



Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP)

Olympic National Park
Washington
August 2024

A misty forest scene with moss-covered trees and a hiker. The image shows a dense forest with large, moss-covered trees and a hiker walking on a path in the distance. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

**National Park Service
Interior Regions
8, 9, 10, and 12**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Olympic National Park staff is dedicated to serving all park visitors to help them find meaning in the resources of the park and its stories. Recently, park staff embarked on a journey to ensure that key experiences are available to all visitors, regardless of race, nationality, socioeconomic status, or ability. Park staff conducted an accessibility self-evaluation of park facilities, services, activities, and programs and drafted a transition plan that identifies opportunities for improvement and outlines critical steps towards implementing responsive solutions parkwide.

This accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan (SETP) resulted from the work of a National Park Service (NPS) interdisciplinary team, including planning, design, and construction professionals and interpretive, resource, visitor safety, maintenance, and accessibility specialists. The team developed site plans identifying the location of accessibility barriers and opportunities for each assessed park area and crafted an implementation strategy to assist park staff in scheduling and performing required actions and documenting completed work. The team also assessed park policies, practices, communication, and training needs to improve access to elements of the park that lie outside of direct physical and programmatic access. The goals of the SETP are to (1) document existing park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities; (2) provide an effective approach for upgrading facilities, services, activities, and programs; and (3) instill a culture around creating universal access.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Olympic National Park has made many strides to improve physical accessibility throughout the park. Paved and mostly level parking areas and routes lead visitors to various facilities and experiences such as visitor centers, trailheads, viewing areas, and camping facilities. The Madison Falls Trail provides an immersive forest hiking experience to a waterfall with limited barriers to accessibility due to the park's thoughtful design and continued maintenance of the trail.

Recurring findings related to physical accessibility were identified for parking areas, accessible paths of travel, and visitor information areas such as kiosks, bulletin boards, interpretive panels and waysides. Often these facilities and features had surfaces that were not firm or stable and slopes that exceeded allowable standards. Restroom amenities regularly did not meet required reach range standards for a variety of components, and amenities offered for picnicking and camping such as tables, fire rings, and water spigots did not always meet appropriate access route and clear ground space standards. Campgrounds required more accessible sites with improved ground surfaces and accessible features such as picnic tables, fire rings, water hydrants, and restrooms with items that are within reach range and require less force to operate.

Olympic National Park staff has opportunities to provide additional access to unique experiences across the park. Making improvements to the usability of additional trails would help visitors experience more areas of the park. Improvements to access at beaches

and boat ramps would help provide additional water-based experiences to visitors with disabilities. As improvements are made to campgrounds, the addition of more accessible campsites will provide visitors with disabilities more options for overnight experiences in the scenic campsites that Olympic has to offer.

PROGRAMMATIC ACCESSIBILITY

Olympic National Park has made improvements to programmatic accessibility in recent years. Tactile map models and accessible signage at visitor centers provide alternative formats for visitors to experience the park's unique resources. Two park films are closed-captioned and available upon request at the Port Angeles Olympic National Park Visitor Center and the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center. Assistive listening systems that amplify presentation sounds for listeners are available for park films and at campground amphitheaters during ranger-led evening programs. Portable assistive listening devices may also be deployed to other park events and programs with arrangements made in advance. Rangers and volunteers can wear headphone microphones upon request.

On the park's website, visitors can find written descriptions and photos of physical conditions of a wide range of trails and beach access routes in the park. The website also provides detailed information for visitors who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. General information is provided about how to request an interpreter, American Sign Language (ASL)-fluent park rangers, and captioning and hearing assistive technology. Two videos featuring a ranger sharing this information in ASL accompany this section.

Recurring findings related to program accessibility were identified for park publications, waysides, exhibits, and programs. Many interpretive waysides had font and contrast issues and were difficult to read, alternative formats were limited, tactile exhibits were limited, and audio description for tours was not available.

Significant ways in which programs could be improved include providing more tactile models of more unique resources. Additionally, improving trailhead signage parkwide would provide visitors with specific information about trail conditions on-site and enable them to decide for themselves if a trail is usable to them.

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

However, many facilities were constructed before the passage of laws and policies requiring the National Park Service to provide access to the widest cross section of the public and to ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The accessibility of commercial services in national parks is also governed by applicable federal laws. After 100 years of operation, the National Park Service continues to work towards a more inclusive environment.

Visitors today have unique needs and expectations, and the agency must adapt to meet changing demands. Modern scientific research and visitor trend analysis provide new insights into accessibility opportunities and challenges in the national park system. According to 2020 Center for Disease Control data, there are approximately 61 million people with disabilities in the United States, and this number is expected to rise in the coming years as more people reach retirement age (65 and older). This information helps the National Park Service understand changing visitation patterns, the nexus between resource stewardship and accessibility, and the impacts of managing visitors, resources, and infrastructure with the reality of unpredictable funding. Planning can help identify solutions to challenges and provide a trajectory full of opportunity for current and future visitors. The National Park Service is committed to making park facilities, services, programs, and employment opportunities accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.

Olympic National Park's existing general management planning documents continue to provide relevant guidance, which may be supplemented through development of additional planning documents such as this one. The accessibility SETP is a component of the park's planning portfolio. This plan documents park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities and provides an effective approach for upgrading park facilities, services, and programs. In addition, the plan helps inform management decisions regarding project prioritization, funding, and compliance.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

The creation of a transition plan is mandated by regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as they apply to the US Department of the Interior, which states that “No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.” The act requires parks to document architectural barriers and identify solutions, time frames, and responsible parties to improve and increase accessibility.

This plan was prepared to provide Olympic National Park staff with a tool for addressing overall needs associated with making the park accessible when viewed in its entirety. The plan is based on an understanding of key park experiences and establishes a methodical process that identifies, prioritizes, and outlines improvements to park accessibility. The plan proposes strategies for implementation over time and in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS

The process for creating a SETP involves seven steps:

STEPS OF THE SETP PROCESS



1. **Identify Key Park Experiences and Park Areas** – The interdisciplinary team began by identifying the key experiences available to visitors at the park. Key park experiences, which help determine the park areas to assess in step 2, are iconic and important experiences for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of the park. Park legislation is the foundation for key park experiences, which are identified through park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and programs (these can be found in the park's foundation document at [Olympic National Park Foundation Document Overview \(nps.gov\)](#)). Key park experiences ensure that planned improvements are prioritized to best increase overall access to park experiences.

The key park experiences identified for Olympic National Park include the following:

- a. **Life Forms:** Experience the array of habitats and life forms of the Olympic Peninsula, including plants, mammals, amphibians, birds, fish, invertebrates, and reptiles, and more than a dozen species that exist nowhere else in the world.
- b. **Freshwater Aquatic Habitat:** Experience the river basins, rivers and streams, high mountain lakes, large lowland lakes, and the native freshwater fish species that inhabit them, including salmon, a keystone species of the park's forest and aquatic ecosystems.
- c. **Beaches and Intertidal Community:** Experience the Olympic beaches and rocky intertidal community, considered to be one of the most complex and diverse shoreline communities in the United States.

- d. Old-Growth Forest: Experience extensive forests of ancient and immense trees that provide important habitat and are the finest remaining stands of old-growth temperate coniferous forest in the United States.
- e. Subalpine: Experience the flora, fauna, and scenic views of the transition zone known as the subalpine, which ranges from dense forest to treeline.
- f. Wilderness: Experience the near-pristine nature, grandeur, immensity, and variety of resources, which include glacier-covered mountains, subalpine lakes and meadows, extensive river valleys, old-growth coniferous forests, and the tremendously diverse wild Pacific coastline.
- g. Cultural Resources: Experience a variety of cultural resources, from ancient village sites to historic structures, that retain local, regional, or national significance. Eight federally recognized Tribes have, since time immemorial, sustained strong ties to the Olympic Peninsula and what is now the park. Park resources continue to provide material, spiritual, and cultural sustenance to contemporary descendants as they have for millennia.
- h. Recreation: Experience the recreational “backyard” that serves millions of people in the greater Puget Sound and Olympic Peninsula regions, in addition to attracting recreating visitors from across the nation and world.

To prepare for step 2, the team then listed all developed areas of the park in which visitors have access.

