



## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

<b>SUBJECT/AGENCY</b>	Guidelines for Areas of Sport Activity & Skate Park Design/Oakland Public Works Bureau of Engineering and Construction	<b>NUMBER</b>	004
<b>REFERENCE</b>	ADA Standards for Accessible Design; California Building Code Title 24	<b>EFFECTIVE</b>	December 2015
<b>SUPERSEDE</b>			

### I. PURPOSE

Directive to engineering and technical staff to apply the most current federal and state standards for accessible design to sports and recreation projects, including skate parks.

### II. POLICY

In response to the demand for public skateboard parks (skate parks) and the increasing number of persons with disabilities who are enjoying these types of facilities either directly or as spectators, this Technical Bulletin provides guidance to staff in applying the state and federal standards for accessible design when reviewing or developing plans for new skate parks. This guidance does not address all potentially applicable state and federal disability access requirements. This guidance can also be used to apply access standards to other types of sports activities.

### III. STANDARDS

- A. At least one **accessible route** must be provided within the skate park from accessible parking spaces and accessible passenger loading zones, public streets and sidewalks, and public transportation stops. California Building Code Title 24, 11B-206.2.1; 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §206.

- B. Accessible routes must coincide with or be located in the same area as the general circulation path. California Building Code Title 24, 11B-206.3; 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §206.3.
- C. The running slope for the accessible routes shall not exceed 1:20; the cross slope shall not be steeper than 1:48. 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §403.
- D. The surface of accessible routes shall be stable, firm, and slip resistant. California Building Code Title 24, 11B-302.1; 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §302.1.
- E. Width of the accessible route shall be 48 inches minimum unless conditions dictate otherwise, and then no less than 36 inches. California Building Code Title 24, 11B-403.5.1.
- F. The top of the gripping surface of any **handrails** located within the accessible route shall be 34 inches minimum and 38 inches maximum above the ground surface. California Building Code Title 24, 11B-505.4; 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §505.4.
- G. **Gates** located along the accessible route shall be outfitted with **operable parts** that are located no less than 34 inches and no more than 44 inches above the ground and that can be manipulated with a closed fist or loose grip. California Building Code Title 24, 11B-404.2.7; 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §404.2.7.
- H. Skate parks must provide equal opportunity for persons with disabilities as **participants** in skate park activities. An **accessible route** must be provided to connect to the **area of the sport activity**. California Building Code, Title 24, 11B-206.2.18; 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §206.2.2 and associated Advisory.
- I. "**Area of sport activity**" is defined as "that portion of a room or space where the play or practice of a sport occurs." 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §106.5.
- J. If more than one area of sport activity is provided, an accessible route is required connecting each area. California Building Code, Title 24, 11B-206.2.18; 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §206.2.2 and associated Advisory.
- K. In the area of the sport activity, **changes in level** are permitted beyond ¼ inch vertical without beveling or ramps. 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §303.1 Exception 2.
- L. In the area of sport activity, exemptions may apply for **protruding objects** and **surface requirements** if compliance with these requirements would fundamentally alter the nature of the sports activity. 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §204.1 Exceptions 1, 2; 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design §302.1, Exception 2

**M.** Skate parks must provide equal opportunity for **spectators** with disabilities to view skate park activities. If formal viewing areas are provided, then each such area shall be on an accessible route and provide a wheelchair seating area. If no formal viewing area is provided, then designers shall ensure access for persons with disabilities to informal viewing areas pursuant to these guidelines and other applicable state and federal disability access standards. California Building Code Title 24, 11B-221.1, 221.5; 2010 ADA Standards §221.1, 221.5.

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

- Department of Justice 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, available on: <http://www.ada.gov/>
- United States Access Board Guide on Sports Facilities, available on: <http://www.access-board.gov/>
- 2013 California Access Compliance Advisory Reference Manual, available on: <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/Home.aspx>

Questions regarding this Technical Bulletin may be directed to the ADA Programs Division at [adaprograms@oaklandnet.com](mailto:adaprograms@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-6919.



Michael J. Neary, P.E.

Assistant Director