

The ADA Branch at Texas Parks and Wildlife

Texas Parks And Wildlife Department

Support Resources Division

Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Branch

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ADA Branch



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“We have to figure out how to adapt the global goals of inclusion and accessibility to the very specific environments of a park’s geography or historic nature of a facility.”

- Jeremy Buzzell, NPS Accessibility Chief

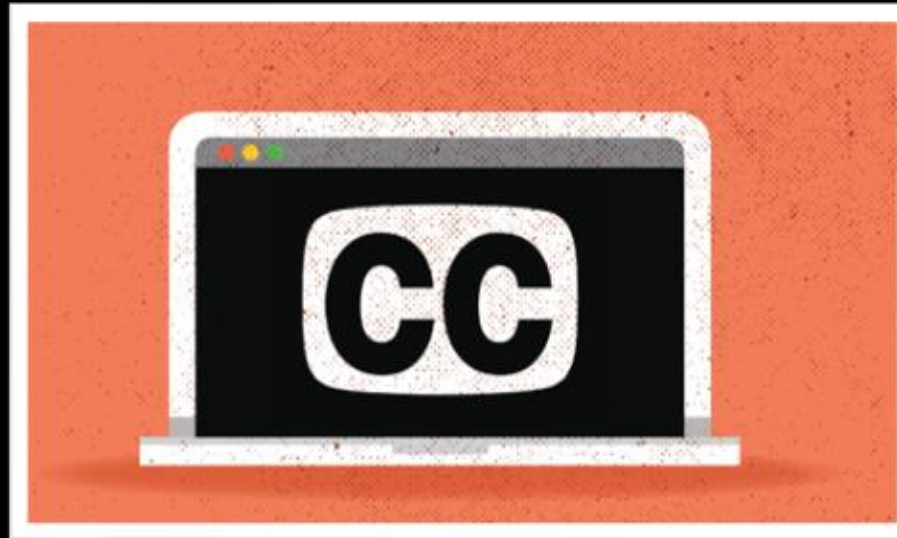
How are we different?

Diverse Facilities



Services - Accommodations

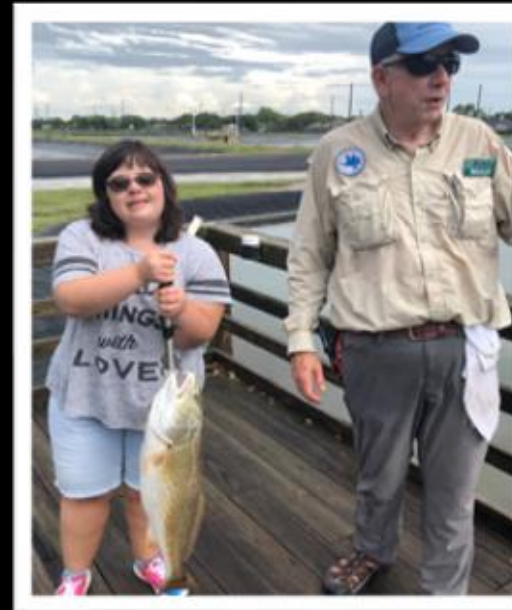
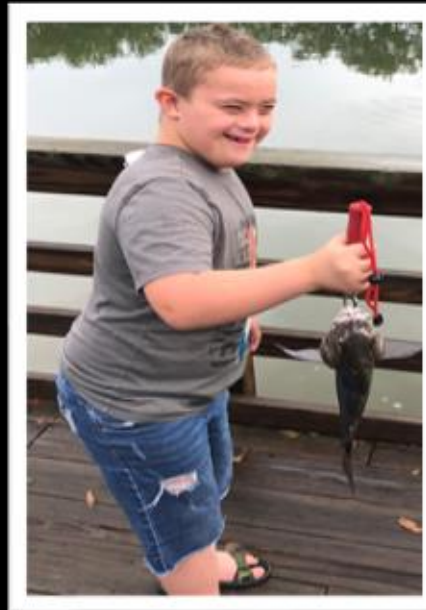
- Transcription
- Translation
- Adapted Communications
- Resources
- Consultation



