movements and may therefore have shaking hands and be unable to make precise movements with their arms and hands. In this context we refer to them as **people with arm or hand impairments**.

**People with reduced mobility** cannot walk long distances and walk unsteadily. They have major difficulty walking up stairs and on uneven surfaces. Many people with reduced mobility use an aid when they move around, eg a chair or a rollator walker. Some of them use a wheelchair. These people have difficulty moving around on uneven surfaces and in areas with level changes and major gradients. They also need more manoeuvring space, for example in toilets.

**People with reduced mobility need:**

- Handrails at stairs.
- Few stairs or stairs with few steps.
- Lifts to overcome level differences inside buildings.
- Short walking distances.
- Many resting places, so that they can sit down frequently.
- Firm, even surfaces providing level access (without level changes).
- Slopes that are not too steep, whenever they have to overcome level changes.
- Easy-to-open doors offering sufficient clear width.
- Sufficient space for passage.
- Furniture, equipment, etc at suitable heights.
- Dedicated parking spaces close to accessible entrance.

**People with arm or hand impairments** generally have difficulty controlling and coordinating fine movements. They are normally unable to open heavy doors, press small buttons and switches, turn small handles on locks and water taps, carry luggage, etc. It is also difficult for them to reach far (up, down or in) to grasp objects.

**People with arm or hand impairments need:**

- Devices that can be operated without great muscle strength.
- Devices that can be operated with a stiff wrist and more than a finger.
- Appropriate positions of buttons, switches, etc.
- Appropriate sizes of buttons, switches, etc.

Some diseases such as arthritis, muscular atrophy and unilateral paralysis as well as the effects of injuries sustained in accidents may result in reduced ability to move arms, legs and body. On top of that, many people suffer pain, which will increase their functional impairment even further.

Many elderly people have a mobility impairment combined with other impairments such as visual impairment and hearing impairment.

## 2.3 Visual impairment

Visually impaired people - the blind or partially sighted - comprise people with different degrees of visual impairment: people who are completely blind and cannot see anything at all, and people who are partially sighted and can see (something) when conditions are right.

Blind and partially sighted people generally have problems moving around and finding their way - especially in unknown surroundings. For example, it may be difficult for them to discover stairs and level changes before they actually stumble on them, just as other obstacles at leg or head level may cause problems.

Blind and partially sighted people use different senses when they move around. A partially sighted person will insofar as possible use whatever sight he or she has left and therefore needs good, adequate lighting as well as contrasting colours to use as wayfinding signs. A blind person, on the other hand, will use completely different senses - hearing and feeling - and will therefore need changes in textures to facilitate wayfinding.

Many visually impaired people use some kind of aid to find their way: a guide dog or a special white stick. A guide dog can lead a blind person around obstacles, across roads and through doors. The white stick is used to detect obstacles at low heights and register surface changes.

**Visually impaired people need** their surroundings to be laid out in such a way that it becomes easier for them to find their way and move around. They need:

- A simple, logical layout of indoor and outdoor environments.
- Tactile and visible markings by means of variations in materials, for example in the form of guiding lines and attention fields with surfaces that are distinctly different from other surfaces (tactile markings and the use of contrasting colours).
- Marking at the beginning and end of stairs and ramps by attention fields.
- Handrails at ramps and stairs.
- Marking of the front edges of steps.
- Marking of changes of direction, entrance doors and lifts by attention fields.
- Well-considered use of contrasting colours.
- Good non-glare lighting.
- Sound systems and tactile systems, eg embossed letters, to supplement visual/written information.

## 2.4 Hearing impairment

There are three categories of people with hearing impairment:

1. **Deaf people:** people who were born deaf or lost their hearing fully or partially at a very young age.
2. **People with acquired deafness:** people who lost their hearing fully or partially at a relatively late age.
3. **People with reduced hearing:** people who have suffered only little or moderate loss of hearing, many of whom use a hearing aid.

Deaf people have not developed a normal language and will often use sign language to communicate. People with acquired deafness are generally able to speak and write normally but often have difficulty understanding what people say. Some of them are able to lipread. People with reduced hearing have some sense of hearing, which they use optimally - normally by using a hearing aid.

People with hearing impairment have little or no ability to understand a spoken message or use sounds in their surroundings to find their way. They depend on good lighting and protection from background noise. People who use a hearing aid will benefit greatly from induction loop systems.

**People with hearing impairments need:**

- Good visual orientation.
- Good, appropriate lighting.
- Text or other visual equivalents of all spoken information.
- Good acoustics and reduction of background noise.
- Induction loop systems.

## 2.5 Asthma and allergy

Allergy is a reaction to substances (allergens) in our surroundings. When people have allergies, a specific measurable reaction takes place in their immune response system whenever they are exposed to certain allergens. Allergens are substances that are harmless to other people but may cause symptoms in people who have developed an allergy to them. Allergens include pollen, dust mites, animal allergens, nickel and food. Dust mites are generally found in bedrooms, while large quantities of animal allergens are found in buildings where there are furred animals.

Allergy is provoked when breathing, taking in or being in contact with allergens. Symptoms may be hay fever, asthma, eczema and stomach symptoms. In some cases, allergy may cause life-threatening shock if a person is in contact with the allergen to which he or she is allergic.

People with asthma and hay fever have sensitive mucous membranes in the airways, eyes and nose. They develop allergic reactions when their airways are irritated, for example by tobacco smoke or perfume.

Having asthma or an allergy may sometimes imply unnecessary limitations in everyday life. For example, many people with severe asthma or allergy cannot stay in a hotel because they react strongly to animal allergens or scented detergents.

As allergic symptoms often occur even if only small quantities of allergens are present, it is important for people with asthma, allergy or hay fever to have as detailed and accurate information as possible about the presence of allergens and substances that irritate the airways.

**People with asthma and allergy need:**

- An appropriate choice of building materials.
- Effective airing of rooms and good ventilation.
- Cleaning and replacement of the filters of aeration and ventilation systems, air conditioning systems and hot-air heating systems at regular intervals.
- Good, thorough cleaning.
- Detailed and accurate information about the presence of allergens and substances that may irritate the airways.

## 2.6 Learning disabilities

People with learning disabilities constitute a very broad group of people with various types of functional impairments. They may have difficulty understanding new things, and they may be mentally and intellectually impaired. They may also have difficulty remembering or learning.

A learning disability is caused by a disease in the brain or central nervous system. It may be congenital, e.g. Down's syndrome, or it may be caused by an accident or a disease such as cerebral haemorrhage or age-related dementia.

**People with a learning disability need:**

- Recognisable surroundings where it is easy to find one's way.
- Changes in materials and colours that help to find one's way.
- Clear and simple signage with pictures and pictograms that make the signs easy to understand.

## 2.7 Reading difficulties

A reading disability is a linguistic impairment. There are many types of reading disabilities, the most severe being dyslexia. In addition to dyslexics, the group includes people with moderate and mild reading difficulties, functional illiterates and people with reduced ability to read as a result of brain damage. It is estimated that about 500,000 people in Denmark have some kind of reading disability. Dyslexics account for about 2% of that figure.

One reason for reading difficulties is that people with a reading disability have difficulty translating letters into speech sounds, which may make their reading slow and hesitant. This often makes it difficult to get an overview of the text read. Consequently people with reading difficulties have difficulty understanding written material.

**People with reading difficulties need:**

- Audio versions of text material: audio guides, CD-ROMs, CDs, etc.
- Processing of texts to enhance their readability: texts should only include the most important information, should be formulated as clearly and directly as possible, be logically structured and written in a plain language. They should also be illustrated with photos, drawings, etc clarifying the contents of the text.

