

How to Make Water Tourism Accessible for People with Functional Impairments



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Kurzeme Planning region
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Person with a disability



Photo: cilveksnevisdiagnoze.lv

People with disabilities include **individuals who have long-term** physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. People with disabilities **must have access to the same opportunities as everyone else**. The state has a **duty to ensure** the protection of the rights of people with disabilities by using all available tools and by **creating new support mechanisms where necessary**.



Preparatory work

01. Accessible for everyone

This is not always possible. However, it is important for the service provider **to clearly understand what exactly is accessible and which target groups** the service is suitable for.

03. Accessibility

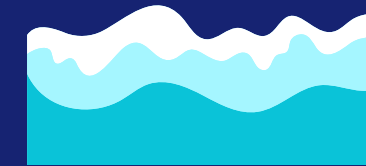
In this context, accessibility refers to the client's **actual ability to use the service, including access roads, pedestrian pathways, parking areas, boardwalks**, and other infrastructure elements related to access and mobility.

02. Information

The term “information” should be understood as both the **provision** of information to a potential client **before arrival** and its **availability and comprehensibility during the visit**, as well as the way in which this information is presented.

04. Preparedness

The competence, knowledge, and skills of staff are essential prerequisites for providing high-quality services to people with disabilities. Preparedness, understanding, empathy, and the ability to work with people are all important.



100%
pieejams?



Example of providing information

This screenshot shows the search interface on the National Parks website. On the left, there is a vertical menu with categories like 'Top Natural Attractions', 'National Parks', 'World Heritage Sites', 'National Hiking Areas', 'Wilderness Areas', 'Other Nature Sites', 'Hiking Trails', 'Huts', 'Historical Sites', 'Nature Centres', 'Accessible Destinations', and 'Geoparks'. The main area is titled 'Search on Map' and 'Search by destination's features'. It includes filters for 'Area', 'Destination Type', and 'Activities'. A list of features with checkboxes is shown: 'Accessible Destinations' (checked), 'Overnight stay allowed', 'Public Transportation', 'Ski Cross-Country On Trails', 'Fishing', 'Climbing', 'Dog Sledding', and 'Rafting'. A search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a 'Search (57)' button are also present.

This screenshot shows the search results page on the National Parks website. It features a search bar with filters for 'Activities' (Canoeing) and 'Public Transportation'. A 'Search (21)' button is visible. Below the search bar, there is a section for 'Search by destination name' with a search input field. A map of Finland is displayed, showing 21 numbered locations. A 'Your search found (21) results' message is shown above the map, with links to 'Go to the search result on the map' and 'Go to the search results list'.

This screenshot shows the search results page on the outdooractive website. The URL is 'https://www.outdooractive.com/en/search/?cat=tour&q=accessible'. The page features a navigation bar with 'outdooractive' logo and links for 'Map', 'Route Finder', 'Route Planner', 'Travel Guide', and 'Community'. A 'Sign up or log in' button is also present. The main content area displays three search results: 1. 'The Accessible trail is 1,4 kilometers long and is situated in beautiful and level pine forest terrain. Along the way there is a fireplace with ...' from Joensuu kaupunki, VisitKarelia. 2. 'CANOEING - VUOKATTI-SOTKAMO Eskonsaari canoe route, 4 km, accessible, Sotkamo - Vuokatti' with a 'TOP easy' badge, 4 km distance, 1:00 h duration, and 0 m elevation change. 3. 'NATURE TRAIL - KAJAANI Health Forest 0,2 km, accessible, Kajaani Finland' with a 'TOP easy' badge, 0.2 km distance, 0:20 h duration, and 3 m elevation change.

This screenshot shows the route details page on the outdooractive website. The URL is 'https://www.outdooractive.com/en/route/canoeing/vuokatti-sotkamo/eskonsaari-canoe-route-4-km-accessible-sotkamo-vuokatti/803328505/#c...'. The page features a navigation bar with 'outdooractive' logo and links for 'Map', 'Route Finder', 'Route Planner', 'Travel Guide', and 'Community'. A 'Sign up or log in' button is also present. The main content area displays route details: 'CURRENT INFORMATION', 'ACCESSIBILITY', and 'EQUIPMENT'. The 'ACCESSIBILITY' section is expanded, showing icons for walking disability and wheelchair users, hearing impaired and deaf, visually impaired and blind, and cognitive disability. The 'EQUIPMENT' section shows 'Public-transport-friendly', 'Out and back', 'Scenic', 'Refreshment stops available', 'Family-friendly', 'Accessibility', 'Insider tip', 'Cultural/historical interest', and 'Dog-friendly'. The 'Weather at the route's trailhead' section shows 'Today', 'Tomorrow', and 'Saturday' options.

Arrival and parking

Parking at Sotkamo marina's kayaking pier is located at Kainuuntie 12. There are no specially marked accessible parking spaces in the parking area. The same parking area also works for escort traffic. The parking area is mostly flat and has an asphalt surface. The smooth asphalt-surfaced path to the paddling pier starts at the edge of the parking area and its usable width is two meters. It is about 30 meters from the parking area to the pier. There is no information board about the route in the parking area. There is no accessible toilet in the port.

The nearest accessible toilet is located next to the maintenance building of the Hiukka swimming beach at Tervatie 1. In the summer, there is a summer cafe in the marina.

