Accessible Beaches

Beaches that are accessible to people with disabilities should adhere to various standards to ensure inclusivity and accommodate individuals with diverse needs. These standards may vary by country, but some common considerations include:

➢ **Accessible Parking**:

- Parking for disabled individuals, often referred to as accessible parking or handicapped parking is an essential accommodation provided to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to public spaces and facilities. These designated parking spaces are typically marked with specific signs and symbols to make them easily recognizable. Here are some key aspects of parking for the disabled:

- Accessible Parking Spaces: These spaces are wider than regular parking spots to accommodate the extra space needed for wheelchair ramps and mobility devices. In the United States, accessible parking spaces are typically at least 8 feet wide, with a 5-foot-wide access aisle on at least one side of the parking space.

- International Symbol of Access: The internationally recognized symbol for accessible parking is a blue and white image of a person using a wheelchair. This symbol is displayed on signs, pavement markings, and other indicators to identify accessible parking spaces.

- Proximity to Facilities: Accessible parking spaces are usually located close to the entrance of buildings, public facilities, and amenities to minimize the distance individuals with disabilities have to travel.

- Regulations and Compliance: Governments and municipalities have specific regulations and laws governing accessible parking. These regulations outline the number of accessible parking spaces required, their dimensions, and the penalties for unauthorized use

- Permits and Placards: To use accessible parking spaces, individuals typically need a disabled parking permit or placard. These are issued to people with qualifying disabilities, and their use is closely monitored to prevent abuse.

- Enforcement: Law enforcement agencies and parking authorities enforce accessible parking regulations to ensure that only those with valid permits use these spaces. Unauthorized use can result in fines and penalties.

- Van-Accessible Spaces: Some accessible parking spaces are designed specifically for vans equipped with wheelchair lifts. These spaces are wider and provide additional clearance height.

- Ramps and Curb Cuts: Accessible parking areas should have curb cuts and ramps to facilitate safe and easy access to the sidewalk and building entrances.
- Visibility: Accessible parking spaces should be clearly marked and well maintained to ensure they are easily identifiable.
- Respect and Courtesy: It is crucial for all individuals to respect the designated accessible parking spaces and only use them if they have a valid permit.
- Unauthorized use can inconvenience people with disabilities and potentially result in legal consequences. Providing parking for disabled individuals is not just a matter of convenience; it is a legal and ethical obligation to promote inclusivity and accessibility in public spaces. These spaces play a crucial role in enabling people with disabilities to participate fully in their communities

➢ **Accessible Paths and Ramps**:

- Beach access points should have ramps or pathways that are wide enough for wheelchair users.
- Ramps should have appropriate slopes and handrails for ease of use.
- Creating ramps for persons with disabilities is an essential aspect of ensuring accessibility and inclusivity in various environments, such as public buildings, private residences, and public spaces. Ramps provide individuals with mobility challenges, including those who use wheelchairs, walkers, or have other mobility impairments, with a way to navigate steps, curbs, and uneven surfaces safely and independently. Here are some key considerations for designing and installing ramps for persons with disabilities:
- Compliance with Regulations: Ensure that the ramp design and installation adhere to local and national accessibility regulations and standards
- Slope and Gradient: Ramps should have a gentle slope to ensure ease of use. World disability union guidelines recommend a maximum slope of

1:10, meaning that for every 2.5 CM of rise, the ramp should have 25 CM of horizontal run. Steeper slopes can be difficult for wheelchair users to navigate.