2. **Determine Park Areas to Assess** – Not all park areas can be assessed during this process due to time and funding constraints. Therefore, the interdisciplinary team determined which park areas to assess based on the number of key park experiences, visitation level, diversity of activities and programs, distribution, and unique characteristics. The areas selected for assessment provide the best opportunities for the public to access all key park experiences. Areas not assessed will be assessed and improved as part of future facility alterations or as components of a future planned construction project (see appendix C for areas not assessed).
3. **Identify Facilities, Services, and Programs in Each Park Area** – The team identified all facilities, services, and programs in each park area to ensure that all physical and programmatic visitor amenities in each park area were reviewed for accessibility. The comprehensive lists of facilities, services, and programs were the basis for conducting assessments and documenting barriers.
4. **Conduct Accessibility Assessment** – On-site, the interdisciplinary assessment team assessed each park area and identified physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility. The team then reviewed possible solutions and explored options to provide universal access. In some cases, programmatic alternatives needed to be examined because eliminating physical barriers is not always possible due to historic designations, environmental concerns, topography, or sensitive cultural and natural resources. Therefore, a range of programmatic alternatives was

considered to provide access to key park experiences for as many visitors as possible.

5. **Draft Transition Plan** – Following the assessment, the team added field results to an implementation strategy table and drafted conceptual site plans to display the locations of barriers and opportunities. An implementation strategy can be complex because of a large range of coordination efforts associated with scheduling accessibility improvements. All improvement efforts need to consider park activities and operational requirements. Improvement efforts need to consider park activities and operational requirements to determine how and when to implement a solution. While some changes can be done quickly at little or no cost, others may be integrated into existing projects or planned as separate projects, and more complex solutions may require advanced planning and requests for funding. Based on these considerations, the team identified an implementation time frame and a responsible park staff member for each barrier and solution. Implementation time frames are based on NPS staff's ability to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects and are as follows:
 - a. Immediate (0–1 year)
 - b. Short term (1–3 years)
 - c. Mid-term (3–7 years)
 - d. Long term (longer than 7 years)
6. **Conduct Public Involvement** – The public was invited to provide input on the draft plan from August 1, 2024, to August 31, 2024. Staff used the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website to solicit public involvement and review of the plan.
7. **Finalize Transition Plan** – This plan and its recommended action items are not definitive solutions but describe a strategy to help park staff reach a more accessible destination. Park staff welcome further suggestions from all interested parties who want to continue to improve this important national resource.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

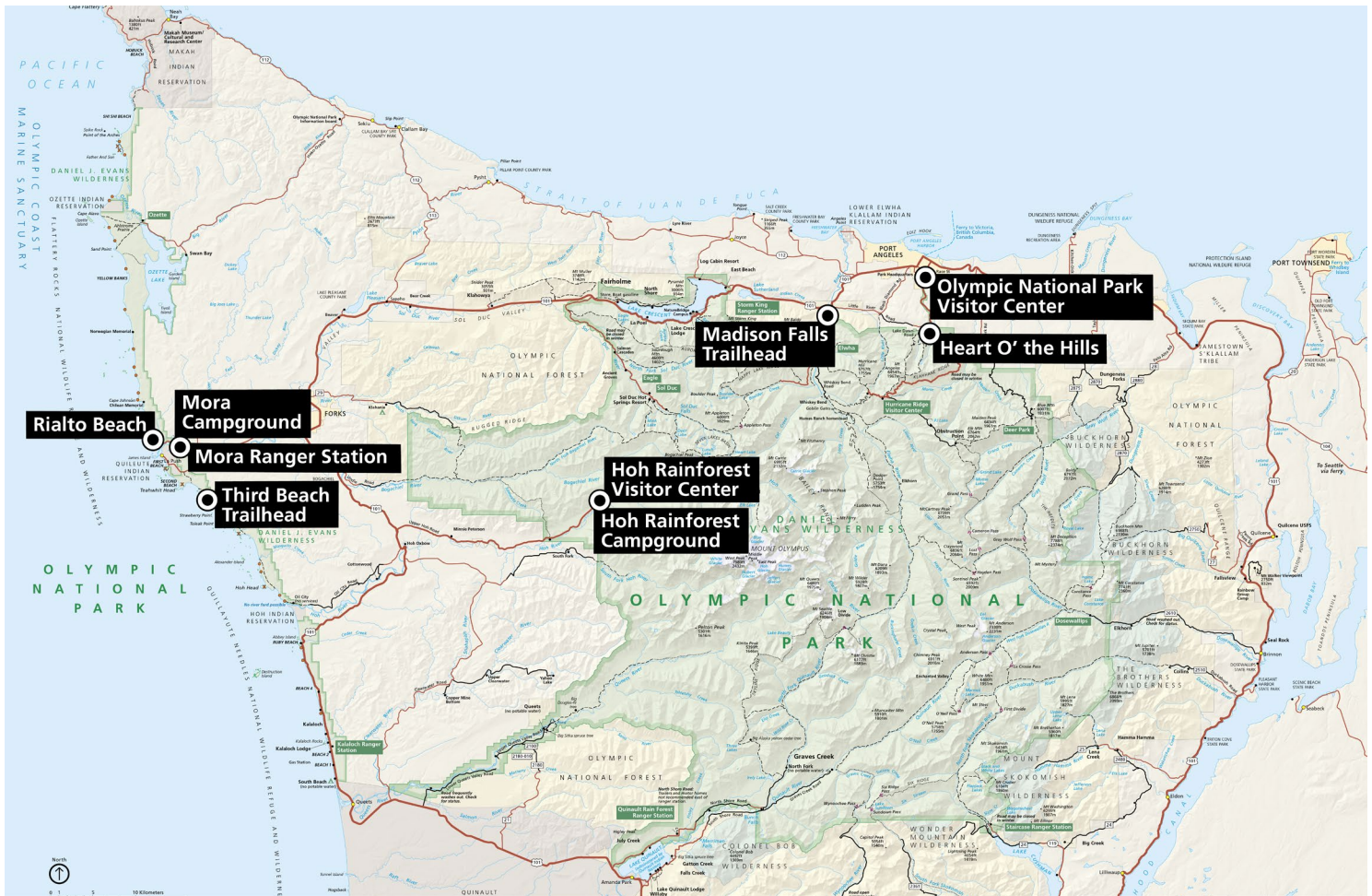
The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan, and the accessibility coordinator assists the superintendent by documenting improvements, keeping the plan updated, and communicating to park employees. It's recommended that park staff employ trained consultants and involve the disability community to assist with addressing accessibility improvements to ensure that design and implementation meet the needs of visitors with disabilities. Creating parkwide accessibility requires staff awareness, understanding, and appropriate action. Because of fiscal constraints and limited park resources, staff will need to determine which improvements will benefit the greatest number of visitors with disabilities. Suggested implementation time frames and relative costs need to be factored into all accessibility investment decisions.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

PARK AREAS ASSESSED

The interdisciplinary team assessed the following park areas for accessibility during the planning effort. Park areas not assessed are in appendix C.

- **Elwha:**
 - Madison Falls Trailhead
 - Heart O' the Hills
- **Hoh:**
 - Hoh Rainforest Visitor Center
 - Hoh Rainforest Campground
- **Mora:**
 - Mora Campground
 - Mora Ranger Station
 - Rialto Beach
 - Third Beach Trailhead
- **Port Angeles:**
 - Olympic National Park Visitor Center



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR PARK AREAS ASSESSED

The Architectural Barrier Act requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards and the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities in 1984 and 2006, respectively. Subsequently, in 2011, standards for recreational facilities were incorporated into ABAAS as chapter 10.

Depending on the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards apply. The interdisciplinary team used ABAAS to conduct the transition plan facility assessments. Although a barrier may be identified by the current assessment for improvement, facilities are only required to follow the standard in place at the time of construction and/or alteration. Therefore, barriers may not be in violation of ABAAS. However, any renovation or upgrade of that building is required to meet the most current standard at the time of work. In addition, Harpers Ferry Center Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media were followed for facility and program assessments.

