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State Park Accessibility Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Douglas Welton

Sponsor:

2

3 LONG TITLE

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General Description:

5 This bill addresses recreational infrastructure for accessibility in state parks.

6

Highlighted Provisions:

7 This bill:

8 ▶ modifies the term "outdoor recreation project" to include construction of trails or
9 facilities, improvements of trails or facilities, or equipment for disabled or adaptive
10 users; and

11 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

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Money Appropriated in this Bill:

13 None

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Other Special Clauses:

15 None

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Utah Code Sections Affected:

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AMENDS:

18 **79-8-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 68, 274

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

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

22

79-8-102 . Definitions.

23 As used in this chapter:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (6) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Department of Natural
36 Resources.

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

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

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

43 (i) establishment, construction, or renovation of a trail, trail infrastructure, or a trail
44 facility;

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

46 (iii) development of a project for a wildlife watching opportunity, including bird
47 watching;

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

49 (v) construction or improvement of a community park that has an amenity for
50 outdoor recreation;[and]

51 (vi) construction or improvement of a naturalistic and accessible playground[.]; and

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

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

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

58 (b) "Underserved community" includes an economically disadvantaged community
59 where in relation to awarding a UCORE grant, the children of the community,
60 including children with disabilities, have limited access to outdoor recreation or
61 education programs.

62 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

63 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.