



Achieving Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act while Fulfilling Boating Access Program Objectives in Georgia

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2019 SOBA Annual Conference

September 11, 2019

American Disability Act (ADA)

Basic ADA requirements for boat ramp facilities in GA program

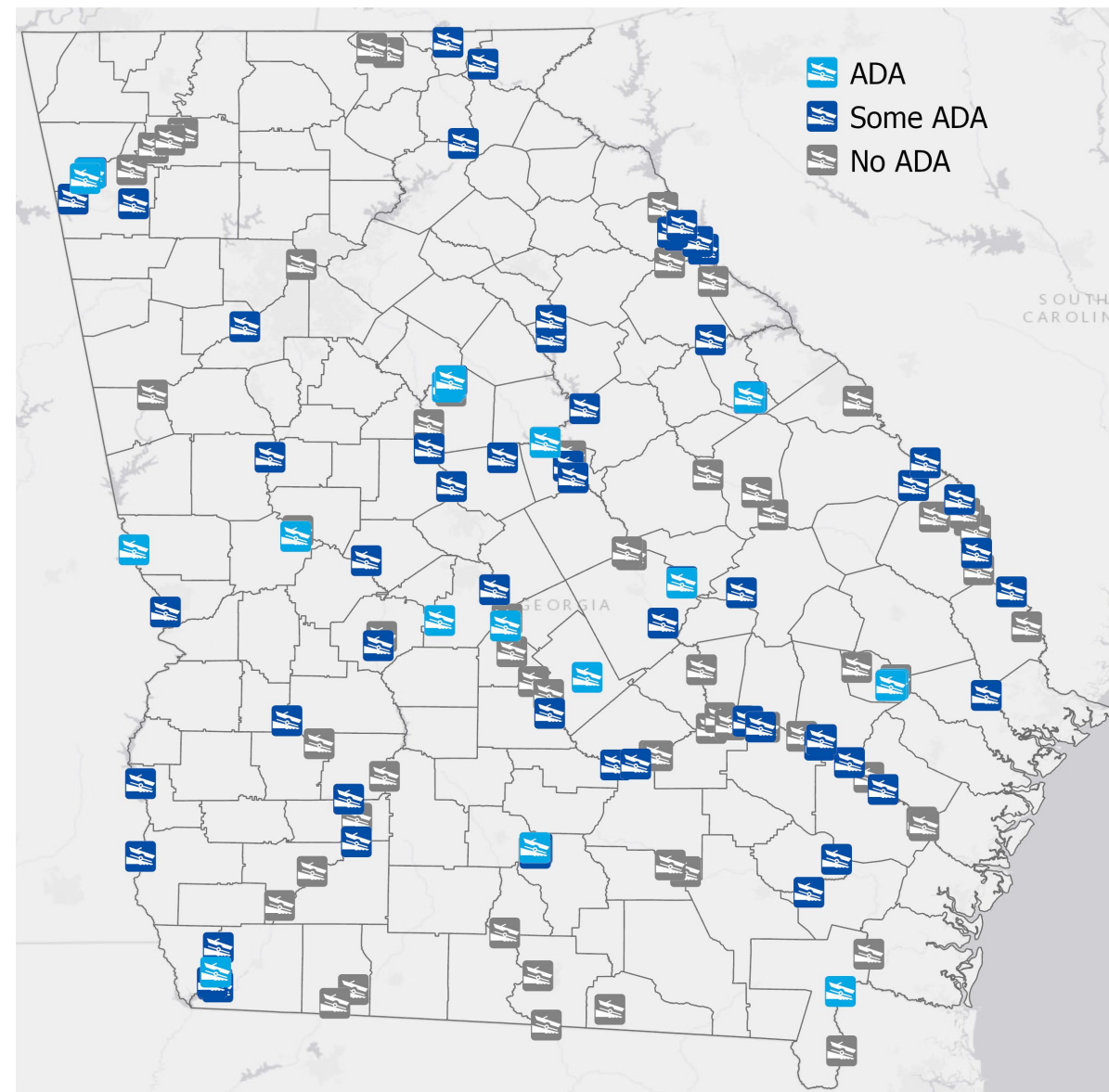
Common Facility Elements

- Boat ramps lanes exempt by nature
- Parking (number of spaces, sign heights, width, slopes, access aisles, etc.)
- Courtesy docks (gangway length, width, clear space)
- Routes (from ADA parking to top of the ramp and all amenities, slopes, widths)
- Signage (ADA parking, other)
- Amenities (routes to, amenity specific standards)
 - ✓ Amenities add another level of complexity (e.g. standards for building and restrooms)

