

Preserve Accessibility at The Nature Conservancy

MI Outdoor Summit
September 26, 2023

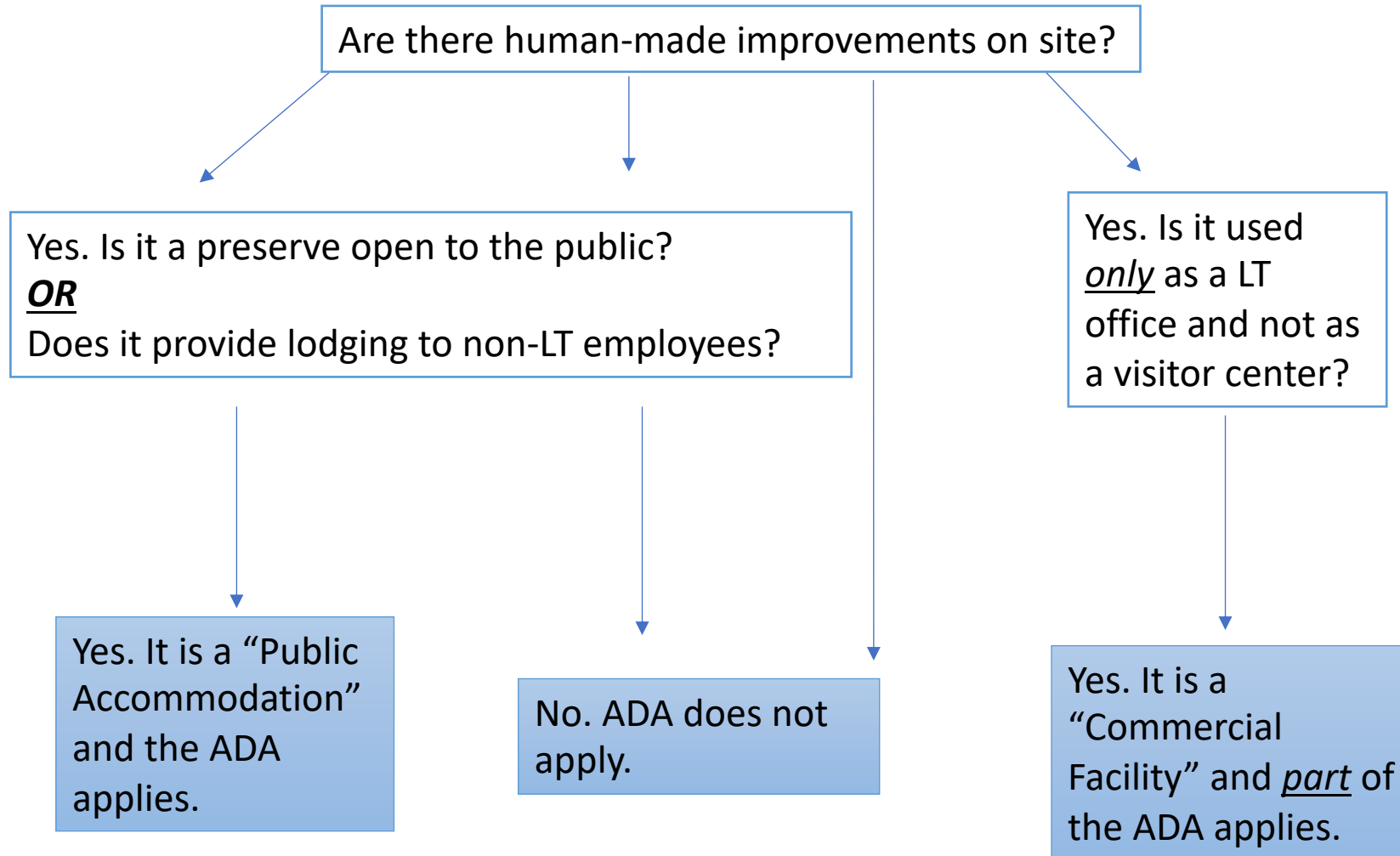
Rachel Hampton (TNC Senior
Attorney)

Lisa Ryan (TNC Preserve
Accessibility Coordinator)



TNC Raven Ridge Preserve, VT

When does the ADA apply to a Land Trust (LT) Property?



