



Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Overview

JOHN MUIR

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK | CALIFORNIA

JUNE 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The park's Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) includes major findings from the self-evaluation process, as well as a plan for improving accessibility parkwide. The SETP resulted from the work of an NPS interdisciplinary design team, including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource, visitor safety, maintenance, and accessibility specialists. Site plans, photographs, and specific actions for accomplishing work in priority park areas were developed, and associated time frames and implementation strategies were established to assist NPS staff in scheduling and performing required actions and to document work as it is completed. Park policies, practices, communication, and training needs were also addressed. The goal of a SETP is to design an effective plan to improve the park's accessibility by upgrading services, activities and programs at park areas and to instill a culture around universal access by employing means to convey information to the widest population possible and by prioritizing ongoing staff training.

Following are the key park experiences and associated priority park areas addressed in the transition plan:

- **Learn about the historic setting of the Muir-Strentzel Ranch:** John Muir House, Martinez Adobe, Mount Wanda Trails and Trailhead, Orchard and Grounds, and Visitor Center
- **Learn about the full portrait of John Muir's life through his home and writings, and through surviving artifacts and the historic landscape:** John Muir House, Martinez Adobe, Mount Wanda Trails and Trailhead, Orchard and Grounds, and Visitor Center
- **Understand John Muir's leadership, accomplishments, and actions in conservation efforts:** John Muir House and Visitor Center
- **Understand the legacy of John Muir in the conservation movement:** John Muir House and Visitor Center
- **Learn about the outdoors, through a variety of recreational and educational opportunities:** Mount Wanda Trails and Trailhead and Orchard and Grounds
- **Inspire through youth engagement and formal education programs:** John Muir House, Martinez Adobe, Mount Wanda Trails and Trailhead, Orchard and Grounds, and Visitors Center
- **Understand the connections of the site to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail:** Martinez Adobe.

Overall, the same types of services, programs, and activities were found throughout park areas and assessment findings for these generally repeated from area to area, for both physical accessibility and program accessibility. More

detailed accessibility improvements are recommended for each finding by area location.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Recurring findings related to meeting physical accessibility requirements under the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were generally for access to and navigation within historic structures and visitor information areas, such as areas with interpretive panels and waysides. Findings included inaccessible paths of travel, unstable surfaces, and some slope measurements that exceeded those allowed. Some restroom features, such as coat hooks and toilet paper dispensers, did not meet ABAAS measurements, and some trash and recycling receptacles did not meet required reach range dimensions for successful operation. Amenities offered for picnicking were sometimes not accessible, and locations used for special events or activities were not always located on accessible routes. Some signage was missing or displayed content without high contrast or easily readable text.

Improvements are also recommended for accessibility at the John Muir House and loading/unloading areas, accessible parking signage at the visitor center, and parking and accessible route improvements at the Mount Wanda trailhead. Slope and surface improvements to the accessible route at the Martinez Adobe are also proposed in addition to structural route improvements along the porch front.

PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY

Recurring findings related to meeting program accessibility requirements under ABAAS included individual elements of interpretive waysides, including small font and low contrast between text and images, both of which lead to poor readability. In general, interpretive panels, waysides, publications, videos, and self-guided tours did not have alternative formats available in braille, large print or audio and electronic formats. Assistive listening devices and audio descriptions were not available for people with hearing loss during guided tours or special events. Tactile exhibits were also limited.

Specific program areas that would better serve visitors with increased accessible formats include the video shown at the John Muir House, the provision of audio description and alternative formats for tours through the John Muir House and Martinez Adobe, and the provision of additional cell phone tours in multiple park areas.

PARKWIDE ACCESSIBILITY

During the self-evaluation and assessment process, some of the more noteworthy parkwide accessibility challenges that were discussed by the planning team included: postings and publications, staff training and park protocols, audio and visual programs, visitor information and communication, tours, programs, specials events, partnerships, and concessions.

It is suggested that the park employ trained consultants to assist them in determining how to best address program accessibility improvements parkwide, and to ensure that design and implementation of alternative format programs best meets the intended audiences. When alternative formats are provided, place signage at appropriate locations and communicate in park materials to inform visitors of availability.

Staff training is of primary importance, as creating parkwide accessibility requires staff awareness and understanding, as well as appropriate action to make or support accessible conditions. General training for all staff and regular, specific training for maintenance and interpretive staffs to upkeep physical and programmatic access is strongly advised. Conducting the assessment process with the park team was a step forward as it brought higher awareness and field training to staff, and served to generate commitment towards embracing this ethic as a core value.

While improving accessibility across the board is important, park staff will need to consider which improvements in which park areas expand accessibility to the greatest numbers of park visitors with disabilities. In addition, suggested time frames for implementation and relative cost need to be factored in to decisions related to accessibility investments.

John Muir National Historic Site is striving to be inclusive and welcoming. The self-evaluation process identified a number of strengths. Recognizing that making historic sites and structures accessible can often be challenging, park staff has put substantial effort toward providing visitors access to key park areas and investing in accessible carts and a wheelchair lift at the John Muir House. The ambient audio at the Martinez Adobe serves as a model example of how an otherwise static location can be brought to life by adding depth to the experience for the visually impaired as well as for all visitors. The dedication to and understanding of accessibility by park staff will continue to lead the park toward improved access for all visitors.

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) 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 this and future generations.

Many of our national parks were founded because of their stunning views, extreme and unique geography, challenging and sensitive natural environments, and historic, fragile structures. The many reasons this park, John Muir National Historic Site, and other parks exist are due to their history and resources. The NPS mission balances protection of resources (both natural and cultural) along with visitation. To accommodate our visitors, facilities, services, activities, and programs were designed and built within parks to help them better understand each park purpose and significance.

Most facility installation preceded the passing of laws and policies that reflect the commitment of 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 (42 USC 12207). The accessibility of commercial services within national parks is also governed by all applicable federal laws. Within its nearly 100 years of operation, the National Park Service has continued to work toward a more inclusive environment. Paralleling these efforts, laws and regulations have provided additional guidelines. The more than 400 park units that comprise the national

park system today include not only the large western parks, for which the agency is well known, but also nationally significant urban parks, historic sites, monuments, parkways, battlefields, and a diversity of other park types across the country.

For nearly a century, the park service has been a leader in connecting people to both our natural and cultural heritage. Today's generation of visitors has different needs and expectations and the agency must adapt to meet these changing demands. Modern science and visitor trend analysis have provided new insight into the opportunities and challenges related to accessibility in the national park system. There are approximately 60 million people with disabilities in the United States today, with the number expected to rise to 71 million in upcoming years as the number of baby boomers (people 65 and older) rises. This information can help the service understand changing visitation patterns, the nexus between resource stewardship and accessibility, and the impacts of managing visitors, resources, and infrastructure with the threats of decreasing funding. Adequate planning can identify unique solutions to challenges and provide the service with a trajectory that is full of opportunity—for visitors now and for future generations. The National Park Service is committed to making all practicable efforts to make NPS facilities, programs, services, and employment opportunities accessible to and usable by all people, including those with disabilities.

JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DESCRIPTION

John Muir (1838–1914) stands as one of the galvanizing figures in the late 19th- and early 20th-century drive to conserve and protect America's wildlands from exploitation by a nation intent on "progress" and prosperity in a booming industrial age. In his writings and personal connections with national leaders, such as President Theodore Roosevelt, Muir championed the stupendous beauty of natural landscapes, such as Yosemite. Although the area had been a California state park since 1864 (and Muir had first visited in 1868), Muir successfully campaigned to further protect Yosemite by making it one of the earliest national parks in the US.

Muir went on to cofound the Sierra Club, now recognized as one of the world's leading conservation organizations. In 1901, he published, *Our National Parks*, a compilation of magazine articles he had written about Yellowstone, Yosemite, Sequoia, and General Grant (now part of Kings Canyon) National Parks—each set aside individually by special, hard-fought legislation. In 1916, two years after Muir's death, the US formally created the National Park Service.

At John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, California, visitors can see the Victorian home, grounds, and a small portion of the 2,600 acres of fruit orchards and oak woodlands where Muir lived, wrote, farmed, and raised his family from 1890 until his death in 1914. Today the site consists of three separate parcels of land within an approximately one-mile radius and includes:

- A 14-room house and an 1849 adobe house (the Martinez Adobe) on 8.9 acres;
- Mt. Wanda, a steep, 326-acre grass and oak woodland open to hikers and horseback riders; and
- The small Muir-Strentzel family gravesite, situated within a residential neighborhood at the foot of Mt. Wanda.

PARK PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

John Muir National Historic Site will complete a foundation document by 2016. Foundation documents provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions by identifying the park purpose, significance, and fundamental resources and values. The John Muir National Historic Site foundation plan identifies special mandates and administrative commitments, and provides an assessment and prioritization of park planning and data needs. The park purpose and significance below will be updated during the foundation document process. Understanding these elements helps set the stage for appropriately integrating accessibility into the overall park priorities and plans.