Accessibility description of the route

The route is classified as an accessible kayaking route. The route is a general route, with an accessible paddling dock at the start and end point. The canoeing route follows the shoreline of Pirttijärvi, where especially the westerly wind can raise strong waves. In the vicinity of Sotkamo harbor there is from time to time a busy boat traffic, so the route is exposed to the waves raised by the boat traffic. For inexperienced kayakers, it is recommended to bring a guide/assistant. The route starts east from the Sotkamo marina and follows the coastline of Akkoniemi towards Siltasaari. On this part of the route, you paddle on the open back of the lake, and when the wind blows from the west, the waves can get big, so it's worth paddling near the shore. If necessary, several canoes can be made into a catamaran, making paddling safer. Siltasaari is rounded on the west side between the two islands. Pay attention to the coves near Siltasaari. After Siltasaari, the route turns to the east and at the same time the view opens directly to the barrier-free rest area of Eskonsaari. From Eskonsaari, the route returns the same route back to the marina.

Accessibility description of paddling docks

The kayaking pier at Sotkamo marina has been built to be accessible. A connecting bridge with a gently sloping wooden surface of just under five meters long leads to the pier, with a usable width of more than 1.2 meters and gaps between the cross planks are less than 0.5 centimeter. The connecting bridge has a protective edge on both sides. The connecting bridge is accessed along a short ramp, the length of which varies depending on the height of the water level at the pontoon pier. A paddling dock is a U-shaped pontoon dock, where a canoe or other means of movement on water is placed in the recess in the middle of the dock, so that it is possible to move to the device from both sides. There are separate support arches on both sides of the recess, the distance between which is 50 centimeters. At the bottom of the recess is a ramp that holds the canoe/kayak in place when entering and exiting it. The ramp is covered with fabric. The depth and width of the free space at the starting point of the pier is 1.5 meters. The width of both sides of the recess is more than 1.2 meters. The gaps between the boards are less than 0.5 centimetres. The pier has a protective edge, but no guard rail. Eskonsaari pier is a direct pontoon pier. A canoe or other means of movement on water is located on the right side of the pier from the direction of entry, where there is a separate transfer stand for transferring to a canoe or kayak. The device for moving on the water comes under the stand and the user can get on and off the device independently with the help of a support bracket. The pier is 2.2 meters wide and over three meters long. The gaps between the boards are less than 0.5 centimeters. The pier has a protective edge, but no guard rail. A footbridge with a length of about five meters and a width of 1.1 meters leads from the platform to the rest area. At the time of measurement, the longitudinal slope of the footbridge was nine percent. The platform and the footbridge are connected by a 1.2 meter wide and less than one meter long metal bridge, whose longitudinal slope at the time of measurement was 29 percent. The longitudinal gradients of the ramp and the footbridge change according to the fluctuations of the water level.

Recreation area and other infrastructure

On Eskonsaari Island, there is a log cabin, a campfire site, and an accessible toilet. Movement around the log cabin, the campfire area, and the recreation site is facilitated by wooden boardwalks. In front of the campfire area, there is an open and level wooden platform protected with a metal sheet. The free space in front of the campfire is 2.2 metres wide. On both sides of the firepit, there are two stable benches with a seat height of approximately 55 centimetres, positioned one metre from the fire. The firepit, constructed from concrete rings, is 75 centimetres high, and the grill has been raised closer to the upper edge of the structure.

In front of the shelter at the recreation area, there is a level wooden platform. The seating height in front of the shelter is approximately 60 centimetres, and the shelter roof provides protection for people seated on the platform. The entrance height of the shelter is 1.2 metres.




The firewood storage area is located on the side of the log cabin and can be accessed via a wooden boardwalk. The pathway width is 1.3 metres, with a maximum gradient of six per cent. The cross slope is not significant. The gaps between the boardwalk planks are less than 0.5 centimetres. The boardwalk has edge protection but no handrails. In front of the firewood storage entrance, there is a level wooden platform measuring 2.3 metres in width and 1.3 metres in depth. The entrance width to the firewood storage is 90 centimetres; however, the threshold makes movement more difficult for people using mobility aids.

