

Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Doug Welton

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**Committee Note:**

The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 13 voting for 0 voting against 6 absent

General Description:

This bill addresses recreational infrastructure for accessibility in state parks.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- modifies the term "outdoor recreation project" to include construction of trails or facilities, improvements of trails or facilities, or acquisition of equipment for disabled or adaptive users; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

79-8-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 68, 274

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **79-8-102** is amended to read:

79-8-102 . Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Accessible to the general public" in relation to the awarding of an infrastructure grant, means:

(a) the public may use the infrastructure in accordance with federal and state regulations;

31 and

32 (b) no community or group retains exclusive rights to access the infrastructure.

33 (2) "Advisory committee" means the Utah Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Advisory
34 Committee created in Section 79-7-206.

35 (3) "Children," in relation to the awarding of a UCORE grant, means individuals who are
36 six years old or older and 18 years old or younger.

37 (4) "Director" means the director of the Division of Outdoor Recreation.

38 (5) "Division" means the Division of Outdoor Recreation.

39 (6) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Department of Natural
40 Resources.

41 (7) "Infrastructure grant" means an outdoor recreational infrastructure grant described in
42 Section 79-8-401.

43 (8)(a) "Recreational infrastructure project" means an undertaking to build or improve an
44 approved facility or installation needed for the public to access and enjoy the state's
45 outdoors.

46 (b) "Recreational infrastructure project" ~~[may include]~~ includes the:

47 (i) establishment, construction, or renovation of a trail, trail infrastructure, or a trail
48 facility;

49 (ii) construction of a project for a water-related outdoor recreational activity;

50 (iii) development of a project for a wildlife watching opportunity, including bird
51 watching;

52 (iv) development of a project that provides a winter recreation amenity;

53 (v) construction or improvement of a community park that has an amenity for
54 outdoor recreation;~~[-and]~~

55 (vi) construction or improvement of a naturalistic and accessible playground~~[-]~~ ; and

56 (vii) construction of a trail or facility, improvement of a trail or facility, or acquisition
57 of equipment that improves access for disabled or adaptive users.

58 (9) "UCORE grant" means a children's outdoor recreation and education grant described in
59 Section 79-8-302.

60 (10)(a) "Underserved community" means a group of people, including a municipality,
61 county, or American Indian tribe, that is economically disadvantaged.

62 (b) "Underserved community" includes an economically disadvantaged community
63 where in relation to awarding a UCORE grant, the children of the community,
64 including children with disabilities, have limited access to outdoor recreation or

65 education programs.

66 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

67 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.