Park Purpose

John Muir National Historic Site preserves and protects the home and portions of the Alhambra Valley agricultural estate where John Muir lived, worked, and is buried, to memorialize and connect people with Muir's global legacy as an influential naturalist, writer, and champion for protecting national parks and wild lands.

Park Significance

John Muir National Historic Site has national significance for the following reasons:

- The park is the best place to learn about John Muir as a multifaceted individual, family man, and businessman. The support of family and friends, along with the income generated by fruit ranching, allowed him to pursue his passions of research, travel, and advocacy.
- Through his role in founding the Sierra Club, his political leadership, and his influential writings, John Muir's inspirational vision and advocacy launched an era of environmental activism at home and abroad which continues today.
- For his role in establishing and protecting several early national parks and his influential publication, "Our National Parks", John Muir is considered a key founder of the national park system.

- With tangible connections to John Muir’s life and time period, John Muir National Historic Site enables opportunities for close examination of Muir’s legacy, including how issues of inclusion and equality have been woven into the fabric of the National Park Service since its inception.
- In the “scribble den” of his home, John Muir composed many of his most persuasive and important literary works.
- John Muir National Historic Site includes the final resting place of John Muir in the Muir-Strentzel family gravesite, which, as a pilgrimage site, served as a catalyst for the designation of the park.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

The creation of a transition plan is mandated by regulations under Section 504 of 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.” It specifically requires parks to document architectural barriers, solutions, and time frames for making improvements to increase accessibility.

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) has been prepared to provide John Muir National Historic Site a tool for addressing overall needs associated with making the park accessible when viewed in its entirety. The plan is based in 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.

All key park experiences and all park areas were identified to ensure that the plan would consider all park programs. Park areas were then evaluated against measurable criteria to determine which would be considered priority park areas. Each priority park area was assessed to determine where barriers existed to participating in park programs, and the best manner in which access could be improved. In some situations it is not reasonably practicable to create physical or universal design solutions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

One of the goals of the plan is to increase accessibility awareness and understanding among staff and volunteers of John Muir National Historic Site. The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the plan, in coordination with park partners. The park-designated accessibility coordinator will ensure there is adequate communication to park employees and work with the superintendent to follow up on the implementation and

relevancy of the plan by documenting improvements and keeping the plan updated.



ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS

SELF-EVALUATION

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps in the self-evaluation process. Each step is further described below.



Step 1: Identify Key Park Experiences

Key park experiences are those park experiences that are iconic and important for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of the park unit. They are “musts” for park visitors. Key park experiences are grounded in park legislation and can be identified through a consideration of park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications. Based on input from NPS staff, the following key park experiences were identified at John Muir National Historic Site to ensure that planned improvements were prioritized to best increase overall access to the experiences available at John Muir National Historic Site.

- Learn about the historic setting of the Muir-Strentzel Ranch.
- Learn about the full portrait of John Muir’s life through his home and writings, and through surviving artifacts and the historic landscape.
- Understand John Muir’s leadership, accomplishments, and actions in conservation efforts.
- Understand the legacy of John Muir in the conservation movement.
- Learn about the outdoors through a variety of recreational and educational opportunities.

- Inspire through youth engagement and formal education programs.
- Understand the connections of the site to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

Step 2: Identify All Park Areas Where Key Park Experiences Occur

After key park experiences were identified, the park areas where those experiences occur were determined. A park area is a location within a park regularly used by visitors and/or staff. The list of park areas within John Muir National Historic Site was considered and then areas were prioritized per criteria in step 3.

Step 3: Prioritize Park Areas

The criteria below were used to prioritize park areas for scheduling and completing assessments at this time:

- Level of visitation
- Diversity of services, activities, and programs offered in area
- Geographic favorability (as a whole, the park areas selected reflected a broad distribution throughout the park)
- Other unique characteristics of the site

The areas selected for assessment provide the best and greatest opportunities for the visiting public to access the key park experiences. Each key park experience is represented within the identified priority areas so that all key park experiences will be accessible in some way. At the conclusion of this step, the list of priority park areas outlines which locations were assessed in steps 4 and 5. Other areas not assessed at this time will be improved as part of future facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

Step 4: Identify Services, Activities, and Programs in Each Park Area

Step 4 is the identification of all services, activities, and programs within each priority park area. This process ensured that during step 5 all visitor amenities within a priority area would be assessed. Assessments include both physical and programmatic elements. The lists of services, activities, and programs were the basis for conducting the 5 assessments and documenting all elements as they pertain to providing improved accessibility.

Step 5: Conduct Accessibility Assessment

During step 5, an interdisciplinary assessment team assessed physical and programmatic barriers within each priority area. Levels of access were identified

to understand how usable the existing park program is for people with cognitive, mobility, vision, and hearing disabilities. The three general levels of access were defined by the team:

Level 1: a physical or programmatic barrier where program participation is usable by most participants with disabilities

Level 2: a physical or programmatic barrier where program participation is possible with assistance or modification

Level 3: a physical or programmatic barrier that prohibits participation in a program

Existing conditions and barriers to services, activities, and programs were discussed on-site by the assessment team to determine the current level of access. The assessment team then developed a reasonable range of recommended actions for consideration, while universal access solutions were of primary concern. Barrier-specific solutions, as well as alternative ways to improve access overall were addressed and included both physical changes and/or the addition of alternate format methods. In some cases, programmatic alternatives needed to be examined, as it was not always possible to eliminate all physical barriers due to limitations such as historic designations, environmental concerns, topography, or sensitive cultural and natural resources. Therefore, a full range of programmatic alternatives to provide access to the key experience for as many visitors as possible was considered.

All collected data, including findings, preliminary options, and conceptual plans, are organized by park area for the park and planning team to use in implementing the recommendations for the transition plan.

TRANSITION PLAN

Step 6: Draft and Finalize the Transition Plan

The final step of the document development was drafting and finalizing the transition plan and the park implementation strategy. Developing an implementation strategy can be complex, because making accessibility improvements may present a large range of coordination efforts for scheduling work. It is necessary to schedule improvements strategically and consider the activities and requirements associated with park operations. The final plan makes specific recommendations to improve accessibility, identifies time frames for completion of each improvement, and notes the parties responsible for each project.

Time frames for implementation of recommended solutions are primarily based on the level of access of the barrier and the ability of the park to complete the

work within normal scheduling of park operations and planned improvement projects. Time frames for making improvements are categorized as follows:

Short-term (0–3 years): If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will initiate the elimination of the barrier internally; or, if a project is currently scheduled for funding, the improvement will be incorporated into the project and the barrier eliminated.

short-term

Mid-term (3–7 years): The park will develop a proposal and submit it for those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding in the next servicewide budget call (servicewide budget calls happen annually). For those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding, the park will submit a request in the next budget call. Improvements will be scheduled dependent upon the year of receipt of funding. If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will continue the elimination of the barrier internally.

mid-term

Long-term (>7 years): The park will eliminate the barrier when other work is taking place as part of facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

long-term

Step 7: Ongoing Public Involvement

In collaboration with the NPS' San Francisco Bay Area Network accessibility coordinator, the park is establishing regular meetings with members of the Bay Area accessibility community and the public at large to address accessibility at the park. The first meeting will occur fall 2016. The park will present information about programs and facilities that are currently accessible in the park, and will seek guidance from the participants to prioritize improvements to programs and facilities that are not yet accessible. The NPS will share and discuss the Self Evaluation and Transition Plan with the public and park implementation of the plan will be updated based on information collected at these public meetings.

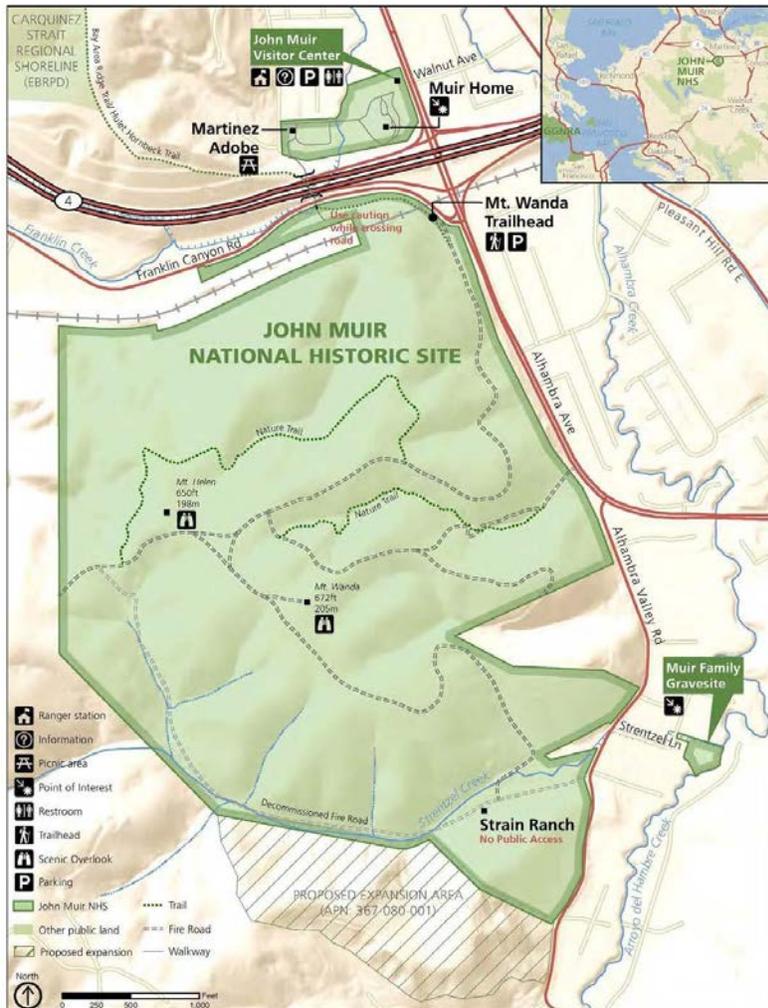
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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