- **Width:** Ramps should be wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs and other mobility aids comfortably. WDU guidelines recommend a minimum width of 90 CM.
- **Landings:** Include level landings at the top and bottom of the ramp as well as at any points where the ramp changes direction. These landings provide a space for individuals to safely rest or change direction
- **Handrails:** Handrails should be installed on both sides of the ramp and graspable by individuals with limited hand mobility. They should extend the full length of the ramp and have proper clearance.
- **Surface Texture:** The ramp's surface should provide good traction and be slip-resistant. Avoid materials that can become slippery when wet or icy.
- **Edge Protection:** Install curb ramps or edge protection to prevent wheelchairs from rolling off the side of the ramp.
- **Color and Contrast:** Use contrasting colors for the ramp and its surroundings to aid individuals with visual impairments.
- **Signage:** Install clear signage indicating the presence of ramps and their location.
- **Maintenance:** Regular maintenance is essential to ensure the ramp remains safe and in good condition. This includes addressing any cracks, uneven surfaces, or damage promptly.
- **Consultation:** If possible, consult with individuals who will be using the ramp to gather their input and ensure it meets their specific needs. 12. Additional Features: Depending on the specific needs of the users, you may need to consider additional features such as push-button automatic doors, seating areas, and shelters. 13. Temporary Ramps: In some cases, temporary ramps may be necessary, such as for events or during construction. These should also meet accessibility standards and be clearly marked. Remember that accessibility is not just about ramps but also encompasses other elements like accessible parking, entrances, restrooms, and pathways. It is important to consider the overall accessibility of a space to create an inclusive environment for all individuals, regardless of their mobility or disability status

➢ **Accessible Restrooms:**

- Restroom facilities should be accessible, with features such as grab bars, proper turning spaces, and lowered sinks.
- Designing bathrooms for individuals with disabilities is crucial for promoting inclusivity and ensuring that everyone has equal access to essential facilities. Accessible bathrooms, often referred to as disabled, should meet specific design standards to accommodate various disabilities. Here are key considerations for designing bathrooms for disabled individuals:
- Clear Signage: ● Use clear and visible signage to indicate the location of accessible bathrooms. ● Ensure that signage includes accessibility symbols and information in tactile and visual formats for individuals with visual impairments.
- Accessible Location: ● Place accessible bathrooms in easily accessible and well-marked locations within buildings and public spaces. ● Ensure that they are located along accessible routes, allowing individuals with disabilities to reach them without encountering barriers.
- Entry and Doorways: ● Design wider doorways (usually at least 80 cm wide) to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility devices. ● Install automatic or power-assisted doors to make it easier for individuals with mobility impairments to enter and exit.
- Space and Layout: ● Provide ample maneuvering space inside the bathroom to accommodate wheelchair users. This includes a clear turning radius within the space. ● Position fixtures and accessories for easy reach from a seated position.
- Toilet and Grab Bars: ● Install accessible toilets at an appropriate height for easy transfer from a wheelchair or mobility aid. ● Include sturdy grab bars near the toilet and adjacent to the sink to provide support for individuals with mobility limitations.
- Sink and Countertop: ● Position the sink at an accessible height to accommodate individuals using wheelchairs. ● Ensure that the sink has lever or sensor faucets to make them easier to operate for individuals with limited hand dexterity.
- Mirror: ● Place mirrors at a height that allows individuals using wheelchairs to see themselves comfortably. ● Ensure that mirrors are unbreakable and tilt-adjustable.
- Flooring and Surfaces: ● Choose non-slip, smooth, and level flooring materials to prevent slips and trips. ● Ensure that there are no loose rugs or mats within the bathroom.