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

For each park area, this document provides an overview of findings and recommended solutions in a brief narrative and bulleted list and provides corresponding site plan(s) that illustrate existing conditions. For details on each barrier, solution, and time frame, see the companion implementation strategy table [PEPC 120793 \(nps.gov\)](#). It is important to understand that the site plans and recommendations are conceptual and will require further design development and historic and environmental compliance before construction. SETPs are not to be used as a section 106 compliance review submittal. Consult with cultural and natural resource staff before proceeding with recommended actions. During the implementation phase, the interdisciplinary team must reassess the project site conditions, refer to ABAAS, and consult with the local disability community to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are correctly addressed.



MADISON FALLS TRAILHEAD

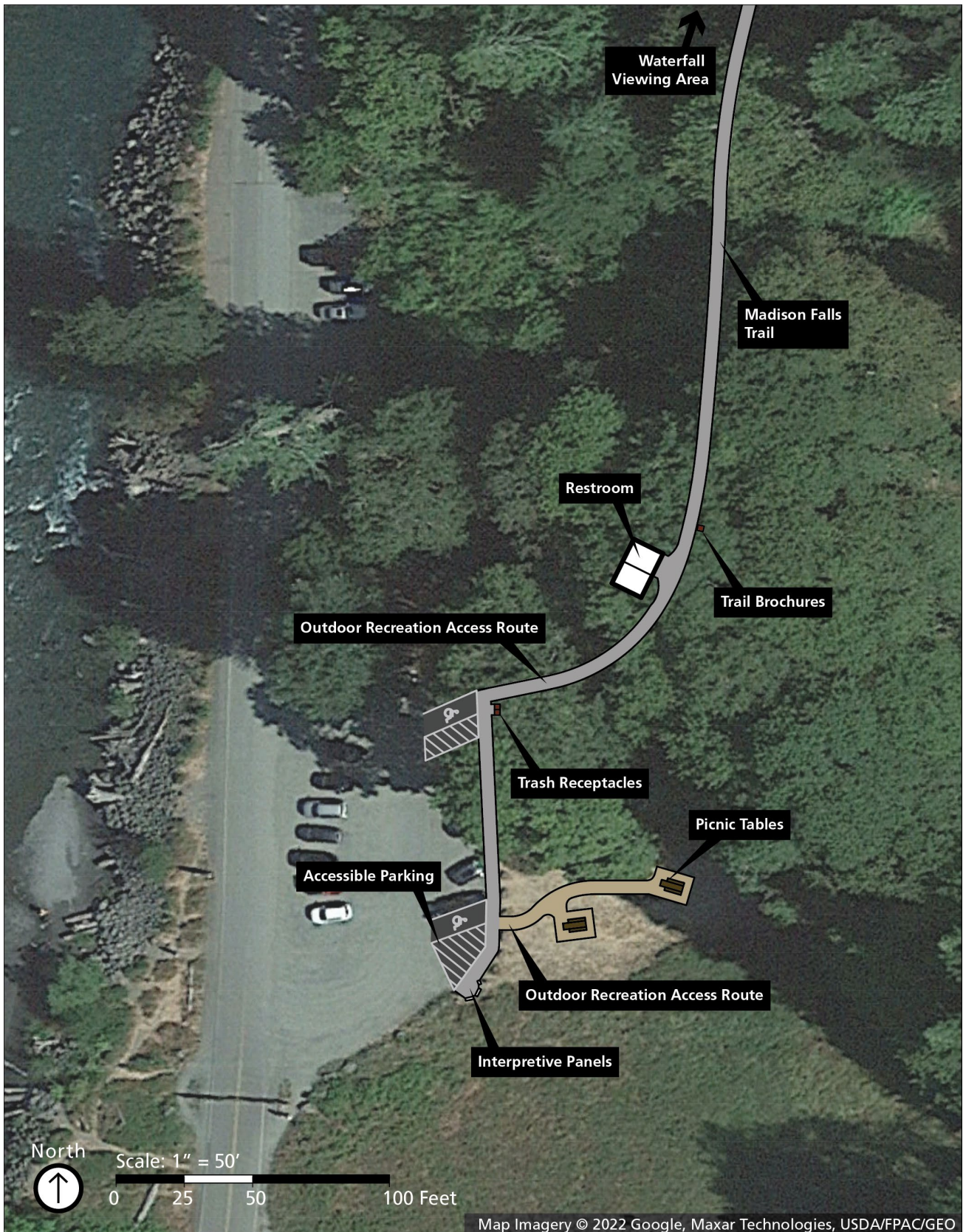
Madison Falls Trailhead is located in the Elwha Valley, within the central-northern area of Olympic National Park. With its sparkling river surrounded by mountains, the Elwha Valley is a popular destination for visitors. Madison Falls Trail provides a short scenic hiking experience that is signed with an accessible symbol. There are two boards with trailhead information about the valley trails, and a wayside that is being used as a prototype for developing audio-described trailhead information. The trail to Madison Falls is an asphalt path that is generally 5 feet wide with a few points where plants and soil have grown into the path alignment. Approximately 100 feet up the path, a vault toilet restroom is provided. It is approximately a ¼-mile hike to the falls. One resting interval is provided on the trail. Benches with armrests, backrests, and companion seating are located at a midpoint and the end of the trail. The trail begins relatively flat, then slopes upward gently and then more steeply as it curves its way up before flattening out at the falls overlook. A railing at the overlook has a lowered edge for viewing the falls without obstructing the view.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Madison Falls Trailhead include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Improve slopes of parking spaces, and provide access aisles.
- **Interpretive Panels:** Improve contrast and text sizes, and lower the audio buttons.
- **Routes:** Reduce the slopes on routes to picnic tables and restrooms.
- **Trash Receptacles:** Improve the clear ground space at the receptacles to be level.
- **Restroom:** Add tactile signage, reposition the toilet paper dispenser, and lower the toilet seat and soap dispenser.
- **Trail Brochures:** Provide a level clear ground space at the trail brochures box.
- **Viewing Area:** Reduce the slopes at the waterfall viewing area on the trail.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

Madison Falls Trailhead Site Plan





HEART O' THE HILLS

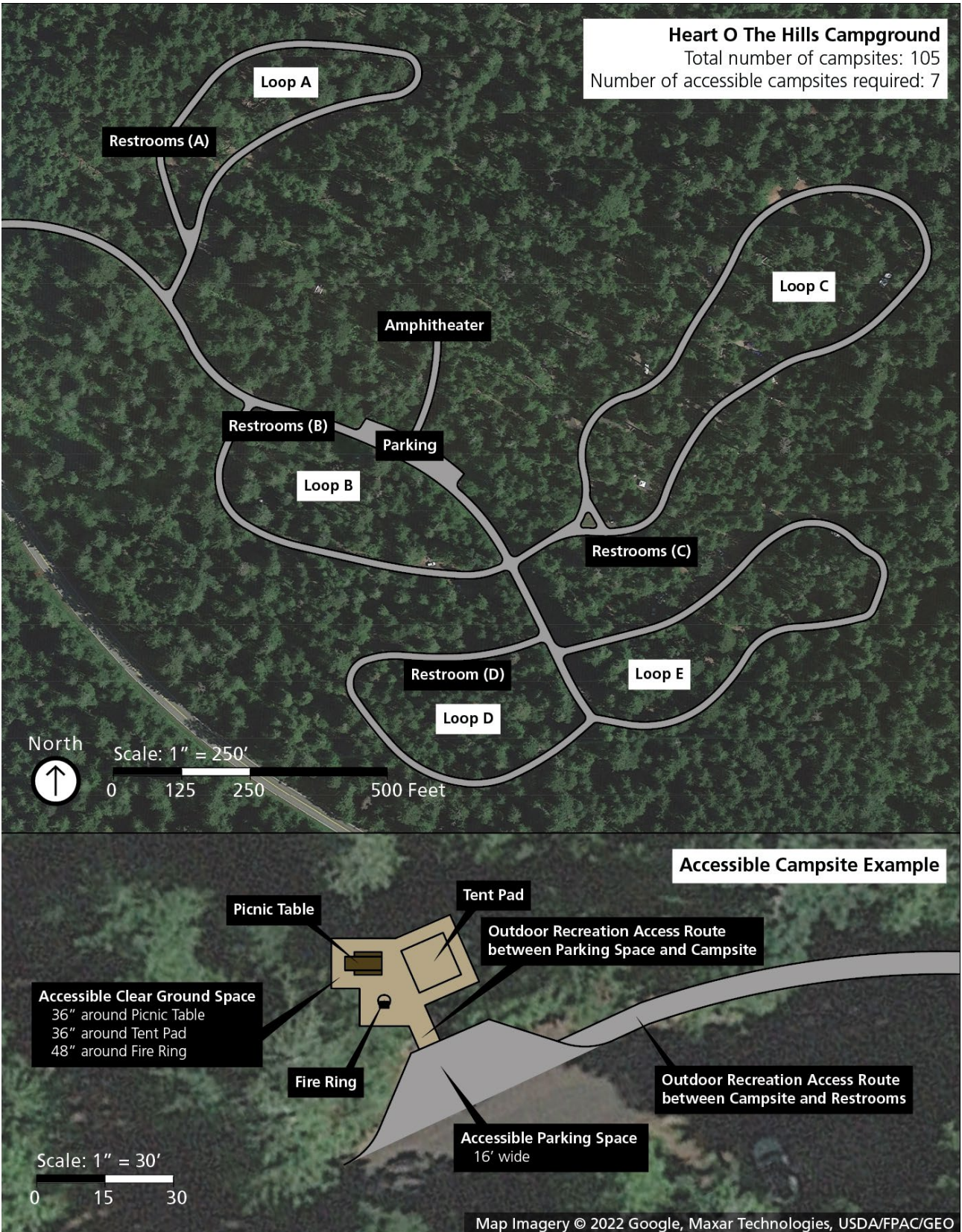
Tucked within old-growth forest, the Heart O' the Hills Campground offers visitors 105 campsites with picnic tables, fire rings with grates, restrooms, potable water, and animal-proof food storage. This campground has an entrance station that was recently rehabilitated, a trailhead and trailhead parking area, an amphitheater with van-accessible parking, five campground loops, and four restroom buildings. The restroom areas typically include men's and women's restrooms, an information board, and campground registration materials. The amphitheater area hosts evening ranger programs on the weekends in the form of slide shows and PowerPoints, and assistive listening devices are provided.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Heart O' the Hills include the following:

- **Campsites:** Provide a minimum of seven accessible campsites that have accessible parking, tent pads, picnic tables, fire rings, animal-proof food storage, and routes to water and restrooms.
- **Restrooms:** Improve each of the comfort stations to have tactile signs, accessible doors, toilet compartments, sinks, mirrors, fixtures, and water hydrants.
- **Routes:** Improve the routes to have lower running slopes and smaller openings in the walking surfaces.
- **Registration and Information Signage:** Improve the clear ground space, height of information, and text size at the registration and signage.
- **Amphitheater:** Provide accessible seating spaces.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

Heart O' the Hills Site Plan





HOH RAINFOREST VISITOR CENTER

Nestled within the mosses and ferns of old-growth forest, the Hoh Rainforest Visitor Center provides a gateway to the temperate rainforest named after the Hoh River. The exterior of the visitor center was rehabilitated in 2014. The area generally comprises a parking area, visitor center building, and trails. Visitors gather in a flat concrete area in front of the visitor center for walks, evening ranger programs, and porch talks. The trailhead includes three trail information boards, with maps and trail information for the Hoh River Trail and the Hoh Mini Trail. Bench seating and companion spaces are offered at regular intervals, with short distances between. The interior of the Hoh Rainforest Visitor Center was rehabilitated in 2018. It has ample circulation, seating, a dual-height counter, and bookstore items within reach range. Exhibits including tactile opportunities on topics including changing climate, forests, animal, sea life, and elk.

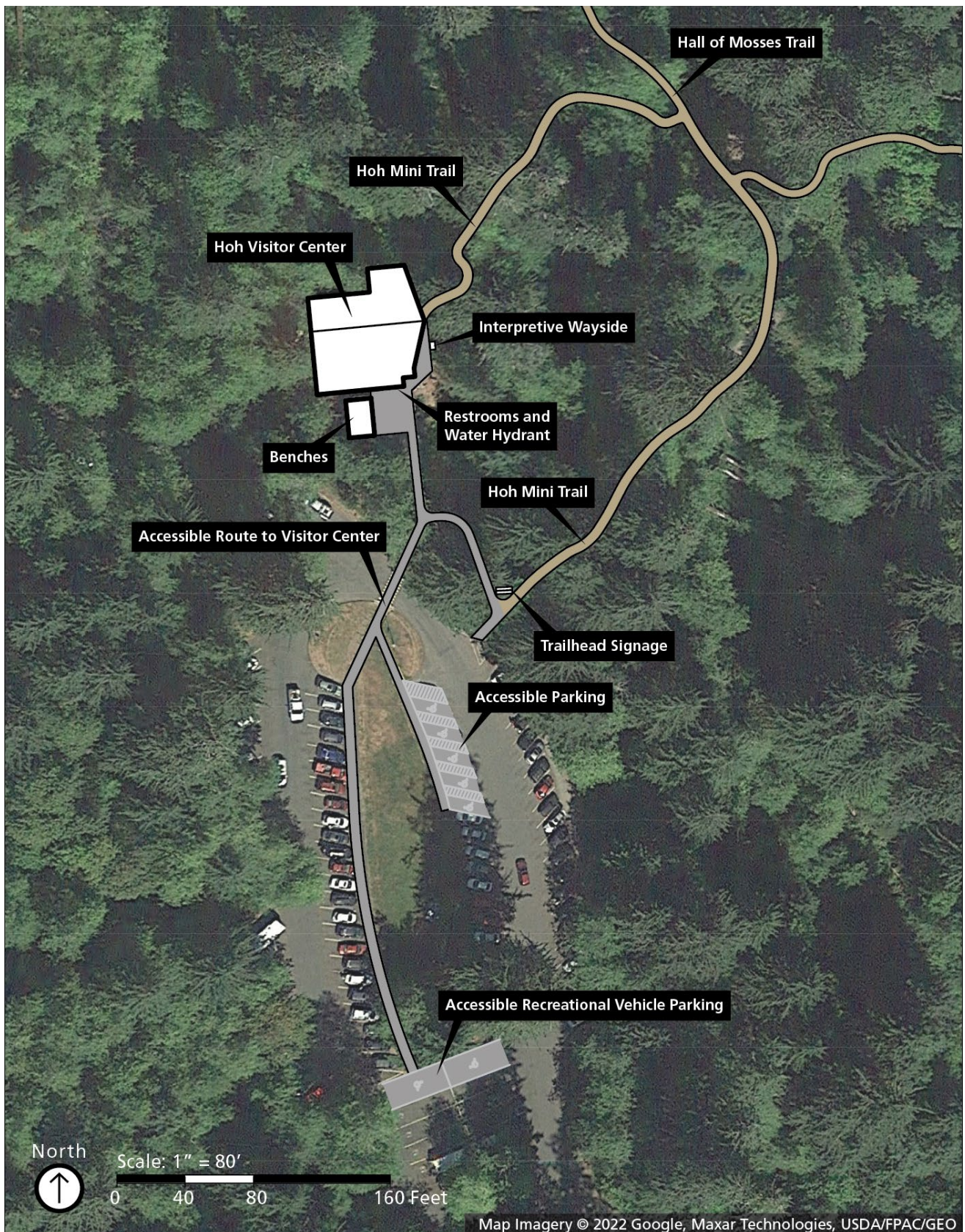
Proposed accessibility improvements at Hoh Rainforest Visitor Center include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Improve accessible van and car parking spaces to be wider.
- **Accessible Recreational Vehicle Parking:** Improve slopes of RV parking spaces.
- **Routes:** Improve routes to have lower running and cross slopes, and no obstacles.
- **Restrooms:** Remove obstacles on doors; lower locks; reposition the toilet paper dispensers; cover pipes to prevent contact; lower mirrors; and provide self-closing doors.
- **Water Hydrant:** Reduce the amount of force needed to operate the hydrant.
- **Trash and Recycling Receptacles:** Improve operability of bear-proof trash cans.
- **Interpretive Waysides:** Improve waysides to have larger text sizes, and improve adjoining ground spaces to be firm, stable, and level.
- **Visitor Center Interior:** Remove obstacles from doors; lower retail items, sales and service counters, and entrance pass box; and improve knee clearance at the passport table and tactile exhibit.

