
Universal Design of Launches/Landings for Carry-down Watercraft

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Carry-down Watercraft:

- Watercraft you hand-carry to the water from your vehicle.
 - Examples: canoe, kayak, paddleboard, raft, etc.
 - Not watercraft that is launched from a towed trailer.
- Freedom to launch where legal access point.

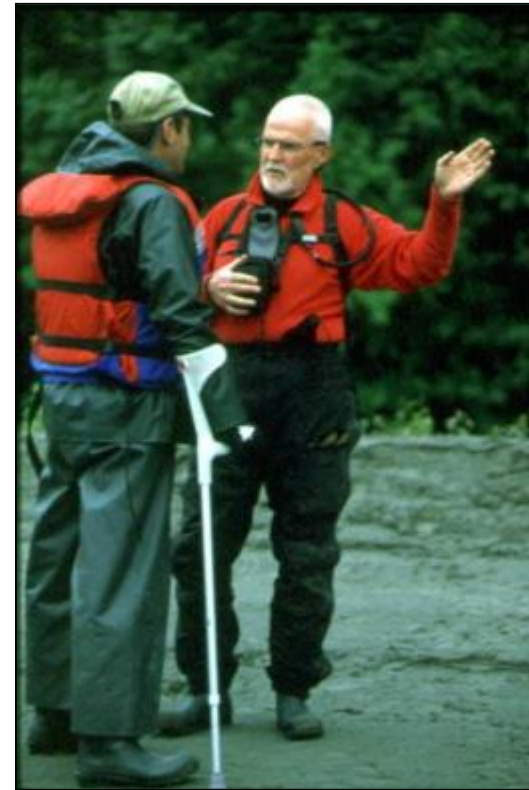




Carry-down Watercraft



57 million people with disabilities



**& our population is aging...
+ disability often comes with aging**



Families and friends look for good access for them all.

Accessibility:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990:
 - Programs and facilities are not to exclude a qualified person just because they have a disability.
 - New construction / alteration is to comply with the applicable accessibility requirements.
 - ADA applies to the facilities and programs of
 - State and local governments
 - Public accommodations
 - Businesses, organizations and other entities.....
open to the public



Accessibility:

Federal agencies: (by the agency, on federal lands, or with federal funds)

- **Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968:**
 - New construction / alteration is to comply with the applicable accessibility requirements.

- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:**

Programs and activities are not to exclude a qualified person just because they have a disability
...unless their participation would fundamentally alter the program.

 - Applies to Federal agencies
 - businesses / organizations receiving federal funds or using federal lands for its program.



Accessibility

There are NO ADA or ABA accessibility standards or guidelines for the water entry point of carry-down craft launching / landing locations.

However.....



Accessibility

ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADASAD) & for Federal agencies the ABA Accessibility Standards **DO** apply to new or altered:

- ❑ Parking Lots;
- ❑ Walkways from Parking Lot and within the recreation area;
- ❑ Restrooms;
- ❑ Fishing piers and platforms.
- ❑ Boat slips;
- ❑ Floating gangways and transition plates at boat slips;
- ❑ Boarding piers at boat launches.



Boat Ramps



NOT required to have an accessible route within a boat launching ramp.





Universal Design

Universal Design:

A design useable by all people to the greatest extent possible, while both maintaining the character and experience of the setting and providing access, without separate or segregated access for people with disabilities.