PRIORITY PARK AREAS

Each key park experience at John Muir National Historic Site is represented within the priority park areas when viewing the park as a whole. Park areas not included in the priority park area list will be upgraded to current code requirements when facility alteration and/or new construction is planned. The priority park areas identified earlier and listed below are those that were assessed and included in the transition plan implementation strategy (featured in alphabetical order). The priority park area locations can be found through the number key and associated map below:

1. John Muir House
2. Martinez Adobe
3. Mount Wanda Trails and Trailhead
4. Orchard and Grounds
5. Visitor Center



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR PRIORITY PARK AREAS

The Architectural Barrier Act (ABA) of 1968 requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. In 1984, the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) were adopted for federal facilities. In 2006, the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities. Subsequently in 2011, standards for recreational facilities were added to ABAAS as chapter 10.

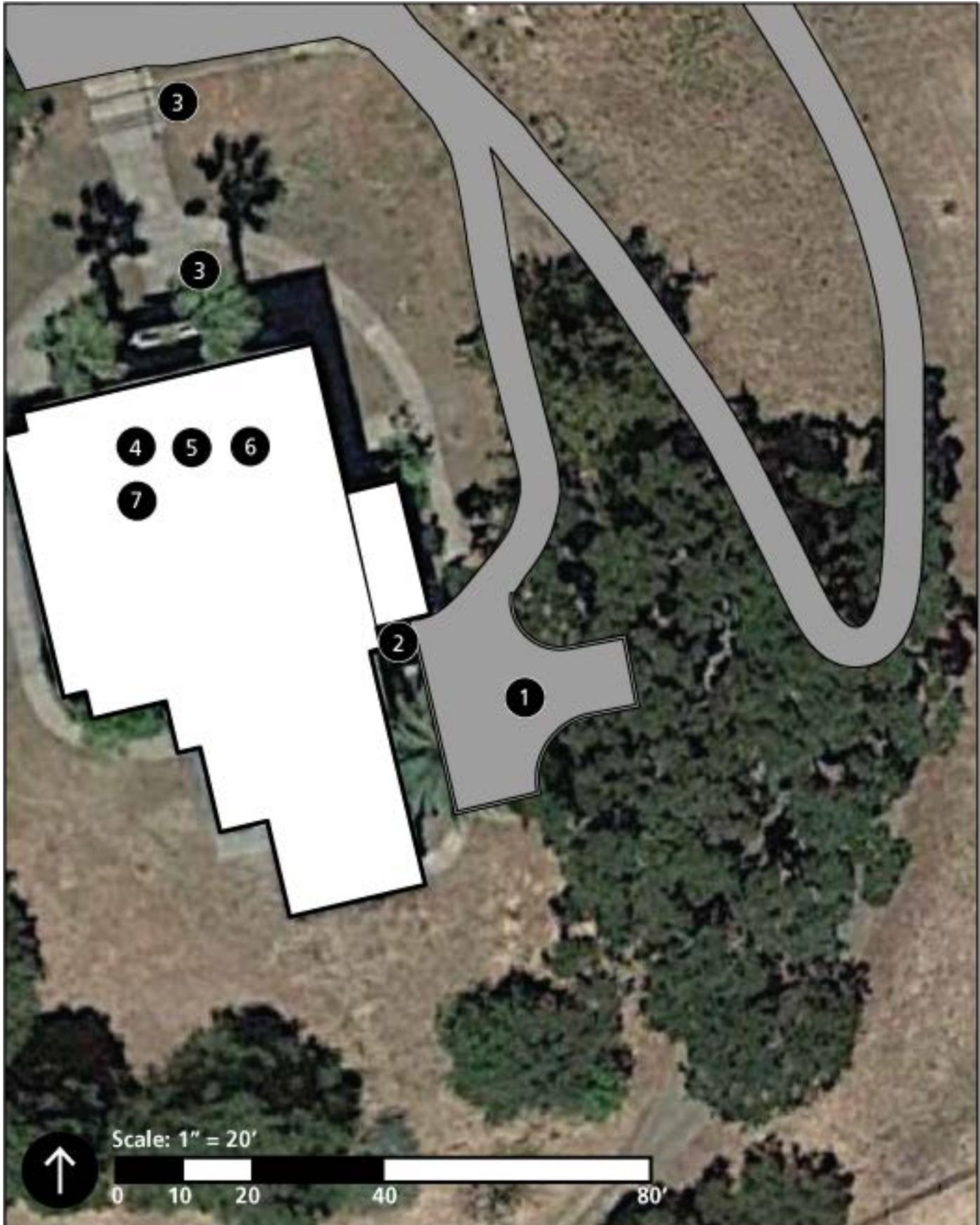
Dependent upon the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards would apply (i.e., pre-1984, post-1984, post-2006, or post-2011). In conducting the transition plan facility assessments, the 2011 ABAAS standards were used for ease of using only one standard for on-site assessments. Although a barrier may be identified by the current assessment for improvement, facilities constructed pre-1984, or between 1984 and 2011, are only required to be in compliance with the standard in place at the time of construction and/or alteration, and may not be in violation of ABAAS. However, any renovation or upgrade of that building will be required to meet the most current standard at the time of work.

Recommended improvements for park policies, practices, communication and training are included. Employee areas are addressed as needed. In the event an employee with a disability is hired by John Muir National Historic Site, the supervisor and employee will discuss accommodations that are needed by the employee. The supervisor will then determine what accommodations are reasonable within the given work environment.

Site plans illustrate existing conditions and recommended improvements for each priority park area in a conceptual format. During the implementation phase, reassessment of the project site conditions and consultation with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards is strongly recommended to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are correctly addressed. Assistance is available at the Denver Service Center and through the Pacific West Region Accessibility Coordinator.

JOHN MUIR HOUSE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at the John Muir House are a full portrait of John Muir's life through his home and writings as well as his leadership, accomplishments, and actions in conservation efforts. The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include educational and interpretive programs, exhibits, audiovisual displays, and tours including a video tour. The existing services that support these activities and programs include wayfinding signage, seating, accessible routes, a video, and interpretive exhibits. The following improvements to accessibility at this park area are planned:

- 1 Alternative Transportation Drop Off.** 1) There are two potential solutions for accessible visitor access at the back entry via wheelchair lift: a) Alter the pathway to bring slopes to ABAAS standards. b) Add a three-point turn-around with a curb for the golf cart adjacent to the wheelchair lift at the side door. Park will consider the potential cultural resource impacts and determine which solution is the most appropriate. 2) Regrade and repave area at the base of the lift to provide a level surface with a 30" by 48" forward approach to meet ABAAS standards.

mid-term

- 2 Wheelchair Lift.** 1) The historic building interior cannot handle the increased capacity of larger, heavier wheelchairs. The building needs to be secured with alarms on the door at this access point so unassisted access is not possible. The park will need to identify and clearly state reasons for limited access for visitors at the visitor center and website. Should alterations be made to the historic building in the future, the park shall seek an ABAAS exception to code (ABAAS F202.5).

short-term

- 3 Building Access.** 1) Due to the historic nature of the building, the single handrails along the entry steps and the interior stairway are unlikely to change. Adding a second modern railing to the inside stairway and the external stairway would significantly affect the historic character and experience of the exiting stairwells. Visitors also often reenact a historic photo on the external stairway. Alterations to the stairway would affect the iconic setting along with the associated visitor photo opportunity. Should alterations be made to the building entry in the future, the park shall seek an ABAAS exception to code (ABAAS F202.5).

short-term

Interior Activities, Services, and Programs

- 4 Exhibits.** 1) Objects that should not be touched shall be identified with minimum 24-point font or display a universal symbol to the extent that the historic and visual quality of the site is not impacted. Recommend park staff inform visitors to not touch objects unless otherwise indicated. 2) Provide the opportunity for audio description of rooms, paintings, and important objects, with either automatic trigger stations or portable recorded devices. Alternatively, train staff in audio description to target description of resources for individualized visitor interests. All staff could be trained in this way, or alternatively make audio descriptions by trained staff available on a regular, advertised schedule. 3) Provide exhibit signage in an alternative format brochure in large print and/or braille. 4) Evaluate exhibits for provision of nonhistoric replicas that could be touched and allow for a tactile experience. The park will work with a consultant to determine the best alternate formats for park exhibits.



