

Overlook/Observation Area/Observation Platform Checklist



OBS1	Facility Name:	
OBS2	Number of overlooks, observation areas or platforms assessed:	_____ overlooks
OBS3	Name/location of overlook, observation area or platform:	
OBS4	Is there a continuous unobstructed route of travel from parking to the observation area?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> n/a <input type="checkbox"/> photo
OBS5	Is the route of travel well-lit?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> n/a <input type="checkbox"/> photo
OBS6	Describe the surface of the route of travel:	
OBS7	Slope of route of travel (at its steepest incline):	_____ % (enter 0% if flat)
OBS8	Width of route of travel (at its narrowest point):	_____ inches (at least 36")
OBS9	What is the distance from the parking area to the observation area? (if no accessible parking, measure distance from middle of parking lot/area to observation area)	_____ feet
OBS10	Describe the observation area (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Deck or Platform <input type="checkbox"/> Roadside or Trailside Overlook Area <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Observation or Viewing Tower <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Pier	
OBS11	If applicable, are there stairs to reach the viewing area?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> n/a <input type="checkbox"/> photo
OBS12	If yes, number of stairs: _____	_____ stairs
OBS13	Is a ramp provided?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> n/a <input type="checkbox"/> photo
OBS14	If yes, width of ramp (at its narrowest point):	_____ inches (at least 36")
OBS15	If yes, slope of ramp (at its steepest incline):	_____ % (enter 0% if flat)
OBS16	If yes, depth of ramp landing:	_____ inches (at least 60")
OBS17	If yes, describe the surface of ramp:	
OBS18	If yes, are there handrails on the ramp?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> n/a <input type="checkbox"/> photo
OBS19	Describe the surface of the observation area:	
OBS20	Is there a railing along the viewing area?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> n/a <input type="checkbox"/> photo
OBS21	If yes, railing height: (at least 25% should be 34" max)	_____ inches
OBS22	Is there edge protection around viewing area? (min 2" high)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> n/a <input type="checkbox"/> photo
OBS23	Is there turning radius for a wheelchair in the observation area? (min 60")	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> n/a <input type="checkbox"/> photo
OBS24	Are there view finders (binoculars or other viewing devices) in the observation area?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> n/a <input type="checkbox"/> photo
OBS25	If yes, height of view finders:	_____ inches
OBS26	Is there seating or benches in the observation area?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> n/a <input type="checkbox"/> photo
OBS27	Comments/additional information regarding observation area:	

Overlook/Observation Area/Platform Checklist

There are many types of overlook and observation areas. Some, such as scenic overlooks found along road or trail sides, may simply have an area to stand and view a particular feature. Other types of observation areas include viewing towers, built platforms, and decks. This checklist is to be used for any type of viewing or observation area. The checklist may be used at places such as wildlife refuges that may not have built facilities, or as part of an assessment of a large facility, such as the Empire State Building or Niagara Falls.

Definitions for Observation or Platform Areas:

- **Observation deck or platform** is a sightseeing platform, often situated upon an architectural structure such as a skyscraper or observation tower. These generally have railings or fencing for safety, and may be enclosed from weather.
- **Roadside or trailside overlook area** is viewing area that is found along the side of a road or trail.
- **Viewing tower** is a structure built specifically for viewing a broad area, generally providing a 360 degree view.
- **Observation pier** is a pier that is provided for sightseeing.
- **Indoor observation or viewing area** is an area located within a facility that allows people to view activities.

Additional Information for completing Overlook/Observation checklist:

Edge Protection

Where railings, guards, or handrails are provided, edge protection must be provided and extend a minimum of 2 inches above the ground or deck surface. This protection will prevent persons using wheelchairs or other mobility devices from slipping off the platform.

Turning Space

Platforms and viewing areas must have at least one turning area, either a 60-inch turning space or T-shaped space, to allow a person using a mobility device or wheelchair to make a 180-degree turn.



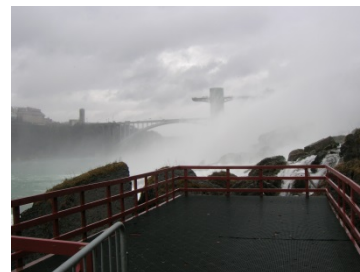
Observation Platform



Observation Platform



Observation Platform



Observation Deck



Observation Tower



Roadside Overlook Area



Observation Pier



Trailside Overlook Area