- **Trailhead Signage:** Provide more detailed information about trail conditions.
- **Benches:** Provide level clear ground spaces at benches.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

Hoh Rainforest Visitor Center Site Plan





HOH RAINFOREST CAMPGROUND

The Hoh Rainforest Campground provides visitors with stunning camping experience among the mossy old-growth forest. A total of 72 campsites are provided between three campground loops. Restroom buildings are provided at each loop. Most facilities in the campground are Mission 66 buildings, and the park is moving through rehabilitating the facilities to update features, preserve historic elements, and improve accessibility. Each loop includes restrooms and information boards on flat concrete pads, water hydrants, and restrooms, including men's, women's, and family units, with some accessible features. There are five designated accessible campsites, with at least one on each loop. Each site comprises a concrete parking pad and access aisle, accessible picnic tables, a grill and tent pad area. The amphitheater has a steep, sloping entrance path and rows of bench seating in front of a stage.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Hoh Rainforest Campground include the following:

- **Campsites:** Provide an additional accessible campsite in Loop B.
- **Water Hydrants:** Improve hand operability, lower spout heights, and remove openings in ground surface.
- **Fire Rings:** Improve fire rings to have higher fire building surfaces and larger clear and level ground spaces surrounding them.
- **Picnic Tables:** Provide tables with integrated wheelchair seating spaces.
- **Restrooms:** Improve each of the restrooms to have tactile signs, accessible doors, toilet compartments, grab bars, toilet paper dispensers, coat hooks, baby changing tables, sinks, mirrors, fixtures, and water hydrants.
- **Routes:** Reduce the slopes of routes to the bear box and to and within the amphitheater.

- **Informational Signage:** Provide a route and clear space for viewing information on all sides of information signs, and improve text size to be larger.
- **Animal-Proof Storage:** Provide an accessible animal-proof storage container.
- **Amphitheater Seating:** Provide integrated wheelchair seating spaces.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

Hoh Rainforest Campground Site Plan





MORA CAMPGROUND

Located along the western coast of the park and near the Quillayute River, Mora Campground provides a scenic camping experience to visitors. This campground provides a van-accessible parking area near the entrance, with an information board and nearby amphitheater and picnic area. The grassy picnic lawn contains one picnic table. A paved route leads to the historic amphitheater, with some steep slopes on the route. Campground loops A, B, C, D, and E connect to three restrooms with flat concrete surfaces, stone-based water spigots, and information boards. All sites include a tent site, accessible picnic table, and grill. There is high potential for universal access throughout most of this campground, as many sites have sufficient space and generally level ground. An RV septic dump station is provided on the entrance/exit road.

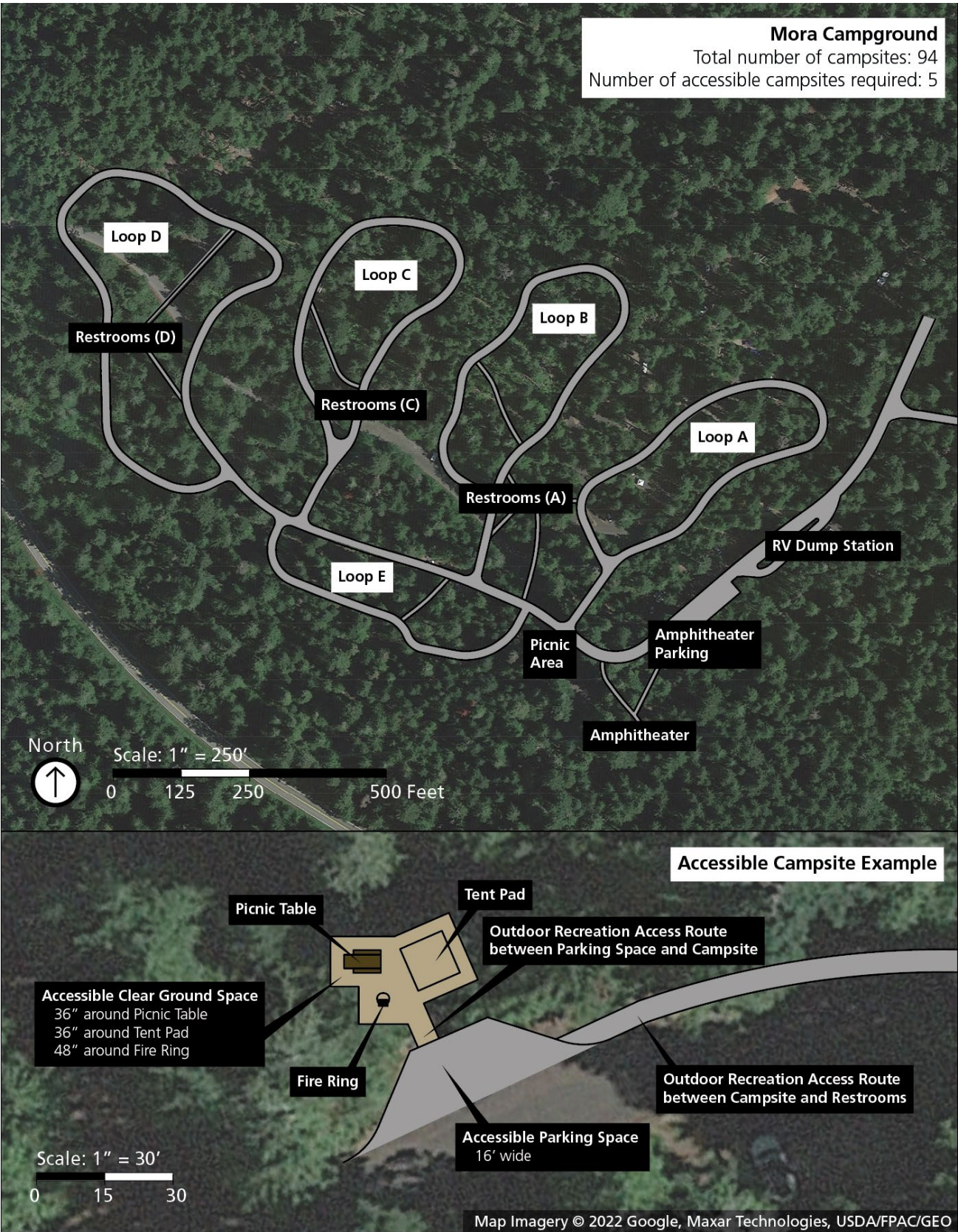
Proposed accessibility improvements at Mora Campground include the following:

- **Campsites:** Improve a minimum of five campsites to be accessible.
- **Campground Registration:** Lower operable parts of the campground registration.
- **Informational Signs:** Improve text size to be larger.
- **Routes:** Reduce slopes, improve overhead clearances, and reduce the size of gaps in walking surfaces on routes to restrooms.
- **Recycling Receptacle:** Provide a level clear ground space at the receptacle.
- **Water Hydrant:** Provide a larger clear ground space and a spout that is higher.
- **Restrooms:** Improve each of the restrooms to have tactile signs, accessible doors, toilet compartments, grab bars, sinks, mirrors, and fixtures.
- **RV Septic Dump Station:** Reduce slopes at the parking and pull-up space, and provide a larger clear ground space at the potable water hydrant.