# 3 Accessibility solutions for disabled in outdoor areas and nature environments

**Places and facilities that can obtain an Accessibility Label**
The following places and facilities can currently obtain an Accessibility Label:

- Accommodation
- Airports
- Beaches
- Camping and caravan sites
- Camping cabins
- Churches, mosques and other places of worship
- Conference, exhibition and meeting venues
- Healthcare providers
- Hospitals
- Indoor attractions and museums
- Libraries
- Outdoor attractions and museums
- Nature experiences
- Petrol and service stations
- Playgrounds
- Police and courts of law
- Restaurants and eateries
- Shops
- Sport facilities
- Streets and pedestrian areas
- Summerhouses
- Take-aways, ice-cream stalls and kiosks
- Teaching facilities
- Theatres, cinema theatres and performance venues
- Tourist offices and travel agencies
- Town halls and citizen services

**Accessibility in outdoor areas and nature environment – in general**

Investments for disabled in protected areas are a challenge that is not often taken. Compared to the accessibility improvements that have been made at indoor facilities, outdoor facilities and especially nature areas are lagging behind infrastructure offers and services for disabled, which excludes people with special needs from nature experience. The ideal protected area which is accessible for all does not exist in reality. Therefore the investments planning to establish barrier-free access at protected areas do have a pilot character within this project. There are no comparable standards for accessible nature areas yet.

In order to start closing missing links the partners defined the **main common goal** to

improve the accessibility for all, especially for
→ people with specific needs as well as
→ elderly people and
→ families with children,
for nature areas / outdoor places
in protected areas
by following a common guideline and
developing regional action plans for future investments based on this guideline.

**Common needs and demands on barrier-free solutions:**

All partners agreed to set up a master plan of the ideal protected area that is accessible for all, using the criteria set-up by the Danish Organisation "Accessibility for all". These criteria are very well thought through and do not exist in such a way at the partner's countries. The needs and demands on the solutions are defined for

- different types of handicaps (see above) and
- different types of nature areas (see above)

**The master plan shall focus on the accessibility of following types of nature area:**

| **Infrastructure to get to the park and get around** | **Infrastructure to move through the park** | **Attractions and activities** |
|---|---|---|
| Parking places for disabled | Trails for wheelchair users | Information system with educational facilities |
| Alternative means of transport | Trails suitable for physically handicapped | Viewpoints |
| Accessibility to the water / boats | Bridges | Lookout towers / bird watching hides |
| | Guidance system | Toilets for disabled |
| | Resting places | Accessibility by transport with help of animals / horse-back riding |

Furthermore the master plan shall contain links and references to national standards and regulations if existing for certain aspects.

**What are the missing links? What is the added value of the investment? / What is the benefit for the rest of the BSR?**

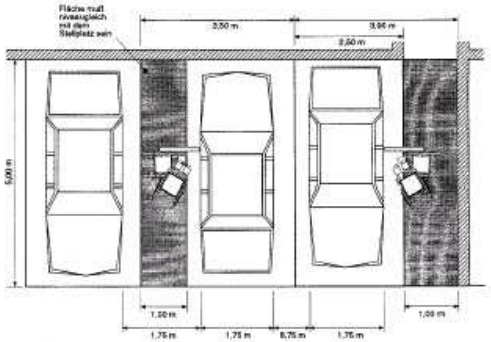
The **missing links** at partner's areas are the following necessary pilot investments:

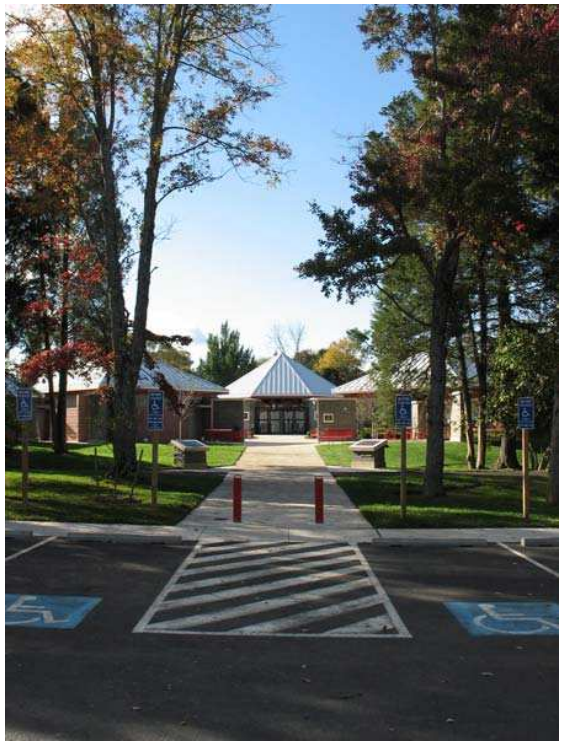
- nature cognitive path for disabled
- trails for wheelchairs
- accessibility to lakes
- handicap-accessible bridge
- horse-back-riding ramps
- benches along footpaths
- wooden path for disabled

The added value of this investment is to close gaps on the way to accessible protected areas for all. It has a pilot character for protected areas in the whole Baltic Sea Region and shall demonstrate how to put the demands of disabled for nature access into practice. The pilot investments chosen are reflecting the different needs of disabled with different handicaps in different types of nature areas at partner's locations, thus being showcases documented and added to the master guide. **It shall:**

- support protected area administrations, municipalities and regions in decision-making for future investments in accessibility
- function as a base documentation for lobbying towards decision-makers
- provide facts and knowledge on how to realise such investments as guideline how to develop protected areas for disabled
- demonstrate the feasibility of creating access for all in nature areas / outdoors >> best-practice for protected area managers
- demonstrate the added value for all visitors, including elderly people and families with children
- demonstrate cost-effectiveness of such investments

## 3.1 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to get to the protected area and get around

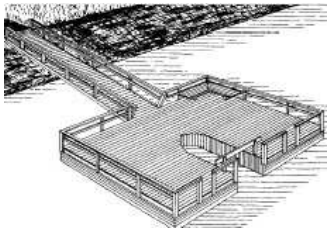
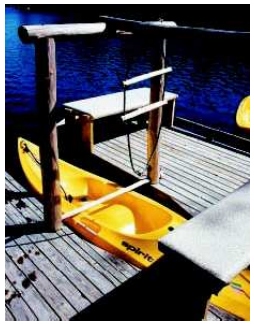
| | Accessibility check – Questions | Best practice examples |
|---|---|---|
| **3.1.1 Parking places for disabled & entrance to the park** | **Arrival by public transport / car**<br>▪ Approximate distance from nearest public transport to the facilities?<br>▪ Is there a guiding line from public transport to the main entrance?<br>▪ Is there a guiding line from the car park to the main entrance?<br><br>**Parking spaces**<br>▪ Is the number of disabled parking spaces stated?<br>▪ Are the disabled parking spaces marked on the surface?<br>▪ Are the disabled parking spaces marked by an upright sign?<br>▪ Is the paving in the disabled parking area even, intact and non-slip?<br>▪ Width of disabled parking space<br>▪ Length of disabled parking space<br>▪ State the number of spaces for vans<br><br>**Barrier-free access to park entrance & first orientation**<br>Universal design<br>▪ Are steps and kerbs dropped or flush with ramps?<br>▪ Is there a tactile vertical edge of 2.5-3 cm?<br><br>**Orientation and guidance**<br>▪ Is there an easily understandable map which shows access routes and/or paths at the primary access/entrance (the one that the majority of visitors will arrive at first)? (The board with the map must be located outside the walking area.)<br>▪ Are signs and maps located outside walking areas?<br>▪ Are signs easy to understand?<br>▪ Are signs easy to find?<br>▪ Are well-known symbols used?<br>▪ Is there a map of the system of paths?<br>▪ Are signs and maps illuminated?<br>▪ Are signs tactile?<br><br>  | **Parking space**<br><br>▪ Ideal case: access of protected areas to the front door by public transport, realistic case: car as first transport means<br>▪ 3 % of parking lots reserved for disabled, min. 1 lot<br>▪ Standard: 3,50 m width x 5,00 m length, for vans (groups) 7,50 length<br><br>  <br>Source: direct 2000<br><br>  <br>**e.g. Pomo Bluffs Park / Canada** |