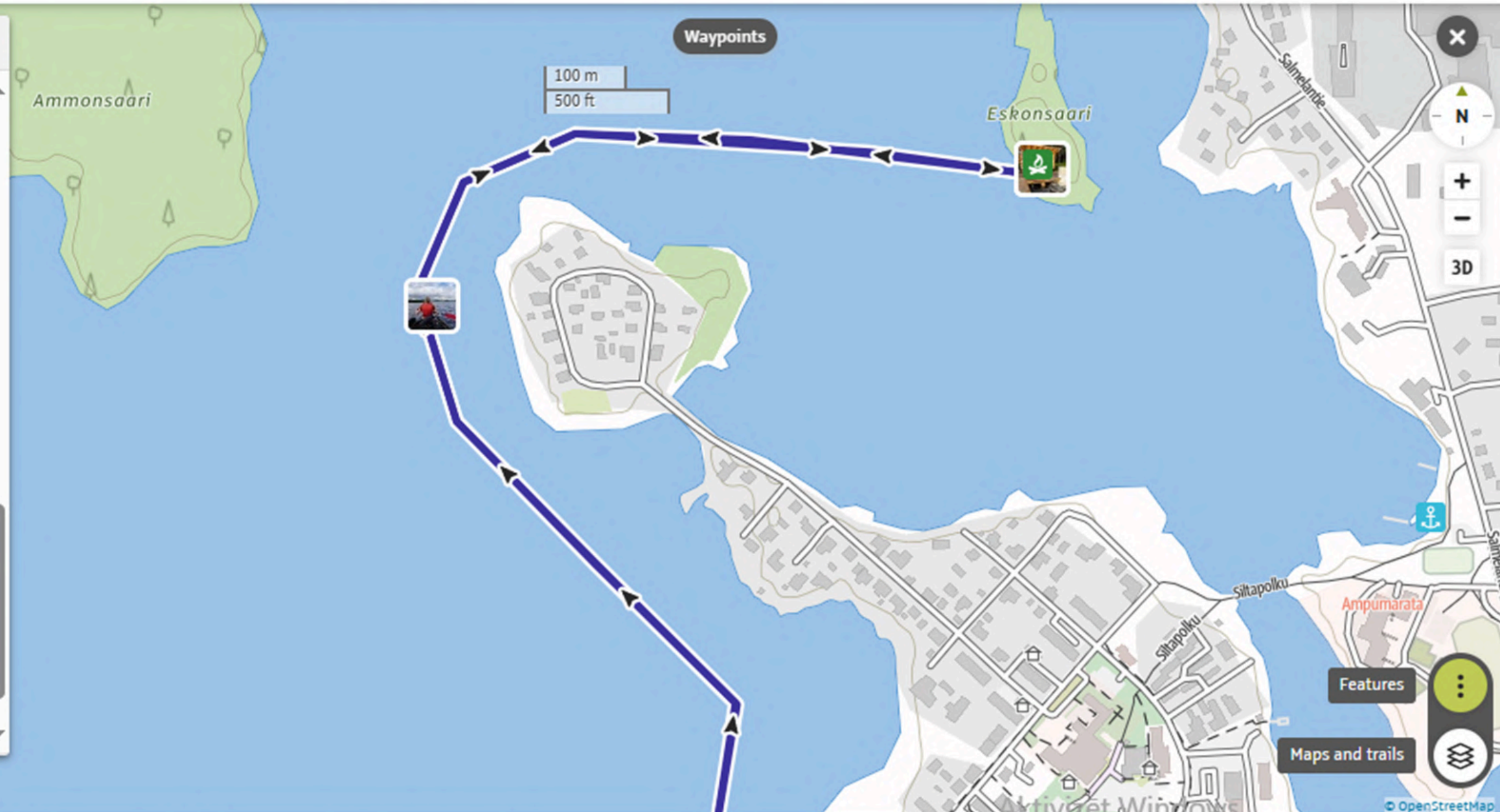
The toilet at the recreation area is partially accessible and does not fully comply with accessibility requirements. The improvements made were intended to make the toilet as functional as possible for users of mobility aids. Access to the toilet is provided via a wooden boardwalk. The pathway width is 1.3 metres, with a maximum gradient of six per cent. The cross slope is not significant. The gaps between the boardwalk planks are less than 0.5 centimetres. The boardwalk has edge protection but no handrails.

In front of the toilet door, there is a level wooden platform measuring 1.8 metres in both width and depth. The toilet door width is 90 centimetres, and the height is approximately 1.6 metres. Inside the toilet, the free space measures 1.1 metres in width and one metre in depth. Rope handles for opening and closing the door are located on both sides of the entrance.

TOP Eskonsaari canoe route, 4 km, accessible, Sotkamo - Vuokatti

8 Waypoints

-  **Pirttijärvi**
Hirvenniemen veneenlaskupaikka sijaitsee Pirttijärven rannalla Sotkamon keskus-...
Outdoors Kainuu
-  **Eskonsaari lean-to, Sotkamo Finland**
Vuokatti-Sotkamo
Accessibility
Accessible lean-to is located on the island Eskonsaari. There is also a partly acces...
Outdoors Kainuu
-  **Salmelan veneranta, Sotkamo**
Vuokatti-Sotkamo
Salmelan veneranta sijaitsee Sotkamon keskustan tuntumassa, kirkonkylän...



Features

Maps and trails

OpenStreetMap

4.0 km Distance **1:00 h** Duration **0 m** Ascent **0 m** Descent **138 m** Highest point **138 m** Lowest point Elevation profile ^

Lai aktivizētu Windows, atveriet iestatījumus.