- 5 Video Tour of Second and Third Floor.** 1) Update video to reflect existing room configurations and furnishings. 2) Captioning shall be edited for larger text and greater text contrast of at least 70% to meet ABAAS standards. 3) Rather than representing changing seasonal exhibits in the video, offer alternative depictions of the exhibits for visitors that cannot visit the second floor. If possible, provide an audio description tour with transcripts for people to receive interpretation of the temporary exhibits.



- 6 Museum Objects.** 1) Make object descriptions available in an alternative format brochure (large print and/or braille) or provide audio descriptions of recordings.

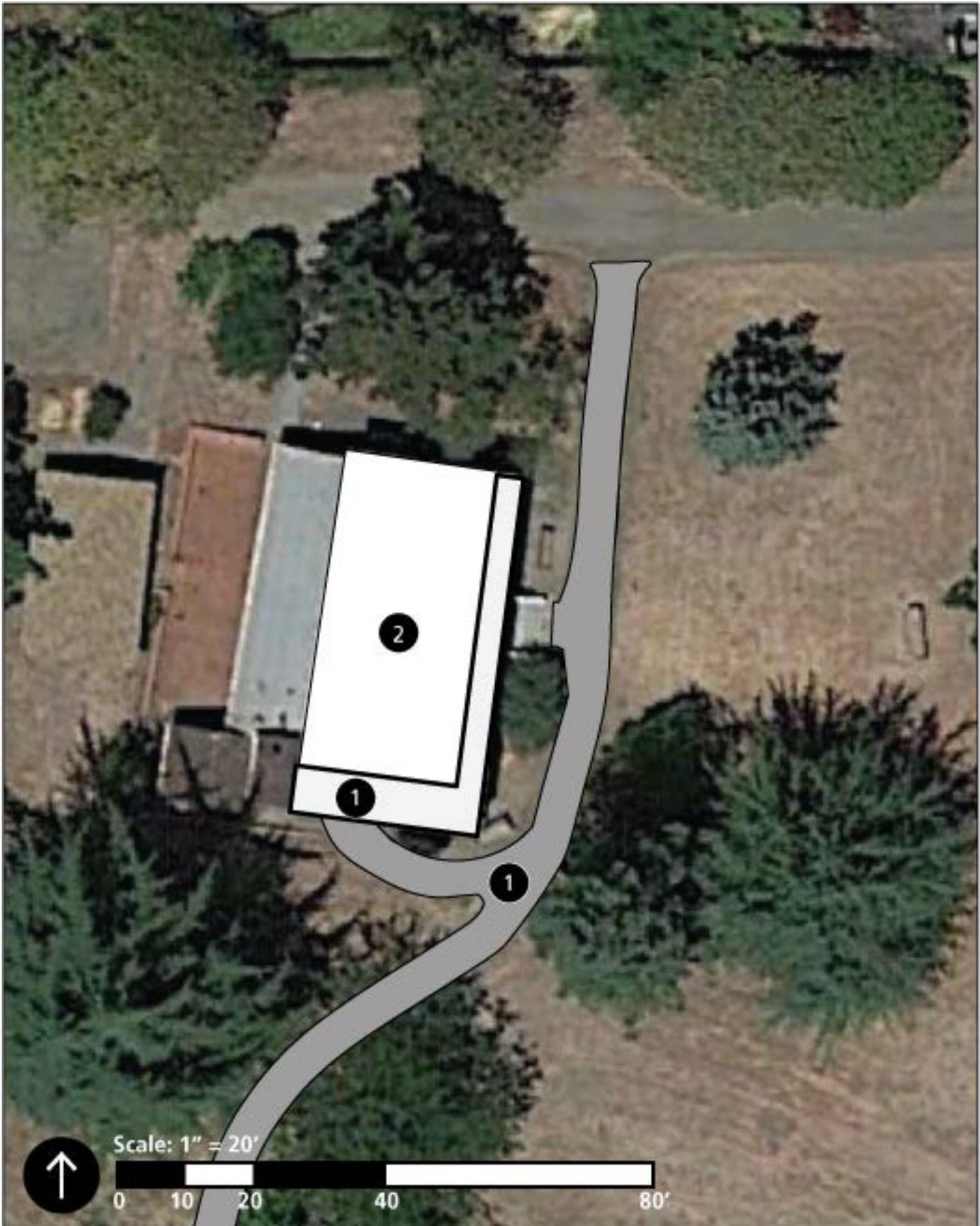


- 7 Upper Floor Access.** 1) Due to the historic nature of the building, wheelchair access to the upper floors will not be added and will not be made compliant with ABAAS standards. Addition of an elevator would affect the historic structure and the negatives of construction and maintenance costs are greater than the benefit. The past need for an elevator has been low. If alterations are made to the upper floors in the future, seek an ABAAS exception to code (ABAAS F202.5).

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MARTINEZ ADOBE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The key park experiences provided at the Martinez Adobe are exhibits on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the historic setting of the Muir-Strentzel Ranch. The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include interpretive and educational programs. The existing services that support these activities and programs include exhibits, maps, seating areas, picnic facilities, drinking fountains, accessible routes, and a "soundscape" recording. The following improvements to accessibility at this park area are planned:

- 1 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces.** 1) Repave the path to the side porch entrance to meet ABAAS standards, with cross slopes not to exceed 2% and running slope not to exceed 5%. 2) Rebuild the porch and reconfigure entrance to meet ABAAS standards. Check on compliance needs for historic elements of the porch/house interface.

mid-term

- 2 Exhibits and Maps.** 1) Provide alternative formats for programs, including large print brochures, audio tours, and braille. 2) Consider providing a tactile map of the De Anza Expedition.

mid-term

MOUNT WANDA TRAILS AND TRAILHEAD IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The key park experience provided at the Mount Wanda Trail is to see the full historic setting of the Muir-Strentzel Ranch and to experience the outdoors through a variety of recreational and educational programs. This land is owned and managed by the City of Martinez, and all accessibility improvements noted below will need to be through cooperation between them and the park. The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include; hiking, ranger led interpretive hikes, and interpretive waysides. The existing services that support these activities and programs include car parking, wayfinding signage, outdoor recreation access routes, interpretive waysides, trailheads, a hiking trail, viewing areas, and a map. The following improvements to accessibility at this park area are planned:

- 1 Car Parking Spaces.** 1) Work with the city to improve and maintain the two existing accessible parking spaces including the designation of one van accessible parking space. Standard parking spaces shall be 8' wide minimum measured to striping centerline or face of curb and 20' long with a 5' access aisle. Van accessible spaces shall be 8' wide minimum with an 8' access aisle or 11' wide minimum with a 5' wide access aisle. Parking space signs are 5' minimum above finished ground surface measured to the bottom of the sign. Van parking space signs include the designation "van accessible." The total number of parking spaces is fewer than 25, so one stall must be made accessible should the parking lot be redesigned.



- 2 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces.** 1) Work with the city to have the accessible route across the parking lot redesigned to meet applicable ADA or ABA standards.



- 3 Outdoor Recreation Access Route (ORAR) and Walking Surfaces.** 1) Work with the city and recommend that they redesign the route along the first part of the trail to ABA standards.



- 4 Trails.** Should alterations be made to the trail in the future, the park shall seek an ABAAS exception to the code (ABAAS 1019) due to the steep terrain. However, the following improvements can be made at this time. 1) Provide a map at the trailhead detailing trail conditions, including

length, slopes, resting points, hazardous areas, etc., alerting visitors to trail slopes and conditions. Refer to ABAAS Section 1017.10. 2) Redesign and regrade trail where possible to improve trail accessibility. Trail segments less than 30' long shall maintain a slope between 5% and 8.33%. Trail segments between 30' and 200' shall be maintained at a slope between 8.33% and 10%.

 long-term

- 5 **Interpretive Waysides.** 1) Regrade the area to meet the 2% maximum requirements for a firm and stable forward approach by wheelchair. 2) Ensure that information provided at inaccessible locations is also provided at an appropriate accessible location. 3) Redesign waysides to 24-point font and provide 70% to 90% contrast between text and background.

 long-term (5.1)

 mid-term (5.2-5.3)

- 6 **Alternative Programming.** 1) Provide a tactile model of the site at the visitor center. The model would include the John Muir House, Martinez Adobe, orchards, gravesite, Mount Wanda, visitor center, etc., allowing all visitors to understand the vastness and character of John Muir's holdings in the town of Martinez.

 long-term

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ORCHARD AND GROUNDS IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The key park experience provided throughout the orchard and grounds of the John Muir National Historic Site is the historic setting of the Muir-Strentzel Ranch. The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include exhibits, a cellphone tour, interpretive and educational programs, tours, picnicking, and special community or private events. The existing services that support these activities and programs include wayfinding signage, accessible routes, exhibits, interpretive waysides, and picnic tables. The following improvements to accessibility at this park area are planned:

- 1 Picnic Facilities.** 1) Provide one additional accessible picnic table meeting the ABAAS requirement of 20% of seating being accessible with no less than two accessible tables. 2) Work with historic landscape architect to determine if it is possible to carefully flatten bumpy areas of the picnic site to 2% maximum slope in all directions and to determine the most appropriate firm and stable surface treatment over a minimum of 20% of the area. Any design solutions will account for the historic landscape and context of the area and will protect the trees.

short-term (1.1)

long-term (1.2)

- 2 Carriage House.** 1) Providing two handrails would substantially affect the historic fabric of the carriage house. Instead, add one handrail to improve accessibility along the outside edge on the exterior of the swinging door. This will improve accessibility but not meet ABAAS standards. Should alterations be made to the Carriage House in the future, the park shall seek an ABAAS exception to the code (ABAAS F202.5). 2) Provide a covering on the ramp (short-term) or 3) Fill the board gaps (long-term). 4) Push the metal grid 8" into the building to provide additional turning space at the ramp landing/viewing platform, with a space 60" by 60" minimum.

mid-term (2.1, 2.4)

short-term (2.2)

long-term (2.3)

Cell Phone Tours. 1) Provide a checkout audio tour for those without a cell phone and with a visual impairment and advertise its availability at the visitor center or on the parks website. 2) Letters of cell phone tour indicator signage shall be in a readable typeface of sans serif. Ensure that the font size is 24-point (Helvetica) minimum and provides sufficient space between characters, words, and lines. 3) Provide transcripts for cell phone tours in standard, large-print format, and/or accessible digital documents

(e.g., PDFs). 4) Where stopping points are provided at elements, allow 2' 6" by 4' (30" by 48") clear space from a forward or parallel approach with a 2% maximum slope in any direction on a firm and stable surface. If necessary for drainage, slopes underneath these points of interest may be 5% maximum.



mid-term

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VISITOR CENTER IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The key park experience provided at the John Muir Visitor Center is the history and legacy of John Muir and his contributions to the conservation movement. The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include interpretive and educational programs and tours, exhibits, an educational video, and opportunities to purchase items at the gift shop. The existing services that support these activities and programs include an information desk, car parking, signage, accessible routes, interpretive waysides, trash and recycling, an informal theater, restrooms, drinking fountain, a gift shop, picnic tables, and a boarding location for visitors using the accessible cart for transportation. The following improvements to accessibility at this park area are planned:

- 1 Car Parking Spaces.** 1) Install a sign designating the space as van accessible. The sign shall be 60" above the finished ground surface, measured to the bottom of the sign in order to meet ABAAS standards.

short-term

- 2 Picnic Facilities.** 1) Move the picnic tables to a location in the area that has a firm and stable surface or 2) Add a firm and stable surface underneath the existing picnic tables.

mid-term

- 3 Wayfinding and Orientation Signage.** 1) Replace the sign on entry window with text meeting the minimum ABAAS requirement of 24-point font.

short-term

- 4 Building Entrances and Doors.** 1) Repair front entry to have a vertical threshold no more than 1/2" in height with a 1:2 beveled edge or 1/4" in height without.

short-term

- 5 Trash and Recycling.** 1) Replace the exterior trash can with one that meets ABAAS height requirements between 15" minimum and 48" maximum for an unobstructed forward approach.

short-term

Interior Services, Activities, and Programs

Interior Signage. 1) Provide a braille sign at the theater entrance. Tactile characters on the sign shall be no smaller than 48-point font and posted 60" above the finished floor. The sign shall be located on the latch side of the door, with a clear floor space of 18" by 18" provided.

short-term

Restrooms. 1) Coat hooks shall be located between 15" and 48" above the ground surface. 2) Toilet dispensers shall be located 7" minimum and 9" maximum in front of the toilet, measured to the centerline of the dispenser.

short-term

Indoor Seating Areas and Theater. 1) The theater seating area seats 31 people, requiring two of those spaces to be accessible. Accessible spaces will be 48" deep when approaching from the rear and 60" deep when approaching from the side. 2) Create a seating plan identifying accessible seat locations that are integrated into the layout of all other seats and provide spectators a choice of viewing locations. Recommend outlining on the ground with tape the location of accessible spots for easy set up and/or posting a layout plan. 3) Each accessible space will have adjacent shoulder-aligned companion seating provided. 4) Designated aisle seats will be identified by a high contrast sign or marker and will be photo luminescent.

short-term

Audiovisual Programs and Videos. 1) Update the video to provide audio descriptions to conform to ABAAS standards.

mid-term

Exhibits and Maps. 1) Update signs by removing italicized formatting of text and increasing font size to 24-point if the sign cannot be reached in a 3" line of sight. 2) Contact the Oakland Museum of California to find out the source of John Muir's Alaska journals (likely University of the Pacific) and secure permission from the collecting institution to make an alternative format of the journals available to visitors with visual impairments.

short-term (1)

mid-term (2)

Audiovisual Programs and Videos. 1) Provide an alternative format for the content displayed in the Cyark exhibit, such as an accompanying large print transcript.

short-term

Book Stores and Gift Shops. 1) Adjust the location of the merchandise on shelves and tables to provide access to a full range of available products. 2) Provide park partner with guidance on reach ranges and merchandise display for changing product placement. 3) Train staff to offer assistance to visitors. Provide sign to ask for assistance for materials if needed.

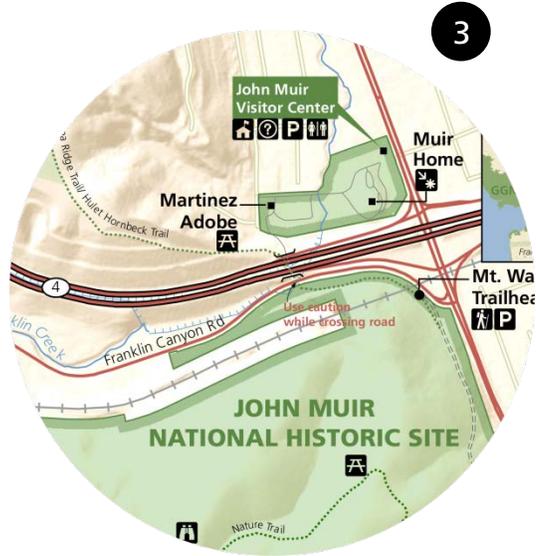
short-term

Donation Box. 1) Place the donation box at a location that provides a parallel approach of a minimum length of 36" and a maximum height of 36" high. For a forward approach, the length shall be a minimum of 30" wide, a maximum of 36" high, and a 27" minimum clear knee space.

short-term

JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE POLICIES, PRACTICES, COMMUNICATION, AND TRAINING

Park Features



Implementation Strategy

Park policies and practices are specific to the park unit and provide guidance for reaching desired outcomes. Park policies are defined courses of action adopted by the park, while park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances of operations that the park employs.

Posting and Publications

- 1 **Accessibility Flyers Posted in Common Areas.** Place posters that provide accessibility-related information, including requirements, contacts, questions, and complaints, in common areas of staff and visitor buildings.

short-term

- 2 **Junior Ranger Booklet.** 1) Provide a large print and braille version of the Junior Ranger Program booklet.

mid-term

- 3 **Publications.** Market and partner with outreach organizations to determine content and provide: 1) braille brochures and tactile wayfinding maps, 2) audio described brochures, and 3) large print brochures. All publications shall be in a readable typeface at 18-point font. Alignment shall be flush left and rag right with hyphens avoided. Black or white type color shall be used and red text avoided. Italicized and underlined text shall be avoided. Provide at least 70% contrast between text and images. 4) Add accessibility information in all publications, providing service, activity, or program information.

mid-term

Staff Training and Park Protocols

- 4 **Accessibility Awareness Training.** 1) Require yearly accessibility awareness training for all staff, including permanent and non-permanent employees, starting with the training list provided on the Pacific West Region Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan SharePoint site.

short-term

- 5 **Accessible Facilities and Maintenance Training.** 1) Require yearly training for maintenance staff on building, rehabilitating, and maintaining accessible routes and other features as required.

short-term

- 6 **Accessibility for Project Managers Training.** 1) Require yearly training for project managers on entering information into PMIS and other forms about accessibility, universal design principles, and quality control of projects and design.

short-term

- 7 **Accessible Interpretive Training.** 1) Provide training for the interpretation and education division about accessibility issues, including people-first language, major disability categories, program assessment and accessibility, best practice websites, service animals, available assistive technologies, universal design principles, visitor services, and best practice communication in accessibility. Also, require yearly visitor information and interpretive staff training in use of assistive technology, such as assistive listening devices, audio description, and interpretation of tactile models and maps.

short-term

- 8 **Emergency Preparedness.** 1) Develop, distribute, and practice standard operating procedures for assisting people with disabilities in the case of an emergency.

short-term

- 9 **Moveable Seating.** 1) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable cubicles and conference rooms, so there is clear space and accessible routes to all elements in a room or building. 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable seating arrangements and moving things to create an accessible route and maintain integrated accessible seating in public spaces.

short-term

- 10 **Other Powered Mobility Devices.** 1) Provide guidance outlining where other powered mobility devices are or are not allowed in the park.

