TRAILS FOR ALL
LISTENING SESSION
May 8, 2025, 6 – 8 PM, Zoom

Facilitators: Peter Flinker, Shaine Meulmester, Dillon Sussman, Helena Farrell, Meg Bandarra, Rae Ettenger - <mark>Would any Trail Access Working Group members be willing to help facilitate if more than 40 participants attend? Thank you!</mark>

Accessibility: Meeting will be live translated into Spanish and additional languages (TBD)

6:00 – 6:10	Welcome and Introduction (10 minutes)	• Welcome remarks (2 min) • Project introduction (3 min) • Overview of session goals and format (3 min)

6:10 – 6:15	Live poll questions (participants can respond on screen or verbally)	• Do you recreate on accessible hiking/strolling rails?
		   o *Yes, regularly*
		   o *Yes, occasionally*
		   o *No, I'm familiar with accessible trails but don't use them, or don't use them often*
		   o *No, I'm not familiar with accessible trails*
		   o *I'm not sure if I've ever used an accessible trail*
		• How would you describe your use of accessible hiking/strolling trails?
		   o *I depend on access trails for access to nature.*
		   o *I use both accessible and inaccessible trails and sometimes depend on accessible trails for access*
		   o *I don't depend on accessible trails for access, but use both accessible and inaccessible trails*
		   o *I design or build accessible trails*
		   o *I don't use, or am not sure if I have used an accessible trail*
		   o *I utilize trails for professional reasons, such as hosting outdoor programs or events*

6:15 – 6:30	Presentation (10 minutes)	• Overview of accessible trails across the state • Current accessibility standards for outdoor recreation in Massachusetts
6:30 – 7:30	Breakout Groups (60 minutes) – randomly assigned	• Icebreaker: Say your name, where you live, and your favorite trail if you have one (5 mins)

		• If you have lived experience with a disability, what features make trails truly accessible and enjoyable for you? (2 min each, 16 min total)
		     ○ What barriers do you face when accessing trails in Massachusetts? (2 min each, 16 min total)
		     ○ What do trail designers and managers often miss in creating accessible trails? (10 mins)
		     ○ What resources, information, or support would help you better utilize accessible trails? (2 min each, 16 min total)
		 • If you design or manage trails, which of the barriers discussed so far seem easiest to address? Which seem more difficult? Why? (7 minutes)
		 • What are the biggest opportunities to improve and expand the accessible trail network? (7 minutes)

7:30 – 7:50	Report Back from Breakout Sessions (20 minutes)	• Brief summaries from each group (3-4 minutes each) • Identification of common themes (2-3 minutes)

7:50 – 8:00	Interactive Polling: Priorities and Solutions (10 minutes)	• Polling: (a facilitator will make the polls during the break)
		     ○ Most critical barriers to address
		         ▪ (Make a poll of all the barriers we heard, and ask people to vote on or rank them)
		     ○ Types of accessibility features most needed
		     ○ Challenges for designers and managers

8:00 PM	Next Steps (5 minutes) – post in chat if we don't get to this	• Opportunities for continued engagement
		     ○ Public Forum on Sep 15
		     ○ Comment page on Trails for All website

Note: Times subject to change.