- **Shower or Bathtub:** ● If the bathroom includes a shower or bathtub, ensure it is wheelchair-accessible, with roll-in or transfer options. ● Install grab bars in the shower or tub area for added support.
- **Emergency Call Buttons:** ● Consider installing emergency call buttons or pull cords within accessible bathrooms to enable individuals to request assistance in case of emergencies.
- **Accessible Fixtures and Accessories:** ● Use fixtures and accessories that are designed for accessibility, such as lever handles on doors and faucets.
- **Ensure that toilet paper dispensers are at an accessible height.**
- **Privacy and Dignity:** ● Respect the privacy and dignity of individuals with disabilities when designing bathroom layouts and providing assistance.
- **Lighting and Acoustics:** ● Ensure adequate lighting and acoustic design to improve visibility and comfort for individuals with sensory impairments.
- **Diaper Changing Tables:** ● Install diaper-changing tables with accessible heights in family restrooms or accessible bathrooms to accommodate caregivers with disabilities.
- **Waste Disposal:** ● Include waste disposal units that are accessible and easy to use for individuals with disabilities.
- **Maintenance:** ● Regularly inspect and maintain accessible bathrooms to ensure that they remain in good condition and are free of barriers or hazards.
- **Training:** ● Train staff on how to assist individuals with disabilities in accessing and using accessible bathrooms, while respecting their privacy and dignity. Designing accessible bathrooms is essential for ensuring equal access to essential facilities. Compliance with relevant accessibility standards and guidelines, such as the WDU.

➢ Mobility Aids:

- Availability of beach wheelchairs or other mobility aids for individuals with limited mobility.

The specific requirements for assistive devices on beaches can vary depending on the local regulations and accessibility standards. However, some general considerations are often taken into account to ensure that beaches are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Here are some common conditions that assistive devices on beaches may need to meet:

- **Stability on Sand**: Assistive devices, such as beach wheelchairs, should be designed to provide stability on sandy surfaces. This may involve using larger wheels or specialized designs to prevent sinking into the sand.
- **Durability**: The devices must be durable and able to withstand exposure to saltwater and other environmental factors commonly found at beaches.
- **Floatability**: Some beach wheelchairs may need to be buoyant or designed to float in case they are used in or near the water.
- **Corrosion Resistance**: Given the proximity to saltwater, materials used in the construction of assistive devices should be corrosion-resistant to ensure longevity.
- **Ease of Maneuverability**: The devices should be designed for easy maneuverability on the beach, allowing users to navigate sandy terrains without excessive effort.
- **Security and Stability for Transfers**: If the user needs to transfer from the assistive device to beach furniture or other structures, the device should provide stability during the transfer process.
- **Accessibility Features**: Devices should include features that enhance accessibility, such as adjustable seating positions, supportive backrests, and safety restraints if needed.
- **Compliance with Standards**: with world disability union.

➢ **Accessible Seating:**

- **Beach areas should have seating options that accommodate individuals with disabilities, including those using wheelchairs.**

The conditions for seating areas designated for people with disabilities on beaches aim to ensure accessibility, safety, and comfort. While specific requirements can vary depending on local regulations and standards, here are some common considerations for designing such areas:

1. **Accessibility: Seating areas for people with disabilities should be easily accessible. This includes providing ramps or other accessible pathways leading to and within the designated area.**
2. **Space and Layout: The seating area should be designed to accommodate individuals using mobility devices, such as wheelchairs. There should be enough space between seating units to allow for comfortable maneuverability.**
3. **Surface Conditions: The surface of the seating area should be stable, firm, and slip-resistant to facilitate easy movement for individuals using mobility aids. It's crucial to consider the stability of the surface on sand or other beach terrains.**
4. **Shade and Shelter: Providing shade or shelter options can enhance the comfort of individuals with disabilities. This could include the installation of beach umbrellas, canopies, or other structures to protect against sun exposure.**
5. **Adapted Seating: Consider providing a variety of seating options, including benches with backrests, armrests, and spaces that allow for transferring from wheelchairs. Some individuals with disabilities may require specific types of seating for comfort and support.**
6. **Signage: Clearly marked signage should indicate the designated seating area for individuals with disabilities. This helps people easily identify and access the accessible seating section.**
7. **Proximity to Facilities: Ensure that the seating area is located in proximity to accessible facilities, such as accessible restrooms and parking spaces, to enhance overall accessibility.**
8. **Safety Features: Implement safety features as needed, such as handrails or grab bars, to assist individuals with mobility challenges in navigating the seating area safely.**
9. **Communication Accessibility: Consider the inclusion of communication accessibility features, such as information in multiple formats (e.g., Braille, large print) and communication aids if necessary.**
10. **Compliance with Standards: of world disability union**

