



Access Today

PARKS • RECREATION • TOURISM

Fall 2001

A publication of the National Center on Accessibility

Volume 8, Issue 2

NCA Staff Wrap Up Busy Summer

It used to be that summer was a slow season for the staff of the National Center on Accessibility. Not these days! It appears that "slow season" is no longer scheduled on the calendar.

Training

NCA conducted training programs throughout the spring and summer. Two courses were conducted for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Albuquerque and Phoenix. The courses concentrated on access to recreation environments and school settings. In addition, NCA conducted training in Minneapolis for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. USFW recently developed an accessibility instrument to assess facilities. The training focused on accessibility standards and methods to conduct facility assessments.

In August, the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, hosted a national meeting of accessibility coordinators for performance venues. NCA staff kicked off the opening session on the principles of universal design. As a result of the national meeting, NCA plans to work with the Kennedy Center and participating groups



Susan Ostby, Gary Robb and Amy Patrick conduct an accessibility assessment at Wildlife Prairie State Park outside Peoria, IL.

on a research project identifying best practices in ticketing policies to performance venues.

Technical Assistance

In July, NCA/Indiana University, Clemson University and the University of Utah hosted a meeting of golf industry leaders to establish a National Alliance for Accessible Golf. (See related story, page 4.)

This summer, NCA also provided technical assistance under contract to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. IDNR recently acquired Wildlife Prairie Park outside of Peoria. The park features interpretive animal exhibits, trails, playgrounds, picnic areas and more than 100 bison and elk

roaming the native Illinois prairie. NCA conducted an accessibility assessment of the outdoor recreation environment and provided recommendations to improve access for park visitors with disabilities. The recommendations will be incorporated into IDNR's multi-million dollar capital development plan for the park.

Research

In collaboration with the University of Tennessee, research was conducted on the expectations of people with disabilities visiting national, state and local parks in the Smoky Mountain region. Findings from the research study will be published by NCA this fall.



The National Center on Accessibility is a program of Indiana University's Department of

Recreation and Park Administration and is funded in part by the U.S. Congress through the National Park Service. NCA focuses primarily on accessibility as it relates to parks, recreation, and tourism industries. Major objectives include: conducting research, providing technical assistance, developing resources and training materials, and conducting educational programs.

NCA Staff

Gary Robb, Executive Director
Ray Bloomer, Director of Education & Technical Assistance
Jennifer Bowerman, Director Marketing & Special Projects
Amy Patrick, Accessibility Specialist
Susan Ostby, Accessibility Specialist
Kristin Ruprecht, Resource Assistant
Nan Smith, Training Logistics Coordinator
Pam Lewis, Web Developer
Michele Nix, NCA Secretary
Trudy Butrum, Financial Assistant

Access Today is a free publication distributed by NCA with the purpose of updating and informing people in the recreation field of current developments in the area of accessibility. Access Today is available in alternative formats, back issues are also posted on the NCA web site. For more information:

National Center on Accessibility
 2805 East 10th St, Suite 190
 Bloomington, IN 47408
 (812) 856-4422 Voice
 (812) 856-4421 TTY
 (812) 856-4480 Fax
nca@indiana.edu
www.ncaonline.org

From the Editor's Desk

Eleven years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and close to 30 years since the passage of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, you might imagine the topic of accessibility to be a done deal. You may have expected accessibility compliance to have faded into the woodwork-either everything-programs and facilities are completely accessible at this point in time or no one cares about access anymore. Far from the case! During the last year at the National Center on Accessibility, we have found just the opposite to be true. More so now than ever before, in the last year we have witnessed a resurgence and reenergized commitment to optimizing access for people with disabilities in all types of programs, facilities and agencies. Consider the following examples:

In March, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources asked NCA to provide training for contract and grant-oversight staff. Long-committed to the inclusion of people with disabilities in the state's recreation areas, MDNR used the opportunity to retrain staff and provide them with further guidance on accessibility criteria that should be considered in the grant review process. Grant staff now have a better understanding of accessibility requirements under the ADA and can critically review grant applications proposing a new fishing pier or picnic area to assure the projects will be accessible.

