CLAIMS

1. A gate system, comprising:

a first fixed support structure comprising a plurality of fixed rails defining respective passageways; and

a gate configured to move relative to the fixed support structure between an open position and a closed position, wherein the gate comprises:

a plurality of gate rails configured to slide within the respective passageways as the gate moves between the open position and the closed position; and

one or more compressible sheets coupled to the plurality of gate rails, wherein the one or more compressible sheets are configured to move from a compressed position to an expanded position as the gate moves from the open position to the closed position;

wherein the gate system further comprises a plurality of biasing members, wherein each biasing member of the plurality of biasing members is configured to bias the gate toward the open position by exerting an axial force on a first end of a respective gate rail of the plurality of gate rails;

wherein the plurality of gate rails collectively span a plane that forms the general shape of the gate; and wherein each of the respective passageways includes a respective biasing member of the plurality of biasing members.

2. The gate system of claim 1, comprising one or more biasing members configured to bias the gate toward the open position.

3. The gate system of claim 1, comprising a locking member coupled to a second fixed support structure and configured to maintain the gate in the closed position while the locking member is in a locked position.

4. The gate system of claim 3, wherein the locking member is an electromagnetic lock comprising an electromagnet positioned on the second fixed support structure and an armature plate positioned on the gate, wherein the electromagnet is configured to receive a current when the locking member is in the locked position.

5. The gate system of claim 1, comprising one or more clasps coupled to a first compressible sheet of the one or more compressible sheets and circumferentially surrounding a respective gate rail of the plurality of gate rails, wherein the respective gate rail is configured to

move relative to the one or more clasps to facilitate transition of the first compressible sheet between the compressed position and the expanded position as the gate moves from the open position to the closed position.

6. The gate system of claim 5, wherein a first lateral end of the first compressible sheet is coupled to the first fixed support structure and a second lateral end of the first compressible sheet is coupled to a vertical support beam of the gate.

7. The gate system of claim 1, wherein a first gate rail and a second gate rail of the plurality of gate rails are oriented parallel to a floor and are separated from one another by a vertical distance.

8. The gate system of claim 7, wherein a first compressible sheet of the one or more compressible sheets extends at least partially across a gap defined by the vertical distance.

9. The gate system of claim 1, comprising a wheel fixed to one gate rail of the plurality of gate rails, wherein the wheel is configured to roll along a groove in a floor to facilitate the movement of the gate between the open position and the closed position.

10. A gate system, comprising:

a first fixed support structure comprising a plurality of fixed rails defining respective passageways;

a gate configured to move relative to the first fixed support structure between an open position and a closed position, wherein the gate comprises a plurality of gate rails configured to slide within the respective passageways as the gate moves between the open position and the closed position;

one or more compressible sheets coupled to the plurality of gate rails; one or more biasing members configured to bias the gate toward the open position; and

a locking member configured to maintain the gate in the closed position while the locking member is in a locked position;

wherein the gate comprises a second fixed support structure which is coupled to the locking member;

wherein the one or more biasing members are configured to bias the gate toward the open position by exerting an axial force on a first end of a respective gate rail of the plurality of gate rails;

wherein the plurality of gate rails collectively span a plane that forms the general shape of the gate; and wherein each of the respective passageways includes a respective biasing member of the one or more biasing members.

11. The gate system of claim 10, wherein the one or more compressible sheets are configured to move from an expanded position to a compressed position as the gate moves from the closed position to the open position.

12. The gate system of claim 11, comprising one or more clasps coupled to at least one of the one or more compressible sheets and circumferentially surrounding a respective gate rail of the plurality of gate rails, wherein the respective gate rail is configured to move relative to the one or more clasps to facilitate transition of the at least one of the one or more compressible sheets between the compressed position and the expanded position as the gate moves from the open position to the closed position.

13. The gate system of claim 10, wherein the one or more biasing members comprise a spring, a hydraulic actuator, a pneumatic actuator, or any combination thereof.

14. The gate system of claim 10, comprising a controller configured to provide a control signal to adjust the locking member from the locked position to an unlocked position, thereby enabling the one or more biasing members to drive the gate to the open position.

15. The gate system of claim 10, wherein the locking member is an electromagnetic lock.

16. The gate system of claim 15, wherein the locking member comprises an electromagnet positioned on the second fixed support structure and an armature plate positioned on the gate, and the electromagnet is configured to receive a current when the locking member is in the locked position.

17. A gate system, comprising:

a plurality of fixed support structures each comprising a plurality of fixed rails defining respective passageways;

a plurality of gates that define a queue path for a line of amusement park guests; wherein each gate of the plurality of gates is configured to move relative to each of the plurality of fixed support structures between an open position and a closed position, wherein each gate of the plurality of gates also comprises a plurality of gate rails each configured to slide within the respective passageways of each of the plurality of fixed support structures;

a plurality of biasing members, wherein each biasing member of the plurality of biasing members is configured to bias a respective gate of the plurality of gates toward the open position; and

a plurality of locking members, wherein each locking member of the plurality of locking members is configured to maintain the respective gate in the closed position while in a locked position;

wherein the plurality of biasing members are configured to bias the gate toward the open position by exerting an axial force on a first end of a respective gate rail of the plurality of gate rails;

wherein the plurality of gate rails collectively span a plane that forms the general shape of the gate; and wherein each of the respective passageways includes a respective biasing member of the plurality of biasing members.

18. The gate system of claim 17, comprising a controller configured to provide a control signal to simultaneously adjust the plurality of locking members from the locked position to an unlocked position, thereby enabling the plurality of biasing members to drive the plurality of gates to the open position.

19. The gate system of claim 17, comprising one or more compressible sheets coupled to the plurality of gate rails, wherein the one or more compressible sheets are configured to block passage of a guest through the gate while the gate is in the closed position and are configured to compress as the gate moves from the open position to the closed position.