Meeting the Challenge (MTC), Contractor

- GA Department of Natural Resources Statewide Assessment of ADA Compliance – Ongoing with contractor.
- MTC completed Wildlife Resource Division (WRD) assessment in 2017
 - ✓ More than 120 facilities assessed (Wildlife Management Areas, Public Fishing Areas, offices, amenities etc.)
- MTC also assessed 12 of 156 WRD operated boating access facilities
 - ✓ 10 of 12 had ADA assessable elements
 - ✓ 2 had no assessable elements

GA Boating Access Facilities



WRD Boating Access Facilities

- 156 Facilities (4 are hand launch only facilities)

Ramp by waterbody type:

River – 62%

Reservoirs – 12%

Small Lakes – 26%

Compliance by element:

Restrooms – 98%

Docks – 65%

Parking – 46%

ADA Assessment - Common Elements

DEFICIENT ELEMENTS	MEASUREMENTS	COMPLIANT ELEMENTS	MEASUREMENTS
Boating Facility	17	Boating Facility	20
Accessible Boarding Pier	1	Accessible Boarding Pier	3
Boating Specs	1	Accessible Boat Slip	2
Gangway	1	Boating Specs	7
Walking Surface	14	Clear Pier Space	5
Parking Facility	43	Gangway	3
Access Aisle	8	Parking Facility	121
Curb Ramp	4	Access Aisle	21
Parking Space	18	Parking Space	90
Parking Specs	5	Parking Specs	10
Walking Surface	8	Restroom Mens	4
Picnic Unit	3	Door/Gate	2
Picnic Table	1	Signage, Designation	1
Trash Receptacle	2	Water Closet	1
Restroom Mens	4	Total	145
Dispenser, T.P.	1	MTC made a total of 224 element measurements Measurements included elements such as parking space width , aisle measurements, slopes, gangway length, clear space, route slopes, surface type etc.	
Signage, Designation	2		
Water Closet	1		
Walkway	12		
Walking Surface	12		
Total	79		

Good news: roughly twice as many measurements met ADA standards then not.

Bad news: each of the 12-facilities visited has deficiencies.

Boating access team is working to complete self ADA assessments on the remaining 144 ramps operated by WRD.

Boating Access ADA Self Assessment - Guide

Boating Access: ADA Guidance

1.0 Parking Requirements

- When parking is provided, accessible parking is required.
- Where only one space is required, it must be van accessible.
- One van accessible parking space is required per 6 accessible parking spaces.
- Accessible parking spaces must be on the shortest accessible route to an accessible entrance (i.e. gangway or transition pad where pier is not provided).

Total Number of Parking Spaces	Minimum Number of Accessible Parking Spaces
1-25	1 Van
26-50	1 Van 1
51-75	1 Van 2 Car
76-100	1 Van 3 Car
101-150	1 Van 4 Car
151-200	1 Van 5 Car
201-300	2 Van 5 Car
301-400	2 Van 6 Car
401-500	2 Van 7 Car
501-1000	2% of Total
1001 or more	20 plus 1 for each 100 or fraction thereof

1.1 Parking Dimensions and Specifications

	Van Accessible (Option 1)	Van Accessible (Option 2)	Car Accessible
Parking Space Width	96"	132"	96"
Parking Aisle Width	96"	60"	60"
Parking Space/Aisle Slope	≤ 2.08% in any direction		

Notes: Parking space & aisle width measurements to be made from centerline of bounding stripes. Where feasible, required van accessible parking spaces should be of a length to accommodate vehicle/boat trailer parking. Access aisles must run the length of accessible parking spaces.

1.2 Parking Signage and Marking

- If the number of parking spaces is four (4) or fewer, signage is not required.
- Signs must be at least 84" high measured between the ground surface and bottom edge of the sign. **Note:** This is Georgia state law, deviates from Federal ADA standard.
- Accessible parking spaces must be identified by signs with the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA).
- Signs identifying van spaces must include the term "van accessible."
- Access aisle and ADA space must be surface marked. Access aisle surface mark must run the length of accessible parking spaces.

1.3 Additional Resources:

<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards/chapter-5-parking>

Boating Access: ADA Guidance

2.0 Accessible Route Requirements

- Where accessible features are provided on a site there must be an accessible route that connects either the site arrival point or the accessible parking space to the accessible feature(s).
- Where accessible parking is provided, there must be an accessible route to the top of boat ramp and other accessible features.

