

Figure 113—The requirements for resting intervals.

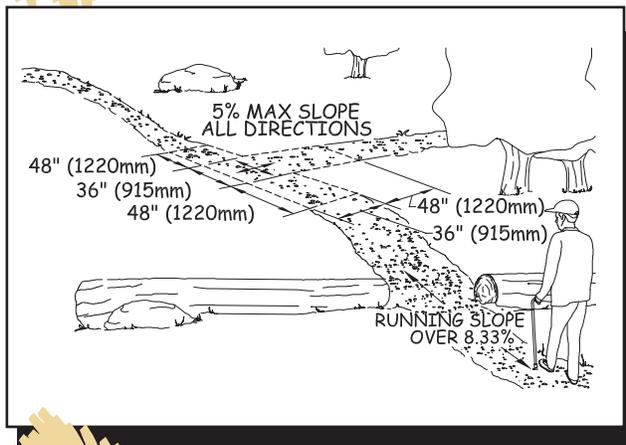


Figure 114—The requirements for a resting interval at a “T” intersection.

materials may not be suitable for every trail, which is why the exception is permitted.

Slip resistance is not required for trails because tree and shrub leaves and needles, dirt, ice, snow, and other surface debris and weather conditions are part of the natural environment that would be difficult, if not impossible, to avoid.

The FSTAG defines a firm surface as a trail surface that is not noticeably distorted or compressed by the passage of a device that simulates a person who uses a wheelchair, as explained in the design tip *What is firm and stable?* Natural soils should be evaluated during the planning process for their ability to be compacted to a firm and stable surface under normally occurring weather conditions during the primary seasons of use. The FSTAG defines a stable surface as a trail surface that is not permanently affected by normally occurring weather conditions and that is able to sustain wear and tear produced by normal use between planned maintenance cycles. The determination of firmness and stability needs to be made keeping in mind the typical conditions that occur in the vicinity of the trail being evaluated. Local trail managers know the surface and how it wears throughout the primary seasons for which the trail is managed.

Surfaces of Trails

Trail surfaces must be firm and stable. An exception to this requirement is allowed if a condition for departure exists.

Paving with concrete or asphalt is appropriate for highly developed areas. For less developed settings, crushed gravel, fine crusher rejects, packed soil, and other natural materials may provide a firm and stable surface. Natural materials also can be combined with synthetic bonding materials that provide stability and firmness. These

Clear Tread Width of Trails

Clear tread width means the width of the traveled surface on the ground and also above the ground between obstacles (figure 115). The clear tread of an accessible trail must be at least 36 inches (915 millimeters) wide. An exception permits the width to be reduced to 32 inches (815 millimeters) minimum if a condition for departure exists. A second exception allows an exemption from the clear tread provision if a condition for departure exists and the 32-inch (815-millimeter) width can't be achieved.

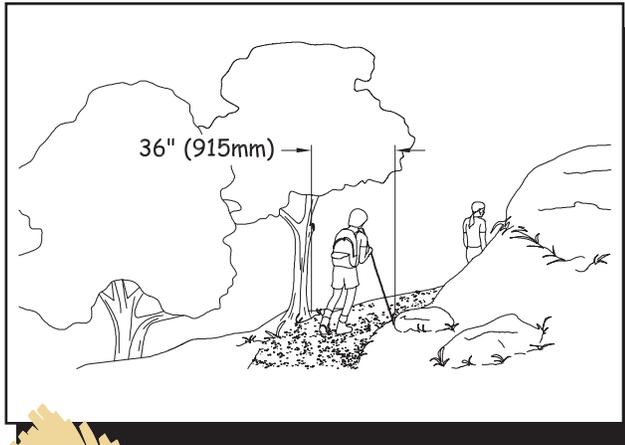


Figure 115—The requirements for clear tread width on a trail.

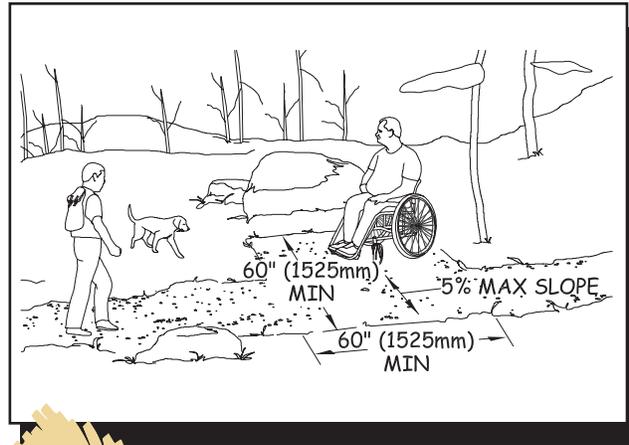


Figure 116—The requirements for passing spaces.

Passing Spaces on Trails

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A 60-inch (1,525-millimeter) clear tread width is required for two wheelchairs to pass comfortably and safely on a trail. However, this width is not always appropriate in all settings and for all trail classes. Where the clear tread width of a trail is less than 60 inches (815 millimeters), passing spaces are required at least every 1,000 feet (305 meters). An exemption is allowed if a passing space can't be provided because of a condition for departure.

Passing spaces must be at least 60 inches (1,525 millimeters) wide (including the trail width) by 60 inches (1,525 millimeters) long (figure 116). A “T” intersection of two trails or other walking surfaces also can be used as a passing space, provided that the arms and stem of the T-shaped space extend at least 48 inches (1,220 millimeters) beyond the intersection (figure 117). Either configuration would provide enough room for someone to move to the side and let an oncoming person pass along the trail. The cross slope of a passing space should not exceed 1:20 (5 percent).

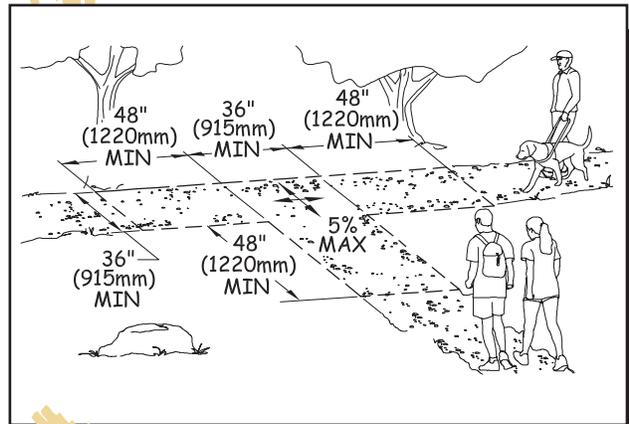


Figure 117—The requirements for passing spaces at “T” intersections.

Tread Obstacles on Trails

A tread obstacle is anything that interrupts the evenness of the tread surface. On trails, tread obstacles often occur as a result of ruts, roots, and rocks in the tread surface. Tread obstacles generally can't be more than 2 inches (50 millimeters) high. Tread obstacles can be up to 3 inches (75 millimeters) high if the trail grade and cross slope are both 1:20 (5 percent) or less. These requirements minimize the chance that someone who uses a wheelchair might tip over when crossing a tread