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Outdoor Recreation Design Lab

Inclusive Spaces Audit Workshop

Description: Outdoor recreation spaces have a reputation - based on reality and perception - of being only for certain people, primarily wealthy, white, and small family groups. In addition, many outdoor recreation sites, facilities, and trails were designed and built under a paradigm that valued rugged individualism, solitude, and already knowing the rules and expectations. While Colorado is known for its outdoor recreation opportunities, there are barriers for Coloradans and visitors to both know about and access these opportunities including trip planning information, or lack thereof, and signage, staffing, and design on site. Outdoor recreation providers and managers on city, county, state, private, and federal lands in Colorado have a strong interest in reducing barriers so more people, and particularly those that have been marginalized or excluded from outdoor recreation opportunities, are welcomed to these sites and able to use them regardless of ability.

The Inclusive Spaces Audit Workshop is designed for outdoor recreation providers to formalize, inform, and guide the process to expand welcoming and belonging for users who have traditionally been excluded or underrepresented in outdoor recreation. The workshop is free to participants thanks to a grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Participants are expected to use the resources shared during the workshop to conduct an audit at their home unit and provide feedback. The feedback will be used to develop a report for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant and to improve the workshop for future participants.

Learning objectives:

- Understand key terms like accessible, inclusive, equity, and diversity and why they are important in recreation site design and maintenance.
- Learn how to do a trail or site assessment focused on accessibility and inclusion.

- Learn about strategies and actions you can use to create more accessible and inclusive trails.

Facilitators:

- [Gerry Seavo James](#), Outdoor Recreation Design Lab/Explore Kentucky and Sierra Club Outdoors for All
- [Rachel Franchina](#), Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals

Resources:

- [SORP + The Wilderness Society webinar: Know the Past, Change the Future](#)
- [USFS Sites of Civil Rights and Resistance](#)
- [The Inclusive Guide](#)
- [Legacy of Jim Crow in the South](#)
- [The Management Center](#)
 - [SMARTIE](#)
- [Jemez Principles for Democratic Listening](#)
- [Sierra Club - Outdoors for All](#)
- [Forest Service NVUM](#)
- [Power Mapping](#)
- USFS Equity Mapping Tools (see spreadsheet)
- [Park Serve - Trust for Public Land](#)
- [Colorado Community Health Equity Map](#)
- [Placer AI](#)
- [@KweenWerk](#)
- [@fatblackandgettinit](#)
- School data - insights for sociodemographics
- Gear libraries
- [GOCO/Generation Wild](#)
- [Outdoors Empowered Network](#)
- [Colorado Tourism Office Inclusivity in Travel Coalition](#)
- [Unlikely Hikers](#)
- Solar kiosks for interpretation/education (multi-lingual)
- Geo-tagging
- [Birdability.org](#)
- [Indigenous place names](#)
- [A Guide to Changing Racist and Offensive Names on Public Lands \(The Wilderness Society\)](#)
- [Land acknowledgment signage: Arizona Trail](#)

- [Cultural Resource Training Path \(USFS/Continental Divide Trail\)](#)

Observations and Recommendations from Field Observation at Ridgway State Park:

- Nice job on physical accessibility resources and equipment. Consider improvements for:
 - Bear proof trash cans that may be difficult to reach/open
 - Water hydrants and RV hook-ups could be more accessible
 - Marina access - currently not accessible for those with physical disabilities
- Include signage and resources in Spanish
- Tell story of Indigenous history such as culturally modified trees
- Consider community/larger gathering sites
- Consider nature play areas/playgrounds instead of playgrounds that you would find in a city park
- Pictogram stickers on trail/wayfinding signs is good
- Some signs are wordy - consider more succinct/understandable methods for conveying information
- Planned trail improvements will support track chair and physical accessibility needs
- Opportunity to improve outreach and communication especially to underserved communities about all of the great features already in place - mobi chair, track chair, fishing pier, life jacket library