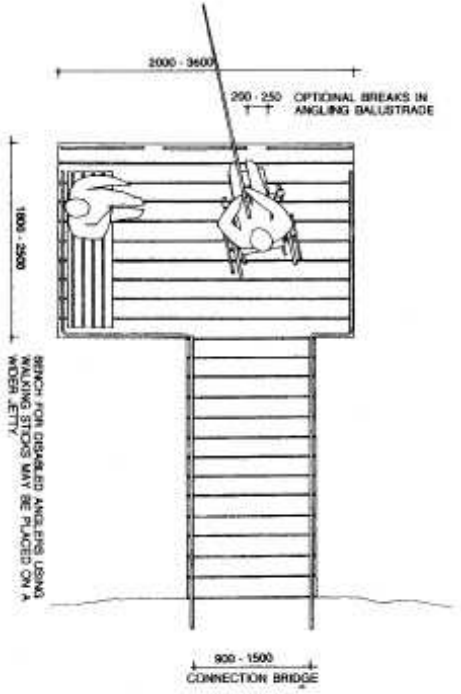
| 3.1 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to get to the protected area and get around | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.1.1 Parking places for disabled & entrance to the park** | **Barrier-free access to park entrance & first orientation**<br><br>**Orientation and guidance**<br>▪ Whenever there are signs containing more than one piece of information and/or more than one pictogram, the information and/or pictograms must be clearly separated. The size of the letters and the layout of the text must take the special needs of the visually impaired, people with reading difficulties and people with orientation difficulties.<br>▪ Is the entrance marked with an attention field (different paving; min 0.9 x 0.9 m)?<br>▪ Is the entrance marked with lighting?<br>▪ May visually impaired people bring along a guide dog?<br><br>**Surface**<br>▪ Is the paving on outdoor walking area even, firm, intact and non-slip?<br>▪ Is the surface free of holes, projecting edges and other irregularities?<br>▪ Is the load-bearing capacity of the paving sufficient to prevent footwear, wheels and sticks from sinking into the ground?<br>▪ Is there a parallel path or an alternative access route where paths and other passages are paved with uneven cobbled stone or similar?<br><br>**Services**<br>▪ Is there a service building/kiosk in connection with the path?<br>▪ Is there smooth access to the service building/kiosk?<br>▪ Is there an accessible toilet?<br>▪ What is the distance to the nearest accessible toilet (in metres)?<br>▪ Is the entrance to communal facilities marked with an attention field?<br>▪ Is the entrance to communal facilities marked with lighting?<br>▪ Does the service building/kiosk have an induction loop system? |  |

| 3.1 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to get to the protected area and get around | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.1.1 Alternative means of transport** | **Access path and station**<br>• Is there an access path to the bus / train station?<br>• Is the access path stable and level across its width and slip resistant?<br>• Is the surfaces of the access path that terminates at the door of a conveyance stable, slip resistant and of a texture that does not impede mobility?<br>• Is the path free of hazards for any kind of handicap?<br>• Are there key areas defined on the access path with tactile ground surface indicators for people with vision impairment?<br>• Is there enough space for manoeuvring acts for people using mobility aids?<br>• Are there handrails provided to assist passengers to cope with changes of level, ramps, a narrowing or a change of direction of the access path? Handrails and grabrails would normally be colour contrasted with their background and should not intrude into the minimum accessible path of travel.<br>• Is the station wide enough for 2 passengers, each using a mobility aid, to pass one another?<br>• Is there enough space for persons using mobility aids to pass one another at the access path (passing areas not more than 6 metres from each other)?<br>• Are there seats and space available to passengers with disabilities wherever waiting areas are provided?<br><br>**Conveyances**<br>• Are there allocated spaces for mobility aids within the conveyance?<br>• Are there restraining systems for safety during the ride?<br>• If the conveyance is not low floor are there boarding devices such as hoists, gangways, ramps, scissor lifts, aerobridges or any other means of getting a passenger on or off a conveyance?<br>• Does the boarding system allow independent access to the conveyance? |  <br>  <br>**e.g.: Using public transport by ramp solution / South Africa** |

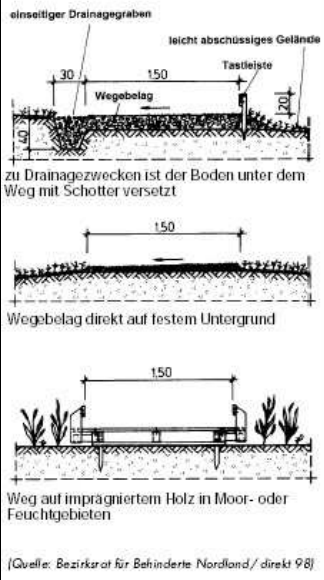
| 3.1 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to get to the protected area and get around | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.1.2 Alternative means of transport** | **Booked services - Notice of passenger's requirements**<br>• Do the booking arrangements recognise that some passengers:<br>(a) have specific needs when they travel; or<br>(b) need to travel with some kind of disability or mobility aid?<br><br>**Revision of timetables and other information**<br>• If the operators make changes to timetables or other information in relation to a public transport service, are the new timetables or information produced in alternative formats? |  <br>**e.g.: Public transport with low-floor bus / Germany**<br><br>  <br>**e.g.: Bus ride in California / USA** |

## 3.1 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to get to the protected area and get around

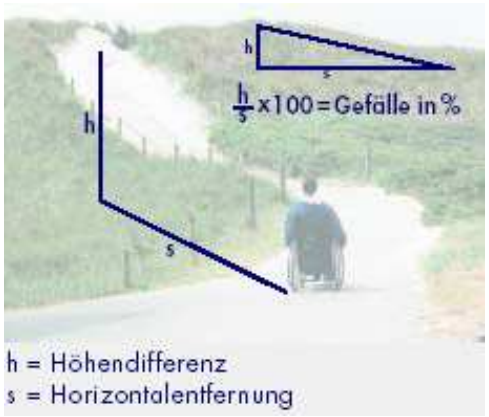
| | Accessibility check – Questions | Best practice examples |
|---|---|---|
| **3.1.2 Accessibility to the water / boats** | **Questions on beaches / water access:**<br>▪ Is the beach accessible from a public road, a car park with accessible paths or a carriage road leading to the water's edge?<br>▪ Is there smooth access to the water's edge, i.e. no kerbs, steps, etc higher than 2.5-3cm?<br>▪ Is there a ramp leading into the water?<br>▪ Are there any other possibilities for wheelchair users to go into the water, e.g. bathing jetty with lift?<br>▪ Does the bathing jetty have steps leading to the bottom?<br>▪ Does the bathing jetty have railings/wheel guides?<br>▪ Does the jetty have a 150x150 cm turning area?<br>▪ Are there benches on the beach?<br>▪ Are beach benches connected with a path?<br>▪ Is there an accessible toilet /shower nearby?<br>▪ Are there changing rooms for wheelchair users?<br><br>**Extra questions on harbour areas / access to boats:**<br>▪ Are the harbour areas/quays connected with an accessible path or a carriage road? (Complete form: paths)<br>▪ Is there smooth access to the bridge/jetty/quay?<br>▪ Does the bridge/jetty/quay have railings /wheel guides?<br>▪ Is there a 150 x 150 cm turning area?<br>▪ Is there an approved hoist that can lift the person onto the boat?<br>▪ Is there an accessible toilet and a barrierfree outside platform on the boat?<br><br>  <br>**e.g.:** Hydraulic lift to access a fishing boat<br><br>  <br>**e.g.:** Ramp system | **Accessibility to the water / boats**<br><br>  <br>**e.g.: Nordland County / Norway**<br>Swimming bridge providing an easy access to boats and angling for wheelchair users<br><br>**Canoe lift for wheelchair users**<br><br>  <br>**e.g.: "Hotel am See" Rheinsberg / Germany**<br>Landing stage with electrical canoe lift<br><br>**e.g.: "Mersey River Chalets" / Canada**<br>a simple beam construction (height: 45 – 48 cm) provides assistance at changing seats<br><br>  |

