

National Center for a Barrier Free Environment suggests a systematic, staged approval process to maximize the quality of the facility and the program. A simple system of integrated stages of increasing challenge, as shown in Table 4.11, provides the users with the opportunity to determine their own limits (Fig. 4.31). In this way the facility does not act as the limit to participation.

Parks and open spaces that are able to provide varying degrees of access and challenge serve the general public in that everyone has access but is able to pursue the limits of individual interest and ability. The range of accessibility offers an escalating scale of challenge but provides for a maximum range of access. The details of the mechanics of accessible design have been published and distributed throughout the design and construction industries; the standards for ramp length and height or handrail height are easily determined if they are not already part of everyone's standards. There are, however, other "nonstandard" concerns that should be part of an evaluation. When performing an evaluation, it is necessary to develop a critical eye to assess the facility in terms of users with different capabilities and needs.

TABLE 4.11 Suggested Stages of Accessibility

Stage 1	Provides access to all buildings, secondary facilities, and program.
Stage 2	In addition to all of stage 1, access is provided to "unique" opportunities or features.
Stage 3	In addition to stages 1 and 2, various degrees of access and challenge are provided to secondary opportunities or facilities.

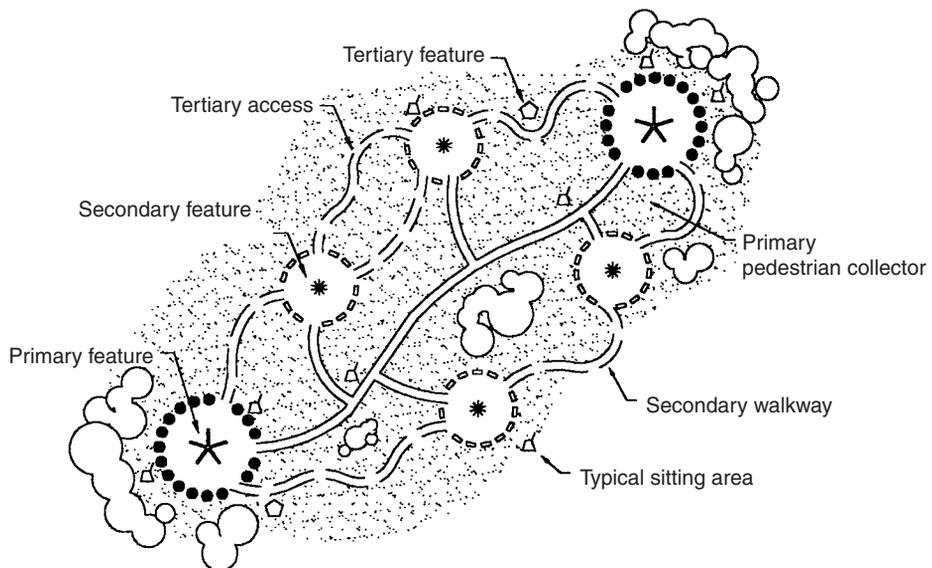


Figure 4.31 Phased integrated access system (see also Table 4.11).