- **Accessible Parking:** Improve parking and access aisle to be wider and have lower slopes.
- **Interpretive Waysides:** Improve the wayside to have larger text and a firm, stable, and level clear ground space.
- **Amphitheater:** Provide accessible seating and companion spaces.
- **Picnic Area:** Improve route to picnic area to be firm and stable.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

Mora Campground Site Plan





MORA RANGER STATION

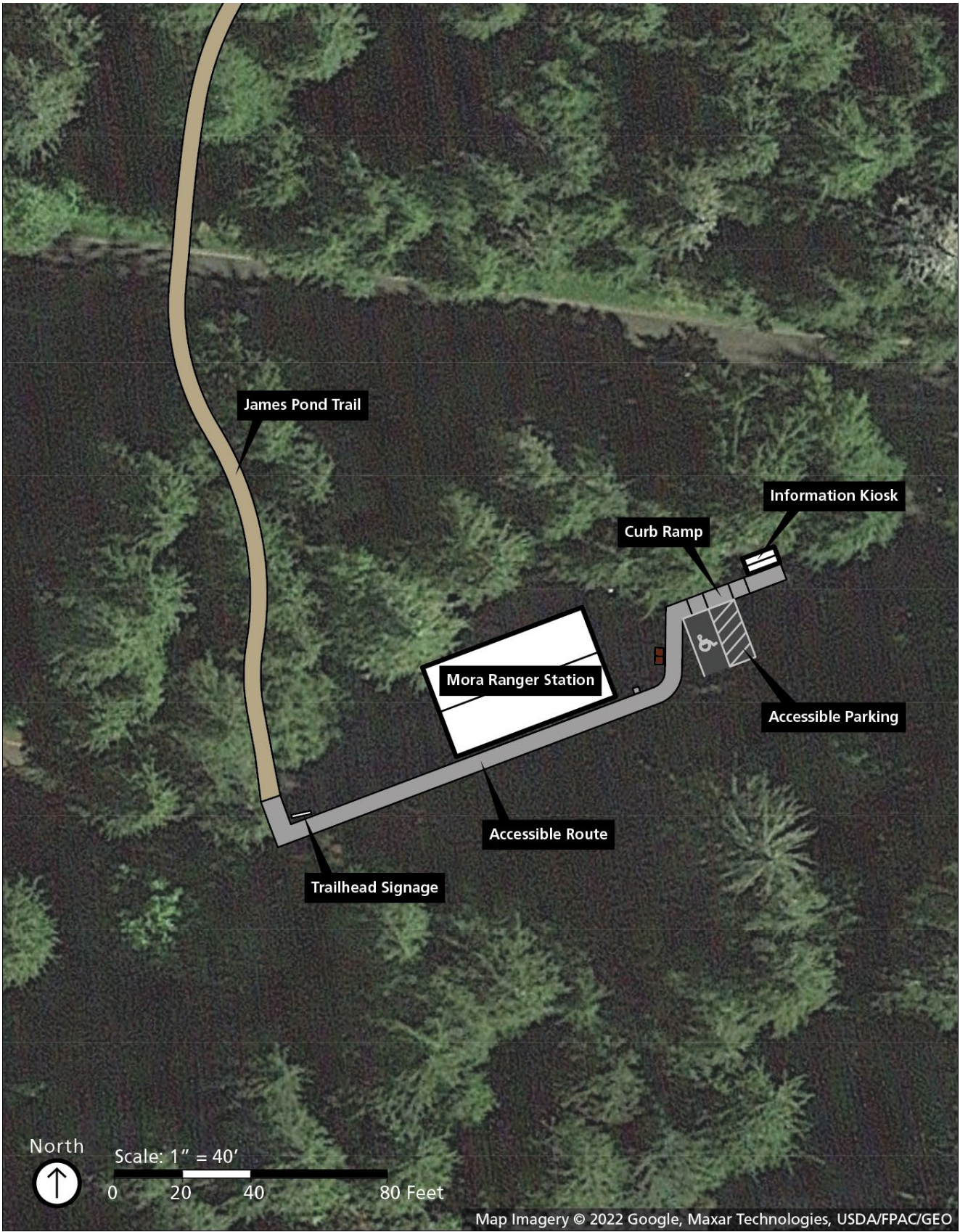
The Mora Ranger Station provides visitor information and permits for the Mora area. The ranger station includes accessible parking with van-accessible signage, a bulletin board with a flat asphalt accessible route to the visitor contact station, trash and recycling, single spigot fountain, and water hydrant. Visitor information is provided via a window along the access route. A step up to a concrete pad is required to gather park information materials and to enter the contact station. The interior is furnished with a counter, sideboard, desk, a few offices, bathroom, and a wall-mounted topographic map. A rehabilitation project is scheduled in the future to address building access and an accessible route to exterior facilities. At the end of the accessible route is a gravel ramp to the James Pond trailhead sign and information board.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Mora Ranger Station include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Raise the height of accessible parking signage, and reduce the slopes in the access aisle.
- **Information Kiosk:** Provide level clear ground space, provide information in larger text, and lower the height of information.
- **Routes:** Provide level landings at the curb ramp, provide a ramp into the ranger station, and reduce the slopes of the route to the trailhead.
- **Ranger Station:** Improve the service counter to allow for knee clearance, lower the permitting station and pamphlets, and provide an accessible doorknob.
- **Trailhead Signage:** Reduce the size of openings in the ground surface at the sign.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

Mora Ranger Station Site Plan





RIALTO BEACH

Rocky beaches with drift logs, pounding waves, and views of offshore islands are features that define Rialto Beach. The Rialto Beach parking area provides accessible parking, van-accessible signage, and picnic tables, with an accessible route to the men and women's restrooms, an information board, water spigots, a dumpster, and a wayside. The route surface changes at the wayside to a route constructed of fiberglass grating at 4 feet wide, with two flat viewing areas. There is no direct accessible beach access. An occasional, short pop-up ranger program is held here, depending on available staff and funding.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Rialto Beach include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Provide two additional accessible car parking spaces, widen the van-accessible parking space, and raise the height of the accessible parking sign.
- **Picnic Tables:** Provide firm, stable, and level clear ground space around tables.
- **Restrooms:** Lower the height of the toilet seats, adjust the placement of the toilet paper dispensers, and relocate protruding door stops from the doors.
- **Routes:** Improve the route to the signage, wayside, and beach to have lower slopes and smaller openings in the walking surface.
- **Information Panels:** Provide larger text size on the information panels.
- **Interpretive Wayside:** Provide a firm, stable, and level clear ground space at the wayside.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

Rialto Beach Site Plan





THIRD BEACH TRAILHEAD

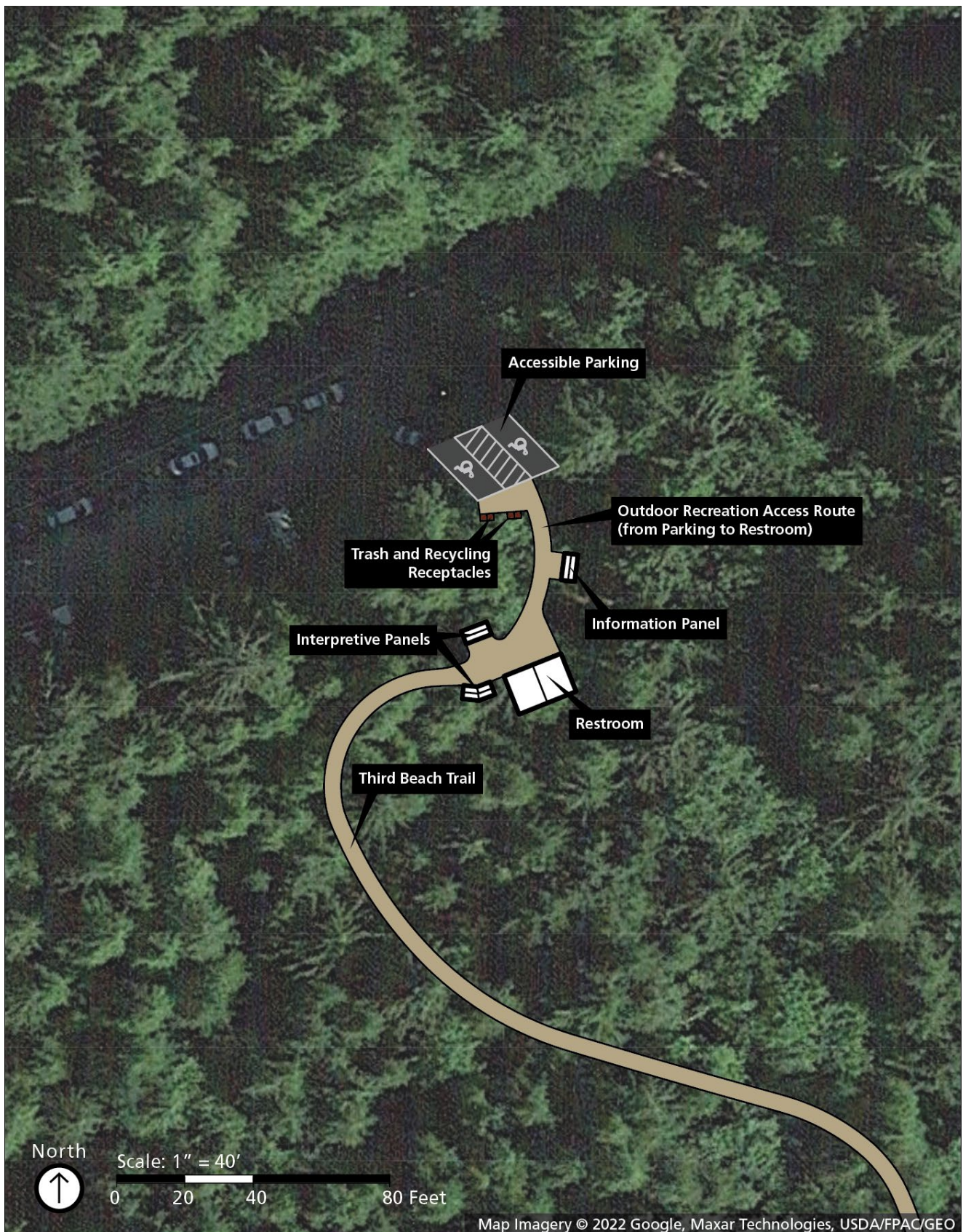
Third Beach has a large asphalt parking lot with a compacted gravel path to the South Wilderness Coast trailhead. There is no designated accessible parking. The site comprises one unisex restroom, a park information board, two information boards, and a trail map. The map provides clear information with strong contrast and readable font sizes.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Third Beach Trailhead include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Provide two accessible parking spaces, one being van-accessible.
- **Trash and Recycling Receptacles:** Provide a larger clear ground space.
- **Routes:** Reduce slopes on route to restrooms.
- **Information Panel:** Improve text size to be larger.
- **Restroom:** Lower the height of the tactile signs, toilet seats, and hand sanitizer dispenser, and relocate protruding door stops from the doors.
- **Interpretive Panels:** Improve panel to have larger text size and sans serif type.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