short-term

- 11 **Service Animals.** 1) Provide guidance outlining policy regarding service animals in the park. The park shall include training for staff to understand what they may ask concerning service animals and what, if any, restrictions on service animals are present.

short-term

- 12 **Wheelchairs.** 1) Purchase or obtain wheelchairs for check out and use on-site. 2) Provide standard operating procedures for a) checking out and returning wheelchairs; b) pre- and post-inspection, cleaning, and maintenance of wheelchairs; and c) wheelchair uses to participate in and access services, activities, and programs. Note: This may include hiring a trained professional to inspect wheelchair maintenance periodically to ensure it meets specifications of regular use. Train staff on use, cleaning, and maintenance of wheelchairs. 3) Provide signage advertising the availability of wheelchairs, and inform visitors and program participants that they are available. Add information to all publications advertising the availability of wheelchairs.

short-term

Audio and Visual Programs

- 13 **Assistive Listening Devices.** 1) One set of assistive listening devices were recently received from Harpers Ferry Center. Park to purchase additional assistive listening devices as needed. Provide devices at visitor centers, educational programs, and guided tours that have an audio component. 2) Provide standard operating procedures for a) checking out and returning assistive listening devices, b) pre- and post-inspection of assistive listening devices; and c) the use of assistive technology for Ranger programs and information services. Procedure shall address cleaning and maintenance of all devices. 3) Train staff on use, cleaning, and maintenance of assistive listening devices. 4) Provide signs advertising the availability of assistive listening devices and inform visitors and program participants that auxiliary aids are available. Add information to all publications stating that assistive listening devices are available.

mid-term

- 14 **Live Audio Description.** 1) Provide live audio descriptions on guided interpretive tours. 2) Provide training for interpretation and education division on live audio description for guided tours at the park unit.

mid-term

- 15 **Open Captioning and Audio Descriptions.** 1) Provide open captioning on all applicable videos and indicate availability on the website. Also, provide audio description of all images being shown on the video.

mid-term

Visitor Information

- 16 **Communication.** Provide park e-mail address and telephone number on website and in publications for questions: Park_Contact@nps.gov.

short-term

- 17 **Marketing.** 1) Market via social media (Pinterest, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.), hard media, and other advertising methods of the accessible programs, services, and activities available at the park. 2) As solutions are implemented, directly contact groups with disabilities to inform them of the accessible programs, services, and activities that have become available at the park. 3) Continue to reach out to groups with disabilities to get more involvement in park accessibility improvement projects as they occur (case-by-case basis).

mid-term (17.1-17.3)

short-term (17.4)

- 18 **Reservations.** 1) On the website, identify the following numbers to call: Federal Relay Service (1-800-877-8339). Provide online reservation email system. Also, provide information on website reservation systems about services that are accessible for each park area that requires a reservation. 2) Provide accessible formats of making reservations through Federal Relay Service, Text Telephone (TTY). Provide information on the website regarding the accessibility of facilities.

short-term

- 19 **Signage.** 1) Provide signage at visitor center that specifies what accessible alternative formats are available and how to request them.

mid-term

Guided Tours and Educational Programs

- 20 **Guided Tours, Educational Programs, and Special Events.** 1) Provide alternative formats of park publications for guided tours, educational programs, and special events. In publications at the visitor center and on the website, provide large print versions as well as audio descriptions of what to expect to see, and make them available upon request. 2) Provide conditions of the guided tour, educational program, or special event environment (e.g., number of steps, slopes, other barriers that exist, etc.) in a publication and/or on the website. 3) Provide designated stopping points or resting areas for the guided tour, educational program, or special event at 2% maximum cross and running slope with a firm and stable surface and 30" by 48" clear space.

mid-term

- 21 **Self-Guided Tours.** 1) Provide alternative formats of park publications for self-guided tours. In publications at the visitor center and on the website, provide large print versions as well as audio descriptions of what to expect to see, such as trail information, and make them available upon request. 2) Provide conditions of the self-guided tour environment (e.g., number of steps, slopes, other barriers that exist, etc.) in a publication and/or on the website.

mid-term

- 22 **Sign Language Interpreters.** 1) Develop the process for requesting sign language interpreters. Provide sign language interpreters within five days of request being made. 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for contacting and scheduling sign language interpreters.

short-term

- 23 **Special Events.** 1) Provide a system for people to call in and request a sign language interpreter within five days of service. Provide assistive listening devices and a T-coil or neck loop system with signage indicating they are available for special events. Provide large print of any handouts or waivers being provided. 2) Provide information on how people can

contact the park for accommodations for special events and release announcements in a variety of accessible methods (e.g., large print flyers, electronic accessible PDFs, etc.) 3) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for including accessibility information on event announcements.

mid-term

Concessions and Partnerships

- 24 **Park Partner, Leasee, and Concessionaire Services, Activities, and Programs.** Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for leasees and park partners for 1) providing accessible programs, services, and activities within the park unit, and 2) providing assistive listening devices to guide presentations provided by outside groups. 3) Architectural Barriers Act for Accessibility Standards do not apply to state partner lands; however, the Americans with Disabilities Act does, and state requirements take precedence in these cases. Communication will take place between state partners and the federal government to ensure an assessment will take place and accessibility solutions will be implemented in the future.

short-term

CONCLUSION

John Muir National Historic Site is committed to providing all visitors the opportunity to connect with and learn about the park's unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Accessibility improvements identified in the John Muir National Historic Site Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (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. Implementation of the plan will ensure that John Muir National Historic Site continues to assist all park visitors while sustaining its legacy to preserve and protect the home and portions of the agricultural estate where John Muir lived, worked, and is buried. The park will continue to connect visitors with Muir's global legacy as an influential naturalist, writer, and champion for protecting national parks and wild lands.

The SETP for John Muir National Historic Site is a living document intended to be used as a guiding reference for the park as it implements accessibility upgrades and documents accessibility accomplishments. As barriers to accessibility are removed and/or improved, the changes will be updated in this plan. The park will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate and update conditions to reflect accomplishments and to 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.

The primary goal of the transition plan is to define key park experiences and document modifications needed to provide independent program participation for the possible range of visitors with disabilities. As the park works towards its accessibility goals and makes the implementation strategy a reality, both physical and programmatic accessibility will improve across the breadth of key park experiences available at John Muir National Historic Site.

For visitors with mobility impairments, access will be improved from the moment they enter the park. Facilities, as well as numerous programs, services, and activities the park has to offer will be more accessible. Experiences such as hiking along the trails John Muir once hiked, picnicking on the grounds of the historic agricultural estate, seeing the room where John Muir created lasting contributions to conservation movements, and learning about the history and environment of the park, will be enhanced.

For visitors with vision, hearing, or cognitive disabilities, John Muir National Historic Site will deliver programs, exhibits, and waysides that interpret the resources, landscapes, and stories in new and interactive ways. Additionally, alternative formats such as large-print transcripts, audio description tours, and virtual tours will provide ease of navigation in the park. Self-guided and guided

tours will have assistive listening devices, sign language interpreters, T-coil hearing loops, and live audio description tours available to all.

Over time, the results of this collective effort will make John Muir National Historic Site a truly welcoming and accommodating place for all visitors and will provide equal opportunity to access the many places, resources, stories, and experiences the park has to offer.

APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

As a national park, John Muir National Historic Site 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 specifically pertain to John Muir National Historic Site.

LAWS AND STANDARDS

A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision. A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

Architectural Barriers Act of 1968

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards/guide-to-the-aba-standards>

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 requires physical access to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with federal funds. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) are the design guidelines used as the basis for enforcement of the law. The UFAS regulations were adopted in 1984. Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were revised and adopted in November 2005. Four federal agencies are responsible for the standards: the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the General Services Administration, and the US Postal Service. The United States Access Board was created to enforce the Architectural Barriers Act, which it does through the investigation of complaints. Anyone concerned about the accessibility of a facility that may have received federal funds can easily file a complaint with the United States Access Board.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

To the extent that section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 applies to departments and agencies of the federal government, the parks operated by the

National Park Service are subject to the provisions of that statute. As will be discussed below, both section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act require the application of stringent access standards to new construction and the alteration of existing facilities. The Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978 (P.L. 95-602) extends the scope of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-112) to include Executive Branch agencies of the federal government. As amended, section 504 states:

Section 504: No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, as defined in Section 7 (6), shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance or under any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency or by the United States Postal Service. The head of each such agency shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the amendments to this section made by the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Act of 1978. Copies of any proposed regulation shall be submitted to appropriate authorizing committees of Congress, and such regulation may take effect no earlier than the thirtieth day after the date on which such regulation is so submitted to such committees.

As noted above, section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act govern new construction and alterations. However, as a civil rights law, section 504 goes further. Unlike the construction-driven ABA mandates, section 504 also requires covered entities to consider the accessibility of programs, services, and activities.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

<http://www.section508.gov/>

In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities. Inaccessible technology interferes with an ability to obtain and use information quickly and easily. Section 508 was enacted to eliminate barriers in information technology, open new opportunities for people with disabilities, and encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals. The law applies to all federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. Under section 508 (29 U.S.C. §794 d), agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to access available to others. It is recommended that you review the laws and regulations listed below to further your understanding about section 508 and how you can support implementation.

Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>

Achieving accessibility in outdoor environments has long been a source of inquiry due to challenges and constraints posed by terrain, the degree of development, construction practices and materials, and other factors. The new provisions address access to trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes, and other components of outdoor developed areas on federal sites when newly built or altered. They also provide exceptions for situations where terrain and other factors make compliance impracticable. In 2013, this final rule amended the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines by adding scoping and technical requirements for camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, trails, and beach access routes constructed or altered by or on behalf of federal agencies. The final rule ensures that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The final rule applies to the following federal agencies and their components that administer outdoor areas developed for recreational purposes: Department of Agriculture (Forest Service); Department of Defense (Army Corps of Engineers); and Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service). The final rule also applies to nonfederal entities that construct or alter recreation facilities on federal land on behalf of the federal agencies pursuant to a concession contract, partnership agreement, or similar arrangement.

Accessibility Standards for Shared Use Paths

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/shared-use-paths>

Shared use paths provide a means of off-road transportation and recreation for various users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, and others, including people with disabilities. In its rulemaking on public rights-of-way and on trails and other outdoor developed areas, comments from the public urged the board to address access to shared use paths because they are distinct from sidewalks and trails. Shared use paths, unlike most sidewalks, are physically separated from streets by an open space or barrier. They also differ from trails because they are designed not just for recreation purposes but for transportation as well. In response, the board is supplementing its rulemaking on public rights-of-way to also cover shared use paths. The proposed rights-of-way guidelines, which address access to sidewalks, streets, and other pedestrian facilities, provide requirements for pedestrian access routes, including specifications for route width, grade, cross slope, surfaces, and other features. The board proposes to apply these and other relevant requirements to shared-use paths as well. This supplementary rulemaking also would add provisions tailored to shared-use paths into the rights-of-way guidelines.

Draft Accessibility Standards for Public Rights-of-Way

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way>

Sidewalks, street crossings, and other elements in the public right-of-way can pose challenges to accessibility. The United States Access Board's ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines focus mainly on facilities on sites. While they address certain features common to public sidewalks, such as curb ramps, further guidance is necessary to address conditions and constraints unique to public rights-of-way. The board is developing new guidelines for public rights-of-way that will address various issues, including access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain. The new guidelines will cover pedestrian access to sidewalks and streets, including crosswalks, curb ramps, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other components of public rights-of-way. The board's aim in developing these guidelines is to ensure that access for persons with disabilities is provided wherever a pedestrian way is newly built or altered, and that the same degree of convenience, connection, and safety afforded the public generally is available to pedestrians with disabilities. Once these guidelines are adopted by the Department of Justice, they will become enforceable standards under ADA title II.

Effective Communication

<http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>

People who have vision, hearing, or speech disabilities ("communication disabilities") use different ways to communicate. For example, people who are blind may give and receive information audibly rather than in writing and people who are deaf may give and receive information through writing or sign language rather than through speech. The ADA requires that title II entities (state and local governments) and title III entities (businesses and nonprofit organizations that serve the public) communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities. The goal is to ensure that communication with people with these disabilities is equally effective as communication with people without disabilities.

- The purpose of the effective communication rules is to ensure that the person with a vision, hearing, or speech disability can communicate with, receive information from, and convey information to, the covered entity.
- Covered entities must provide auxiliary aids and services when needed to communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities.

- The key to communicating effectively is to consider the nature, length, complexity, and context of the communication and the person's normal method(s) of communication.

The rules apply to communicating with the person who is receiving the covered entity's goods or services as well as with that person's parent, spouse, or companion in appropriate circumstances.

Reasonable Accommodations

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/>

Federal agencies are required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified employees with disabilities. The federal government may provide reasonable accommodation based on appropriate requests (unless so doing will result in undue hardship to the agencies). For more information, see the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's [Enforcement Guidance: Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship under the Americans with Disabilities Act \(external link\)](#).

Reasonable accommodations can apply to the duties of the job and/or where and how job tasks are performed. The accommodation should make it easier for the employee to successfully perform the duties of the position. Examples of reasonable accommodations include providing interpreters, readers, or other personal assistance; modifying job duties; restructuring work sites; providing flexible work schedules or work sites (i.e., telework); and providing accessible technology or other workplace adaptive equipment. [Telework \(external link\)](#) provides employees additional flexibility by allowing them to work at a geographically convenient alternative worksite, such as home or a telecenter, on an average of at least one day per week.

Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. To request reasonable accommodations:

- Look at the vacancy announcement
- Work directly with person arranging the interviews
- Contact the agency [Selective Placement Program Coordinator](#)
- Contact the hiring manager and engage in an interactive process to clarify what the person needs and identify reasonable accommodations
- Make an oral or written request; no special language is needed

Other Powered Mobility Devices

<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAREgs2010.htm>

The definition and regulation to permit the use of mobility devices has been amended. The rule adopts a two-tiered approach to mobility devices, drawing distinctions between wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices such as the Segway Human Transporter. Wheelchairs (and other devices designed for use by people with mobility impairments) must be permitted in all areas open to pedestrian use. Other power-driven mobility devices must be permitted to be used unless the covered entity can demonstrate that such use would fundamentally alter its programs, services, or activities, create a direct threat, or create a safety hazard. The rule also lists factors to consider in making this determination.

Service Animals

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/service-animals.htm>

34.104 Definitions: Service animal means any dog (or miniature horse as outlined below) that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

- a. General. Generally, a public entity shall modify its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability.
- b. Exceptions. A public entity may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if-
 - i. The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or
 - ii. The animal is not housebroken.

- c. If an animal is properly excluded. If a public entity properly excludes a service animal under § 35.136(b), it shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises.
- d. Animal under handler's control. A service animal shall be under the control of its handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means).
- e. Care or supervision. A public entity is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.
- f. Inquiries. A public entity shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, but may make two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal. A public entity may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. A public entity shall not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. Generally, a public entity may not make these inquiries about a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability).
- g. Access to areas of a public entity. Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of a public entity's facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.
- h. Surcharges. A public entity shall not ask or require an individual with a disability to pay a surcharge, even if people accompanied by pets are required to pay fees, or to comply with other requirements generally not applicable to people without pets. If a public entity normally charges individuals for the damage they cause, an individual with a disability may be charged for damage caused by his or her service animal.
- i. Miniature horses.
 - i. Reasonable modifications. A public entity shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
 - ii. Assessment factors. In determining whether reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures can be made to allow a miniature horse into a specific facility, a public entity shall consider
 1. The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
 2. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;

3. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
 4. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.
- j. Other requirements. Paragraphs 35.136 (c) through (h) of this section, which apply to service animals, shall also apply to miniature horses.

Section 17.549 Program Accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.549>

Except as otherwise provided in §17.550, no qualified handicapped person shall, because the agency's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by handicapped persons, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the agency.

The reference to §17.550 in the below quotes is intended to address exclusions available to covered entities in connection with existing facilities.

Section 17.550 Program Accessibility: Existing Facilities

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

(a) General. The agency shall operate each program or activity so that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This paragraph does not:

- (1) Necessarily require the agency to make each of its existing facilities or every part of a facility accessible to and usable by people with disabilities;
- (2) In the case of historic preservation programs, require the agency to take any action that would result in a substantial impairment of significant historic features of an historic property; or
- (3) Require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with §17.550(a) would result in such an alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the agency head or his or her designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity, and must be

accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that handicapped persons receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

(b) Methods.

- (1) **General.** The agency may comply with the requirements of this section through such means as redesign of equipment, reassignment of services to accessible locations, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, home visits, delivery of services at alternate accessible sites, alteration of existing facilities and construction of new facilities, use of accessible rolling stock, or any other methods that result in making its programs or activities readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. The agency is not required to make structural changes in existing facilities where other methods are effective in achieving compliance with this section. The agency, in making alterations to existing buildings, shall meet accessibility requirements to the extent compelled by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4151–4157) and any regulations implementing it. In choosing among available methods for meeting the requirements of this section, the agency shall give priority to those methods that offer programs and activities to qualified handicapped persons in the most integrated setting appropriate.
- (2) **Historic preservation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section in historic preservation programs, the agency shall give priority to methods that provide physical access to handicapped persons. In cases where a physical alteration to an historic property is not required because of paragraph (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this section, alternative, methods of achieving program accessibility include:
 - (i) Using audio-visual materials and devices to depict those portions of an historic property that cannot otherwise be made accessible;
 - (ii) Assigning persons to guide people with disabilities into or through portions of historic properties that cannot otherwise be made accessible; or
 - (iii) Adopting other innovative methods.
- (3) **Recreation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) in recreation programs, the agency shall provide that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. When it is not reasonable to alter natural and physical features, accessibility may be achieved by alternative methods as noted in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

Section 17.551 Program Accessibility: New Construction and Alterations

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.551>

Each building or part of a building that is constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of the agency shall be designed, constructed, or altered so as to be readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. The definitions, requirements, and standards of the Architectural Barriers Act (42 U.S.C. 4151–4157) as established in 41 CFR 101 – 19.600 to 101 – 19.607 apply to buildings covered by this section.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR’S ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

Director’s Order 16A

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder16a.html>

Director’s Order 16A establishes the framework for meeting reasonable accommodation requirements in all areas of employment, including: application, hiring, retention, promotion, recognition, and special hiring authority. Within this framework, NPS Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Program officials will take the lead in providing specific guidance and services to applicants, employees, and supervisors and other managers with respect to the provision of reasonable accommodation.