| 3.1 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to get to the protected area and get around | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.1.3 Accessibility to the water / boats** | **Extra questions on fishing platforms:**<br>▪ Is the fishing platform connected with an accessible path or carriage road?<br>▪ Is there smooth access to the fishing platform?<br>▪ Does the fishing platform have railings?<br>▪ Does the fishing platform have wheel guides?<br>▪ Is there a 1.5 x 1.5 m turning area?<br>▪ Is there a support/holder for fishing rod?<br>▪ Are there benches with a seat height of about 45 cm on the fishing platform? |  <br>**Fishing platform**<br>**e.g.:** a simple angling base also usable as viewing platform with fixed bench (height: 50 cm) and balustrade (height: 85 cm). |

## 3.2 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to move through the park

| | Accessibility check – Questions & Standards | Best practice examples |
|---|---|---|
| **3.2.1 Trails for wheelchair users** | • Are walking areas kept free of furniture, signs and suspended objects?<br>• Are there guiding lines in the form of railings, stone edges, etc?<br>• Are there barriers across footpaths?<br>• Is there a service building/kiosk in connection with the path?<br>• Is there an accessible toilet?<br><br>**Trail design – prerequisits**<br><br>  <br><br>zu Drainagezwecken ist der Boden unter dem Weg mit Schotter versetzt<br><br><br><br>Wegebelag direkt auf festem Untergrund<br><br><br><br>Weg auf imprägniertem Holz in Moor- oder Feuchtgebieten<br><br>(Quelle: Bezirksrat für Behinderte Nordland/ direkt 98)<br><br>**Dimensions**<br>• Width: Main trails at least 1,50 m, better 1,80 m or even 2,00 m / Byways at least 0,90 m<br>• Height: upward movement space 2,30 m<br>• At narrow trails one-way solution in round courses<br>(Barrierfree standard DIN 18030)<br><br>**Surface**<br>• Surface must be low-vibration and easily trafficable by wheelchairs<br>• Solid, even, stepless, anti-slip and jointless<br>• Solution for flooding area: mobile constructions that can be easily removed ( see photo →) |  <br><br>  |

## 3.2 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to move through the park

| | Accessibility check – Questions & Standards | Best practice examples |
|---|---|---|
| **3.2.1 Trails for wheelchair users** | **Grade**<br>• Longitudinal grade max. 6%, lateral grade max. 2%<br>• Suggestive: roof profile to drain the trail at both sides – driving along with wheelchair is still secures in the middle of trail<br>• Trails with grade between 3 – 6 % → even resting platforms every 10 m<br><br>**Encounter bottlenecks**<br>• Trails smaller than 1,80 m → encounter bottlenecks of 1,80 x 1,80 m at regular intervals (sight distance)<br><br>**Crossings**<br>• For wheelchairs drive width into bars: 1,50 m, distance between bars: 1,30 m<br>• Even better are good visible traffic bollards with 0,90 m passing width<br><br>**Danger spots**<br>• Important: fall protection at ground with side gradient (height max. 1,00 m)<br><br>Source: BT Countryside for all | **Grade**<br>  <br><br><br>**Danger spots**<br>  |

| 3.2 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to move through the park | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions & Standards** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.2.1 Trails for wheelchair users** | **Materials**<br><br>**Waterbound trails**<br>• Important: professional construction with good compaction and drainage<br>• Safeguarding by tactile side limits for blind visitors<br><br>**Wooden plank trail**<br>• To protect sensitive vegetation, to cross water ways or canyons: wooden plank trails from home-grown wood are best convenient<br>• Planks should be across the grain and fluted for anti-slip<br>• Jointing width: max. 5 mm<br><br>**Metal grid trail**<br>• Same protection function as wooden plank trail<br>• Important: rounded angles and small meshed grid<br><br>**Stone paving**<br>• Stone paving (even and anti-slip), jointless or with an even kind of jointing, as well as asphalt or concrete **but** application suggested only in areas with heavy operational demands, erosion, flooding danger, etc. |  |

## 3.2 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to move through the park

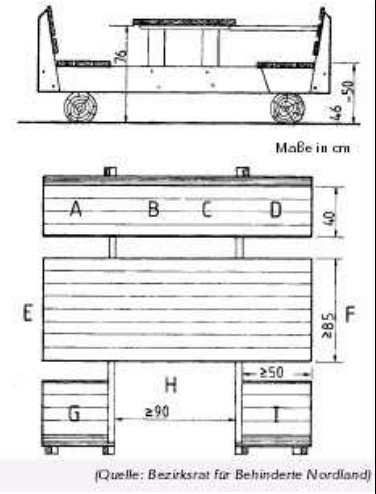
| | Accessibility check – Questions & Standards | Best practice examples |
|---|---|---|
| **3.2.2 Trails suitable for physically handicapped** | • Are there resting areas with tables and benches along the path?<br>• Are resting places marked with an attention field of at least 0.9x0.9 m?<br>• Is the step depth of outdoor stairs in paths, etc at least 30 cm and the gradient max 15 cm?<br>• Do at least the first and the last step have a colour contrast marking on the edge of the tread and the nose?<br>• Are there handrails on one side of stairs and ramps?<br>• Are there handrails on both sides of ramps with gradients in excess of 1:16?<br>• Do the handrails provide a good grip (3-5 cm thick; clear width of at least 4 cm)?<br>• Do the stairs have non-slip, smooth and even surfaces (similar to compact gravel)?<br>• Is there a service building/kiosk in connection with the path?<br>• Is there an accessible toilet?<br><br>**Orientation**<br><br>**Tactile rail**<br>• A round wooden beam as general guiding system and tactile rail for visitors with white stick (diameter: 10 cm, top edge at 25 cm)<br>• At wooden plank trails: tactile side angle (height: 10 cm) – marked with contrasting colours for visually impaired visitors and fall protection for guests in wheelchairs<br><br>  <br><br>**Indicators at the ground for blind and visually impaired people**<br>• Self-determined orientation by ground indicators pointing at resting areas, crossings, information boards |   <br><br>  <br><br>**e.g.: Adventure trail Brunstal in National Park Hainich / Germany:**<br>• Ground indicator by change in paving (length: 1 m across entire trail width) pointing at information board → no barrier for guests in wheelchair<br><br>**e.g.: Tingdal Plantage / Denmark**<br>• Wooden beam embedded into nature trail pointing at resting bench<br><br>  |

| 3.2 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to move through the park | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions & Standards** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.2.3 Bridges** | • Is the bridge accessible for visitors with mobility aid – no steps and stairs, no hazards, fall protection?<br>• Does the bridge have a colour contrast marking on the edge of the tread and the nose?<br>• Are there handrails on both sides?<br>• Do the handrails provide a good grip (3-5 cm thick; clear width of at least 4 cm)?<br>• Does the material have a non-slip, smooth and even surface?<br>• Is there a tactile rail for visitors with white stick (diameter: 10 cm, top edge at 25 cm)?<br>• At wooden plank trails: tactile side angle (height: 10 cm) – marked with contrasting colours for visually impaired visitors and fall protection for guests in wheelchairs<br><br>  <br><br>**e.g. Van Damme State Park Beach and Pygmy Forrest / Canada**<br><br>  |  <br>**e.g. Fort Bragg Hole / Canada** |