Universal Design



- Surface
- Grade
- Open Space
- Close to parking



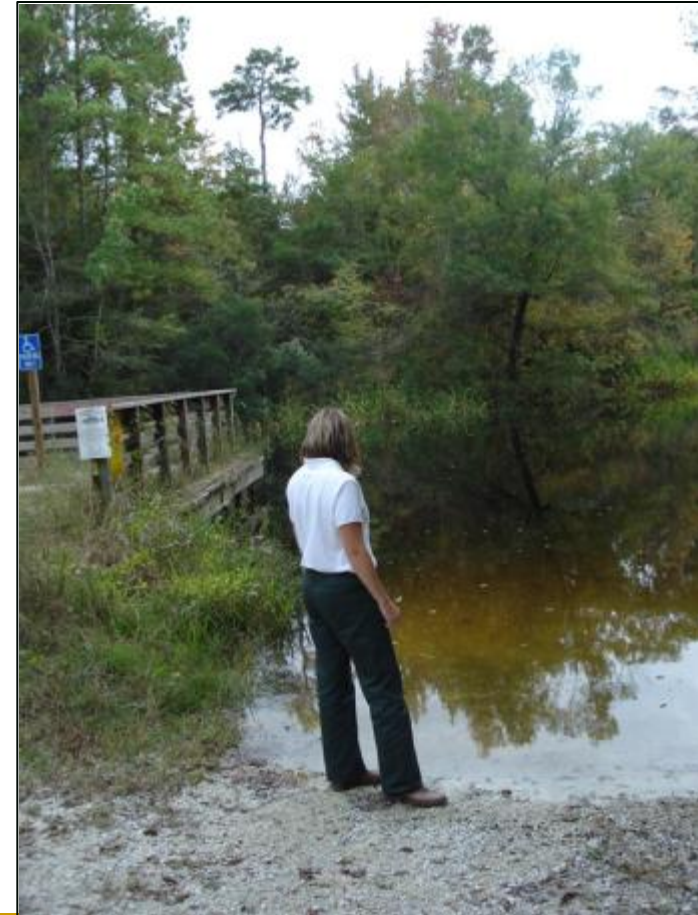
Universal Design



Universal Design



Universal Design



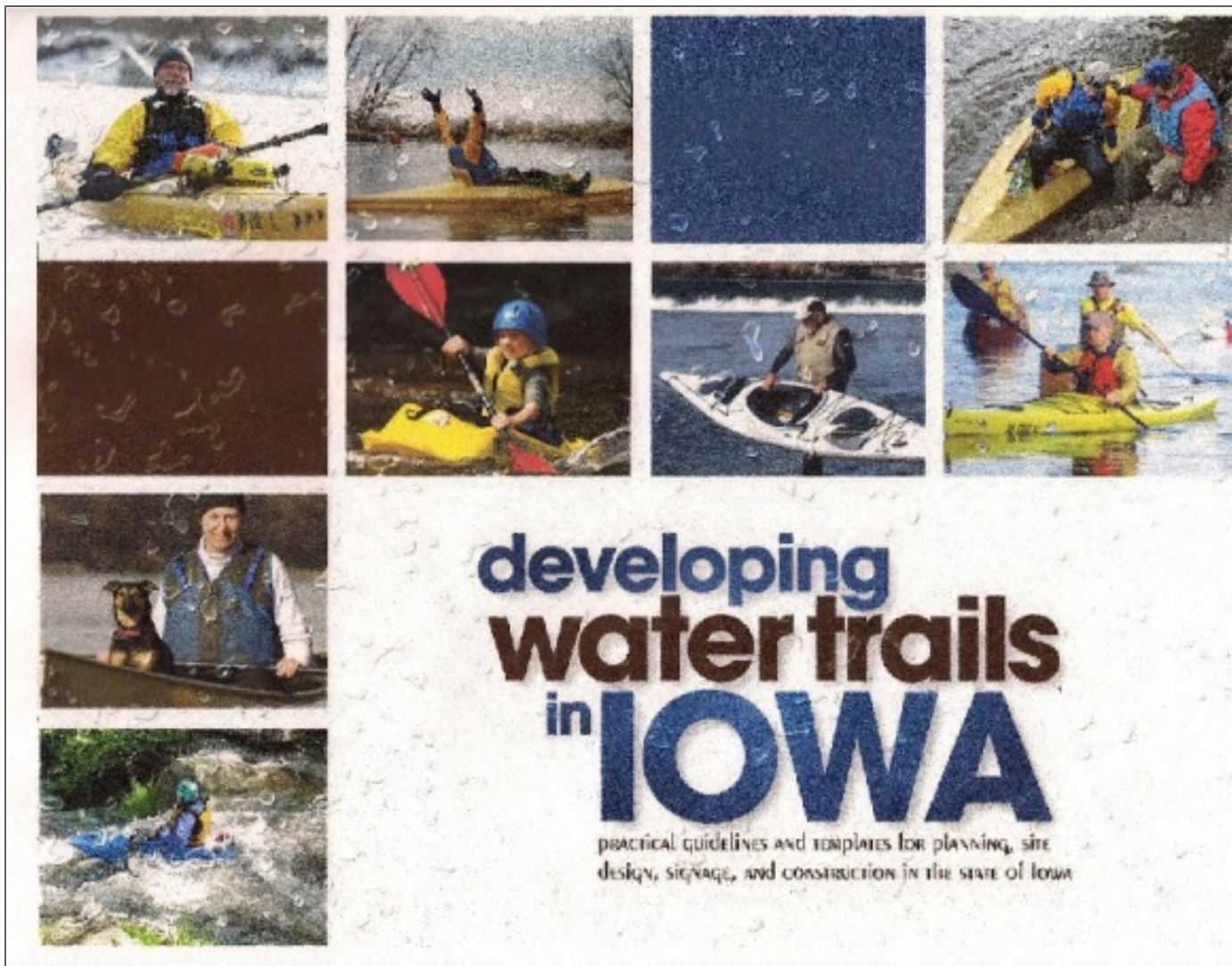
Universal Design



