

Access tags

References

Access key <https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Key:access>

Standard Highway Signs https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/SHSe/shs_2004_2012_sup.pdf

Key Terms

Access tags - tags whose values describe legal permissions/restrictions and should follow ground truth e.g. signage or legal ruling and not introduce guesswork. It does not describe common or typical use, even if signage is generally ignored.

Restricted area - There are some roads with restricted access - roads in factory complexes, on military bases or driveways with clear out of bounds signage or barriers. To mark roads as restricted to only private access, add access=private.

Gate - A gate is a section in a wall or fence which can be opened to allow or restrict access. They are usually made of wood or metal.

Overview

Access tags describe restrictions on the use of highways and other transportation routes. Access values describe legal permissions/restrictions and should follow signs or legal rulings.

Tagging

Access

Key	Value	Description
access	no	No access for the general public.
access	private	Only with individual permission; the road is restricted to only private access.
access	permit	Open only to people who have obtained a permit granting them access, but a permit is ordinarily granted. If a permit is hard to obtain, then it is typically access=private.
access	permissive	Open to general traffic until such time as the

		owner revokes the permission, which they are legally allowed to do at any time in the future.
access	customer	Only for customers of the element. If access is not open to any person willing to pay, consider using private instead. Membership clubs are generally tagged as private.
access	destination	Only when travelling to this element/area; transit traffic forbidden, non-transit traffic allowed
access	delivery	Only when delivering to the element. This road may only be used by suppliers.
access	designated	Only for ways marked for a particular use. Only used with a specific mode of transport. For example, 'access=designated' makes no sense but 'taxi=designated' makes perfect sense.

Get information and working with tags

Tags of the "access" group can be used for nodes, ways and areas. The access tags mark legal status of territory and barriers and warning signs are only physical reflections of restrictions in the area. In such a manner, an area with private status should have appropriate values, even if there is no surrounding barrier or it is broken. The different entrances can have different access values and different roads inside the area can have different access values too. For example, we have a botanical garden with permissive access, which has roads, which are designated for the public, and roads, which are designated only for staff of the garden. In such a case we have access=permissive at one road and access=private (or access=no) at another.

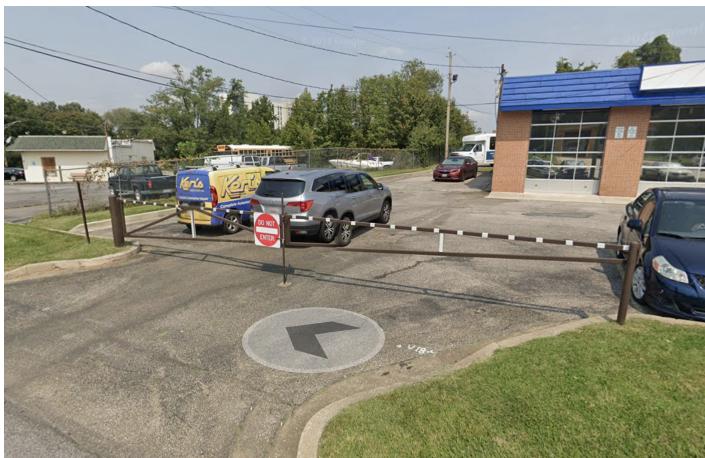
Where different restrictions apply to different modes of transport then mode specific tags can be used. These modal tags each have a place in a hierarchy in which keys become narrower in scope as they branch out from the root.

For example:

- 'access=no', 'bus=yes' means that only buses are allowed to enter (for example a road only for buses);
- 'access=yes', 'rideshare=no' means that all transport modes except taxi can use the element.

Tagging Examples

Access=no



Access=private