## 3.2 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to move through the park

| | Accessibility check – Questions & Standards | Best practice examples |
|---|---|---|
| **3.2.4 Guidance system** | • Is there information about the place in braille?<br>• Is it possible to have auditive information from permanent installations or portable units?<br>• Is there text information for deaf people equivalent to the information provided on a guided tour?<br>• Is it possible to have personal assistance?<br>• Is there a guide on site?<br>• Are signs and maps illuminated or tactile?<br>• Whenever there are signs containing more than one piece of information and/or more than one pictogram, the information and/or pictograms must be clearly separated. The size of the letters and the layout of the text must take the special needs of the visually impaired, people with reading difficulties and people with orientation difficulties.<br>• Is the entrance marked with an attention field (different paving; min 0.9 x 0.9 m)?<br>• Is the entrance marked with lighting?<br>• May visually impaired people bring along a guide dog?<br><br>Also see section **Orientation / Trails suitable for physically handicapped** for general guidance through the park<br><br>• Does the orientation map provide tactile & high-contrast elements for blind and visually impaired visitors?<br>• Does it also allow pre-orientation also for visitors in wheelchair and visitors with walking disabilities?<br>• Is the given information simple enough to allow orientation for people with learning disabilities?<br>• Is there information given regarding trail courses, junctions, gradient, accessible toilets, etc.?<br>• Are there signposts with information for handicapped visitors throughout the park?<br>• Do the signposts use widely-spread icons? | **e.g. Nature Park Teutoburger Wald Eggegebirge/ Germany**<br>   <br><br>**e.g.: Integrative guidance and information system EXPO Hannover / Germany**<br>   |

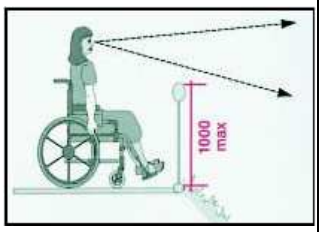
## 3.2 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to move through the park

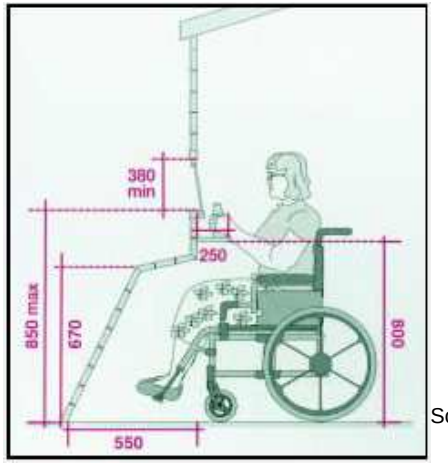
| | Accessibility check – Questions & Standards | Best practice examples |
|---|---|---|
| **3.2.5 Resting places** | **Tables and benches:**<br>• Is there smooth access to suitable resting areas with tables and benches?<br>• Do resting places have backrests?<br>• Do rest seating units have armrests?<br>• State the seating height above ground level in cm :42 cm<br>• Are resting places marked with an attention field of at least 0.9x0.9 m?<br>• Is there a service building/kiosk in connection with the path?<br>• What is the distance to the nearest accessible toilet (in metres)? :500 m<br>• Access from path or road<br>• Even access to tables and benches?<br>• Tables and benches on firm and even surface?<br>• Is there room for a wheelchair at the end of the table, i.e. is there a clear area of 50 cm to table legs for foot rests<br>• Is the seating height of the bench approximately 45 cm?<br>• Does the bench design make it possible to sit without having to straddle table legs and other elements?<br>• Is there an accessible toilet nearby?<br>• What is the distance from the table and benches to the nearest accessible toilet?<br>•<br>**Resting benches at trailes**<br>• Accessible trail should provide resting benches every 100 m<br>• Bench must have stable back rest, if possible also arm rest<br>• Beside the bench: free space of 1,50 x 1,50 m for guests in wheelchair or baby buggies<br>• An additional bed-plate (height: 3 cm) makes the access easier for blind visitors | **Resting places**<br>• Barrier free resting place with under rideable table (Min. height: 0,67 m and 0,55 m depth for legroom, height table top: 0,80 m)<br>  <br>  <br><br>(Quelle: Bezirksrat für Behinderte Nordland)<br>**e.g.: Resting area Highline Park New York / USA**<br>  |

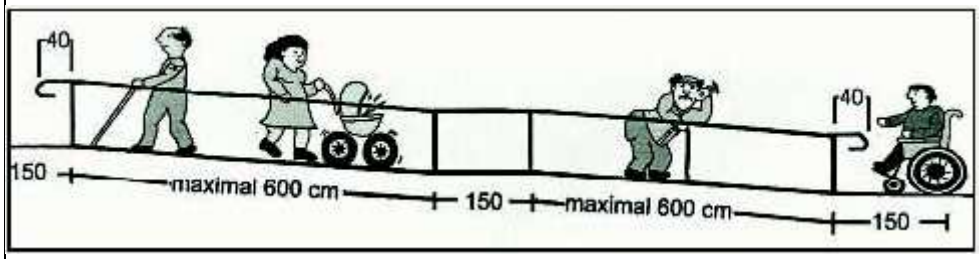
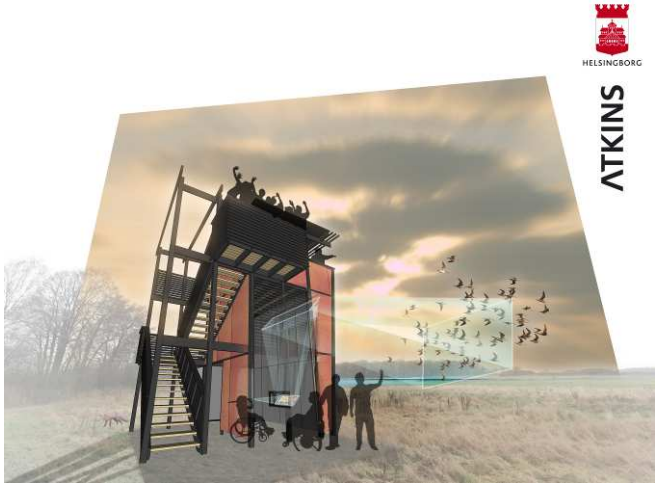
| 3.2 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to move through the park | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions & Standards** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.2.5 Resting places** | **Extra questions on playgrounds:**<br>• Does the playground have a logical layout, possibly with guiding lines in the form of fences, stone edges, hedges, etc.?<br>• Are 'dangerous' areas at swings, etc marked by fences, stone edges, hedges, etc?<br>• Is there a raised sandbox with an edge height of 65-80 cm and a free height of 65 cm and a free depth of 40 cm for foot rests?<br>• Is there an accessible toilet nearby?<br><br>**Extra questions on shelters:**<br>• Is the floor of the shelter raised by at least 48 cm above the outdoor ground level?<br>• Is there a handrail or rope along the interior wall of the shelter, 30 cm above the bottom?<br>• Is there an overhang/sheltered area for wheelchairs?<br>• Is it possible to stand up inside the shelter?<br>• Is it possible to recharge power-operated wheelchairs?<br>• Is there an even area in front of the shelter that is at least 1.5 metres wide?<br>• Is the paving in the area leading to the shelter even, firm and non-slip<br><br>**Extra questions on barbecue areas:**<br><br>• Is the BBQ area connected with an accessible path or road?<br>• Is there room for foot rests and knees under the grill? (50 cm free depth and 70 cm free height)<br>• Is the operating height of the grill 75-80 cm? |  <br>**e.g.: Clemyjontri – inclusionary play**<br>by G.E. Fielder & Associates, chartered / USA<br><br>  <br>**e.g.: Bloomer Park Rochester Hill / USA** |