Universal Design Allows Paddlers Choice:



Excellent Design and Development Resource



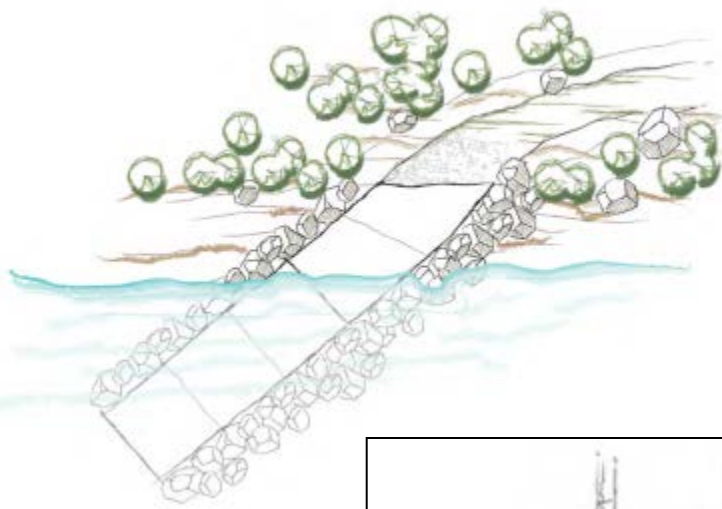
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Recreation/CanoeingKayaking/WaterTrailDevelopmentTools/WaterTrailsToolkit.aspx>