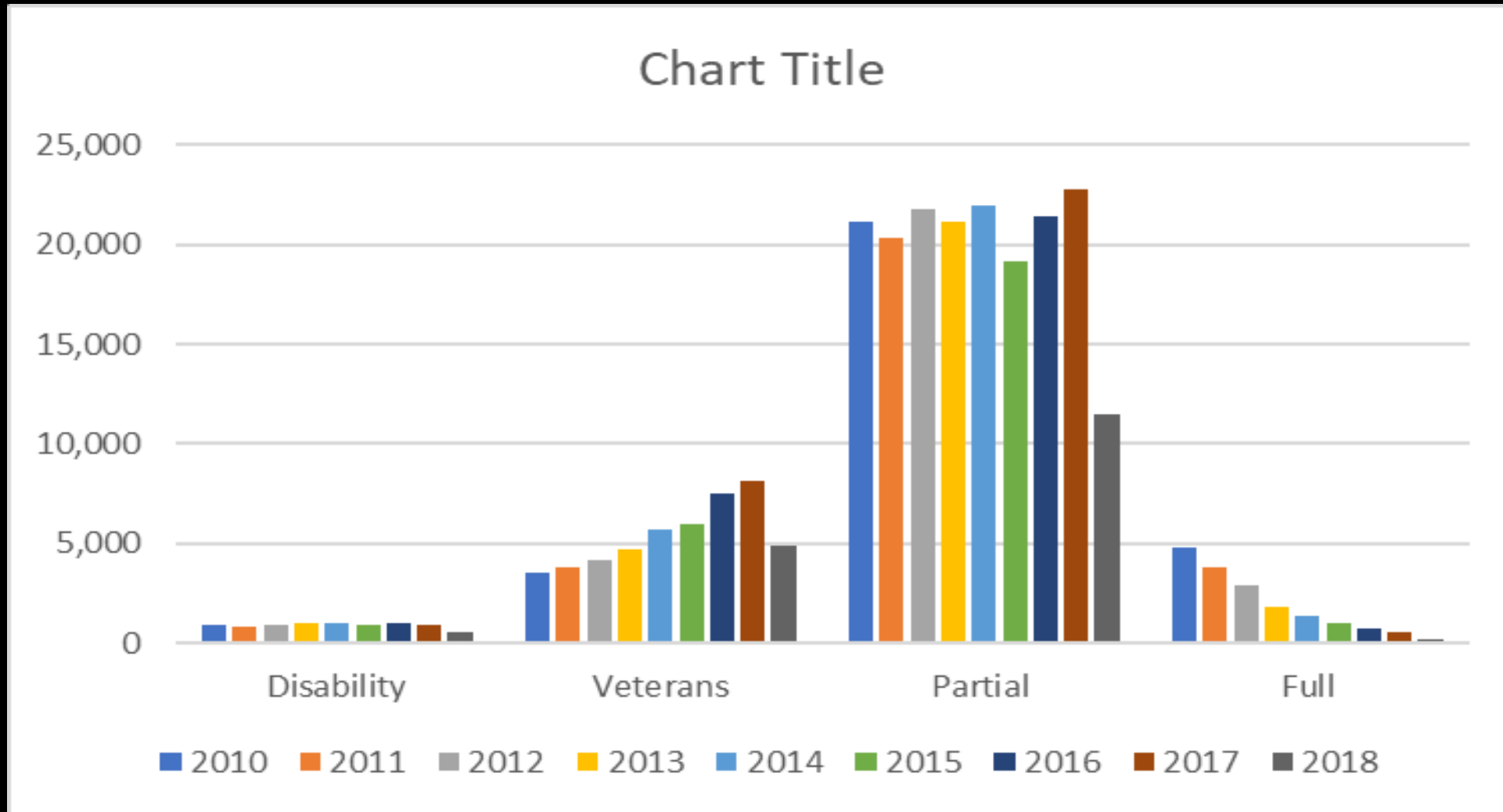
Programs- Inclusive and Accessible

- Fishing and Hunting Education
- Outdoor Recreation
- CO-OP Partners

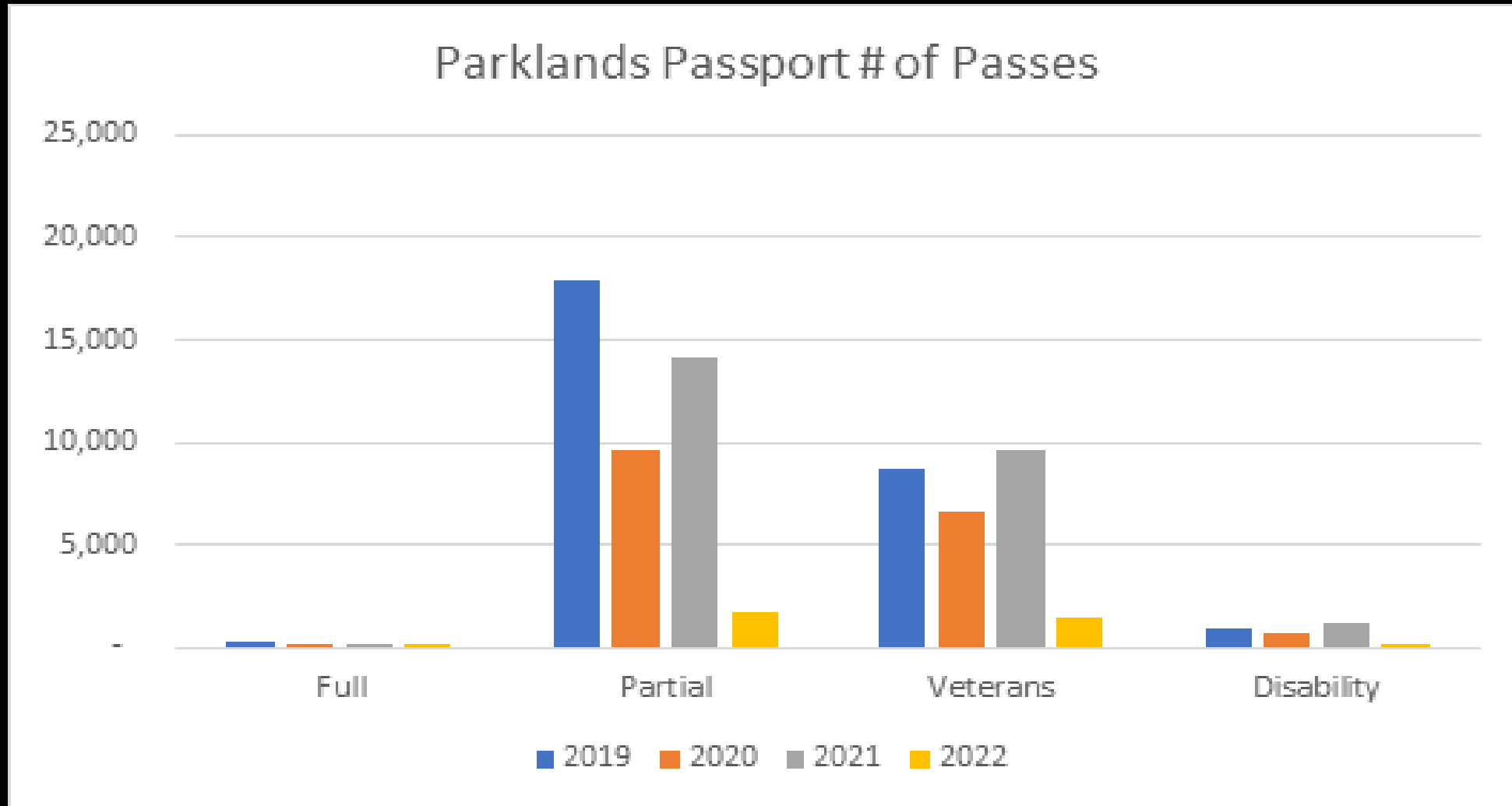
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants>



Park Lands Pass Statistics



Park Lands Pass Statistics



We Created Goals

1st Goal

Create a welcoming environment by increasing the ability of TPWD to serve visitors and staff with disabilities

Vision: TPWD recognizes that accessibility impacts not only visitors and staff of varying abilities but also their family and friends. From facilities to programs; all staff, volunteers, partners, and concessioners will be skilled proponents of accessibility

2nd Goal

Ensure that new facilities and programs are inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities

Vision: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will embrace and incorporate accessible and universal design principles when developing all new facilities and programs

3rd Goal

Ensure existing programs, processes, and services are accessible to people with disabilities.

Vision: Strategically reimagine new and existing programs, services, and processes for accessibility by focusing on key visitor experiences throughout the agency.

**We Created a Plan to
Achieve our Goals**

Three Pillars

- 1) Facilities – Barrier free and accessible design
- 2) Programs – Inclusive, modified, and adaptable
- 3) Services – Welcoming, accommodating, and applicable

Strategies for goal 1

- Develop a communication plan to improve information presented to the public
- Develop a training plan to increase the understanding and capacity of all TPWD employees, partners, and concessioners
- Bolster organizational structure to implement strategies and track results by creating the Accessibility Committee across all twelve divisions

Strategies for goal 2

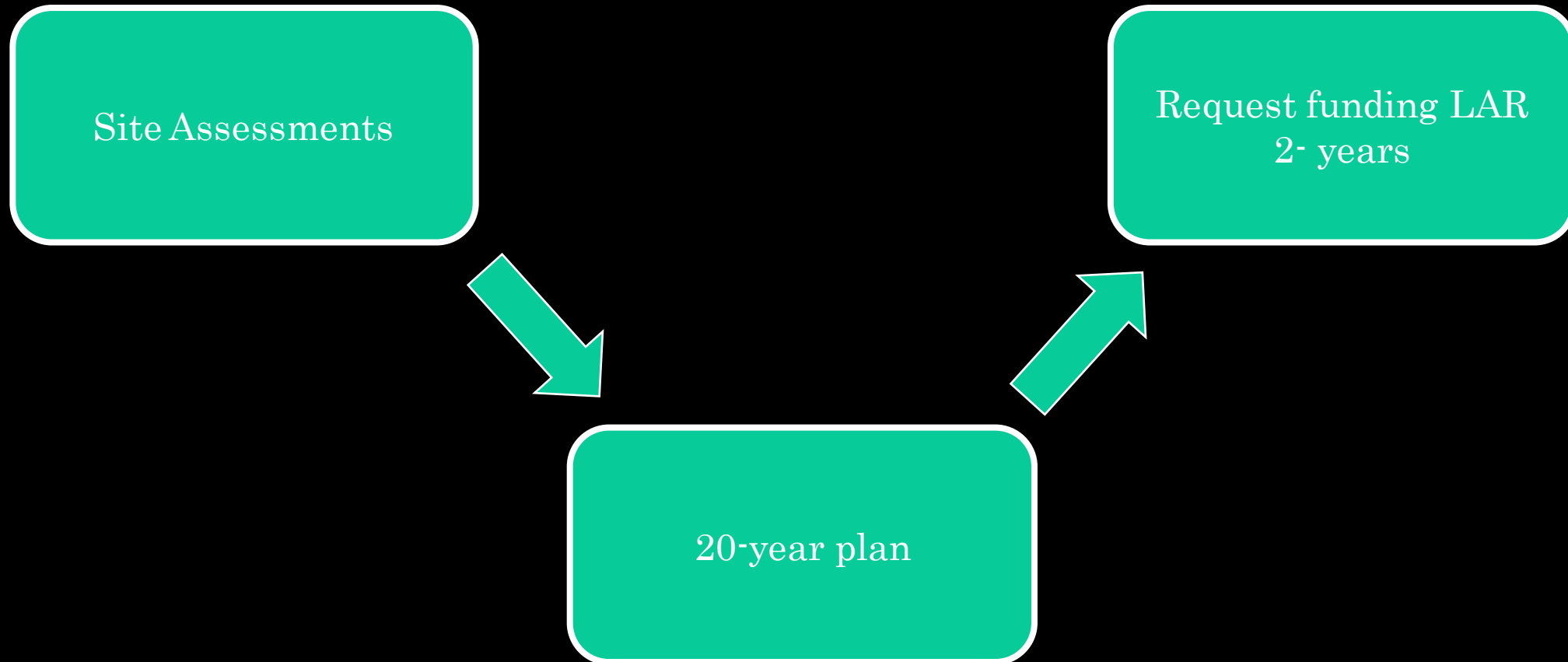
- Complete a Self-Evaluation that includes a walk-through of all TPWD facilities.
- Review capital projects prioritization list and minor repair priority list. Include projected costs
- Create a formal Transition Plan to include the priority lists from the Self-Evaluation. Hold three public hearings to seek input from the Texas disability community before revising final draft of the Transition Plan

Strategies for goal 3

- Develop a process to analyze and prioritize key experiences when engaging with the TPWD
- Education programs
- State park visitation
- Licensure
- Rules and regulations
- Volunteers, docent, and partnerships.

Funding

Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)



More Information?

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