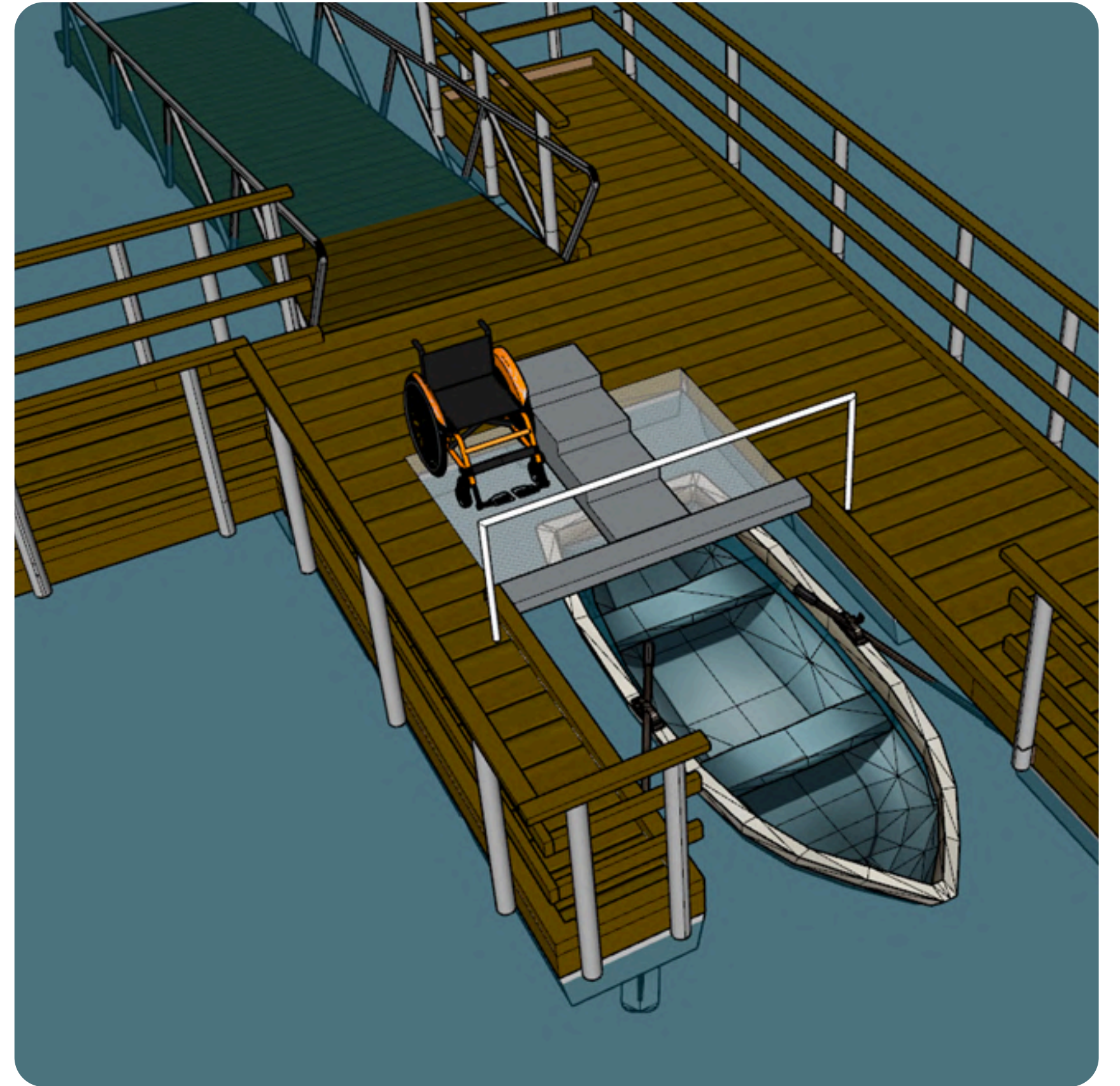
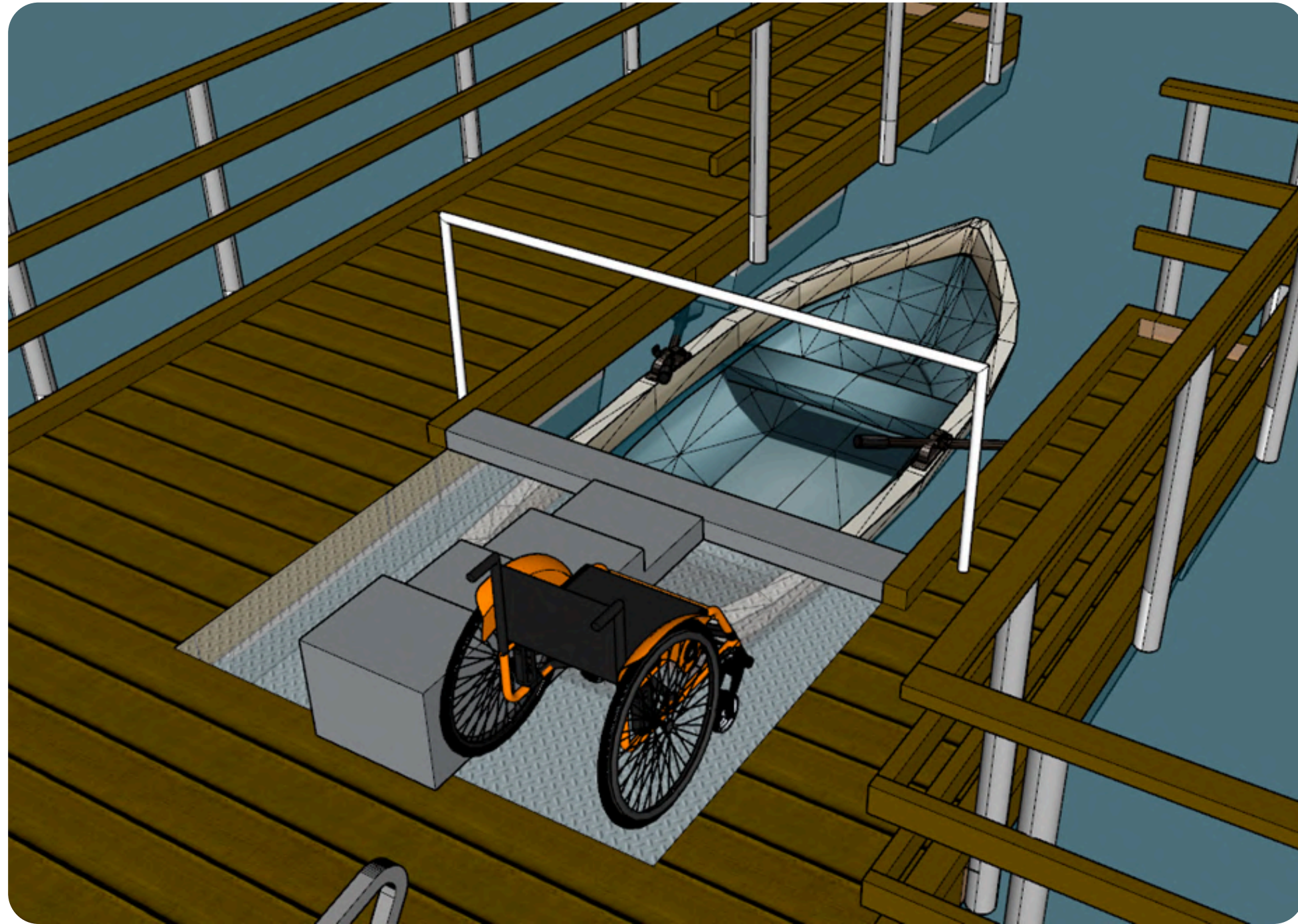
Piers and landing sites