Iowa - Previous Situation



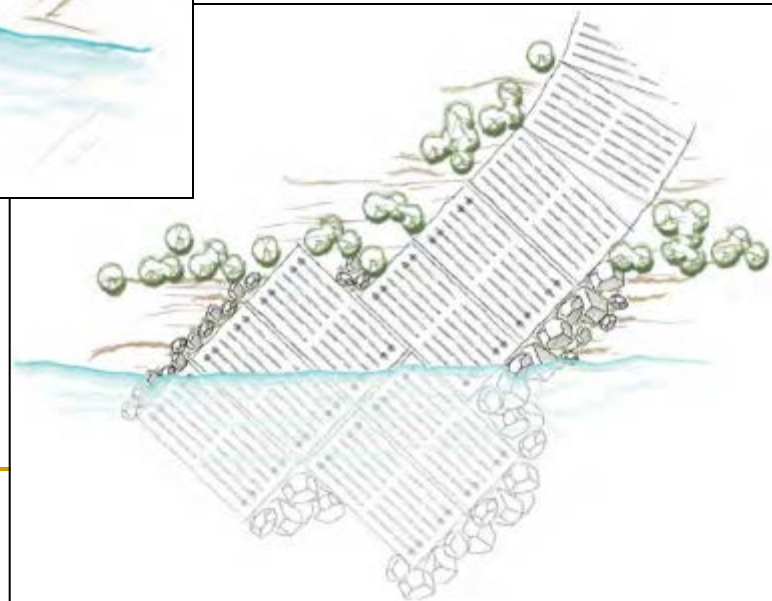
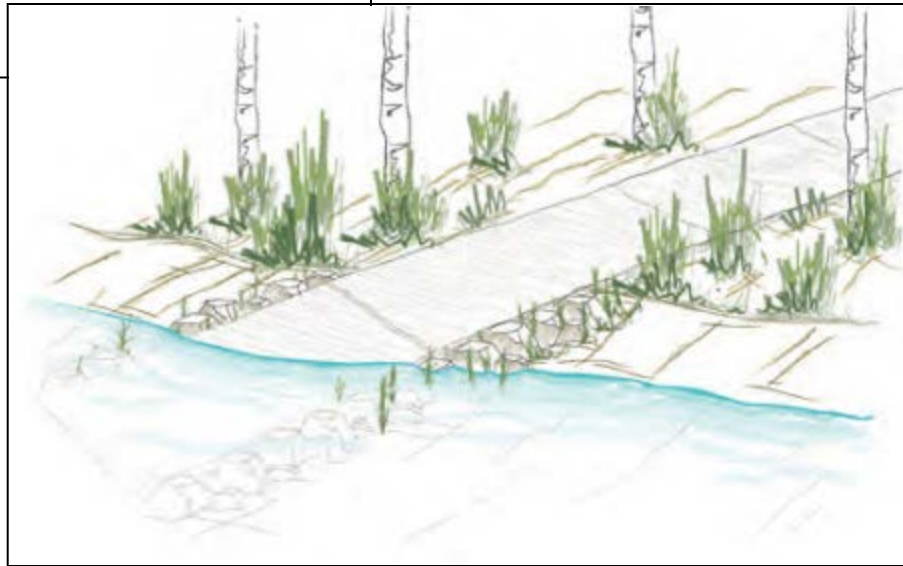
Iowa - Solution





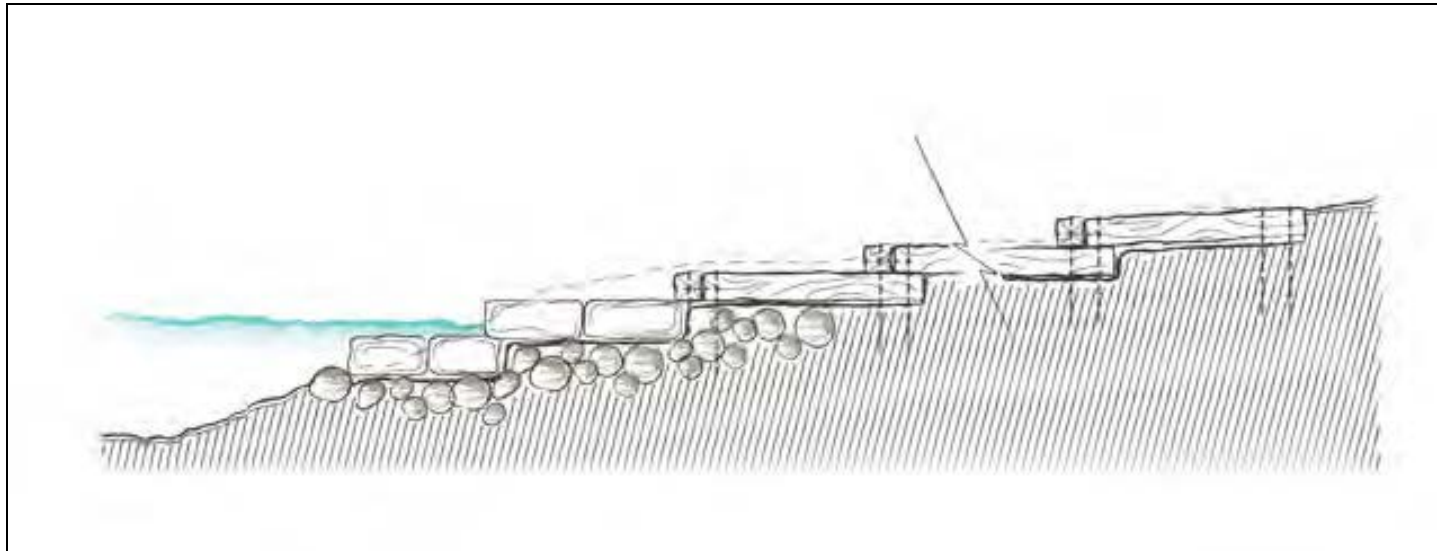
Iowa Water Trails Toolkit:

Lots of detailed designs in the Iowa Toolkit



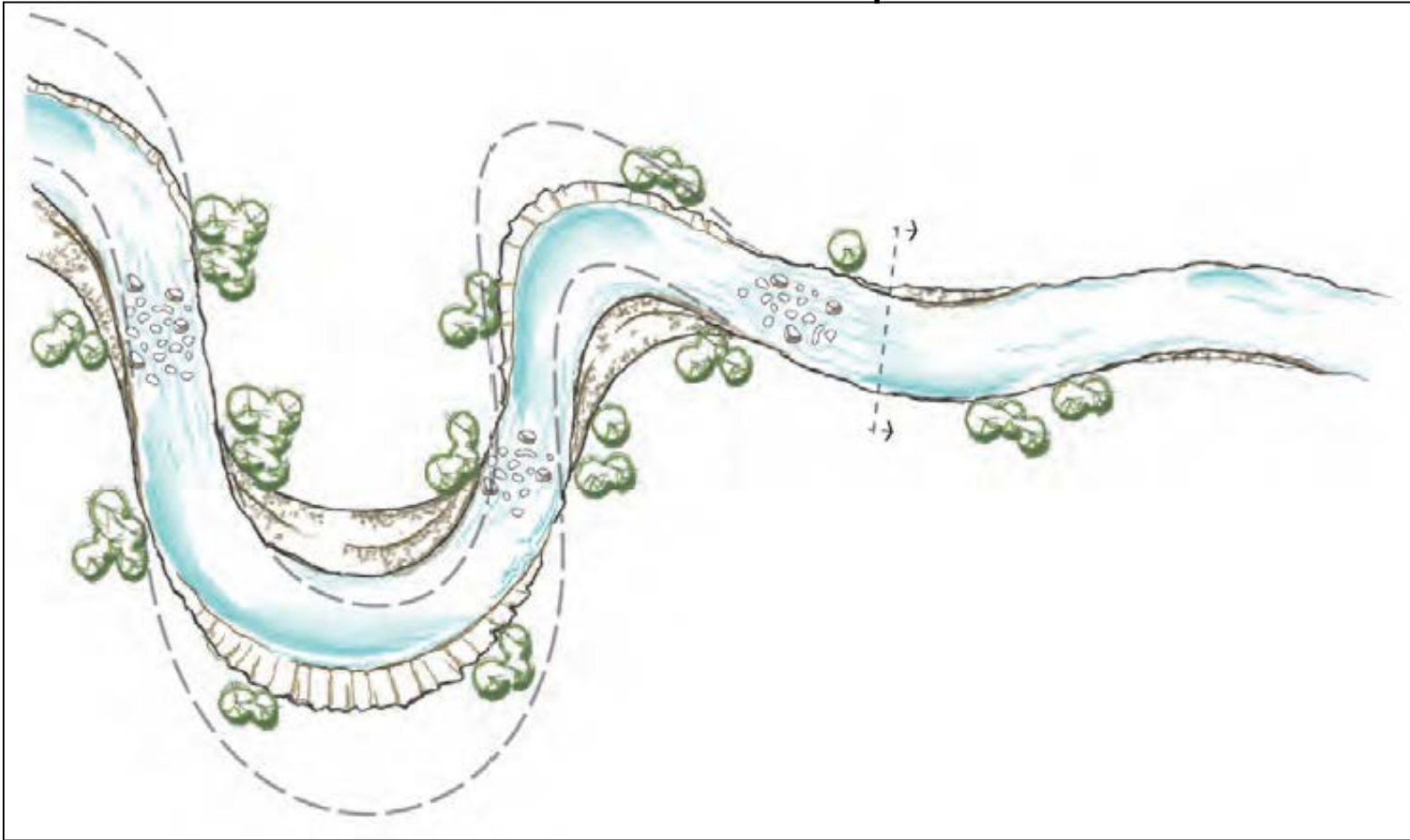
Iowa Water Trails Toolkit:

If you have to use steps...



Iowa Water Trails Toolkit:

Lot of advisories – such site placement on rivers.



What if....not possible at your site



What if...at only available launch site:

- No potential for firm/stable surface

or

- It's wetland / marsh

or

- It's tidal

or

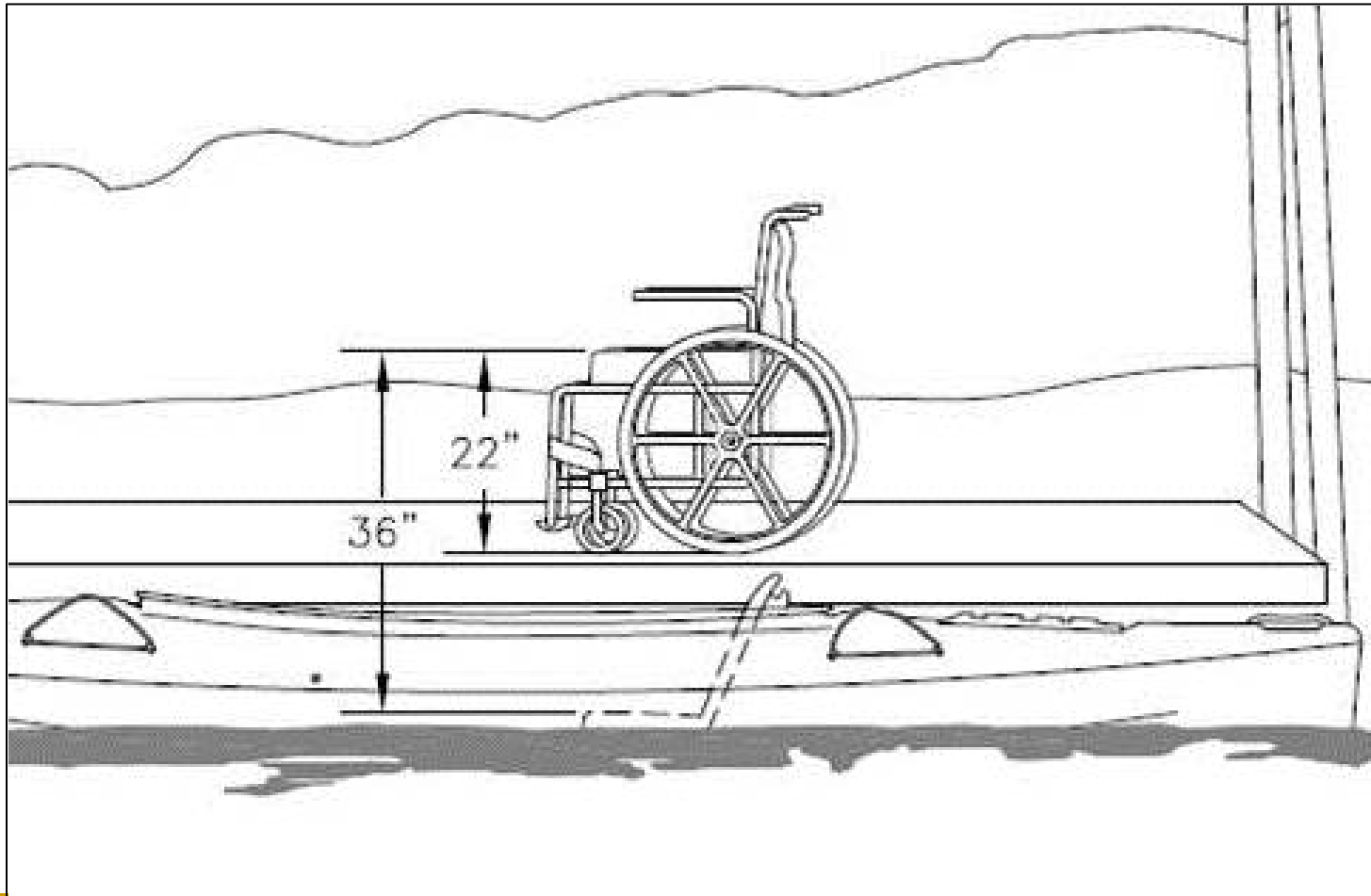
- Other....