2.1 Dimensions and Specifications

	Walkway/Sidewalk	Ramps
Clear Width	≥ 36"	≥ 36"
Length	See passing lanes, below	60" (Landing)
Running Slope	≤ 5%	≤ 8.33%
Cross Slope		≤ 2.08%
Landing Slope		≤ 2.08%, in any direction
Change in level		≤ 0.25" vertical or ≤ 0.5 beveled
Horizontal gaps		≤ 0.5"
Materials	Must be firm and stable: concrete, asphalt, compacted, fine aggregate	

2.2 Additional Specifications

Walkways/Sidewalks: If sidewalk surface width is less than 60" passing lanes need to be provided at 200' intervals. Passing lane dimensions are 60" x 60".

Ramps: Ramp landings are required at the top and bottom of a ramp and at each 30" of rise. Ramp landings must be 60" long and at least as wide as the run width. Ramps and landings must have hand rails (≥ 34" and ≤ 38" measured perpendicular from surface to top of rail) and edge protection (≥ 4" in height) on both sides.

2.3 Additional Resources

<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards/chapter-4-ramps-and-curb-ramps>

<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/guides/fishing-piers-and-platforms/accessible-routes>

3.0 Gangway and Boarding Pier (Courtesy Docks) Requirements

- Where boarding piers are provided at boat ramps, at least 5% of boarding piers must be accessible and be served by an accessible route.
- Where boarding piers are provided, an accessible route is required from an accessible parking space to the gangway entrance.

3.1 Dimension and Specification Requirements

	Gangway	Boarding Pier
Clear Width	≥ 36" – entire length	≥ 60" – entire length
Length	≥ 30' serving 1-24 boat slips; or ≥ 80' any number of boat slips	
Cross Slope	≤ 2.08% (measured in static position)	
Change in level	≤ 0.25" vertical or ≤ 0.5 beveled (includes entry & transition plates)	
Horizontal gaps	≤ 0.5" (includes entry & transition plates)	

Note: each 40' of pier perimeter = 1 boat slip.

- Developed a guide with ADA standards for use by boating access field crew to assist in there understanding.
- Guide covers common elements in our boating access program.
- All topics provide link to current ADA board documents, which serve as our final reference, per our state AG office.

Boating Access ADA Self Assessment - Forms

Boat Ramp: _____ Waterbody: _____

Evaluator: _____ Date: _____

Parking

# Parking Spaces		# ADA Van		# ADA Car	
ADA Space	1	2	3	4	5
Space Type	Van / Car	Van / Car	Van / Car	Van / Car	Van / Car
Space Width (in)					
Aisle Width (in)					
Length (ft)					
Max Slope (%)					
Sign Type	Van / Car	Van / Car	Van / Car	Van / Car	Van / Car
Sign Height (in)					

Notes: Provide descriptive/location reference for each space evaluated.

Gangway and Boarding Pier

	Gangway 1	Pier 1	Gangway 2	Pier 2
Clear Width (in)				
Length (ft)				
Max Cross Slope (%)				
Max Level Change (in)				
Max Gap (in)				
Transition Plate Slope %				
Railing Height		NA		
60" clearance per 10'	NA	Y N	NA	Y N
Cleats in route	NA	Y N	NA	Y N
Clear space	NA	Y N	NA	Y N

Notes:

Boat Ramp: _____ Waterbody: _____

Evaluator: _____ Date: _____

Routes

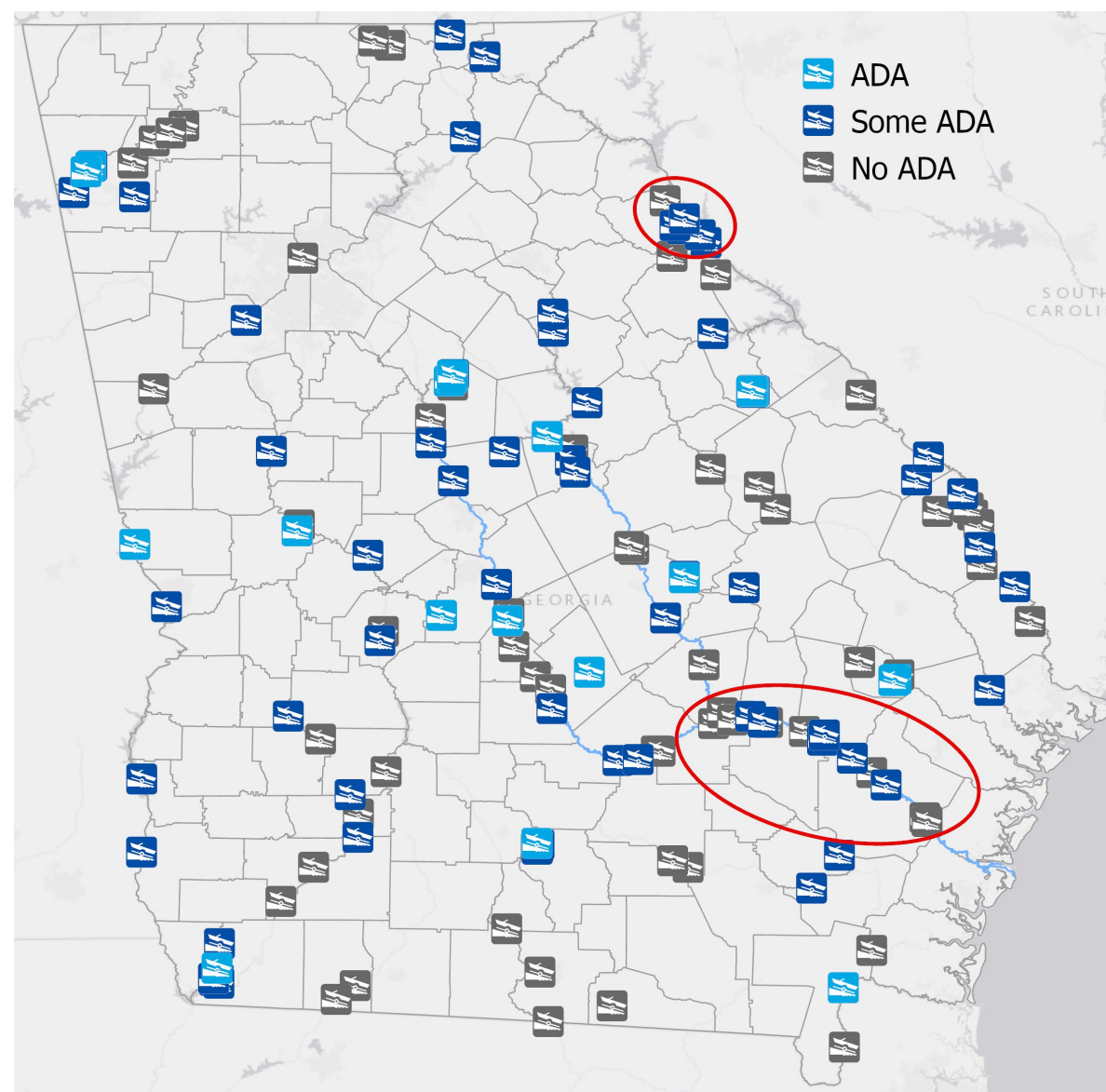
	Route 1	Route 2	Route 3
Type	Sidewalk Ramp	Sidewalk Ramp	Sidewalk Ramp
Goes From			
Leads To			
Clear Width (in)			
Length (ft)			
Max Run Slope (%)			
Max Cross Slope (%)			
Max Gap Height (in)			
Max Gap Width (in)			
Sidewalk Passing Lane	Y N	Y N	Y N
Ramp Landings	Y N	Y N	Y N
Ramp Railings & Edge	Y N	Y N	Y N
Canoe Steps	Y N	Y N	Y N
Approach Slab Slope (%)			
Approach Slab Cross Slope (%)			

Notes:

Are other amenities (picnic tables, restrooms, benches, etc)? If so, please list and note if they are on an accessible route.

