

ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR FISHING, BOATING, AND KAYAK FACILITIES

KEY REQUIREMENTS + UNIVERSAL DESIGN

§ numbers refer to both ADA-2010 & A117.1-2017, unless otherwise noted. See Resources on Page 2.

1. Provide an accessible route to boating facilities, gangways, and floating piers (Refer to §1003 for exceptions).

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Do not utilize the available exceptions.

2. Gangways do not need to meet max. ramp slope (§1003, §1005) if:
 - at least 80 ft. in length,
 - at least 30 ft. in length with less than 25 boat slips, or
 - at least 30 ft. in length at fishing piers and platforms.

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Design gangways to be at an accessible slope, based on historic high- and low-water marks. The max. accessible running slope of a ramp is 1:12 (8.33%), but where ramp runs exceed 72 in. (horizontal), a max. slope of 1:15 (6.67%) is preferred.

3. Provide fishing piers/platforms, and boarding piers a 60 in. min. clear width. It may reduce to 36 in. for a length of 24 in., but there must be 60 in. min. between reductions (§1003, §1005).

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Maintain 60-inch clear width throughout the dock to allow turning and passing at any point.

4. Where boats dock, provide openings 60 in. min. in width for boarding within every 10 ft. area. Openings must be 60 in. wide min. Openings may have a curb 2-4 in. high (§1003).

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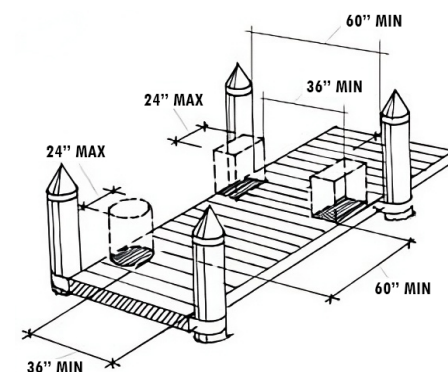
Provide the curb, and provide grab bars on each side of the openings.



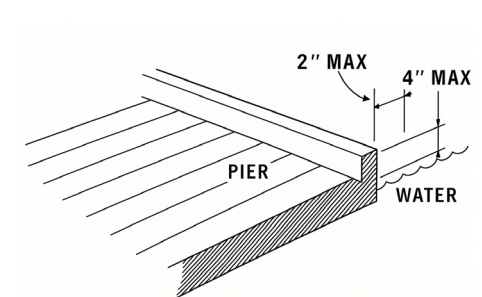
Accessible routes allow everyone to access the water's edge. This mulch-resin surface with a curb at the end has a natural look and is accessible.



Accessible routes have smooth transitions between materials, such as this transition strip between the beach access mat and sidewalk.



Allowable width reductions on docks and fishing piers/platforms.



Curb for edge protection at boating docks and fishing piers/platforms.

Disclaimer: This guide highlights key accessibility requirements only. It is not intended as a comprehensive substitute for applicable laws, regulations, or codes. Refer to such applicable requirements for details. Resources are for informational purposes only. The IDEA Center does not endorse any products, services, or opinions therein.

5. Where gangways connect to transition plates, ramp landings are not required (§1003).

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Provide ramp landings before/after the transition plate.

6. Provide handrails on sloped surfaces with a slope greater than 1:20 (5%) or a rise greater than 6 in. (§405.8). Handrail extensions are not required where gangways and transition plates connect (§1003).
7. On fishing piers and platforms, edge protection must be provided where railings are provided. A curb 2 in. min. high or a railing where the decking extends at least 12 in. beyond the railing can be used, with a toe clearance height of at least 9 in., and there must be 30 in. min. between support posts (§1005).

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Provide railings and edge protection on **ALL** docks.

8. 25% (min.) fishing area railings must be 34 in. max. above dock, with a 30x52 in. clear floor space, dispersed throughout (§1003, §1005).

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- Where water is deeper than 24 in., provide a ladder to access dock.
- Provide shade, tables, and seating at boating activities.
- At kayak and canoe launches, provide:
 - a chute along the gangway to assist bringing the boat to the dock,
 - a holding area to position the boat while boarding,
 - transfer steps similar to those used in pools, and
 - grab bars and hand straps to position of kayak/canoe, and push off.



A chute along the gangway helps bring kayaks to the boarding area.



A lift assists in transfers for adaptive sailing. The pavilion provides shade.



This dock provides space for turning and curbs provide edge protection.



Seating areas provide waterfront views and spots to rest or watch.



Transfer steps, railings, and a stable area to hold the boat help people transfer from the dock to the boat.



Side and overhead grab bars and hand straps provide additional control and leverage for transfers.

RESOURCES

Universal Design - Books

- Inclusive Design: Implementation and Evaluation (2017)
- Universal Design: Creating Inclusive Environments (2012)

Universal Design - Websites

- IDEA Center: idea.ap.buffalo.edu
- Innovative Solutions for Universal Design: thisisUD.com

Accessibility

- A117.1 Standard (Referenced by Building Code): webstore.ansi.org/standards/icc/ICCA1172017
- ADA Standards: access-board.gov/ada/
- ADA Guides: access-board.gov/ada/guides (See Chapter 10)
- ADA Checklist (Boating): adachecklist.org/doc/rec/boating/boating.pdf
- Training Video (Fishing & Boating): accessibilityonline.org/arts-n-rec/archives/110977
- Examples (Fishing): mass.gov/info-details/accessible-fishing-spots