Director’s Order 42

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder42.html>

Director’s Order 42 addresses accessibility for visitors with disabilities in National Park Service programs and services. It is the goal of the National Park Service to ensure that all people, including persons with disabilities, have the highest level of access that is reasonable to NPS programs, facilities, and services. The order gives detailed guidance based on the minimum requirements set forth in laws, rules, and regulations with the goal to provide the highest level of access that is reasonable, exceeding the minimum level of access required by law. The order sets forth six implementation strategies:

1. to increase employee awareness and technical understanding of accessibility requirements

2. to ensure all new and renovated buildings and facilities, and all new services and programs (including those offered by concessioners and interpreters) will be “universally designed” and implemented in conformance with applicable regulations and standards
3. to ensure existing programs, facilities and services will be evaluated to determine the degree to which they are currently accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities
4. to ensure that barriers that limit access be identified and incorporated into the NPS Assets Management Program
5. to develop action plans identifying how identified barriers will be removed (where feasible)
6. to ensure action will be taken on a day-to-day basis to eliminate identified barriers, using existing operational funds or other funding sources or partnerships

National Park Service Management Policies: Section 1.9.3 – Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html>

All practicable efforts will be made to make NPS facilities, programs, services, employment, and meaningful work opportunities accessible and usable by all people, including those with disabilities. This policy reflect the commitment to provide access to the widest cross section of the public and ensure compliance with the Architectural barriers act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Specific guidance for implementing these laws is found in the Secretary of the Interior’s regulations regarding enforcement and nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in Department of the Interior programs (43 CFR par 17, subpart E), and the General Service Administration’s regulations adopting accessibility standards for the Architectural Barriers Act (41 CFR part 102-76, subpart C).

A primary principle of accessibility is that, to the highest degree practicable, people with disabilities should be able to participate in the same programs, activities, and employment opportunities available to everyone else. In choosing among methods of providing accessibility, higher priority will be given to methods that offer programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate. Special, separate, or alternative facilities, programs, or services will be provided only when existing ones cannot reasonable be made accessible. The determination of what is practicable will be made only after careful consultations with persons with disabilities or their representatives. Any decisions that would result in less than equal opportunity is subject the filing of an official disability right complain under the departmental regulations cited above.

GUIDELINES

A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media

<http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/>

The “Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media” is for media specialists, superintendents, and other NPS employees and contractors who develop and approve interpretive media. Publications, exhibits, audiovisual programs and tours, wayside exhibits, signage, and web-based media provide park visitors with information and context so that their experience of visiting national parks can be both safe and meaningful. Park visitors who have physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities have legally established civil rights to receive the same information and context that NPS

APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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

Accessibility assessment team: This group is a subgroup of the Interdisciplinary Design Team (see definition below) and includes an accessibility specialist and/or technician, coordinators, a regional representative, the primary facilitator for the process, architect, engineer and/or landscape architect, and typically the chiefs of interpretation, resources management, and facilities management.

Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP): A tool that establishes a methodical process for identifying and improving park wide access and proposes strategies for implementing the plan over time, in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS): Standards issued under the Architectural Barriers Act apply to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with certain federal funds. Passed in 1968, the Architectural Barriers Act is one of the first laws to address access to the built environment. The law applies to federal buildings, including post offices, social security offices, federal courthouses and prisons, and national parks.

Barrier: Architectural and programmatic obstacles to accessibility that make it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for people with disabilities to maneuver, understand, or experience.

Best practices: A method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark for meeting accessibility requirements.

Consultation: A formal or informal process for discussing an action or process for implementing a solution, such as section 106 (cultural resource compliance), or design for an Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

Facility Management Software System (FMSS) work order: The process for documenting work needs and collecting information to aid the work scheduling and assignment process within the Facility Management Software System. Information collected should include labor, equipment and material costs, hours, types, and quantities.

Guidelines: A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

Interdisciplinary Design Team (IDT): This team is composed of all the people involved in the workshop at the park unit, potentially including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource (natural and cultural), visitor safety, maintenance and accessibility specialists.

Key park experiences: For the purpose of the SETP, key park experiences are those that are iconic and important for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of a given park unit. They are those experiences that are “musts” for all park visitors. Key park experiences can be identified through a consideration of park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications.

Laws: A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision.

Level of Access: For the purpose of the SETP the team assessed the general degree of accessibility for programs, while considering each experience, disability, and physical and programmatic access. It also assists in identifying the accessibility level for participating in a park experience and where it falls in priority for action.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements: NEPA defines a process that federal agencies must follow when proposing to take actions that have environmental impacts. NEPA requires federal agencies to fully consider the impacts of proposals that would affect the human environment prior to deciding to take an action. NEPA also requires federal agencies to involve the interested and affected public in the decision-making process.

Park areas: A park area is the geographic location that is home to a single or multiple key park experience(s).

Park Asset Management Plan-Optimizer Banding (PAMP-OB): Provides a 5-year asset management strategy for park units, allowing for annual updates that coincide with the budget and planning processes already occurring in park units. As this approach includes life cycle total cost of ownership, analysis, processing, and calculations, it also helps park units and the service as a whole to manage the gap between what should be spent on facilities and what is actually being spent.

Park policy: Those defined courses of action for reaching a desired outcome that are adopted by the park.

Park practices: Those habitual and/or customary performances or operations for reaching a desired outcome that the park employs.

People-First Language: A type of disability etiquette that aims to avoid perceived and subconscious dehumanization when discussing people with disabilities. It emphasizes the person rather than the disability, noting that the disability is not the primary defining characteristic of the individual but one of several aspects of the whole person.

Policy: A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

Project Management Information System (PMIS) Facility: A separate and individual building, structure, or other constructed real property improvement.

Project Management Information System (PMIS) Nonfacility: A project that includes anything not covered by the definition for PMIS facility

Project Management Information System (PMIS) # (number): A unique Project ID Number that is automatically generated when adding a new project into the Project Management Information System

Project planning team: This group is a subgroup of the Interdisciplinary design team and includes DSC planners and a regional liaison. This team collects baseline data, facilitates calls, develops the participant guide, plans for and facilitates the workshop, and produces the draft and final documents.

Readily achievable: Easily accomplished and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense.

Responsible person: The person/position responsible for seeing that the elimination of a barrier is completed.

Service, activity, and program: A service, activity, or program has a single purpose and is an activity undertaken by a department that affords benefits, information, opportunities, and activities to one or more members of the public.

Solution: The action to eliminate the barrier that has been identified.

Standards: A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

Time frames: Time frames for implementation of a recommended solution are primarily based on level of access of the barrier. They describe when staff will eliminate the barrier. Recommendations are divided into three time frames including: short-term, mid-term, and long-term.

APPENDIX C: CONTRIBUTORS

JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

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JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Overview
June 2016

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Overview has been prepared as a collaborative effort between John Muir National Historic Site, Pacific West Regional staff, and the Denver Service Center and is recommended for approval by the superintendent.



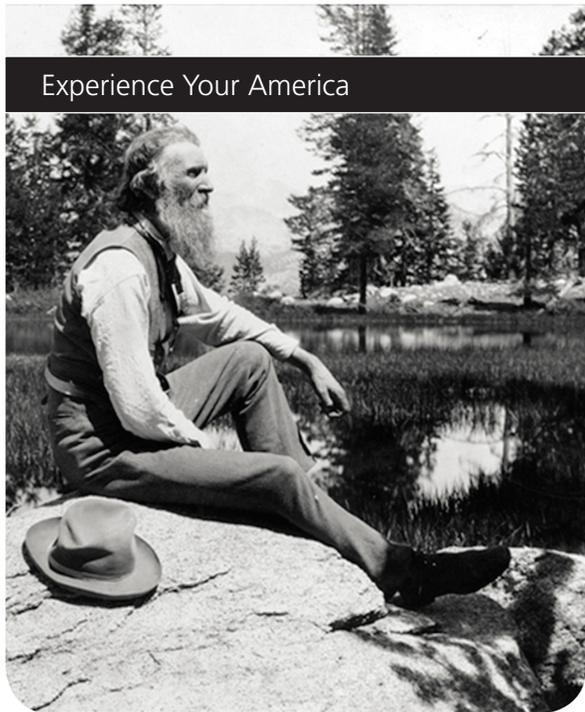
APPROVED

Date

Superintendent,
John Muir National Historic Site



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.



Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Overview

JOHN MUIR

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK | CALIFORNIA