Designers will have to make choices / decisions /compromise that won't serve all paddlers well.



Choice/Compromise...

Any dock...means very difficult transfer from and back to a wheelchair, walker, crutches, etc.



Choice/Compromise...

- *Dock height above kayak/canoe seat... creates difficulties for those using wheelchairs, walkers, etc.*



Caution:

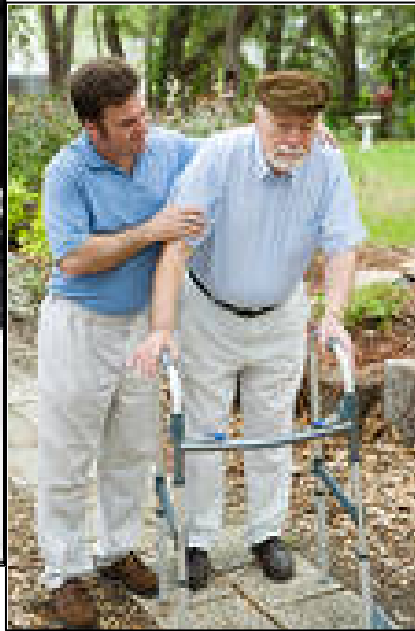
Don't install mechanical devices

unless they will always be maintained and staffed.



Choice/Compromise...

- *Railings, bars, etc.:* often block access for those with wheelchairs, walkers, visual limitation,s etc....



Choice/Compromise...



Transfer benches....are only helpful for those who have strong arms and who are very strong and stable above the hips.



& bench blocks direct transfer from wheelchair, walker, crutches, etc. into boat.

Choice/Compromise...

■ Steps...

block access from a wheelchair, walker, crutches, etc.



Choice/Compromise...

- **Chutes...** *difficult for those who need assistance moving their boat*



Choice/Compromise...

- *Chutes...*



Requires a companion with a strong back,
or the paddler has to be able to get out and pull up their own boat.

Options:



Paddler can launch from the universal design ground level or could use a dock.

Universal Design....

Keep in mind:

- ❑ Surface

- ❑ Grade

- ❑ Open Space

- ❑ Route to parking
 - and any other adjacent facilities.

