

Birdability Site Review Checklist

Thank you for completing a Birdability Site Review to submit to the Birdability Map. Documenting the physical accessibility of birding locations helps ensure that birding truly is for everybody and every body! **Once complete, please visit birdability.org/map to submit.**

Question numbers on this checklist correspond to the question numbers in the online Birdability Site Review; not all questions in Part 1 are included on this printable checklist.

Part 1: General Information



1. a) Trail/bird blind name:



1. b) Location name (park or area):

4) Good car birding site? Describe if so:

6) Length of trail:



7) Type of trail:

- Loop
- Out-and-back
- Lollipop (out-and-back with a loop attached)

8. a) Entrance fee?



8. b) Parking fee?

9) Nearby public transit information, including route numbers, stop names:



10) Walking or biking access from residential areas:



Part 2: Birding Location Accessibility Criteria

1. Parking



- No parking area
- Pull-off areas (for car birding)
- Signed accessible parking spaces. Number:
- Van accessible parking spaces. Parking space is 132 in. (3.3m) wide, with extra 60 in. (1.5m) wide aisle/side space for a ramp. Number:
- Curb cuts present from parking lot to sidewalk/trail
- Surface is paved
- Surface is gravel
- Surface has many potholes/bumps
- Parking on unmanageable slope

Comments:

2. Services available at this location



- Visitor center
- Staff or volunteers
- Interpretive programs
- Accessible tram or motorized tour
- Gated areas (for example, drive-up bird blinds) accessible if arranged ahead of time
- Meals available
- Water fountains outside buildings
- Accessible water fountains, no higher than 36 in. (91 cm) from the ground, outside buildings

Comments, including visitor center hours:

3. Bathrooms



- No bathrooms
- Bathroom access only available when visitor center is open
- Portable restrooms
- Wheelchair accessible portable restrooms
- All gender bathrooms, rather than 'male' or 'female'
- Door frames at least 32 in. (81 cm) across
- Threshold not on slant or in middle of a doorway
- Stall size min. 60 in. x 60 in. (1.5 m x 1.5 m)
- Top of toilet seat 17-19 in. (43-48 cm) from the floor
- Sink height 34 in. (86 cm) max.
- Bottom edge of mirror no higher than 40 in. (101 cm) from floor
- Hand dryers or towels max. 35 in. (89 cm) above floor

Comments:

4. Ramps



Ramps may go up to observation platforms or bird blinds, or in and out of buildings.

- No ramps
- Handrails present
- Ramps at least 36 in. (91 cm) wide
- For every 1 in. (2.5 cm) the ramp rises, it extends out 12 in. (30.5 cm) (no greater than 1:12 ratio, or no steeper than 8.33%)
- Ramps are steeper than 1:12, but not so steep it feels like an effort to use
- Ramps are very steep
- Flat landings between slopes or when ramps change direction are at least 60 in. x 60 in. (1.5 m x 1.5 m)

Comments:

5. Trail surfaces



- Concrete
- Asphalt
- Wooden boardwalk
- Well-packed crushed stone
- Hard-packed soil
- Loose dirt
- Loose crushed stone or gravel
- Thick grass
- Mulch
- Sand
- Muddy sections
- Protruding roots and rocks
- Ruts and potholes

Comments, including approximate distance of each trail surface if more than one surface present:

6. Trail width and pull-outs



- Trail is at least 60 in. (1.5 m) wide
- Trail is at least 36 in. (91 cm) wide
- Trail is relatively narrow (it would be somewhat difficult to pass others if using a mobility device)
- No pull-outs (passing spaces) along the trail
- Pull-outs occur at least every 1,000 ft (305 m)
- Pull-outs are less frequent

Comments:

7. Trail slope(s)



- Entire trail is completely flat
- Trail slopes are no steeper than a ratio of 1:20 (5% gradient)
- Trail slopes are relatively flat, but steeper than 1:20 (5% gradient)
- Trail slopes are very steep

Comments:

8. Are any steps present?



Even one small step can prevent a location from being truly accessible.

- Yes
- No

Comments, including number of steps and location:

9. Benches



- No benches along the trail
- Benches occur every 1/8 mile (200 m)
- Benches are less frequent
- Benches have at least one armrest
- Benches are connected to trail by paved surface

Comments:

10. Gates, bollards, or large obstacles



Large obstacles may include large rocks or logs placed to prevent cars or golf carts from accessing the trail.

- No gates or bollards
- Space between bollards, or between bollard and the edge of the trail, is at least 36 in. (91 cm)
- Gates are at least 36 in. (91 cm) wide
- Gates are narrower than 36 in. (91 cm)
- Swing or 'kissing' gate
- Road closure gate with no alternative route around it
- Road closure gate with a path at least 36 in. (91 cm) wide around the side

Comments:

11. Railings or safety barriers



These are used to keep visitors on a boardwalk, bridge or viewpoint.

- No railings
- Small lip (approximately 1-2 in. or 2.5-5 cm high) on edge of boardwalk
- Top railings are not thick/deep, and are placed to optimize, not obstruct, a seated person's line of sight (which is, on average 35-45 in. or 88-114 cm from the ground)
- Top railing is thick and hard to see beyond while seated

Comments, including type of vertical or horizontal bars present, and spacing between each bar:

12. Features for visitors who are blind or have low vision



- Guide ropes along the side of the trail for self-guiding
- Audio recordings of interpretive sign content
- Tactile components on signs
- Braille on signs
- Tactile markers on the surface of the trail
- Additional resources available to loan (for example, large print or braille information booklets, audio guide)

Comments:

13. Shade cover



- Completely
- Somewhat
- Not at all
- Some sections of the trail are shaded, some are not

Comments:

14. Trail use and popularity



- Very busy; difficult to find a parking space or to pass other trail users
- Somewhat busy; still easy to navigate the trail with other visitors
- Not busy

Comments, including busy season/s and time/s of day or week:

15. Other trail users



- Mountain bikes
- Cyclists (especially on bike paths)
- Horses
- Motor vehicles, including golf carts
- In-line skiers

Comments:

16. Bird blinds



If there is more than one at this location, please consider submitting a separate Birdability Site Review for each bird blind.

- No bird blind
- No door or entryway
- Doorway at top of ramp or on cross slope
- Door can be opened and held open easily with one hand while passing through
- No lip at the threshold of the doorway
- Doorway at least 32 in. (81 cm) wide
- Enough space inside for wheelchairs to maneuver easily
- Viewing windows: bottom edge is 30-40 in. (76 cm -1 m) from the floor
- Shelves or ledges in front of windows are no deeper than 6 in. (15 cm)
- Interior benches are movable
- Roof or other structure provides shade

Comments, including surface of bird blind floor:

17. Maintenance



- Plowed frequently in winter
- Leaves removed in fall/winter
- All grassy trail surfaces are mown frequently
- Vegetation next to the trail is pruned so it does not encroach over the trail
- Tree branches do not extend over the surface of the trail below the height of 7 ft (2.1 m)
- Significant cracks, potholes, or loose, damaged or uneven boards in trail surface

Comments:

18. Nearby noise



- Intermittent nearby construction noise
- Ongoing industrial noise
- Nearby traffic noise
- Near an airport/heavily trafficked flight path
- Loud boats nearby
- Dirt bikes nearby
- Large groups of people often use this location for social gatherings

Comments, including busy season(s) and time/s of day or week:

19. Potential safety concerns



Even if you felt safe at this location, let us know if you noticed any of these at this site or within approx. 2 miles (3 km) of the parking area.

- Well used; didn't feel deserted
- Not well-used; few other users
- Location borders a private property with 'keep out' or 'no trespassing' signs visible at the parking area or along the trail
- Dogs often off leash
- Parking is well lit at night
- Trail is well lit at night
- Ticks or chiggers are a concern
- Bears or mountain lions frequently reported
- Noticeable presence of police, Border Patrol or other authorities
- Used as an isolated party spot, or for large, loud gatherings
- Hate symbols, including graffiti, Confederate flags
- Used for hunting
- Evidence of recreational drug or alcohol use (for example: syringes, drug paraphernalia)

Comments:

Part 3: Final thoughts

Including likely birds found here, seasonal conditions, overall difficulty, or any other information that may be helpful to a visitor with an accessibility challenge.

Sometimes pictures speak a thousand words. Don't forget to take **up to eight photos** of trail conditions, trail signage, obstacles, etc. to upload as you're submitting to the Birdability Map. **And thanks!**



Please note: The Birdability Site Review has been created in consultation with birders and nature lovers who experience accessibility challenges as a result of a disability or other health concern, and is not intended to replace a formal local, state, national or Americans with Disabilities Act compliance assessment or audit.