➢ **Signage:**

a. **Clear and visible signage with universal symbols indicating accessible pathways, facilities, and services.**

- **Legibility and Visibility:**
  - **Text should be legible and easily readable, with high contrast between text and background colors.**
  - **Use clear and simple fonts to enhance readability.**
  - **Ensure that the signs are placed at an appropriate height for easy visibility, taking into account the needs of individuals using wheelchairs or other mobility aids.**

- **Pictograms and Symbols:**
  - **Include universally recognized symbols and pictograms to convey information in a non-verbal manner.**
  - **Ensure that symbols are clear, simple, and easy to understand.**

- **Braille and Tactile Information:**
  - **For signs providing essential information, consider incorporating Braille to cater to individuals with visual impairments.**
  - **Tactile information, such as raised characters, may be required on certain signs to aid individuals with visual impairments in navigating the beach environment.**

- **Multilingual Information:**
  - **Consider providing information in multiple languages to accommodate individuals with diverse language backgrounds.**

- **Location and Placement:**
  - **Ensure that signs is strategically placed in locations that are easily accessible to all beachgoers, including those with disabilities.**
  - **Consider the height and placement of signs to facilitate ease of reading and comprehension.**

- **Accessible Formats:**
  - **Provide information in multiple formats, such as large print or electronic formats, to cater to individuals with varying needs.**

- **Color and Contrast:**
  - **Use color and contrast effectively to convey information. Ensure that text and symbols stand out clearly against the background.**

- **Information Clarity:**
  - Keep information clear, concise, and to the point. Avoid unnecessary complexity in wording.
- **Accessibility Standards Compliance:**
  - With WDU.
- **Emergency Information:**
  - Ensure that emergency information is prominently displayed and accessible to all individuals, including those with disabilities.

➢ Beach Matting:

Installation of beach matting can provide a stable and accessible surface for wheelchair users to move across the sand.

- **Width and Accessibility:**
  - The width of the beach matting should be sufficient to accommodate the passage of wheelchairs and other mobility devices.
  - Ensure that the matting is wide enough to allow for comfortable and safe passage, taking into account the various widths of mobility devices.
- **Installation and Removal:**
  - Matting should be securely installed to prevent shifting or movement during use.
  - Consider the ease of installation and removal, especially if the matting needs to be set up and taken down regularly.
- **Length and Coverage:**
  - The length of the matting should provide access to key areas of the beach, such as entry points, seating areas, and waterfront.
  - Determine the coverage needed to ensure that individuals with disabilities can access a significant portion of the beach.
- **Transition Areas:**
  - Provide smooth transitions between the beach matting and other surfaces, such as sand or boardwalks, to prevent tripping hazards.

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- **Color and Contrast:**
    - Use color and contrast to make the beach matting easily visible, especially for individuals with visual impairments.
- **Maintenance:**
    - Regular maintenance is crucial to ensure that the matting remains in good condition. This includes addressing any damage, ensuring proper cleaning, and replacing worn sections as needed.
- **Signage:**
    - Clearly mark the beginning and end of the beach matting to alert beachgoers to its presence and purpose.
    - Include signage that indicates the accessible pathway for individuals with disabilities.
- **Compliance with Standards:**
    - Ensure that the beach matting complies with relevant accessibility standards and regulations to provide a universally accessible environment.
- **User Education:**
    - Provide information to beachgoers about the availability and purpose of the beach matting to encourage its use by individuals with disabilities.
- **Emergency Access:**
    - Consider emergency access points and procedures for individuals using the beach matting in case of evacuation or other emergencies

➢ **Assistance Services:**

- **Emergency Preparedness:**
  - Develop and communicate emergency procedures that take into account the needs of individuals with disabilities, including accessible evacuation routes.
- **Training for First Responders:**
  - Train beach lifeguards and first responders on how to assist individuals with disabilities in emergencies.
- **Communication Support:**
  - Provide communication support for individuals with hearing or speech impairments, such as sign language interpreters or communication boards.
- **Accessible Events and Programs:**
  - Ensure that beach events and programs are inclusive and accessible to individuals with disabilities, considering their diverse needs.
- **Feedback Mechanism:**
  - Establish a feedback mechanism for individuals with disabilities to communicate their experiences and provide suggestions for improvement.