ADA Title III Requirements	Triggering Event	Public Accommodations	Commercial Facilities (Offices)
Design Standards for Alterations to Existing Facilities	Alteration	X	X
Design Standards for New Construction	New Construction or Addition	X	X
Removal of Barriers in Existing Facilities	Public Visitation	X	
Auxiliary Aids and Services	Public Visitation	X	
Service Animals	Public Visitation	X	
Wheelchairs and OPDMDs	Public Visitation	X	
Websites*	Public Visitation	X	

* [WCAG 2.1](#)

ADA Design Standards Relevant to Land Trust Properties:

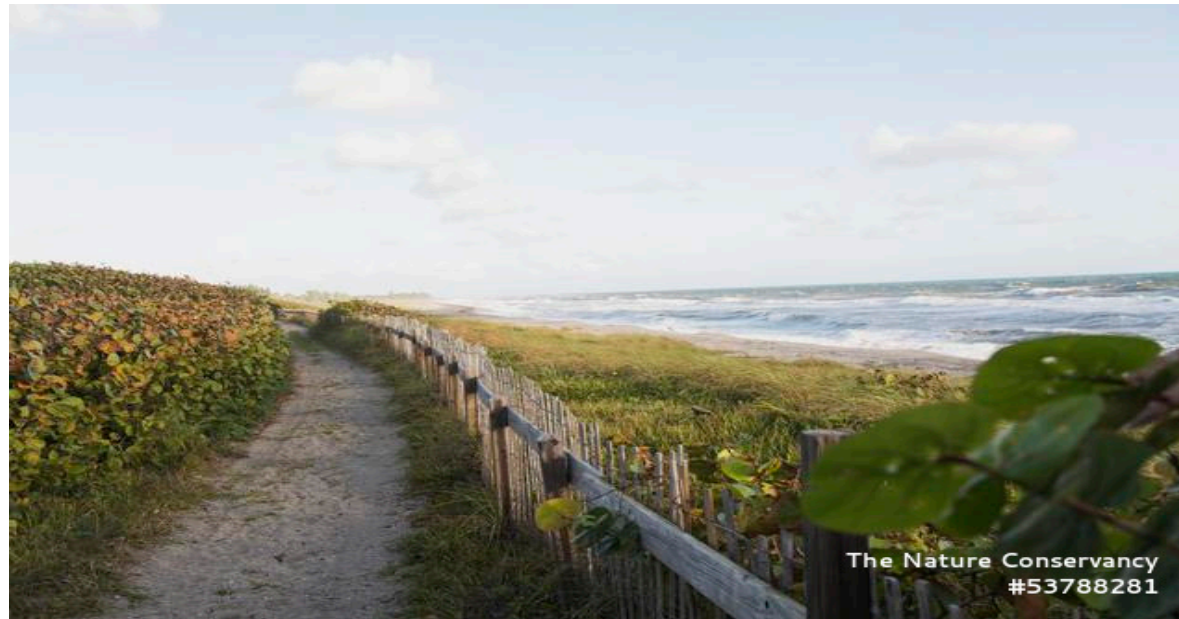
- Parking areas
- Accessible Routes / stairs / elevators
- Entrances / doors
- Bathrooms / drinking fountains / public phones
- Signage
- Assembly areas (e.g. conference rooms)
- Places of lodging (e.g. short term lodging for interns)
- Recreational boating facilities
- Fishing piers/platforms
- Dining facilities
- Swimming Pools
- Play Areas



2013 Amendments to ABA added

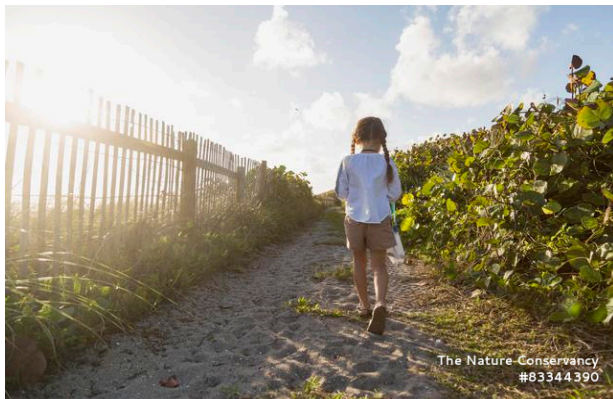
Outdoor Developed Areas Accessibility Guidelines (“ODAAG”)

- Only binding on facilities constructed or altered by federal agencies or on federal land.
- Federal agencies may impose in grants to LT.
- Serve as BMPs for Title II and Title III entities, like TNC.



ODAAG provides design standards for:

- Trails (including trailhead signs)
- Camping Facilities
- Picnic Facilities
- Viewing Areas
- Beach Access Routes
- Outdoor Constructed Features (e.g. picnic tables, fire rings, grills, trash/recycling containers...)