| 3.3 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to make attractions and activities accessible | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions & Standards** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.3.1 Information system with educational facilities** | **Information boards**<br>• Is the main information given in Braille?<br>• Is the text short and easy to understand?<br>• Are there also tactile pictures for blind / visually impaired visitors to explore nature items?<br>• Is the reading height accessible for wheelchair users (middle height: 1,30 m)?<br>  <br>**e.g. Weather resistent bronce relief board at Adventure trail Erlensee / Germany** |   <br>**e.g.: Adventure trail Brunstal at Nationalpark Hainich / Germany**<br>**e.g. Integrative Exhibition at National Park Monschau-Höfen / Germany**<br>  <br>  <br>**e.g.: Info board at National Park de Maasduinen / Netherland** |

| 3.3 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to make attractions and activities accessible | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions & Standards** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.3.1 Information system with educational facilities** | **Roofed info stand**<br>• Height: 2,30 m<br>• No sills to access the information board<br>• Middle reading height: 1,30 m<br>• Information should be given in large font and simple language, additionally tactile font or Braille<br><br>**Info stand**<br>**e.g.: Info stand at Adventure trail Erlensee / Germany:**<br>• Easily accessible for wheel chairs by underriding function<br>• Lower display board provides information in Braille<br><br>**Info pavilion**<br>**e.g.: Info pavilion at Adventure trail Erlensee / Germany:**<br>• Acoustics station – easily accessible by guiding system, ground indicator, no sills at entrance and tactile relief map with trail overview<br>• Turn around area at the entrance<br><br>**Green School**<br>**e.g.: Green School / Bali**<br>• A multi-functional shelter without barriers |  <br>(Quelle: BT Countryside for all)<br>  <br>  <br>  |

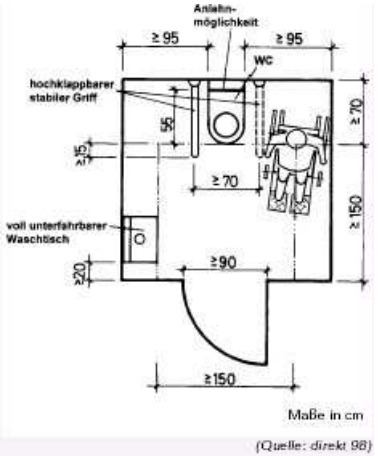
| 3.3 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to make attractions and activities accessible | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions & Standards** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.3.2 Viewpoints** | **Trails to viewpoints**<br><br>**Trail in serpentines**<br>• No steps & stairs<br>• Uphill grade max. 6%<br>• Horizontal resting area every 6 metres<br>• Sufficient paving<br><br>**Trail on sandy ground**<br>• Metal grid<br>• Min. 1,20 - 1,50 m,<br>• For blind visitors: tactile side limits and handrails (0,85 m)<br><br>**Viewpoint on impassable ground**<br>• Dimensions of railings:<br>• Viewing platform with turn-around area (min. 1,50 x 1,50 m)<br><br>  <br>   |  <br>  <br>Source: BT Countryside for all<br>  <br>e.g.: Height adjustable telescope |

| 3.3 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to make attractions and activities accessible | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions & Standards** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.3.3 Lookout towers / bird watching hides** | ▪ Is the bird watching hide connected with an accessible path or vehicle? (Complete section on paths)<br>▪ Is there smooth access to the bird watching hide?<br>▪ Does the bird watching hide have railings/wheel guides?<br>▪ Is there a 1.5 x 1.5 m turning area?<br>▪ Are there benches with a seat height of about 45 cm at/in the bird watching hide?<br>▪ Are there openings at heights of 70-140 cm where people can look out while seated?<br><br>**Dimensions:**<br>▪ Is the inside area large enough to allow visitors to easily move around (min. 4,00 x 2,50 m)?<br>▪ Is the furniture movable?<br>▪ Are presentation boards reachable while seated (max. 1,30 m)? Do they have tactile elements?<br><br>  <br>Source: BT Countryside for all | **Ramps**<br><br>  <br>**e.g.: Bird watching hide at Nature Reserve Leyhörn in Ostfriesland / Germany**<br>• Ramp construction with 6 % uphill grade and horizontal resting spaces<br><br>  <br><u>Details to consider:</u><br>  <br>• No sills at crossings from trail to ramp<br>• Handrails and side railings<br>• Striated wood for anti-slip surface<br><br>Source: BT Countryside for all |

| 3.3 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to make attractions and activities accessible | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions & Standards** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.3.3 Lookout towers / bird watching hides** | Dimensions:<br>▪ Operating device (height of switcher, handholds, etc.): 0,85 m<br>▪ Paving: solid, jointless, anti-slip (material: waterbound surfaces, wood, metal, asphalt)<br>▪ Width of trails leading to viewing platform: mind. 1,50 m, better: 1,80 m at bottlenecks mind. 1,20 m<br>▪ Handrails / fall protection: height 0,85 m / 1,00 m (max.), additional handrail for children on 0,65 m<br>▪ Door width: min. 0,90 m<br>▪ Headroom: height 2,30 m, doors min. 2,05 m)<br>▪ Lateral gradient: 0% - max. 2% (for ramps 0%)<br>▪ Wheel protection at walls: height 0,10 m<br>▪ Uphill grade: 0 - 3 %, max. 6% (at ramps: horizontal resting platform every 6 m, dimensions: 1,50 x 1,50 m)<br>▪ Tables: height 0,80 m<br>▪ Underriding of furniture: full legroom 0,55 m depth x 0,67 m height / knee room 0,30 depth x 0,67 height<br>▪ Turn-around area for wheelchair users: 1,50 m x 1,50 m<br><br>Source: Barrierfree standard DIN 18030<br><br>  <br> |  <br><br><br>**e.g.: Naturpunkt Fågeltorn, Bruces skog, Långeberga-vägen, Helsingborg / Sweden**<br><br>Combined bird tower and information centre.<br>▪ Universal design<br>▪ 3.5 meter wide mirror at the top creating a large scale periscope reflecting a stunning view to the ground. |

| 3.3 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to make attractions and activities accessible | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions & Standards** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.3.4**<br>**Accessibility by transport with help of animals / horse-back riding** | **Criteria for the mounting block:**<br>▪ sufficiently large to accommodate both the person in the wheelchair and two assistants<br>▪ solidly build to cope with the weight of three people and the wheelchair<br>▪ strong railings around the sides, comfortable to grip and designed to enable the disabled person, if possible, to use them to assist in mounting the horse.<br><br>**Construction alternatives:**<br>▪ Making an opening in the edging around the riding-school<br>▪ Make a movable mounting block that is rolled out when needed<br>▪ Build a mounting block outdoors, close to the riding-school (this alternative may lead to problems with rain, snow or ice).<br><br>**Dimensions:**<br>▪ Height adapted to the sizes of the horses and the riders, floor of the block slightly below stirrup height, i.e., 70 cm or max 80 cm for a large horse<br>▪ Possibility on the outer side of the horse for an assistant to stand in order to assist with the mounting | **Universal mounting block**<br>▪ Reachable by ramp and ladder or stairway.<br>▪ Both 140 cm wide, which gives good stability and plenty of space.<br>▪ Assistants can stand on both sides of the horse to help the disabled person to mount<br>▪ Edging of contrasting colour for riders who have impaired vision<br>▪ Suitable place for a guide dog to wait.<br><br>  <br><br>Source: Access to the forest for disabled people. Rapport 1. 2005<br><br>  <br><br>**e.g.: Barrierfree riding school at Manege zonder Drempels / Netherland** |