Riverways II



Riverways II



SUP boards



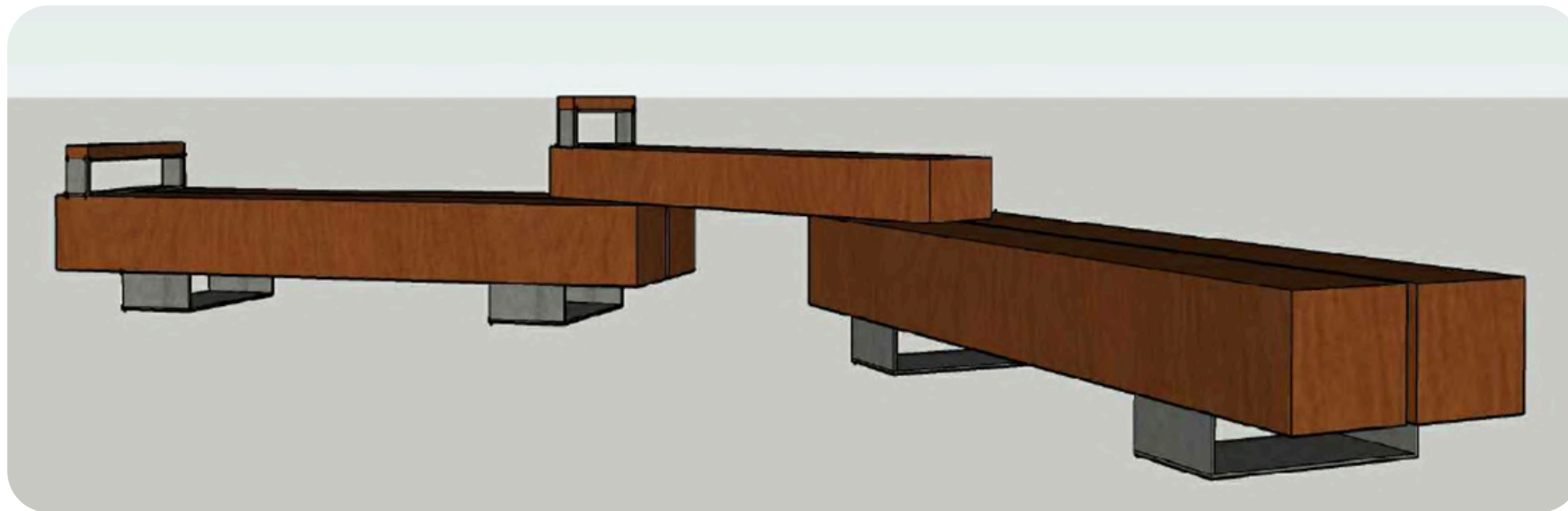