ODAAG Exceptions

ODAAG allows for exceptions to its requirements if:

1. Not practicable due to terrain.
2. Cannot be accomplished with prevailing construction practices.
3. Compliance would fundamentally alter the function or purpose of the facility or the setting.
4. Compliance is limited or precluded because the cultural, historic, or significant natural features are eligible for protection under Federal, State, or local law (ex. ESA, state wetland laws)





ADA Resources

Internal Resources

- ADA Manual (*for internal purposes only*)
- Accessibility and Inclusion Community of Practice (Teams)

External Resources

- [U.S. Access Board](#)
- Checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal
- Open to All: A Disability Inclusion Guide for Land Trusts
- Trails for All People: Guidance for Accessibility and Inclusive Design
- Understanding Disabilities in the American Indian and Alaskan Native Communities Toolkit Guide



Let's get started!

The checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal is organized according the four priorities recommended by the Title III regulations:

- Priority 1: Accessible approach and entrance
- Priority 2: Access to goods and services
- Priority 3: Access to rest rooms
- Priority 4: Any other measures necessary

And.....

Black Mountain Trail

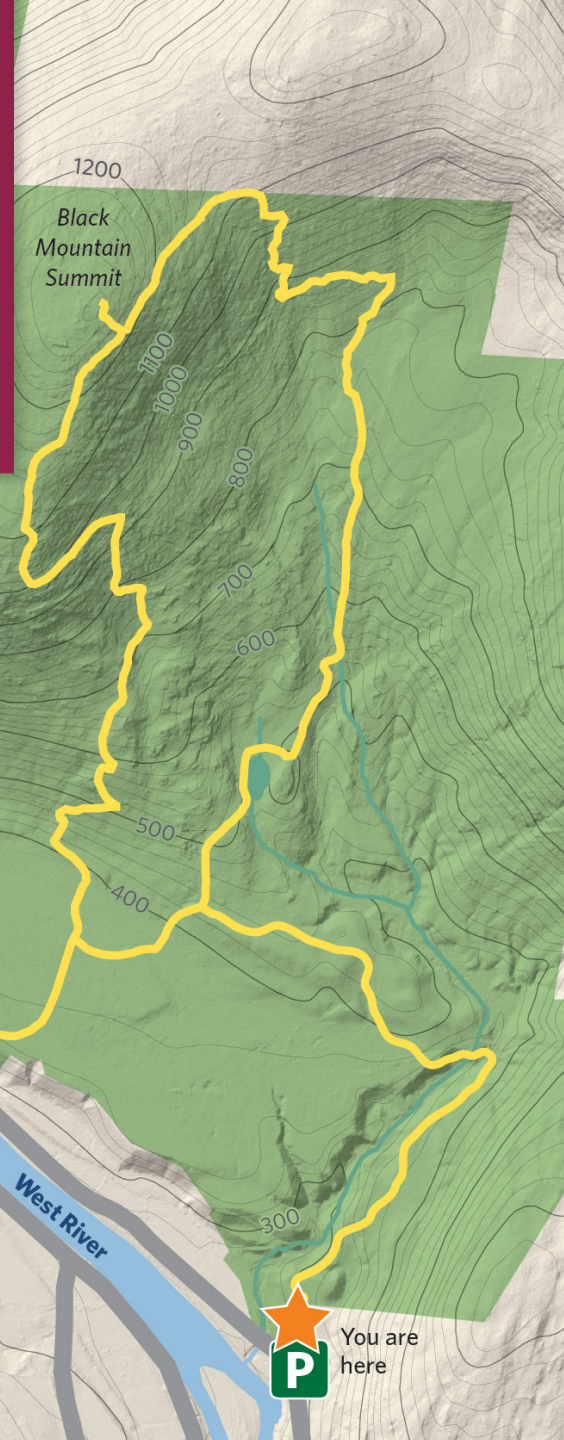
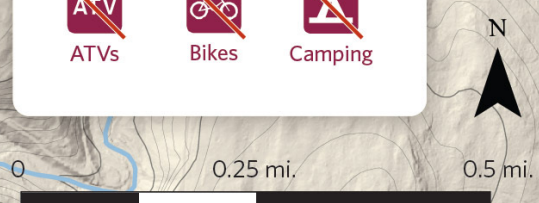
Length of Trail Network: 3.5 miles
Shortest Distance to Summit: 2.0 miles
Surface Type: Unimproved
Typical and Minimum Trail Width: 24 inches, 12 inches
Typical and Maximum Slope: 11%, 25%
Typical and Maximum Cross Slope: 0%, 20%



To help protect this special place, please let nature come first by following these recreational guidelines:



- Black Mountain Natural Area
- Parking
- Road
- Trail



Information is Essential!