| 3.3 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to make attractions and activities accessible | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions & Standards** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.3.5 Toilets for disabled** | **Availability:**<br>▪ Is there at least one toilet that is suitable for disabled people?<br>▪ Is there at least one anti-glare mirror in the toilet or bathroom which is within easy reach?<br>▪ Is there direct access to an accessible toilet from outdoor area?<br><br>**Universal design - outside:**<br>▪ Is there smooth access without level differences in the form of steps or stairs?<br>▪ Is there a horizontal 1.5 m x 1.5 m landing in front of the entrance door, measure from the hinge side of the door? If the door opens outward, the dimension along the facade should be 1.7 m.<br>▪ Does the door have a clear width of 0.77 m when opened at a 90 degree angle?<br>▪ State the clear width in metres<br>▪ Does the height of door steps exceed 25 mm (or 35 mm if there is a wedge with a gradient not exceeding1:3.5)?<br>▪ State the height of door steps in mm<br>▪ Is there a wedge at steps?<br>▪ Is an area of at least 1.3 m x 1.3 m kept free of opening doors, furniture, installations, level differences and other things that may prevent or complicate movement or manoeuvring in the room?<br>▪ State the width of the turning area (in metres)<br>▪ State the length of the turning area (in metres)<br><br>**Universal design – inside:**<br>▪ Is there a clear area with a width of at least 0.8 m on one side of the water closet?<br>▪ State the clear area on one side of the water closet (in metres)<br>▪ Is there a clear area on one or both sides of the water closet?<br>▪ Is the distance from the front edge of the water closet to the wall behind the water closet at least 0.7m?<br>▪ State the distance from the front edge of the water closet to the wall behind the water closet (in metres)<br>▪ Is the height of the WC pan 0-48-0.50 above floor level?<br>▪ State the height of the WC pan (in metres) |  <br>  <br>  <br>  |

| 3.3 Criteria for infrastructure solutions and best practices on how to make attractions and activities accessible | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Accessibility check – Questions & Standards** | **Best practice examples** |
| **3.3.5**<br>**Toilets for disabled** | **Universal design – inside:**<br>▪ Is it possible to reach the washbasin/water taps when seated on the toilet?<br>▪ State the height of the upper edge of the washbasin (in metres)<br>▪ Are there armrests on both sides of the water closet? The armrests must be lift-up armrests.<br>▪ State the position of armrests<br>▪ Is the toilet paper holder mounted at the front end of one of the two armrests?<br>▪ Are the water taps easy to operate (lever-operated mixer tap, photo cell system or similar)<br>▪ Is it easy to operate door lock from the inside by means of a handle, an automatic system or similar? In emergencies it must be possible for an authorised person to open the door with a key or similar.<br>▪ Is there a shelf for toilet bags?<br>▪ Is there a hook on which clothes can be hung?<br>▪ Does furniture have contrast colours so that it is easy to find?<br>▪ Does the toilet/bathroom have a wall-mounted mirror? The lower edge of the mirror must not be more than 0.9m above the floor, and the upper edge must be at least 1.9 m above floor level.<br>▪ Does the toilet/bathroom have a ventilation or air conditioning system (possible mechanical ventilation) that ensures a sufficiently high air exchange rate?<br>▪ Is there wall-to-wall carpeting in toilets and bathrooms?<br>▪ Can all surfaces be wiped clean with a damp cloth? Walls must not be roughcast or washed with mortar to achieve a rough surface. Areas with textile cladding, silicate paint or types of paint that cannot be cleaned/wiped must be avoided.<br>▪ Is there at least one accessible toilet in buildings with toilets? |  <br>(Quelle: direkt 98)<br>  |

# 4 Investment projects planned within the frame of the Parks & Benefits project

## 4.1 General introduction

Innovative visitor management & guidance systems - accessibility for all tested & evaluated & transferred as blue print solution to be implemented at and owned by Kurtuvenai Regional Park (LT), Municipalities of Lolland & Guldborgsund & Nature Park Maribosoerne (DK), Dovrefjell National Park (NO). New methods of visitor management systems with special focus on needs of disabled and elderly people will be realised as model solutions in protected areas. It demonstrates how quality of visitor management can be improved in natural surface & how disadvantaged people can get access to protected areas. All solutions will be jointly evaluated and compiled in a master guide on innovative visitor management solutions within protected areas, describing the quality demands, solutions & its technical description, transferred to the Nordic Baltic Section partners, the Europarc Federation members & to partners national bodies to lobby its future implementation.

Additionally to the plans in the application form project partner 8 (Zemaitja National Park/LT) has made the decision to also invest in innovative monitoring solutions in protected areas/ Charter parks (1.) and innovative visitor management & guidance system – accessibility for all (2.) in the course of the Parks&Benefits project. They originally planned to only invest in ICT solutions & GPS systems (3.).

This document on innovative visitor management & guidance system - accessibility for all (2.) is one of three guidelines submitted to the JTS for review. The investment plans on innovative monitoring solutions in protected areas/ Charter parks (1.) as well as the investment plan on ICT solutions & GPS systems (3.) have already been submitted to the JTS.

## 4.2 Transnational approach

All investments described in the present investment plan are innovative solutions to support the idea of creating a barrier free environment in protected areas. It will be blue-print solutions to be evaluated by all partners and tested in the four named protected areas for demonstration purposes.

On March 26th 2010 partners planning to implement investments during project lifetime have taken part in a common meeting in Berlin to discuss the main idea behind the BSR program more detailed – the transnational approach of the planned investments - and how it would benefit other protected areas in the BSR. In three workshops investment proposals and different solutions have been presented to the other project partners and the transnational approach has been discussed and defined considering common goals, needs and demands. Within this workshop the involved partners have commonly developed the concept of ICT solutions for visitor monitoring in protected areas. In order to be able to implement the solution they now need to adapt it to their natural surface conditions.

After a common evaluation of existing systems and actual needs of protected areas in year 1, the partners have jointly decided which systems shall be invested in for which purpose and how they can be adapted at other protected areas. The implementation is supposed to take place in year 2 and 3, and a common evaluation of the results will be done in the second half of year 3.

## 4.3 Partner's input to the master guide on accessibility of protected areas for all / description of own planning

### 4.3.1 Maribo Lakes Nature Park, Denmark

**1. Type of investment:**
Disabled friendly parking ground, toilet, footpath and platform at Røgbølle sø

**2. Location:**
Røgbølle sø, the southernmost lake in the nature park Maribosøerne, the location is inside the municipality of Guldborgsund

**3. Which access does it provide?**
Access to the lake = wild nature experience

**4. What problem does it solve?**
That right now, there is nowhere that people in wheelchairs or the like, or even just people not walking very well, can come close to the lakes and be in wild nature. There are no special facilities for hearing disabled, sight disabled or mentally disabled, too

**5. Who will have access / which handicap?**
Physically disabled, hearing impairment, visually impairment, mentally disabled people

**6. Technical description (if already existing)**
- Parking ground suitable for small handicap buses
- armed footpath with guidelines
- Platform with rail etc.
- Special information for hearing impairment, visually impairment.
- Special handicap toilet that can be used without water and electricity.

**7. Approximate costs (if already existing)**
150.000 DKK

**8. Planned date for realisation (from .. to..)**
Early winter 2010 or beginning of 2011, depending on the time it takes to get permission from the nature protection authorities

**9. Photos and technical facts from similar best-practice examples**
Not really possible, as it does not exist in Denmark yet

**10. Reference to guidelines and regulations (incl. ISBN-number and web link if published on the web)**
http://www.godadgang.dk/gb/main.asp

### 4.3.2 Kurtuvenai Regional Park, Lithuania

#### 4.3.2.1 Kurtuvenai - Girnikai Hill

**1. Type of investment:**
Stairs and benches

**2. Location:**
Girnikai Hill – the highest hill in Siauliai district and Kurtuvenai Regional Park.

**3. Which access does it provide?**
It will be possible to get up by stairs till top of the hill with little rest.

**4. What problem does it solve?**
Now there are only footpath to the top of the hill and no places for rest, so a lot of elderly people can't visit this place. Stairs will help to get up the hill and there will be equipped places with benches for resting. So, more people can get up this hill, not only young, and this place will be more attractive for families with children and elderly people, they will spend more time here.