➢ **Changing rooms**

Changing rooms for people with disabilities at beaches should be designed to ensure accessibility, privacy, and comfort. The specific conditions may vary based on local regulations, but here are some common considerations:

- **Size and Space:**
  - **Ensure that the changing room is spacious enough to accommodate individuals using mobility devices, such as wheelchairs or walkers.**
  - **Provide adequate turning space within the changing room to allow for easy maneuverability.**

- **Accessible Entrance:**
  - **Include an accessible entrance with ramps or lifts, and make sure that doorways are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs.**

- **Accessible Features:**
  - **Install grab bars and other supportive features to assist individuals with mobility challenges.**
  - **Ensure that all controls, such as light switches and faucets, are at a reachable height for individuals with varying abilities.**

- **Bench or Changing Table:**
  - **Include a stable and easily accessible bench or changing table for individuals who need assistance with changing.**
  - **Ensure that the changing table is at a comfortable height for caregivers.**

- **Privacy and Security:**
  - **Design the changing room to provide privacy for individuals with disabilities.**
  - **Ensure that doors can be securely locked from the inside for privacy and security.**

- **Accessible Restroom Facilities:**
  - **If the changing room is connected to restroom facilities, ensure that the restroom is also accessible with features such as grab bars, proper clearance, and accessible sinks.**

- **Lighting:**
  - **Provide ample lighting in the changing room to ensure visibility and safety.**

- **Hooks and Storage:**
  - **Install hooks and storage areas at accessible heights for individuals to hang or store personal belongings.**

- **Emergency Call System:**
  - **Include an emergency call system or button within easy reach for individuals to use in case of emergencies.**

- **Clear Signage:**
  - **Use clear and visible signage to indicate the location of the changing room and its accessibility features.**

- **Flooring:**
  - **Ensure that the flooring is slip-resistant and easy to navigate for individuals using mobility aids.**

- **Universal Design:**

- Apply universal design principles to make the changing room usable by individuals with a range of abilities and disabilities.
- **Compliance with Standards:**
  Adhere to relevant accessibility standards and regulations with world disability union
- **Regular Maintenance:**
  - Regularly inspect and maintain the changing room to address any wear and tear, malfunctions, or damage.

➢ Cafeteria

- **Accessible Entrance:**
  Ensure that the cafeteria has an accessible entrance with ramps or lifts for individuals using wheelchairs or other mobility aids.
- **Adequate Space:**
  Provide sufficient space between tables to allow for easy navigation and maneuverability for individuals with mobility devices.
- **Accessible Seating:**
  Include a variety of seating options, including tables with adequate clearance for wheelchairs and chairs with armrests for stability. Designate accessible seating areas that are easily accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- **Counter Height:**
  Ensure that counters and service areas are at a height that allows individuals using wheelchairs to comfortably access food and services.
- **Menu Accessibility:**
  Provide menus in accessible formats, such as large print, Braille, or electronic versions, to accommodate individuals with visual impairments.
- **Clear Pathways:**
  Maintain clear pathways throughout the cafeteria to facilitate easy movement for individuals with mobility aids.
- **Lighting:**
  Ensure that the cafeteria is well-lit to enhance visibility for individuals with visual impairments.
- **Accessible Restrooms:**
  If the cafeteria is connected to restroom facilities, ensure that the restrooms are accessible with features such as grab bars and proper clearance.
- **Assistance Call System:**
  Install an assistance call system or button within easy reach for individuals who may need help.