Third Beach Trailhead Site Plan





OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER

The Olympic National Park Visitor Center is located in Port Angeles, Washington, and is often seen as a gateway to the park. A small paved parking area with designated accessible parking provides a location for people to park and access the entrance sign for photos. A short drive from there, a larger parking lot provides accessible parking and connects to a concrete route that leads to restrooms, dual-height drinking fountains, and trash and recycling in a small plaza area with ample circulation space. The route continues on to the visitor center entrance with stairs as well as an accessible ramp. A group picnic area lies across the road from the front entrance of the visitor center. Behind the visitor center is the Living Forest Trail trailhead. Ramped visitor access is provided to the backside of the visitor center for campers and backpackers to obtain permits and bear cans, and includes a wilderness information board, a window counter to the Wilderness Information Center, and a bear can return area.

The visitor center interior has wide open circulation to the front desk, cashier, bookstore, backpack permit desk, and museum. A non-tactile topographic map, a tactile and audio/sensory exhibit for animal tracking, and other exhibits that include dioramas of plant communities, mushrooms, the whaling and sealing culture, and a primeval age are provided. The theater provides bench seating with backrests and seating spaces for wheelchairs at the back of the theater. The Discover Room is where the park provides junior ranger activities with multi-sensory opportunities, including touch tables, flip books with touch features, a salmon migration game, a drawing station, and a ground puzzle.

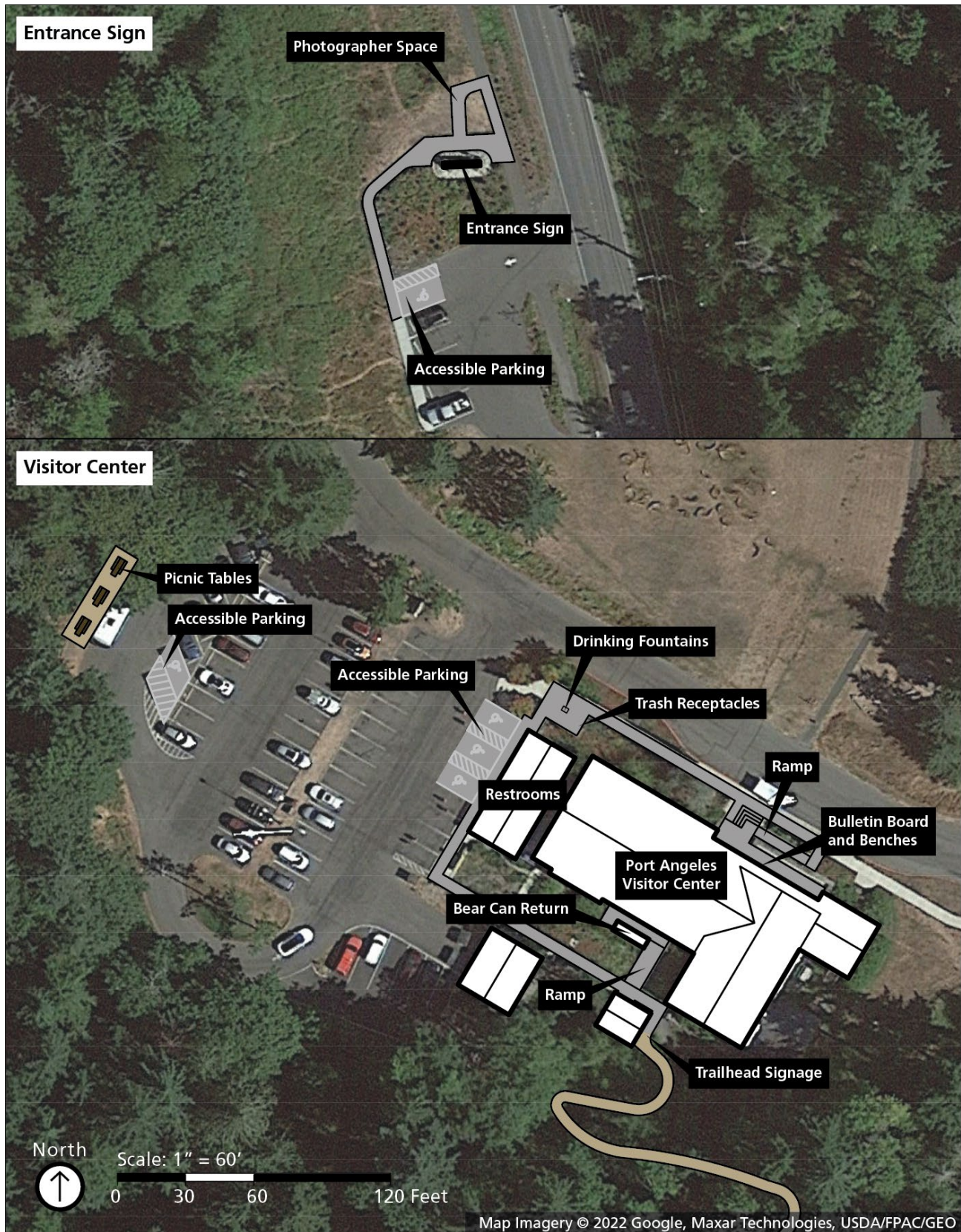
Proposed accessibility improvements at Olympic National Park Visitor Center include the following:

- **Entrance Sign:** Improve the parking space to be wider with lower slopes, improve the route to the sign to have lower slopes, and provide a firm and stable route to the photographer space.
- **Parking:** Improve the width of the van-accessible parking space.

- **Restrooms:** Improve each of the restrooms to have tactile signs, accessible doors, toilet compartments, toilet paper dispensers, grab bars, baby changing tables, sinks, mirrors, and fixtures.
- **Drinking Fountains:** Improve fountain to require less force to operate.
- **Trash Receptacles:** Provide an accessible animal-proof trash can.
- **Ramps:** Improve handrail extensions on front ramp, and reduce slopes of rear ramp.
- **Bulletin Board:** Improve contrast on bulletin board graphics.
- **Benches:** Provide arm rests and back rests.
- **Bookstore:** Provide knee clearance at the service counter, lower the height of the passport station and retail items, and reduce slopes and size of openings on walking surfaces.
- **Theater:** Reduce slopes and changes in level, provide wheelchair seating, and lessen force needed to open doors.
- **Exhibits:** Lower some exhibits, provide knee clearance, and improve operability.
- **Rear Entrance:** Widen doorway, and lessen the amount of force needed to open.
- **Bear Can Return:** Lower the height of the bear can return and sink.
- **Trailhead Signage:** Provide trail condition information on trailhead signage.
- **Picnic Tables:** Provide accessible parking and tables at the picnic area.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

Olympic National Park Visitor Center Site Plan





OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK PROGRAMS

Olympic National Park showed strengths in its proactive approach to improving accessibility of programs at the park. The park provides options for requesting an ASL interpreter for ranger-led programs and events, and offers captioning and assistive listening devices. The park has begun improving information on their website about these offerings. The park does not currently offer large print, braille, and audio versions of most publications. Opportunities exist to offer additional information about accessible programs on the park website and social media to further support visitors with disabilities. Olympic National Park staff is aware of these areas for improvement and are committed to addressing them.