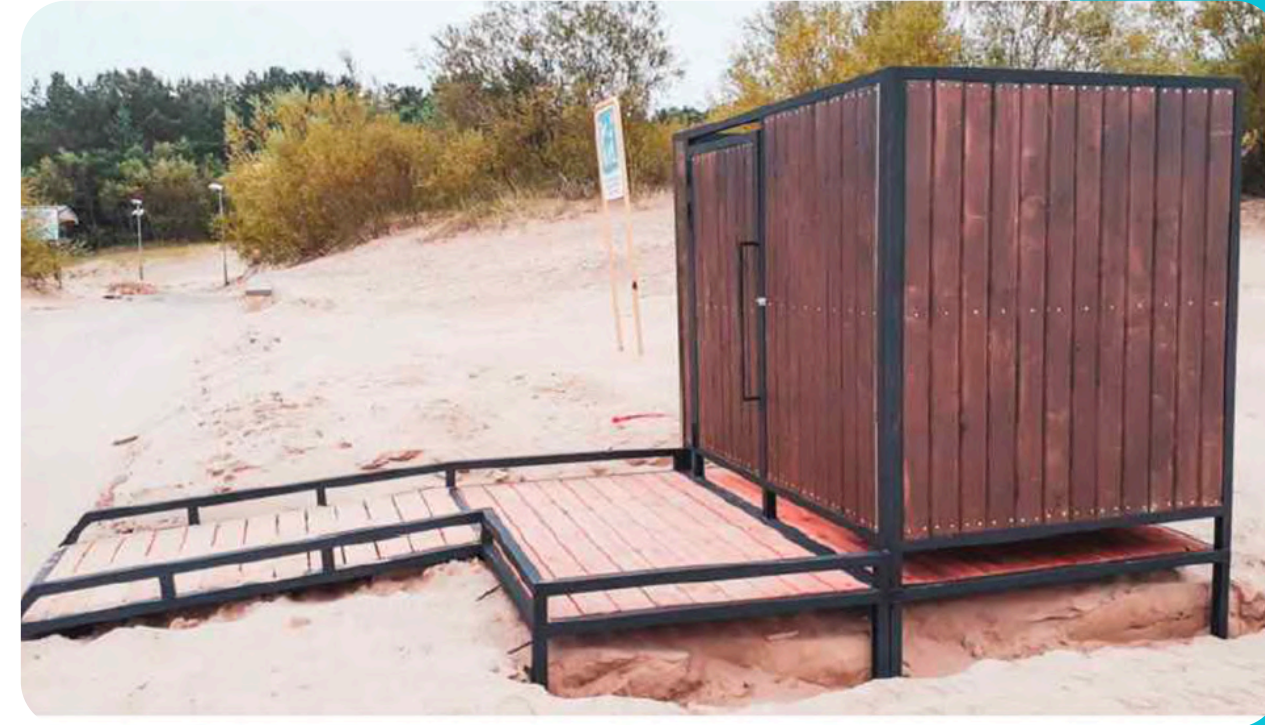
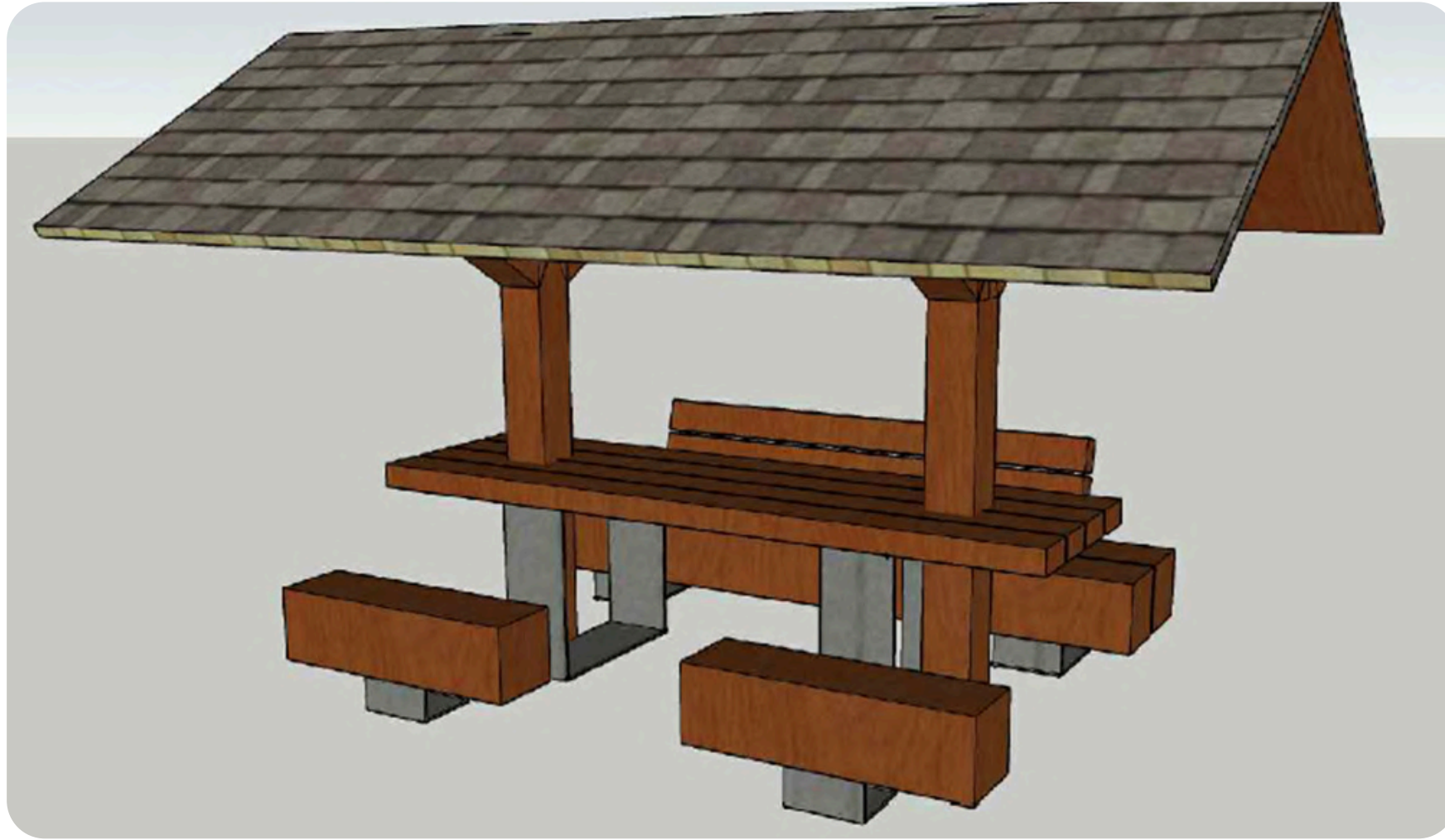
Swimming and water activities