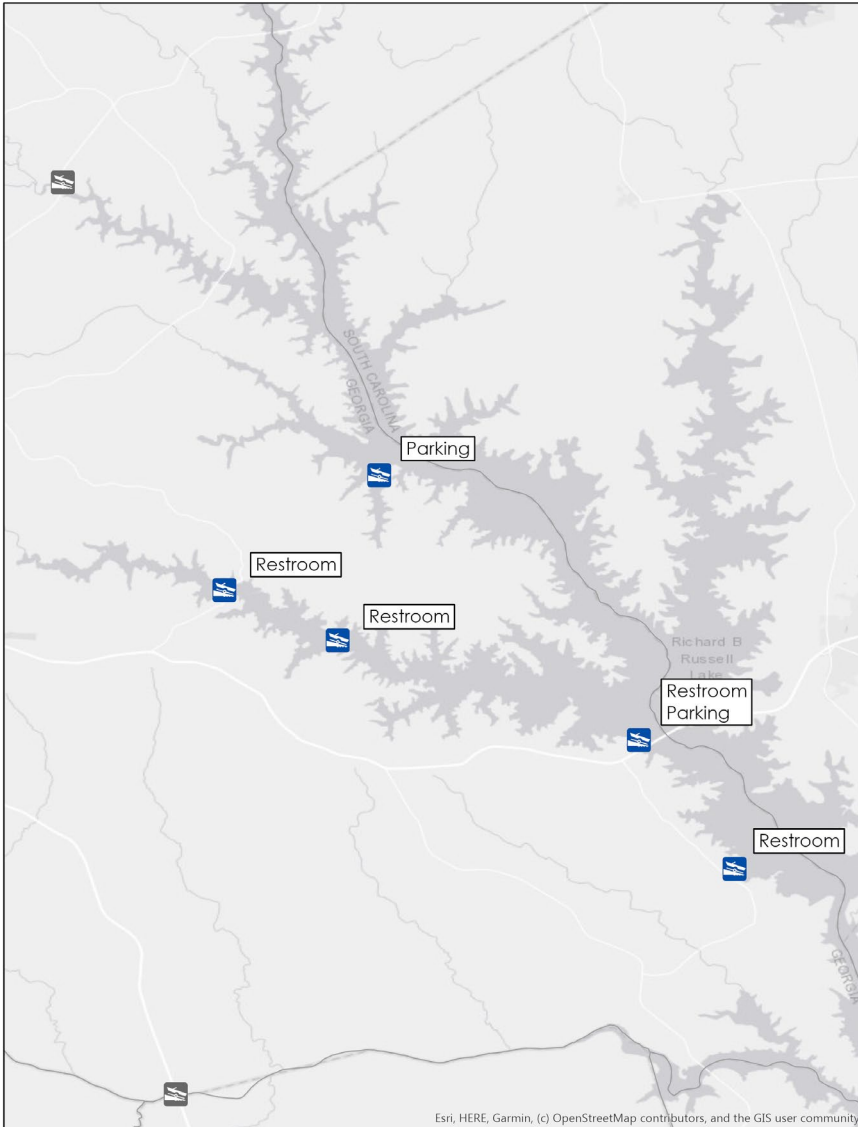
- Field team is currently assessing all ramps not covered during Meeting the Challenge review
- To date, 28 of our 156 facilities have been assessed
- Once complete, we will use the information to define and implement a compliance strategy.