Proposed accessibility improvements to parkwide programs include the following:

- **Publications:** Develop an accessibility guide; provide park publications in additional formats including large print, braille, and audio versions; and include accessibility contact information in park publications.
- **Walks, Talks, Tours, and Special Events:** Provide information on the park website for visitors with cognitive disabilities; provide accessibility information about programs, walks, talks, tours, and special events on social media platforms, the park website, and relevant publications; and provide live audio description on guided walks and tours.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK POLICIES, PRACTICES, COMMUNICATION, AND TRAINING

Olympic National Park showed strengths in its commitment to training staff of various divisions on accessibility. The park does not currently have standard procedures to ensure offices, conference rooms, theaters, and meeting spaces are accessible for staff and visitors with disabilities. Unique opportunities exist to develop a communication strategy to regularly communicate with people with disabilities and groups representing people with disabilities about recent accessibility efforts and include them in park accessibility decisions. Olympic National Park staff is aware of these areas for improvement and are committed to addressing them.

Proposed accessibility improvements to policies, practices, communication, and training include the following:

- **Staff Training and Park Protocols:** Provide staff and discipline-related accessibility training; develop standard operating procedures for park policies including law enforcement contact and emergency response; provide guidance on accessible seating, other power-driven mobility devices, and service animals; and provide standard operating procedures for wheelchair checkouts, returns, and inspections.
- **Communications and Partnerships:** Conduct outreach to local groups with disabilities, and provide guidance to partners and outside groups regarding accessible services, activities, and programs.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

CONCLUSION

Olympic National Park staff is committed to providing all visitors with the opportunity to connect with and learn about the park's unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Accessibility improvements identified in the Olympic National Park SETP will make it easier for individuals with cognitive, hearing, vision, and mobility disabilities to discover, understand, and enjoy the range of experiences available at the park. Park staff will continue to work toward accommodating all visitors while sustaining park legacy to preserve and protect natural ecosystems, cultural resources, and wilderness.

The primary goal of the plan is to consider universal design strategies and document modifications needed to provide access to park facilities, services, activities, and programs for all visitors. As park staff works towards implementing the plan, physical access to and within assessed park areas will be improved, and park information and programs will be enhanced or created for all visitors across the breadth of key experiences at Olympic National Park. Access to unique experiences like viewing rainforests, waterfalls, and coastal beaches; trailhead information signage to help prepare visitors for hiking; and overnight experiences at campgrounds will all be improved to enhance the visitor experience.

The Olympic National Park SETP is a living document intended to be used as a guiding reference for the park as park staff implements accessibility upgrades and documents accessibility accomplishments. As barriers to accessibility are removed and/or improved, changes will be updated in the implementation strategy table. Park staff will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate and update conditions to reflect accomplishments and document new programs or other changes that occur over time. Revisions to the plan may include conducting additional assessments for areas not originally conducted as a part of this plan.

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

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

As a national park, Olympic National Park is required to comply with specific federal laws that mandate that discriminatory barriers be removed to provide equal opportunities to persons with disabilities. The following laws, design guidelines, and director's orders pertain to Olympic National Park.

LAWS

- Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 – <https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides>.
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>.
- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – <http://www.section508.gov>.
- Effective Communication – <http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>.
- Reasonable Accommodations – <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations>.
- Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices – <https://www.ada.gov/opdmd.htm>.
- Service Animals – https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm.
- 43 CFR, Section 17.549 Program Accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited – <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.549>.
- 43 CFR, Section 17.550 Program Accessibility: Existing Facilities – <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>.
- 43 CFR, Section 17.551 Program Accessibility: New Construction and Alterations – <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.551>.

NPS DIRECTOR'S ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

- Director's Order 16A: *Reasonable Accommodation for Applicants And Employees with Disabilities*: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO_16A_5-4-1999.pdf
- Director's Order 42: *Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities*: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO_42_11-3-2000.pdf
- National Park Service *Management Policies 2006*, Section 1.9.3 Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf>

GUIDELINES

- Draft Accessibility Standards for Public Rights-Of-Way – <https://www.access-board.gov/prowag>.

- Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media – <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/hfc/accessibility.htm>.

APPENDIX B: RESOURCES

Many of the resources listed below for trainings, accessibility assessments, project development, and implementation are currently located on the Pacific West Region Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Planning SharePoint site (<https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-PWR-AccessibilitySETP?CT=1649343052705&OR=OWA-NT&CID=204c2563-b913-0894-1cae-52bc8f021fcf>). In the near future, this information will be available to all NPS staff and will be uploaded to the Park Facility Management Division's "Accessibility for Visitors and Employees with Disabilities" web page (<https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-pfmd/SitePages/Access-for-Visitors-and-Employees-with-Disabilities.aspx>). This information includes specific accessibility resources for concessions, facilities and maintenance, interpretation and education, and law enforcement staff. Resources include the following:

- A glossary of accessibility terms
- Reference information and links to laws and policies
- Accessibility assessment checklists and videos
- Accessibility training links and materials
- Templates that help track and document accessibility actions and an accessibility guide
- Guidance for making historic sites accessible
- Guidance for service animals in parks, accessible publications and programs, signage, and audio description
- Disability dialogue information and trainings
- Guidance for preparing PMIS packages for accessibility improvements
- Trail assessment protocols and summary sheets

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APPENDIX C: PARK AREAS NOT ASSESSED

The following park areas were not assessed for this plan. If any park area not assessed is improved by new construction or alterations in the future, the area will be assessed and improved to comply with current accessibility standards. These areas will be improved as a part of future facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

- Altair Picnic Area
- Ancient Groves Trailhead
- Beach 1 and Spruce Burl Trailhead
- Beaches 2, 3, 4, 6 Trailheads
- Blue Mtn Trail
- Deer Park Ranger Station and Campground
- Eagle Ranger Station
- East Beach Picnic Area
- Elwha Ranger Station Picnic Area
- Fairholme Campground, Store, and Boat Launch
- Falls Creek Campground and Boat Launch
- Gatton Creek
- Graves Creek Campground and Trailhead
- Hurricane Hill Trailhead
- Hurricane Ridge Picnic Area
- Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center, Dining, and Big Meadow and Cirque Rim Trailheads
- July Creek Picnic Area
- Kalaloch Campground and Trailhead
- Kalaloch Lodge
- Kalaloch Ranger Station
- La Poel Picnic Area
- Lake Crescent Lodge and Moments in Time Trail
- Lake Quinault Boat Launch
- Lake Quinault Lodge
- Log Cabin Resort
- Lower Queets Boat Launch
- Mora Boat Launch
- North Fork Primitive Campground, Picnic Area
- North Shore Picnic Area
- Ozette Campground
- Ozette Picnic Area
- Ozette Ranger Station and Trailhead
- Queets Campground
- Quinault Big Cedar Tree
- Quinault Rain Forest Ranger Station and Trailhead
- Ruby Beach Trailhead
- Sol Duc Campground
- Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort
- Sol Duc Trailhead
- South Beach Primitive Campground
- Staircase Ranger Station, Campground, Picnic Area, and Trailhead
- Storm King Ranger Station, Boat Launch, Marymere Falls Trail
- Swan Bay Boat Launch
- Upper Queets Boat Launch
- Willaby Campground

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APPENDIX D: CONTRIBUTORS

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OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN AUGUST 2024

This accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort between Olympic National Park staff, Regional Office staff serving Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12, and Denver Service Center staff and is recommended for approval by the superintendent.



Approved

Date

Sula Jacobs, Superintendent, Olympic National Park



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

Olympic National Park [eTIC number ###/#####]

August 2024



Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP)

Olympic National Park
Washington
August 2024

Produced by the NPS Denver Service Center Planning Division