Fishing



Recreation by the water



Clear information upon arrival



Guidelines

TURIZMO INFRASTRUKTŪROS, PRODUKTŲ IR PASLAUGŲ PRITAIKYMAS ŽMONĖMS SU SPECIALIAISIAIS POREIKIAIS

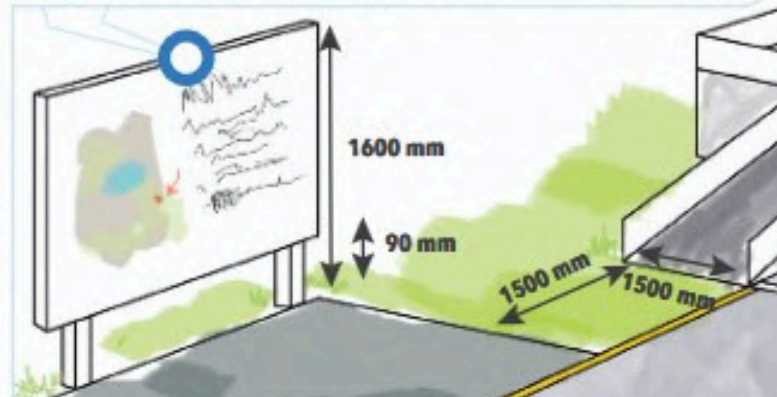


1 AUTOMOBILIŲ STOVĖJIMO VIETA

Informaciniai stendai

Parenkant informacinių stendų vietą, reikia atsižvelgti į tai, kad jie būtų laisvai prieinamoje vietoje, kad neįgaliojo vežimėliu važiuojantys asmenys galėtų prie jų laisvai privažiuoti. Informacija turėtų būti pateikta aukštyje nuo 900 mm iki 1 600 mm, kad asmenys, turintys regėjimo negalią, galėtų prieiti prie stendo ir perskaityti pateiktą informaciją iš arti. Pagrindinė informacija taip pat turi būti nurodyta Brailio raštu. Taip pat turi būti pateiktas lengvai pasiekiamas specialus (apčiuopiamas) žemėlapis neregiam ir silpnaregiams, rodantis pagrindinius šios teritorijos objektus. Taip pat pageidautina, kad būtų pateikta garsinė informacija, prieinama tiems, kas naudojami mobiliąja programėle ir QR kodu (Quick Response Code).

QR kodas yra baltas kvadratas, kuris specialia tvarka yra užpildytas mažesniais juodais kvadratais. Šiame kode yra užšifruota informacija, kuri gali būti nuskaityta specialiomis išmaniojo telefono programėlėmis, programėles vartotojas, nuskaityęs kodą, iškart patenka į konkrečią interneto svetainę. Lankytojų patogumui pageidaujama, kad informaciniame stende būtų įrengtas 300 liuksų apšvietimas.



Informacijos centras

Aptarnaujant žmones su skirtingų tipų negalia komunikacija. Tam, kad asmenys, esantys matyti, su kuo kalba, kioskai ir informacijos pastatyti 850 mm aukštyje. Taip pat reikia įdiegti padėtų aiškiai girdėti tiems asmenims, kurie tu

Nuorodos

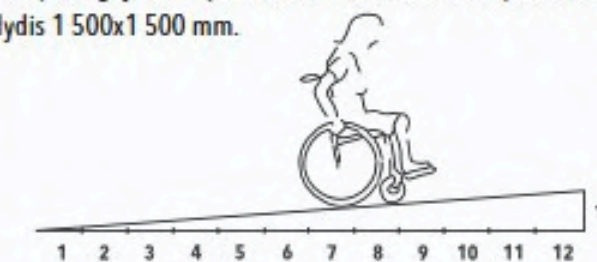
Nuorodos padeda žmonėms su negalia orientotis ir pvz., susidūrimų su žmonėmis. Tiems, kurie važiuoja koku maršrutu jie gali judėti, kitu atveju asmuo. Nuorodos taip pat svarbios žmonėms, turintiems kogn orientacija gali būti sutrikusi, taip pat ir kurtiesiems be būti suprojektuotos taip, kad būtų lengvai matomos, mm aukštyje. Nuorodos tekstas turi kontrastuoti su kit

Automobilių stovėjimo aikštelė

Parkavimosi vietos, skirtos neįgaliesiems, turi būti padengtos lygia, kieta, gerai sukimbančia danga. Pageidautina, kad automobilių stovėjimo vietos neįgaliesiems būtų įrengtos aikštelės pradžioje arba pabaigoje. Neįgaliųjų automobilių stovėjimo vietos turi būti 3,5 m pločio ir 5 m ilgio.

Neįgaliųjų rampa

Neįgaliųjų rampos nuolydis turėtų būti ne didesnis nei 8% arba 1/12, o plotis 1 200 mm, taip pat turėtų būti įrengti 50 mm aukščio atitvarai. Jei rampa ilgesnė nei 3 m, joje turi būti įrengtos rankenos. Jei rampos nuolydis yra mažesnis nei 5% (1/20), rankenų įrengti nebūtina. Neįgaliųjų rampos pradžioje ir pabaigoje turėtų būti manevravimui skirtas plotas, kurio dydis 1 500x1 500 mm.



