

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

General

The **KOTZA-ORMAN FOREST ECO TRAIL** is circular, with a total length of 650 m., and is characterized as "EASY". The ECO TRAIL starts from the **Delta Nestos Information Center** (Management body: **Delta Nestos - Vistonida - Ismarida and Thassos Delta Management Agency**) and extends northeast through the adjacent forest. Now, after the interventions and the smoothing of the route that took place in the context of the **BIO2CARE Project**, the path is completely gentle, has a straight, hard surface, without irregularities and with almost zero transverse slopes as well as minimal slopes locally along the direction of movement.

The **TRAIL** includes:

- pathways of clear width 1.5m and above and net height 2.3m and above
- accessible rest points (benches)
- accessible viewing point (kiosk)
- WC for persons with disability
- fences-handrails at two heights (on the left side at 90cm from the ground for use by blind people / visually impaired / people with reduced mobility and on the right-hand side at 75cm for use by wheelchair users)
- trash cans at a suitable height for wheelchair users
- information and signage for the disabled

It is allowed to visit the TRAIL with guide dogs and / or help dogs.

The TRAIL is open all year round, however the access conditions can change dramatically in cases of strong winds, rain, snow, frost, etc., so it is recommended not to visit the TRAIL under such conditions.

Guests can be informed about the accessibility and the condition of the TRAIL upon arrival by the staff of the **Delta Nestos Information Center**.

The **Municipality of Nestos** is committed to making the KOTZA-ORMAN FOREST ECO TRAIL accessible, according to the guidelines for visitors with disabilities included in the "**Guidebook for Accessible Nature Trails: Design Guidelines and Evaluation System**".

Compliance status

The **KOTZA-ORMAN FOREST ECO TRAIL** is **partly in compliance** with the *General Guidelines* provided in the aforementioned Guidebook for visitors with reduced mobility, due to the following *cases of non-compliance*:

- Near the start/end of the TRAIL there are no suitable special parking spaces for disabled vehicles. Notes: They are at the Information Center's yard, but their dimensions are smaller than expected (they are 3.35x4.30 m) and do not have the required marking.
- The route from the parking spaces to the start/end point of the TRAIL is not properly designed for people with disabilities. Notes: Not suitable for wheelchair users and does not carry a "blind guide" on the ground. Alternatively, one could park temporarily (for disembarkation) by the starting point of the TRAIL.
- The staff of the Information Center has not received specialized training for the service / tour / information of people with disabilities.
- The information material available to the visitors of the Information Center is not available in accessible formats, but only in conventional printed versions.
- The signage of the path is conventional, not suitable for some types of readers with disabilities, and placed at heights that may make it difficult for wheelchair users. It also does not include tactile marking (e.g., embossed or in Braille) for the blind and visually impaired, nor easy-to-read marking.
- There are no provisions/plans for emergencies cases that take into account the needs of visitors with disabilities.

In addition, the **TRAIL** is **partly in compliance** with the *Special Guidelines* provided for visitors using **wheelchairs**, visitors with **walking difficulties**, visitors with **vision impairments and visitors with hearing impairment**, επισκέπτες με προβλήματα όρασης, due to the following *cases of non-compliance*:

- The surface of the TRAIL is not paved with tiles. Note: This is a gravel with a special substrate, which can make it difficult, at least locally, to move with some types of wheelchairs.
- The fences-handrails next to the pathway surface of the TRAIL do not have a low protection guard (e.g., at 10 cm from the ground) for the safety and convenience of wheelchair users or visually impaired.
- Along the TRAIL there are only a few spots with a width of more than 2.2m. to facilitate turning / reversing with all types of wheelchairs.
- Inside the kiosk (viewpoint), there is not enough space to stop and rotate with a wheelchair. Note: There is, however, enough space on the rest of the deck (uncovered).
- The staff of the Information Center does not know sign language.

About this accessibility statement

This statement was drafted on **14.12.2020**, following an evaluation performed by **EUROPRACTIS μIKE**, on behalf of the **National Confederation of Disabled People in Greece (E.S.A.meA.)**, based on a regular inspection to verify compliance with the guidelines provided in the aforementioned Guidebook.

Submitting feedback and contact details

For the submission of requests for information and / or remarks about accessibility issues, as well as for the information of our Municipality for cases of non-compliance, please contact the **Secretariat of the Mayor** (Tel.: +3025913 50102 and +3025913 50103. E-mail: dimosnestou@gmail.com. Address: Premeti Street, 64200 Chrysoupoli, Eastern Macedonia-Thrace).

To submit requests for information regarding the renovation project of the TRAIL, please contact the **Press and Public Relations Office** (Tel.: +30 25913 50106. E-mail: dimosnestou1@gmail.com).

To submit requests for information regarding the BIO2CARE Project, please contact the **Building Service** (Contact Person: Ms. Maria Baka. Tel.: +30 25913 50170. E-mail: mpakamaria@0937.syzefxis.gov.gr).

For the organization of guided tours, organized/group visits, etc. and for information / instructions for your visit to the TRAIL, please contact the **Delta Nestos Information Center** (Tel.: +30 25910 51831. E-mail: infonestos@fd-nestosvistonis.gr. Address: Keramoti (behind Keramotis High School), 64200 Kavala).