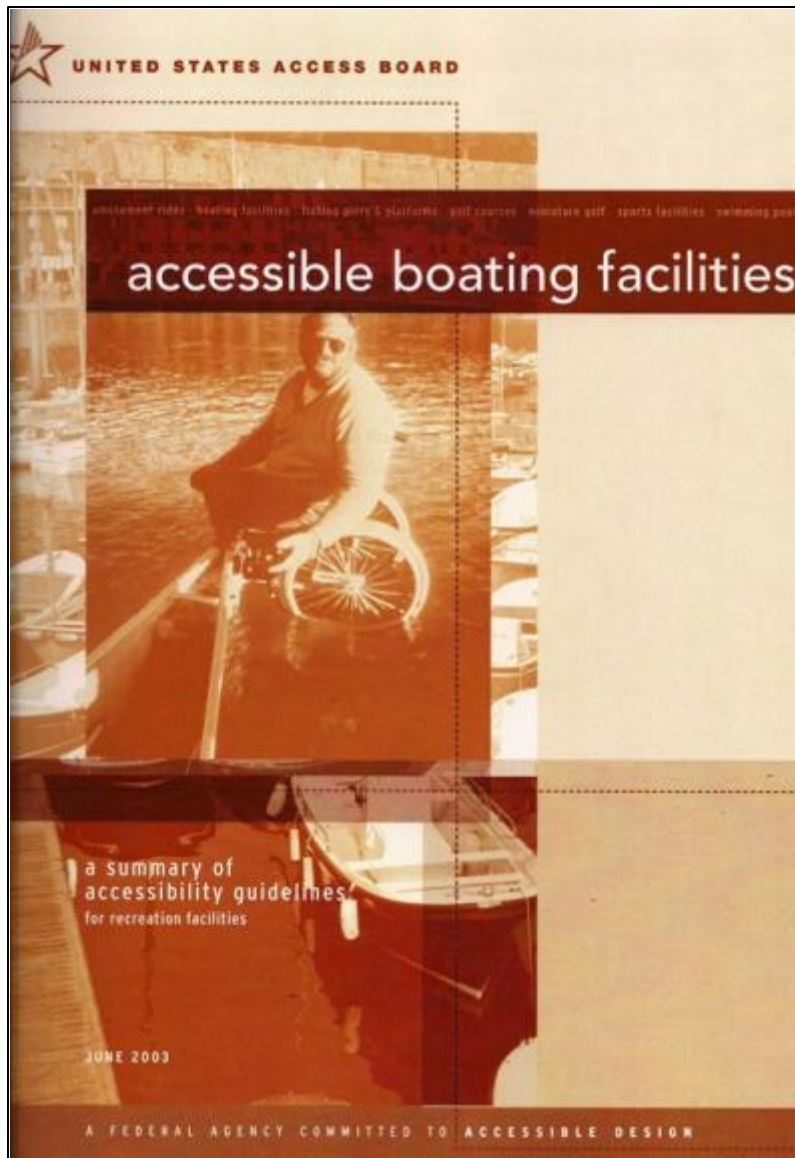


Resources





<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Recreation/CanoeingKayaking/WaterTrailDevelopmentTools/WaterTrailsToolkit.aspx>



<http://www.board.gov/recreation/guides/boating.htm>



River Management Society

PREPARE TO LAUNCH!

Guidelines for Assessing, Designing, and Building
Launch Sites for Carry-in Watercraft



<http://preparetolaunch.river-management.org>



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Technology &
Development
Program

2300-Recreation
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In cooperation with



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails



<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility>

Additional Info....

When building a boardwalk in a floodplain....
grating can be useful in reducing the
requirement for compensatory water storage.



Grating:



Openings= maximum $\frac{1}{2}$ inch





Summary of Resources

- **Iowa Water Trails Toolkit:**

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Recreation/CanoeingKayaking/WaterTrailDevelopmentTools/WaterTrailsToolkit.aspx>

- **NPS Prepare to Launch:**

<http://preparetolaunch.river-management.org>

- **Access Board's Accessible Boating Facilities:**

<http://www.board.gov/recreation/guides/boating.htm>

- **USFS Accessibility Guidebook:**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility>

U.S Access Board - 1-800-872-2253 www.access-board.gov

DOJ - 1-800-514-0301 www.ada.gov

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