Accessibility check-list for nature trails

7 blocks

Path and resting area

Parking lot

Toilet

Info and signs

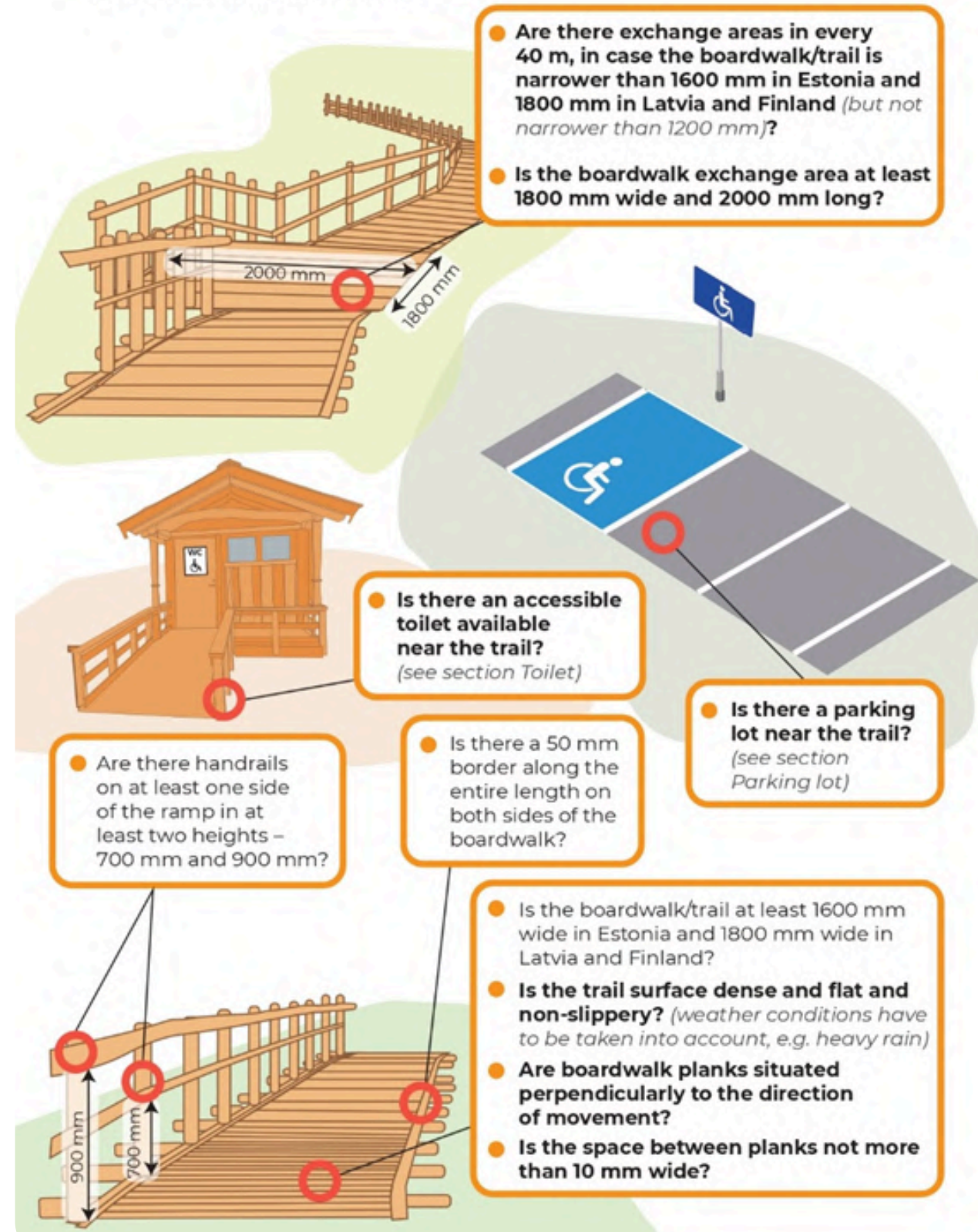
Stirs

Watching platform

Fishing/boating site

Nature trail and resting area

*Questions highlighted in bold are mandatory to be answered "yes" for a trail to meet the minimum accessibility criteria



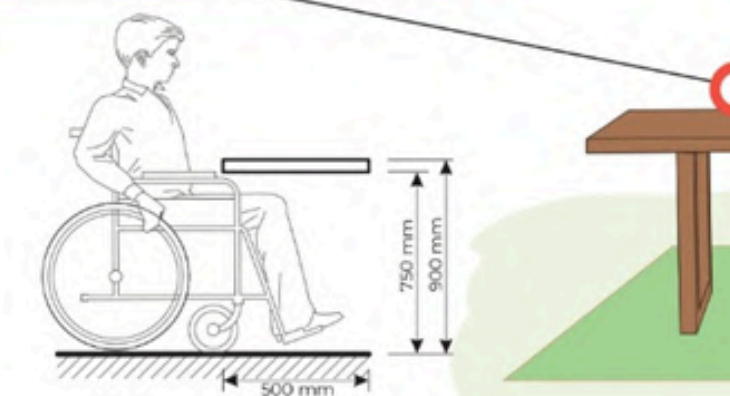
● **Is the trail crossfall less than 1:33 (3%)?**
(i.e. slope perpendicular to the direction of movement)

● Are there resting areas available at sites where trail rise reaches 1:20 (5%) and 1:12 (8%), at least in every 6 m or at least one resting area for a 10 m long rise?

● Is there a bench available in every 300 m? Is there a handle placed at least on one end?

● Is there at least 1000 mm space between benches at resting areas, which are installed with benches?

● Are picnic tables situated on a solid and flat surface?
● Is there a 750 mm high and 500 mm deep free space below the table?
● Is the table surface not higher than 900 mm from the ground?





**KURZEME
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REGION**

Thank you for your attention!

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