Realizing the self-evaluations for programs and facilities conducted years before are out of date, both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service recently developed accessibility assessment instruments. The instruments not only provide a working document identifying barriers to facilities and programs, they will assist both agencies to better plan, budget and prioritize barrier removal. In addition, the National Park Service has allocated \$5 million in accessibility improvements for the coming year.

Golf industry leaders have come together to form the National Alliance for Accessible Golf, concentrated on facilitating access to the game for golfers with disabilities.

Accessibility coordinators from performance venues throughout the United States gathered at the Kennedy Center to discuss methods to increase access for people with disabilities to the performing arts. The group has since committed to meeting annually.

We could go on and on with examples. I'm sure you have many of your own. In February, NCA will celebrate the Center's 10th anniversary. In so doing, we also celebrate the professionals, advocates and consumers that continue to work everyday to expand recreation opportunities for people with disabilities. Together, reenergized, we are making a difference.

Sincerely,
 Jennifer K. Bowerman, Editor-*Access Today*

NCA to Receive NTRS Award

The National Center on Accessibility will be presented with the Outstanding Organization Award by the National Therapeutic Recreation Society. The award is presented annually to individuals and organizations making exemplary contributions to improving access and promoting inclusion for people with disabilities in parks and recreation. The award presentation will be made during the National Recreation and Park Association Congress in October in Denver.

711 On-line Oct. 1

Using the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) will be as easy as three digit dialing starting October 1 when 711 will take effect nationwide. Both voice and TRS users will be able to place telephone calls anywhere in the United States without having to remember the previous 7-10 digit relay phone numbers. Under the new rules adopted by the FCC last year, 711 TRS dialing must be provided by all telecommunication carriers in the U.S. including wireline, wireless and pay phone providers. For more information on the new 711 requirement, visit the "disability issues" section of the FCC web site at www.fcc.gov.

DOJ Issues CD-Rom

The U.S. Department of Justice has developed a CD-Rom with ADA technical assistance materials. For more information visit the DOJ web site at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm>

Post-Martin Ruling Tests ADA's "Fundamentally Alter" Defense

The first case post-Casey Martin testing the rules of competition and the "fundamentally alter" test under the Americans with Disabilities Act was decided in August in Massachusetts. The plaintiff, Stephen Kuketz, a nationally ranked wheelchair racquetball player, signed up to play in the Brockton Athletic Club Men's "A" Tournament League. Kuketz, to play against footed racquetball players, insisted that he be permitted two bounces to hit the ball, rather than the one bounce given to all footed players. The manager of the club refused to allow him to play in the A league and instead offered that he play in the novice league against footed players and be given only one bounce or that they set up a wheelchair league if he could find other wheelchair players. Kuketz rejected the alternatives and filed suit.

"Relying on the analysis the Supreme Court used to determine that the use of a golf cart by Casey Martin did not fundamentally alter the nature of professional golf competition, this Court finds that the imposition of a two-bounce rule for wheelchair players who compete against footed players will fundamentally alter the nature of racquetball competition in the A League. While the essence of golf is hitting a stationary ball with a club, the essences of racquetball is hitting a moving ball before the second bounce with a racquet. Allowing one player two bounces fundamentally changes the nature of the game."

Interestingly enough, the United States Racquetball Association modified rules for wheelchair racquetball permitting the ball to be returned on the second bounce. The rules are implicit for wheelchair racquetball where both players are in wheelchairs. However, they do not address games where one player uses a wheelchair and the other is footed.

The Court also stated "The reason why wheelchair players need a second bound is that they do not have the same speed and mobility in their wheelchairs as footed players have in their legs. Kuketz wants a second bound to offset the disadvantage he suffers from being in a wheelchair, but it is impossible to determine whether the second bound exactly offsets that disadvantage or leaves him with a slight advantage (or disadvantage) over certain players. Stated differently, if Kuketz allowed to compete in the A League he requested and were to become champion of the league, no one could know whether he won because he was the superior player or because the allowance of two bounces more than offset his disadvantage in mobility."