**5. Who will have access / which handicap?**
Elderly people and people with movement (walking) trouble, families

**6. Technical description (if already existing)**
We have technical project of the path, but no graphics of equipment. Now we are preparing technical specification for projector.

**7. Approximate costs (if already existing)**
In budget we planed 9000 Euros; we will know the firm price in September.

**8. Planned date for realisation (from .. to..)**
It was planned in 4 MS, in this autumn we will do some payment (for project), but works will start in 2011 spring.

**9. Photos and technical facts from similar best-practice examples**

**10. Reference to guidelines and regulations (incl. ISBN-number and web link if published on the web)**
In Lithuania there are only requirements for building in living areas, but we haven't any guidelines for equipment for disabled in nature. www.aplinkavisiems.lt (environment for all)

#### 4.3.2.2 Kurtuvenai - Juodle lake path

**1. Type of investment:**
Bridge, wooden path for disabled (for wheelchairs) with seats for rest

**2. Location:**
Juodle lake path

**3. Which access does it provide?**
- Wooden path leads along to swamp
- Bridge for crossing rivulet

**4. What problem does it solve?**
There are no places in the park where disabled people can spend time in nature. This path will be the first in our park adapted for travelling with wheelchairs or buggies.

**5. Who will have access / which handicap?**
Elderly people and people with movement (walking) trouble, young families with babies

**6. Technical description (if already existing)**
We have technical project of the path, but no graphics of equipment. Now we are preparing technical specification for projector. Later it can be fit accordingly common guidelines.

**7. Approximate costs (if already existing)**
In budget we planed 13000 Euros, we will know the firm price in September.

**8. Planned date for realisation (from .. to..)**
It was planned in 3 MS, but as we haven't certificated common guidelines, realisation of this object will extend till November (4 MS). in this autumn we will do some payment (for project), but works will start in 2011 spring.

## 9. Photos and technical facts from similar best-practice examples

## 10. Reference to guidelines and regulations (incl. ISBN-number and web link if published on the web)

In Lithuania there are only requirements for building in living area, but we haven't any guidelines for equipment for disabled in nature. www.aplinkavisiems.lt (environment for all)

#### 4.3.2.3 Kurtuvenai - Horse Riding Centre

**1. Type of investment:**
Ramp

**2. Location:**
Horse Riding Centre

**3. Which access does it provide?**
It helps disabled people to sit on horses.

**4. What problem does it solve?**
In our Horse Riding Centre we admit disabled people, mostly children, for riding; and it is a problem to heave up them on the horses' backs. From the ramp they can sit on a horse themselves, with minimum of help.

**5. Who will have access / which handicap?**
People (children) with walking trouble

**6. Technical description (if already existing)**
No

**7. Approximate costs (if already existing)**
In budget 6000 Euro

**8. Planned date for realisation (from .. to..)**
Next year (5 MS)

**9. Photos and technical facts from similar best-practice examples**

**10. Reference to guidelines and regulations (incl. ISBN-number and web link if published on the web)**
In Lithuania there are only requirements for building in living area, but we haven't any guidelines for equipment for disabled in nature. www.aplinkavisiems.lt (environment for all)

### 4.3.3 Zemaitija National Park, Lithuania

**1. Type of investment:**
Reconstruction of Seire nature cognitive path making it accessible for disabled people

**2. Location:**
Žemaitija NATIONAL park, Seire landscape reserve

**3. Which access does it provide?**
Access for all visitors, also for disabled peoples (who can't walk)

**4. What problem does it solve?**
Zemaitija national park doesn't have any innovative and fully adopted for visiting nature path.

**5. Who will have access / which handicap?**
All visitors and local people

**6. Technical description (if already existing)**
Will be prepared technical project

**7. Approximate costs (if already existing)**
28 000 Euros

**8. Planned date for realisation (from .. to..)**
2011 summer

**9. Photos and technical facts from similar best-practice examples**
Nature path in Bavarian forest Nature Park

**10. Reference to guidelines and regulations (incl. ISBN-number and web link if published on the web)**

### 4.3.4 Dovrefjell-Sunndalsfjella National Park, Lithuania

**1. Type of investment:**
A paved path of 1600 meters, usable for all user groups


The path with view from behind the observation post down

**2. Location:**
Leading from the old mining area to the observation post at Tverrfjellet

**3. Which access does it provide?**
The tests have shown that both electric indoor and outdoor wheelchairs van easily come up to the observation post. Therefore the plan is to produce slate stones aside the path with inscription with carved capital characters.

**4. What problem does it solve?**
The purpose of the use of capital letters is to include visually impaired user visitors in addition to other guests.

**5. Who will have access / which handicap?**
Visually impaired people

**6. Technical description (if already existing)**
The choice using slate stones on the ground is made based on the fact that the weather can be so hush during winter time that the maintenance costs would be quite high in the long run.

**7. Approximate costs (if already existing)**

| Information concept along the path | NOK | EURO |
|---|---|---|
| Development of text | 30 000 | 3 750 |
| Slate stones | 55 000 | 6 875 |
| Transport | 10 000 | 1 250 |
| Milling of text | 55 000 | 6 875 |
| Installation of the slate stone plates | 50 000 | 6 250 |
| **Total** | **200 000** | **25 000** |

**8. Planned date for realisation (from .. to..)**

End of 2010 – Beginning 2011

**9. Photos and technical facts from similar best-practice examples**

**10. Reference to guidelines and regulations (incl. ISBN-number and web link if published on the web)**

## 5 Common evaluation and distribution of results

Referring to the evaluation of the generated results there have not been defined any criteria on how to carry it out in a common way yet. Still it already has been discussed during the investment meeting in March 2010 in Berlin that all involved partners will share the experiences on practical work and that they will evaluate among others the following features:

- technical performance
- practical use by target group
- maintenance
- monitoring results.

The partners will decide about the common evaluation at the 5th project meeting in Matsalu NP /EE from 11th -15th October 2010. The evaluation of the implemented blueprint solutions is planned to be carried out in autumn 2011 after finishing the testing phase in spring/ summer 2011 in the four respective partner parks.

**Benefits for other parks:**
The main achievements and benefits for other protected areas can be summarized as follows:

- support protected area administrations, municipalities and regions in decision-making for future investments in accessibility
- function as a base documentation for lobbying towards decision-makers
- provide facts and knowledge on how to realise such investments as guideline how to develop protected areas for disabled
- demonstrate the feasibility of creating access for all in nature areas / outdoors >> best-practice for protected area managers
- demonstrate the added value for all visitors, including elderly people and families with children
- demonstrate cost-effectiveness of such investments.

The main results will be presented and documented on the project website open to the entire public. They also will be published in the Parks&Benefits newsletter and therefore distributed to main representatives and multipliers in the field of nature conservation and sustainable tourism.
The EUROPARC Nordic Baltic Section is another main distribution channel for the implemented blueprint solutions. It is planned to present the main results of the testing phase in all four protected areas at a Nordic Baltic Section meeting. Besides that EUROPARC Federation will be provided with all results and information concerning the implementation and evaluation of the new visitor monitoring investments to be distributed to their broad network of more than 400 members in 36 countries.

## 6 List of Guideline & Regulations / Further Reading

Further reading:
www.natur-fuer-alle.de