

06-11 14:35

**State Park Accessibility Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Douglas Welton**

Sponsor:

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**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 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;
  - and
  - (b) no community or group retains exclusive rights to access the infrastructure.
- (2) "Advisory committee" means the Utah Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Advisory Committee created in Section 79-7-206.

- (3) "Children," in relation to the awarding of a UCORE grant, means individuals who are six years old or older and 18 years old or younger.
- (4) "Director" means the director of the Division of Outdoor Recreation.
- (5) "Division" means the Division of Outdoor Recreation.
- (6) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources.
- (7) "Infrastructure grant" means an outdoor recreational infrastructure grant described in Section 79-8-401.
- (8)(a) "Recreational infrastructure project" means an undertaking to build or improve an approved facility or installation needed for the public to access and enjoy the state's outdoors.
- (b) "Recreational infrastructure project" ~~[may include]~~ includes the:
- (i) establishment, construction, or renovation of a trail, trail infrastructure, or a trail facility;
  - (ii) construction of a project for a water-related outdoor recreational activity;
  - (iii) development of a project for a wildlife watching opportunity, including bird watching;
  - (iv) development of a project that provides a winter recreation amenity;
  - (v) construction or improvement of a community park that has an amenity for outdoor recreation;~~[-and]~~
  - (vi) construction or improvement of a naturalistic and accessible playground~~[-]~~ ; and
  - (vii) construction of a trail or facility, improvement of a trail or facility, or acquisition of equipment that improves access for disabled or adaptive users.
- (9) "UCORE grant" means a children's outdoor recreation and education grant described in Section 79-8-302.
- (10)(a) "Underserved community" means a group of people, including a municipality, county, or American Indian tribe, that is economically disadvantaged.
- (b) "Underserved community" includes an economically disadvantaged community where in relation to awarding a UCORE grant, the children of the community, including children with disabilities, have limited access to outdoor recreation or education programs.

## Section 2. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.