



Access Today

Spring 2006

A publication of the National Center on Accessibility

Volume 12, Issue 1

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April 18-20, 2006
Indiana University

NCA Publishes Results of National Survey on Campground Access

The National Center on Accessibility has published the final report titled *National Survey on Campground Accessibility: Policies and Practices*. The purpose of this study was partly to identify existing policies and procedures common to accommodating people with disabilities in campgrounds and campsites throughout the country; and partly to determine the current level of accessibility in campground facilities. The intent of the data collection was to identify common policies, exemplary practices and issues where clear policies were not available. The ultimate objective was to provide campground owners and operators with examples of principles and policies that might guide them in future efforts to make their facility both programmatically and physically accessible.

Over 3,000 campgrounds were identified and e-mailed a request to complete the 34 question on-line survey. Approximately 210 responses were received from private, federal, state and local campground operators.

The survey was designed to elicit responses regarding items such as prevalence of accessible campsites; reservation policies for accessible campsites; staff resources devoted to accessibility; location of the sites; discounted fees and other issues.



Participants from an NCA training course practice setting up a tent on a raised tent pad at Yellowstone National Park.

In response to a question regarding the availability of accessible campsites, over 80% of all respondents indicated that they had accessible sites. However, of the privately owned campgrounds, only 41% indicated that they had accessible sites. Other data revealed that a large majority of the campgrounds did not have written reservation policies for their accessible campsites. When asked about their policy regarding holding accessible campsites for persons with disabilities, many campgrounds (41%) did not hold accessible sites at all. 27% hold the accessible site until the published check-in time and 11% hold the accessible sites exclusively for people with disabilities.

Results of the study can be found on the NCA website and the full report can be ordered from NCA. www.ncaonline.org



The National Center on Accessibility is a center of Indiana University's Department of Recreation and Park Administration within the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Since 1992, NCA has played a critical role in increasing awareness of inclusion of people with disabilities in parks, recreation and tourism while advancing the spirit and intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act and other disability legislation. Through research, technical assistance and training, NCA builds a continuum of comprehensive services for park and recreation practitioners, focusing on universal design and practical solutions that create inclusive recreation opportunities for people of all abilities. NCA is funded in part by the U.S. Congress through the National Park Service.

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Access Today is a free publication distributed by the National Center on Accessibility with the purpose of updating recreation professionals on news and trends related to recreation access and universal design. Access Today is available in alternative formats. Back issues are also posted on the NCA web site. For more information:

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Dear Access Today Readers,

Hello from the National Center on Accessibility. With Spring just around the corner, we thought we would dress up Access Today with a fresh new look. We hope you like it! In this issue, you can read about the latest NCA research including the published findings of our recent survey of campground operators and our launch of a national study on trail surfaces. People with disabilities have been instrumental in NCA research and volunteers will be needed in many new initiatives. If you have a disability or have a family member or friend with a disability, consider volunteering for future NCA research studies as described on the next page.

Read on about NCA activities including on-site consultations and the use of GPS and GIS for accessibility assessments in the outdoors. Check out the article about design students at San Francisco State University pushing the universal design envelope with new prototypes for outdoor tables and seating. And pay special attention to three individuals highlighted on page 9 as they conclude careers dedicated to improving accessibility in parks and recreation areas while fostering new opportunities for inclusion and collaboration. During my career, I have been fortunate to meet Karen Megorden, Don Fox and Tom Coleman. As I read about their accomplishments, I was reminded, as I'm sure you will be, that accessibility doesn't just happen! It requires knowledge and understanding of the diverse needs of our population. More importantly, it requires leadership from all organizational levels, individuals who value inclusion, individuals committed to universal design, individuals resilient in their position and philosophy when the majority is clamoring loudly and most resistant to change. Where the rubber meets the road, Karen, Don and Tom were MAKING ACCESSIBILITY HAPPEN in the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service. And at the same time, they served as quiet role models to those that would follow in their paths.

Inclusion as a value is a consistent theme at the National Center on Accessibility. We look forward to opportunities to share best practices and exemplars in the field. Catherine Nolan, NCA Graduate Assistant, has published an article on two faith-based organizations, the Black Hawk YMCA in northern Iowa and the Inclusion and Accessibility Services of the St. Paul (MN) Jewish Community Center. At both organizations inclusion is a core value and participation of people with disabilities shoulder to shoulder with peers without disabilities is an everyday occurrence. The full article is available on www.ncaonline.org

Spring marks a new season of growth, opportunity and reflection. Take some time this season to celebrate the individuals and organizations that truly do MAKE ACCESSIBILITY HAPPEN everyday.

Sincerely,
Jennifer K. Skulski
Editor

NCA Seeks People with Disabilities to Participate in Future Accessibility Research Studies

For more than a decade, the National Center on Accessibility at Indiana University has researched the needs, preferences and expectations of people with disabilities accessing parks, recreation and tourism. Discovery in these recreation areas have assisted managers to make better informed decisions on planning, designs and products to create accessible facilities, programs and services.

To further research discovery, the National Center on Accessibility is seeking individuals with disabilities to volunteer for future research studies. By volunteering, you will be added to the NCA Research Volunteer Database. As NCA surveys and research activities are initiated, you may be asked to participate based on your geographic location in relation to the project and your areas of interest. Your participation in NCA research activities will contribute to inquiry as to how to best meet the needs of people with disabilities in recreational pursuits. All participation is voluntary and without compensation.

There are many benefits to participating in NCA research. In addition to assuring that your voice is heard, your needs and preferences will have a national impact. You may have the opportunity to test various products and equipment that are designed to improve access to recreation environments. You may also be asked to respond to questions and surveys that will assist manufacturers and product developers. Research studies or surveys may require only responses to questionnaires that can be completed on the Internet. Others may require physical participation



Participation by people with disabilities in NCA research studies have lead to significant research findings in the areas of: beach assistive devices, temporary beach surfaces, golf, swimming pools, playgrounds, picnic areas, trails, and visitor expectations to National Parks.

in testing and evaluating devices and products. People with disabilities interested in participating in future NCA research studies can sign up at any time. Your information will be kept on file and you will be contacted when/if an NCA research activity is conducted based on your areas of interest and geographic location. Personal information provided by volunteers will be kept secure and strictly confidential by the National Center on Accessibility at Indiana University. NCA will contact

volunteers directly with information on upcoming studies and opportunities for participation in research studies. Personal information will solely be used by NCA and/or a collaborative research partner(s). No portions of personal information will be shared or sold for commercial purposes. Volunteers will have the right to request removal from the research volunteer list at any time. Volunteers also have the right to decline participation in research studies at any time. To request to be removed from the research volunteer list, you can either call, e-mail or fax NCA.

Interested individuals with disabilities can sign up to volunteer for future research by completing the form on the NCA web site or by contacting NCA:

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Consistently rated as one of the best public universities for new technology, NCA staff has been able to utilize the resources available through Indiana University to pilot test the use of GPS and GIS for trail assessments and outdoor accessibility assessments.

NCA Staff Use Technology to Improve Access

The National Center on Accessibility has acquired two state of the art GPS units for use in its work related to outdoor access. The GPS Pathfinder ProXT Receivers and handheld systems are being used in conjunction with two new NCA initiatives: development of the new *Park and Recreation Accessibility Management System v1.2* (PRMS) and trail assessments.

Last summer, NCA staff developed PRMS to assist in conducting accessibility assessments in both the built and natural environments. The data management system eases data collection and analysis of physical barriers identified in parks and facilities.

Currently, NCA is experimenting with the system to develop a comprehensive trail assessment system, with all data being collected via satellite, then uploaded in the PRMS and transferred to a GIS mapping program to produce a detailed trail map and informational brochure. In addition to the GPS Pathfinder ProXT units, NCA has also acquired the Contour XLRIC device that provides accurate laser measurements of horizontal and vertical distances. The system includes an integrated, digital compass/inclinometer module combined with powerful software providing a variety of preprogrammed mapping and surveying functions.



(Right) Jason Hooten of MapSync reviews GPS procedures with NCA Accessibility Specialists Laura Weatherbee and Susan Ostby, while Gary Robb checks coordinates.



PRMS Put to Work for Park Districts

More and more work requested of the National Center on Accessibility over the last 2-4 years has involved on site consultation and detailed accessibility assessments of parks and recreation facilities. "While we have had an assessment tool for recreation facilities and outdoor developed areas in place, we have not had an electronic system for tracking barriers from the point of identification through to barrier removal or structural improvements," says Jennifer Skulski, NCA Director of Marketing and Special Projects. "The majority of the existing data management systems out there are designed for large agencies like the bureaus within the Department of Interior. And surprisingly, there still is not a commercial software available for the small to mid-size municipality. We tested a couple software packages, but none did what we needed them to do...so we developed our own." Through ongoing development and testing of NCA's new *Park and Recreation Accessibility Management System v1.2* (PRMS), two Illinois Park Districts have been able to benefit from the new system. The Arlington Heights Park District just received their customized system, and the Itasca Park District is soon to follow. PRMS has been tailored for each park district containing data for accessibility barriers at each park and facility. The system can run detailed reports, prioritize, plan and track accessibility improvements agency-wide.

"As we continue development and work with the GPS, we hope to make PRMS more widely available," reports Susan Ostby, NCA Accessibility Specialist and lead on the PRMS development project.

What surfaces and amendments can be used to make trails accessible to people with disabilities? The National Center on Accessibility hopes to be able to answer this question by implementing the National Trails Surface Study.

Multi-Year Study on Trail Surfaces Launches

The National Trails Surface Study is underway and recruiting of participants has begun for participation as early as Spring 2006. What surfaces and amendments can be used to make trails accessible to people with disabilities? The National Center on Accessibility hopes to be able to answer this question by implementing the National Trails Surface Study. The goal of this 5 year study is to determine which trail surface applications prove to be accessible as well as environmentally friendly. Participants can be from federal, private or public agencies and selection will continue until the targeted number of trail segments is achieved.

This longitudinal study on various trail surface applications will include diverse geographic zones anticipating that we will be able to determine what surface applications prove to be accessible in varying climatic conditions. Control surfaces will include native soil and accessible aggregate surfacing material without stabilization. Soil stabilization products include: polymers, enzymes, polyurethanes and organic plant material.

Each site will be provided with the soil stabilization products and application instructions. Guidance and technical assistance will be available upon request. Each site will be asked to periodically test the firmness and stability of the trail



In order to determine what impact grade has on various surface applications, native soil, accessible aggregate surfacing material and soil stabilization products will be tested at:

- A 30 ft minimum segment at 0-5% grade
- A 30 ft minimum segment at 5-8.33% grade
- A 30 ft minimum segment at 8.33-10% grade
- A 10 ft minimum segment at 10-12% grade

surfaces with the rotational penetrometer. NCA will lend sites a rotational penetrometer for testing. It will be the participant's responsibility to assume the remaining costs of the project including design, construction, materials and trail surface monitoring.

By participating in the National Trails Surface Study, agencies will gain national visibility for their project and will contribute to important research discovery benefitting other trail professionals in the field.

For more information about the NCA National Trails Surface Study or to apply as a site, visit the NCA web site at

www.ncaonline.org/trails/research

This study is coordinated by Gary Robb, Executive Director, and Laura Weatherbee, Accessibility Specialist and Trails Study Coordinator. For questions, call NCA at (812) 856-4422 Voice or (812) 856-4421 TTY or send e-mail to ncatrails@indiana.edu

National Alliance for Accessible Golf Hires Management Firm, Elects New Officers

The National Alliance for Accessible Golf was created in the summer of 2001 and since its formation has been housed at Indiana University's National Center on Accessibility. At its February Board of Director's meeting, the Alliance announced that it has hired a new management firm and that the Alliance headquarters would move. Drohan Management Group, Inc. of Reston, Virginia will be the new headquarters of the Alliance. The group will assume management of all operations of the Alliance including the Alliance website and all of its programs.

At its board meeting in Atlanta, the Alliance also elected new officers for the first time in its history. Gary Robb, Executive Director of NCA has stepped down as the first and only President of the Alliance in its first 4+ years of operation. New officers include Dr. Trey Holland, President; John Chambers, Vice President; Mike Tinkey, Secretary and Andy Phipps, Treasurer. Additionally, the Alliance has added five new members to its board. Three of the new board members are individuals with disabilities and two are from the private corporate sector. This is the first time that corporations external to the golf industry have been added to the board.

For more information on the National Alliance for Accessible Golf visit www.accessgolf.org

New Staff

Over the course of the year, several new staff have been welcomed to the National Center on Accessibility.

Laura Weatherbee joined the NCA team last July as the newest NCA Accessibility Specialist. Laura is a graduate of Indiana University with a BS in Recreation with an emphasis in therapeutic recreation. She has spent the last two years working at the State of Kentucky Office for the Blind as a recreational therapist coordinating programming for clients with visual impairments. Laura joins Susan Ostby as one of the NCA lead staff to provide technical assistance to recreation professionals, advocates and consumers with disabilities. Currently Laura is coordinating the launch of the National Trails Surface Study. Laura

will also serve as an instructor for NCA training courses.

As part of the Department of Recreation and Park Administration at Indiana University, NCA is fortunate to draw from a pool of exceptional graduate students preparing to enter the field. Graduate assistants to NCA for the 2005-2006 school year include Wendy Chotiner, Catherine Nolen and Nicole Montembeault. Wendy and Catherine are part of the therapeutic recreation graduate program, while Nicole is studying in the sport management program. All three have assisted NCA on various projects including authoring monographs, developing a leisure education resource and toolkit for accessible golf, along with support to NCA training programs.

NCA Completes Park District Evaluations

It has been a busy year for NCA's consultation and assessment team. During 2005, NCA provided onsite consultation for two park districts near Chicago. At the Arlington Heights Park District, NCA assessed 66 parks and shared use spaces for physical accessibility and provided recommendations for accessibility improvements.

At the Itasca Park District, NCA's assessment included the evaluation of both physical facilities and programs. NCA provided recommendations for barrier removal and application of universal design. NCA staff will continue to assist the Itasca Park District in the next phase of the project which includes long-range planning.

(Right) Susan Ostby, NCA Accessibility Specialist, tests the operation of a water pump near a picnic shelter.



Universal Challenge

Making Challenge Courses Accessible and Usable for All

www.ncaonline.org/challenge

The Universal Challenge website is an online resource for people who have disabilities and are interested in participating in a challenge course experience and to the facilitators, practitioners and professionals who want to provide challenge experiences to people who have disabilities. This web resource has been created through a collaborative project of the National Center on Physical Activity and Disability (NCPAD) with content and design development by Bradford Woods, the National Center on Accessibility (NCA) and the Indiana University School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. This project is funded through a grant from the Division of Human Development and Disability at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



"Tell me, I'll forget. Show me, I may remember. But involve me, and I'll understand."

—Chinese Proverb

What is Challenge?

Universal Challenge Programming

History of Universal Design

Universal Design & Programming

Needs Assessments, Populations, Applications

Activities & Adaptations

Ground-based Initiatives

Bull Ring, Great Divide

Helium Hoop, Minefield

Low Challenge Course

Whale Watch, Spider's Web

Multi-vine, Incline Beam/Ramp

High Challenge Course

Climbing Tower, Matted Bridge

Sky Surfer, Levitation Platform

Burma Bridge, Zip Line

Flying Squirrel

Accessing High Elements

Body Positioning

Belaying Options

Platform Transfer

Resources

Discover Camp: Considerations for Sending Your Child with a Disability to Camp for the First Time

The 26-page booklet includes considerations and questions for parents to use during the camp selection process. The information presented in the guide is based on interviews with parents and the camp staff at the nationally reknown Bradford Woods Outdoor Center at Indiana University. The guide is based on professional camp staff experiences with planning camp programs for children with and without disabilities, working with parents sending their children to camp for the first time, answering their questions, addressing their concerns and calming their fears. The print publication is available through NCPAD. A complimentary web site is online: www.ncaonline.org/discover



Coming Spring 2006

Discover Leisure Education

An online guide to leisure education for parents of children with disabilities. Subscribe to the NCA listserv for future updates.
www.ncaonline.org

City of Detroit Sets Strict Specs to Ensure New Playground Surfaces are Safe and Accessible

This article originally appears as a Making the Grade feature of www.ncaonline.org. Visit the NCA web site to read the article in its entirety.

by Jennifer K. Skulski, CPSI

Throughout the development of accessibility guidelines for playgrounds, there has been a discussion of dichotomy suggesting that a playground surface can not be both accessible to children with disabilities and resilient enough to reduce the likelihood of injury in the event of a fall. However the science of playground surfacing has evolved to prove that it is possible to install and maintain playground surfaces that are both accessible and impact attenuating, and playground owners are putting the various surfacing systems to the test before, during and after the initial purchase and installation.

With a limited budget and 360 parks located on more than 6,000 acres, City of Detroit park planners have taken an innovative approach to ensure the biggest bang for their buck when purchasing new playground surfacing. Through the bid process, the city has instituted quality assurance specifications for impact attenuation and accessibility of newly purchased playground surfacing. The most notable requirement in the bid specification calls for the surfaces to be tested to verify compliance immediately following installation and at the end of the second, fourth and fifth year of use.

"We have been working with rubber surfacing for a little over 10 years. About 3-4 years ago we started installing some new playgrounds and needed to



develop a more up to date specification," says Dick Hautau, Chief of Landscape Architects for the City of Detroit Recreation Department. Some of the city's first installations with poured in place rubber products were aging more rapidly than the city had anticipated and showing signs of becoming brittle. Thus, between the years 2002 and 2003 the city developed quality assurance specifications and detailed product warranty expectations for all eligible bidders.

Within 10-35 days following installation of the finished playground surface, the contractor is required to provide the city with field test results demonstrating that the surface is in compliance with ASTM F1292 for impact attenuation and ASTM F1951 for wheelchair accessibility. The city also allows for the use a Rotational Penetrometer to field test the surface for firmness and stability in regards to wheelchair accessibility. In 2004, the city had 11 playgrounds installed with poured in place rubber surfacing, and 20 more in 2005. Hautau reports the

quality assurance requirement has been of great benefit to the city just within the last year. "We found a couple installations this summer that did not meet the specifications and required the manufacturer and installer to go back and correct them."

The city's quality assurance process shifts the manufacturer's claims of safety and accessibility verified in a controlled laboratory testing environment to the outdoor playground environment where it matters most. Advocates for field testing will agree, it doesn't matter that the manufacturer has certifications showing a surface passes for impact attenuation and wheelchair accessibility in a laboratory setting if the surface is not properly installed and maintained in the playground environment where it could either prohibit use by children with disabilities or result in life-threatening injury when a child falls from equipment. Field testing stands as a proof point that the playground owner actually received what was bought and paid for.

Three Retire After Dedicating Careers to Accessibility and Inclusion

Karen Megorden Bureau of Reclamation

Karen Megorden celebrated her retirement in January this year. Karen began her Federal service in 1973 as a Forestry Aid with the Forest Service. Three years later she joined the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. In 1988, Karen initiated the development of a data management system (ADMS) to catalog the enormous amounts of accessibility information generated during the accessibility evaluations of the Pacific Northwest Region facilities. Karen became fondly known as the "Mother of ADMS" and her advocacy for people with disabilities really began.

In 1991, Karen began the well known public service effort for children with disabilities and disadvantaged children, Catch a Special Thrill (CAST) for Kids (www.castforkids.org). The program has grown significantly from the first event sponsored by BOR, through the development of the CAST Foundation, to over 37 events across the country. In 1992, Karen became the PN Region's Accessibility Program Manager and later the Bureau's.

Under Karen's leadership, BOR's Universal Accessibility Program was developed and became a model for the Department and ADMS became the Bureau's standard for managing accessibility. ADMS was recently recognized as one of Reclamation's Best Practices in 2005. During the last 18 months, Karen has served as Reclamation's Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Manager.

After leaving Federal service, Karen will be returning to her profession of choice, landscape architecture.

Tom Coleman National Park Service

Tom Coleman, Recreation and Accessibility Specialist, retired in August 2005 after 26 years with the National Park Service. He spent his entire NPS career in the Washington Office (WASO), working in the Accessibility Management Program. Program manager Dave Park said that Tom's extensive knowledge of accessibility issues, good-natured personality and ability to reach out to others made him a mainstay of the NPS program.

Tom's NPS legacy includes two distinct endeavors, said Park, who began his tenure with the Accessibility Management Program about the same time that Coleman did. "Six years ago, Tom assumed leadership of our new achievement awards program," he said. "The program has evolved into a model for other NPS divisions. It's also generated national and international publicity." NPS Accessibility Achievement Awards recognize original programming and projects that promote accessibility goals and policies within the Service on both a national and regional basis.

Tom has worked as a liaison with other Federal agencies and external advocacy groups, such as the U.S. Access Board, Department of Justice's Disability Rights section, Paralyzed Veterans of America, American Council of the Blind, and TelecomPioneers of America. Tom has also been a member of the Servicewide Accessibility Coordinating Committee, an advisory committee and work group that makes recommendations for implementing NPS accessibility policies. Prior to coming to NPS,

Tom had an 18-year career at Topeka State Hospital in Topeka, Kan., first as an activity therapist and then as director of the recreation therapy department for 12 years. He graduated from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas with a BA in Therapeutic Recreation.

Upon retiring from the NPS, Tom and his wife, Teddy, who have been married for 46 years, will relocate to Texas to be closer to their daughter. His retirement plans include fishing and golf.

Don Fox National Park Service

In December, Don Fox retired from the National Park Service after 38 years of federal service. He worked in Washington, D.C., the Denver Service Center and Yosemite National Park. Don was stationed at Yosemite for 32 years as Park Landscape Architect and also served as the park's accessibility coordinator. For the last 7 years, he has served as NPS Pacific West Region Accessibility Compliance Coordinator. Don graduated from Michigan State University, with a BS in Landscape Architecture. Don is an American Society of Landscape Architects Fellow, a founding member of the California Forum on Accessibility, received the 2000 Certificate of Honor for Superior Service for his achievements in improving accessibility to NPS programs and the 2001 National Park Service National Accessibility Leadership Award. Upon retirement, Don is working as a consultant with Accessible Design Collaborative and Disability Access Consultants, Inc.

Special thanks to Ann Hayes, Georgia Jones and Nan Smith for contributions to this article.

Design Students Tackle Accessible Picnic Tables

In 2001 the National Center on Accessibility published findings on the Functional Aspects of Accessible Picnic Elements. Noted in the study findings is the importance of the placement of the wheelchair accessible seating location at picnic tables to facilitate social interaction. Commercial picnic tables on the market traditionally have been designed with extended tops for wheelchair seating at the end of the table. Few designs have been introduced where a person using an assistive device such as a manual or electric wheelchair has a choice of seating locations and opportunity for socializing with everyone at the table...that is until now.

Design students at San Francisco State University have spent the last semester working on an outdoor table and bench design that embraces the principles of Universal Design and gives people using assistive devices more choices when they come to the table. SFSU design students Jasper Kirsch, Eric Amlie, Justin Bosley, Jordan Lancer and Ben Derbidge worked with Phil Evans, SFSU manager of Buildings and Grounds to design and construct the new outdoor table and seating system. The prototype is now located on the SFSU campus adjacent to the Fine Arts Building. Since the inception of the original design, the design team is at work on two new models including sliding benches and a lifting screw/lazy susan feature.



Referencing the SFSU Landscape for All project, Phil Evans, Manager of Buildings and Grounds, comments on the work of the student design team, "With all the creative talent here, the campus has become a living laboratory for improvements in access. All of the products are of value to park designers and managers, and we are hoping to see them implemented around the world as inclusive design becomes the standard of care for our communities."

Universal Design Seating Studio

Access For All

What is Universal Design?

Universal Design is an approach to the design of products, services and environments to be as usable as possible by as many people as possible regardless of age, ability or situation.

Features:

- Six accessible seating areas for people using mobility aids.
- The Curvature of the table allows for a person using a mobility aid to get closer to the table without the arm rests hitting the table.
- The different heights of the seats and adjustable table allow for choice in comfort and accessibility for a wide range of users.

Boomerang Table

Copyright and content design for fall of 2020 by Christopher, Jasper Kirsch, Ben Derbidge, Jordan Lancer, and Eric Amlie with the support and assistance of Phil Evans, Manager of Buildings and Grounds at SFSU. Source Department #410-08-21.2

New NCA Monograph Online

Best Practice of Inclusive Services: The Value of Inclusion

by Catherine V. Nolan

Since the ADA was mandated in 1990, recreation agencies have made many structural changes and implemented many strategies to assist individuals with disabilities to feel welcome and included. For inclusion to be truly successful however, it must be accepted as a value that is shared by all parties involved including: agencies, staff, families, participants, and the greater community. This monograph provides insight into how two agencies have been successful in making inclusion a value, and the many benefits that have been shared by not only participants, but family and staff as well. The two programs highlighted are Together We Play, an inclusion program and partnership led by the Black Hawk



YMCA in northern Iowa and the Inclusion and Accessibility Services of the St. Paul (MN) Jewish Community Center. Streaming video clips feature youth swim lessons and high school students rehearsing for the "Fiddler on the Roof." Read the entire article online >> www.ncaonline.org

Status of Rulemaking

DOI Issues Directive to Follow New ABA Accessibility Standard

In January, Sharon Eller, Director of the Office of Civil Rights for the U.S. Department of Interior, issued a directive to DOI bureaus following the lead of the General Services Administration in the adoption of the newly issued Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS). Echoing GSA's announcement stating that "Facilities subject to the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) must meet the ABAAS if the construction or alteration commences, or the lease is entered into, after May 8, 2006. If the construction or alteration commences, or the lease is

entered into before May 8, 2006, the facility must meet the UFAS. The construction or alteration of a facility for which plans and specifications were completed or substantially completed on or before May 8, 2006, is permitted to meet the UFAS if the construction or alteration is commenced by May 8, 2008."

The ABAAS (also referred to as the Americans with Disabilities Act - Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines) are available online: www.access-board.gov

Upcoming Training

National Symposium on Playground Access

April 2006

Indiana University-Bloomington

Access Coordinators: Introduction to Accessibility Management in Parks & Recreation

Summer 2006

Indiana University-Bloomington

Access to Historic Sites

Summer 2006

Retrofitting for Accessibility

Fall 2006

TBA

Stay in the Loop with NCA

Did you know that GSA has adopted the new ABA Accessibility Guidelines? Or that the City of Detroit is using new standards for purchasing playground surfaces? Stay in the loop with NCA on all the latest rulemaking, legal news, best practices and training course announcements by subscribing to the NCA listserv and e-newsletter, NCA NEWS. It's FREE! Follow the "Subscribe" link on www.ncaonline.org or send your name and e-mail with "subscribe" in the subject line to nca@indiana.edu

National Symposium on Playground Access

Presented by the National Center on Accessibility
Indiana University-Bloomington
April 18-20, 2006

How can we design accessible and inclusive playscapes while at the same time offer exceptional play value that contributes to child development for both children with disabilities and their peers without disabilities?

This NCA National Symposium is geared towards public playground owners/operators, NPSI Certified Playground Safety Inspectors, park and recreation professionals, school administrators, designers, parents and advocates for the inclusion of children with disabilities. Educational sessions will cover family and disability, child development and disability implications, accessibility guidelines for playgrounds and park amenities, considerations for accessible play equipment and surfacing, and the principles of universal design. Invited presenters include: Peggy Greenwell, U.S. Access Board; Lisa Moore, PlayCore; Susan Goltsman, MIG Inc; Jean Schappet, Boundless Playgrounds; Teri Hendy, SiteMasters; Rolf Huber, Everplay; Greg Robbins, Sof' Fall; Craig Glazier, CONTEXT; Gary Robb, NCA; and Tom Kalousek, National Playground Safety Institute.

For registration information, call (812) 856-4422 Voice or (812) 856-4421 TTY or visit the NCA web site www.ncaonline.org



The National Symposium on Playground Access is sponsored by:

*Miracle Recreation Equipment
PlayCore
Game Time
Park Structures
Everplay
SMARTE Parity Inc*

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