Program Compliance - Strategy



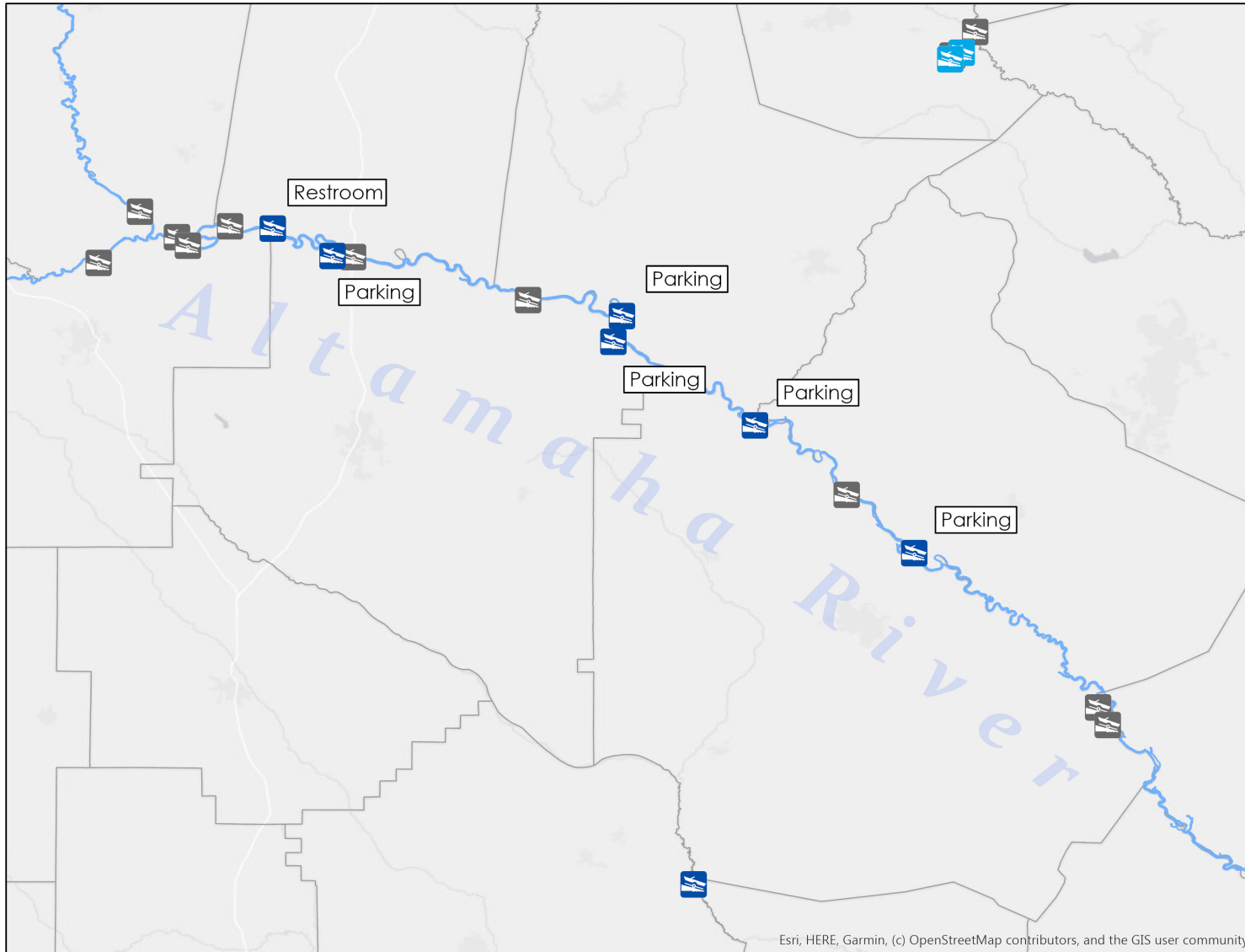
- Based on existing information, 14% of sites are ADA compliant for all three categories, however existing information is “qualitative”.
- Assessment and measurements (e.g. slopes) currently underway are telling a slightly different story.
- Working to develop a strategy to meet full compliance at 10% of our facilities by program.
- Considering to develop program strategy geographically, by opportunity type (Lake Richard B Russell; Altamaha River, etc).

Program Compliance – Richard B. Russell



- Operate 6 boating access facilities in partnership with USACE and Georgia State Parks.
- 5 of the 6 facilities have some accessible features.
- All have courtesy docks, measuring for compliance now.
- 10% results in 1 – fully compliant site for this program.
- Work with USACE to identify the most heavily utilized site and bring to ADA standard.
- Remainder brought to standard as major renovations are needed.

Program Compliance – Altamaha River



- Operate 14 boating access facilities in partnerships with various municipalities.
- Our river ramps generally have fewer amenities -ADA parking
- 10% results in 2 – full compliant for this program.
- Currently have 5 compliant sites in this program.
- Remainder brought to standard as major renovations are needed.

Unique Challenges – Courtesy Steps



- Courtesy / Canoe Steps have been built in conjunction with river ramp to give boater a place to moor at variable flows.
- During assessment, MTC concluded that this element also constitutes a route and must be accessible.
- MTC presented to ADA Board, they agreed. This amenity is no longer being built at our new facilities.

Challenges – Hand Launch Facilities



- Most hand launch facilities have been built as steps.
- GA rivers have large shifts in flow levels throughout the year.
- Considering a narrow ramp for hand launch facilities, with suitable access for launching small trailered vessels (i.e. emergency response).
- Interested to learn more from SOBA members on standard and strategy.

Unique Challenges – Courtesy Dock Groundout



Boating Access Commitment

- All newly constructed sites 100% compliant
- All renovated sites 100% compliant
- Development of a program compliance strategy
- Implement strategy to meet goal of 10% program compliance

Unique Challenge

Partners adding amenities to existing sites (kiosks, signs, picnic tables, trash receptacles, etc.)

- Addressed through updated lease / operation & maintenance agreement
 - ✓ All partner improvements now require a letter of authorization.