Let people know what to expect before they arrive

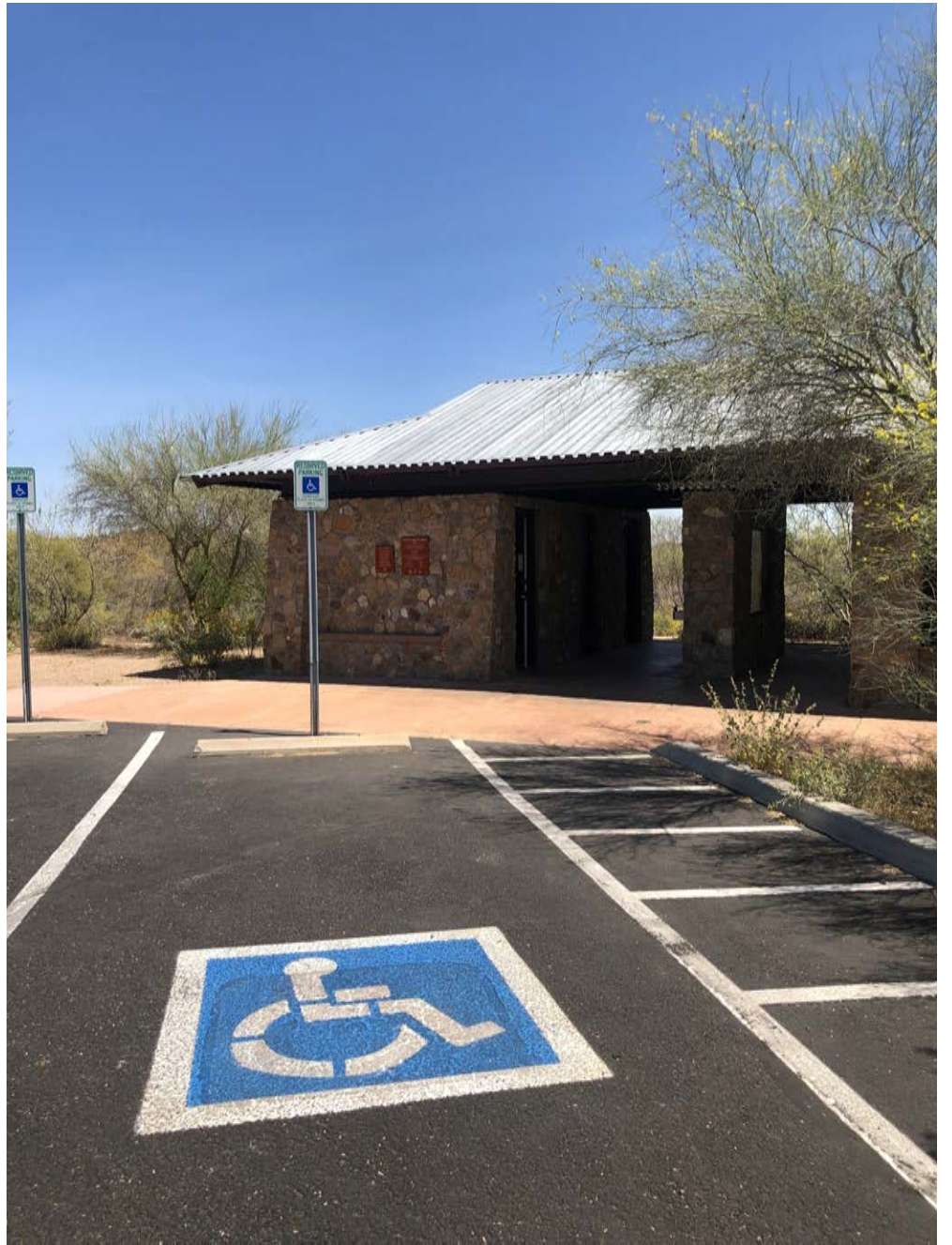
- Provide an overview of the trail
- Use universal symbols
- Communicate seasonal changes or conditions that might impact trails
- Describe amenities
 - Parking
 - Bathrooms
 - Benches
 - Viewing scopes
 - Visitor's centers

* Contact name, email, phone number



[Coblis — Color Blindness Simulator – Colblindor \(color-blindness.com\)](http://colorblindness.com)











Initial boardwalk



Reconstructed boardwalk