- **High-Contrast Signage:**

  Use high-contrast signage with clear symbols and text to guide individuals with visual impairments.

- **Quiet Areas:**

  Provide designated quiet areas for individuals who may need a less stimulating environment.

- **Noise Reduction Measures:**

  Implement noise reduction measures, such as acoustic panels, to create a more comfortable dining atmosphere for individuals with sensory sensitivities.

- **Service Training:**

  Train cafeteria staff to provide assistance and support to individuals with disabilities, including understanding diverse needs and communication styles.

- **Payment Accessibility:**

  Ensure that payment systems are accessible, with options for individuals with dexterity or visual challenges.

- **Universal Design:**

  Apply universal design principles to make the cafeteria welcoming and usable by individuals with a range of abilities and disabilities.

- **Compliance with Standards:**

  Adhere to relevant accessibility standards and regulations, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or equivalent standards in other regions.

- **Accessible Technology:**

  Incorporate accessible technology, such as point-of-sale systems with adjustable screens and compatibility with assistive devices.

- **Regular Maintenance:**

  Regularly inspect and maintain the cafeteria to address any issues related to accessibility and functionality.

➢ <u>**Games**</u>   (**If there are places for games on the beach**)

Creating inclusive games for people with disabilities at beaches involves thoughtful design to ensure accessibility, participation, and enjoyment for individuals of varying abilities. Here are some considerations and conditions that can enhance the inclusivity of games at beaches:

- **Adapted Game Equipment:**
  - Provide game equipment that can be easily adapted or modified to accommodate different abilities. For example, consider using larger or differently shaped balls for sports like beach volleyball to make them easier to handle.
- **Accessible Playing Surfaces:**
  - Ensure that playing surfaces are firm, stable, and easily navigable for individuals using mobility devices. Consider options such as beach mats or specially designed surfaces to facilitate movement.
    .
- **Sensory Considerations:**
  - Consider the sensory environment when planning games. For example, be mindful of noise levels and provide quiet areas for individuals who may be sensitive to sensory stimuli.
- **Universal Design:**
  - Apply universal design principles to ensure that game areas and equipment are welcoming and usable by individuals with a range of abilities and disabilities.
- **Compliance with Standards:**

  With **world disability union**

- **Feedback Mechanism:**
  - Establish a feedback mechanism to collect input from participants with disabilities, allowing for continuous improvement in the inclusivity of beach games.

By considering these conditions and consulting with individuals with disabilities and relevant organizations, beach games designed to be enjoyable and accessible for everyone.

➢ **<u>Mosque</u>** **(If there are Mosque on the beach)**

It must be according to conditions of the world disability union

➢ **<u>Safety Measures:</u>**

a. Implementation of safety measures to ensure that accessible features are well maintained and in good condition.

➢ **<u>An alarm bell with a light</u>**

➢ Communication and Information:

a. Information about the accessibility features of the beach should be readily available through websites, brochures, or on-site signage.

It is important to note that the specific standards and regulations can vary by location and are often influenced by national or regional accessibility guidelines. In the United States, for example, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sets standards for accessibility, including those for outdoor recreational facilities. Always check with local authorities or relevant agencies to understand the specific requirements for a particular beach or location.

List of Standards for Accessible Beaches

	Degree ------------------------ Standards	1	2	3	4	5
1	Accessible Parking					
2	Accessible Paths and Ramps					
3	Accessible Restrooms					
4	Mobility Aids					
5	Accessible Seating					
6	Signage					
7	Beach Matting					
8	Assistance Services					
9	Accessible Water Entry					
10	Changing rooms					
11	cafeteria					
12	Games					
13	Mosque					
14	Safety Measures					
15	An alarm bell with a light					
16	Communication and Information					

* Total Point:

 * The Ratio calculated as follows: Total Point / Number of standards x 5 x 100 *

The Ratio: