

For example, if a 50-unit campground is being designed, a minimum of two vehicle parking areas must be 20 feet (6 meters) wide. The vehicle parking areas for the remaining 48 camping units must be at least 16 feet (4.8 meters) wide, with the exceptions noted above. This is similar to the approach used by ABAAS for accessible hotel rooms. The minimum required number of accessible rooms is proportional to the total number of rooms in the hotel. Similarly, the minimum number of accessible vehicle parking areas is proportional to the total number of vehicle parking areas.

The running slope of a parking spur driveway may be up to 1:12 (8.33 percent) for 50 feet (15 meters). An exception for areas of steeper terrain permits the running slope to be up to 1:10 (10 percent) for 30 feet (9 meters). In alterations of existing campgrounds only, a second exception permits the running slope to be up to 1:10 (10 percent) for distances up to 50 feet (15 meters) if the first exception cannot be met because of a condition for departure. This second exception does not apply to new construction.

The cross slope of a parking spur driveway must not exceed 1:33 (3 percent). An exception permits a cross slope up to 1:20 (5 percent) if needed for proper drainage and to provide a transition from the campground road to the vehicle parking area. For example, if a back-in parking spur is adjacent to an interior campground road that has a running slope steeper than 1:20 (5 percent), the driveway may have to have a steeper cross slope to make the transition from the running slope of the road to the relatively level vehicle parking area (figure 62).



DESIGN TIP—

Parking for walk-in camping units

For walk-in camping units, the required parking space width depends on whether the parking space is part of the camping unit or is a separate parking area. If the walk-in unit has its own parking spur, then it falls under the FSORAG parking spur requirements, and the parking area should be 16 feet (4.8 meters) wide as required by the vehicle parking area provision, or less if an exception applies. If the parking space is part of a group parking area such as a 10-car parking lot that is provided for 8 walk-in units, the whole parking area must meet the requirements of ABAAS sections F208 and 502. For the parking lot above, nine parking spaces would be 10 feet (3 meters) wide, and one would be 16 feet (4.8 meters) wide.

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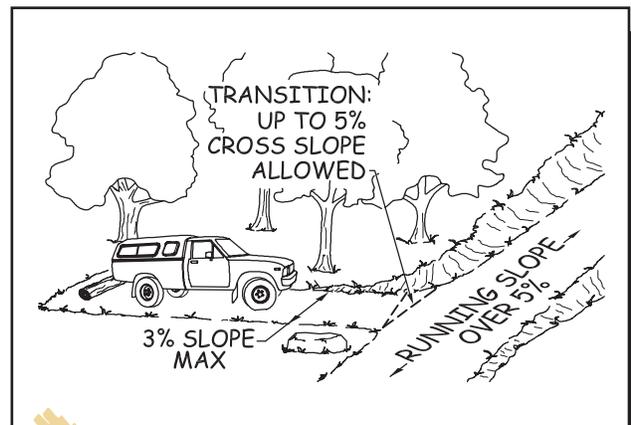


Figure 62—The transition from a parking spur driveway to a campground road.

There are separate slope requirements for vehicle parking areas and driveways because of the different functions they perform. The slope of the vehicle parking area can't exceed 1:50 (2 percent) in any direction. However, where needed for proper drainage, an exception permits the slope to be up to 1:33 (3 percent) in any direction.



DESIGN TIP—

Pedestrians in the driveway

Do the running and cross slope requirements sound familiar? They should! Because people move around the vehicle parking areas and along the driveways, parking spurs also have to be able to function as ORARs, so the requirements are similar to those for ORARs.

The running and cross slopes of the driveway, even in alterations, should be kept as gentle as possible so that vehicles and people can easily and safely navigate into and out of the camping unit, erosion is minimized, and road design and construction standards are met.

Parking Spurs for Double Camp Units—If a double parking spur is provided to accommodate two accessible recreational vehicles at a double camping unit, the total width of the combined vehicle parking area may be reduced from 40 feet (12 meters) to 36 feet (11 meters).



DESIGN TIP—

How long should the parking area be?

The FSORAG has requirements for parking space or spur width, but not length. So, how long should each parking area spur be? That depends on the type of vehicle that is expected to use the parking area and the terrain. Ordinary parking lots are normally designed with 20-foot (6-meter) long parking spaces to accommodate passenger vehicles, so parking areas should be at least 20 feet (6 meters) long. A large trailer with a towing vehicle could be up to

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60 feet (18.3 meters) long and a bus-style RV could be up to 45 feet (13.7 meters) long.

Some campgrounds include parking spurs of various lengths. This limits campsite choices for campers with larger trailers or RVs, but also keeps costs lower and minimizes hardened surfaces and ground disturbance, especially on difficult terrain. Campers with larger trailers and RVs appreciate having information available online and at the campground about the length of parking spaces.

Camp Unit Identification—People need to know whether they will be able to use a particular campsite. This can be accomplished differently, depending on the type of campground. If all camping units are accessible, no posted identification is required.

If some—but not all—campsites are accessible and campers choose their campsite when they arrive at the campground, accessible camping units must be identified at the campground's entrance kiosk, fee station, bulletin board, or registration area. Accessible campsites should not be individually signed as accessible with the International Symbol of Accessibility, because that tends to stigmatize and draw attention to those sites. Instead, include the following type of statement on the registration information sign: *Units 2, 4, 6, and 10 are accessible. If no one in your group needs accessible campsites, please fill these units last.* Forests that have been using this type of statement on the registration sign report that visitors generally have complied.

If some—but not all—campsites are accessible and each camping unit is assigned through a reservation system that contains accessibility information or if the campsite is assigned by someone who can provide information about each unit, accessibility information doesn't have

to be posted. The accessible units should be assigned as needed to individuals with disabilities. The accessible campsites that are not assigned to persons with disabilities should be filled last, keeping them available in case they are needed.

Camp Unit Tent Pads and Tent Platforms—At least 20 percent of the total number of tent pads or tent platforms provided in a recreation site must meet the requirements below and be connected to the other major constructed features at the recreation area by an ORAR.

A minimum 48-inch (1,220-millimeter) **clear floor** or **ground space** must be provided on all sides of the tent on tent pads and platforms that are required to be accessible. An exception permits this width to be reduced to a minimum of 36 inches (915 millimeters) where a condition for departure exists. When tent pads or platforms are provided in recreation sites, the clear space must be adjacent to the ORAR, but it may not overlap the ORAR.

There is no minimum tent pad size because the types of tents commonly used in recreation sites and in GFAs vary widely in different parts of the country and even in different parts of a single district. For example, at a campground near a wilderness access point, small tents may be used. Large family tents may be common at a more developed campground with numerous constructed features for campers.

Local campground managers are the best source of information about the size of tents commonly used in an area. Adding the 48-inch (1,220-millimeter) or 36-inch (915-millimeter) clear space to the size of a typical tent will determine the minimum size of tent pads and platforms for that campground. Designers may want to provide a range of tent pad or platform sizes to accommodate a variety of tents.

In GFAs, 5 percent of the total number of tent pads or platforms must meet the requirements, but connection to an ORAR isn't required. Because most facilities provided in GFAs are for resource protection rather than for visitor convenience, the requirements are reduced to minimize alteration of the site and setting, while integrating accessibility.

For instance, it isn't unusual to find six or seven tents close together in a GFA. Typically, the spaces allotted for these tents are about 10 by 12 feet (3 by 3.6 meters), which would easily accommodate a 5- by 8-foot (1.5- by 2.4-meter) tent. An accessible pad for the same size tent with a 4-foot (1.2-meter) clear space all around would need to be at least 13 by 16 feet (4 by 4.8 meters). If all tent spaces were required to meet the FSORAG's technical provisions, a significantly larger area would be affected by the tent pads.

The **slope of an accessible tent pad or platform** can't exceed 1:50 (2 percent) in any direction. An exception permits the slope to be up to 1:33 (3 percent) maximum where needed for proper drainage. Figure 63 shows the required dimensions and slopes for tent pads and platforms.

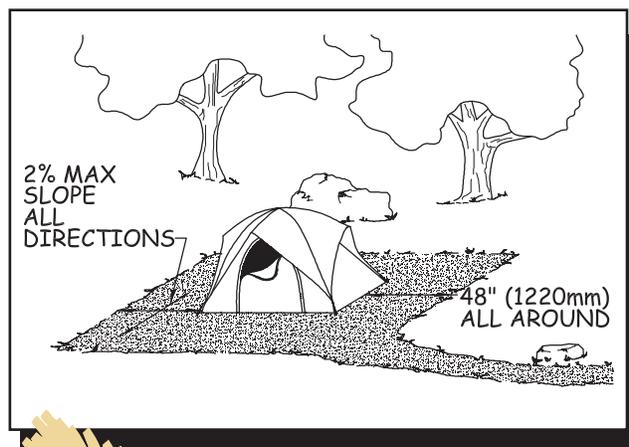


Figure 63—The requirements for a tent pad.

The **surface of an accessible tent pad or platform** must be firm and stable, be able to accommodate the use of tent stakes or other devices to secure the tent, and should be of a material that is appropriate for the level of development and setting. An exemption to the surfacing provision is allowed where a condition for departure exists.

The FSORAG doesn't require **edge protection** on tent platforms. However, if designers and managers determine that edge protection is needed for safety or other reasons, it must be at least 3 inches (75 millimeters) high. If edge protection is provided, it must not be placed where it would block access to the platform.

Accessible tent platforms are sometimes at ground level and sometimes above ground level. The ORAR should connect to ground-level tent platforms at ground level. For above-grade platforms, there are two choices. The ORAR can either ramp up to platform level, or it can end adjacent to the tent platform at 17 to 19 inches (430 to 485 millimeters) lower than the platform. This height is suitable for transferring from a wheelchair to the platform. Figure 64 shows a solution for providing an accessible tent platform in a highly developed campground.



Figure 64—A tent platform in a highly developed campground at the Coronado National Forest.

Fire Rings, Fireplaces, and Wood Stoves—Although these features are addressed in separate sections of the FSORAG, they are discussed together here because their provisions are quite similar. Where fire rings and wood stoves are provided, each one must meet the requirements explained below. When fire rings and wood stoves are provided in recreation sites, an ORAR must connect them to the other major constructed features at the recreation area. An ORAR isn't required for fire rings, fireplaces, and wood stoves in GFAs.

The fire-building surface within a fire ring must be a minimum of 9 inches (230 millimeters) above the floor or ground surface. This matches the low side reach range in ABAAS. An exemption from the 9-inch (230-millimeter) height requirement is allowed where a condition for departure exists. This exception is included particularly for fire rings provided in GFAs and wilderness areas.

For example, in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, some fire rings created by users at popular campsites are allowed to remain (rather than being dismantled) to reduce the chance that campfires might become wildfires. Often these fire rings are simple circles of rocks that can be considered temporary structures appropriate in the wilderness setting. A fire-building surface 9 inches (230 millimeters) above the ground would require higher sides and a permanent structure that would be inappropriate in a wilderness setting.

Some outdoor fireplaces and custom-built fire rings have a wall around the fire-building area, perhaps built out of bricks or mortared stone. In addition to the requirement for a fire-building surface that is at least 9 inches (230 millimeters) above the ground or floor, the distance a person would have to reach across the wall and down to the fire-building surface cannot exceed 24 inches (610 millimeters). Figures 65 and 66 illustrate this requirement.