To read more about the Supreme Court's decision in Casey Martin v. PGA Tour, visit the NCA web site, www.ncaonline.org.

Source: Kuketz v. MDC Fitness Corporation, Brockton Athletic Club, CA 9-0114-A. Superior Court of Massachusetts, at Plymouth.

Golf Industry and Disability Groups Meet to Form National Alliance for Accessible Golf

Leaders from the golf industry and representatives of organizations serving people with disabilities and golfers with disabilities met on July 31-August 1, 2001 to form the National Alliance for Accessible Golf. The two-day meeting was facilitated by the National Center on Accessibility at Indiana University, the University of Utah and Clemson University. In attendance were representatives from the United States Golf Association, the Professional Golfers Association of America, the Ladies Professional Golf Association, the National Golf Course Owners Association, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the Club Managers Association of America, and the First Tee. Organizations and individuals representing golfers with disabilities included Falcon Rehabilitation, Golf Rx, the Association of Disabled American Golfers and the National Therapeutic Recreation Society.

The National Alliance for Accessible Golf will include agencies, institutions, corporations and individuals committed to the inclusion of golfers with disabilities into the game of golf. The mission of the Alliance is to increase participation of people with disabilities in the game of golf. An interim Leadership Council has been formed to establish the framework for the Alliance including goals and action items. Indiana University, the University of Utah and Clemson University will enter into a memorandum of understanding to provide the administrative support to the



Alliance, while the Alliance will be physically located at the National Center on Accessibility on the IU-Bloomington campus. The overarching purpose of the Alliance is to develop solutions to critical issues relative to making the game of golf accessible to persons with disabilities. Goals to achieve this purpose, include:

1. Increase persons with disabilities understanding of the benefits of golf.
2. Increase the golf industries awareness of the benefit of serving persons with disabilities.
3. Advance models and resources for persons with disabilities to learn the game of golf.
4. Increase awareness of the needs of golfers with disabilities among golf course owners and operators, teaching professionals, and related personnel.
5. Advance scientific understanding of the benefits of golf for persons with disability.
6. Assist the golf industry in resolving issues related to expanding services to persons with disabilities
7. Assembling and reviewing technical information for golf

course managers, rehabilitation and recreation professionals, and golf professionals that lead to improved inclusive services.

More information on the activity of the National Alliance for Accessible Golf will be available through the web sites of the National Center on Accessibility www.ncaonline.org and the USGA Resource Center for Individuals with Disabilities at <http://golfcenterdisabilities.usga.org>

A listserv that will allow all interested individuals to receive and send information regarding the Alliance is available for sign-up on the National Center on Accessibility web site.

Next meeting of the
Alliance
Interim Leadership Council

February 5-6, 2002
Orlando

hosted during the
Golf Course Superintendents
Association of America
Annual Conference

NPS Allocates \$5 Million to Enhance Accessibility in the Parks

by David Park, guest columnist
National Park Service

During FY 2001 the National Park Service allocated \$5 million under a "special emphasis program" to address the backlog of projects needed to improve access for individuals with disabilities throughout the National Park System. The \$5 million was committed from the Service-wide Recreation Fee Demonstration funds. The primary reason for creating this special emphasis fund was that many existing NPS facilities and programs were constructed or established prior to the development of accessibility mandates and standards. Consequently, many NPS buildings, facilities and programs are not as accessible as they should be to the Nation's 54 million citizens with disabilities.

Projects that were considered were additions or enhancements to existing facilities and programs that specifically improve access. New construction and major rehabilitation projects are required by law to be accessible and were not considered in this call. High priority was given to non-fee collecting parks and collecting parks with low revenues. Evaluation criteria for final selection included the following factors:

- Projects that improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities to the wide range of opportunities offered to the visiting public and employees; to do what is feasible to enable them to receive as close to the same benefits as those received by others;

- Projects that provide rehabilitation, upgrade or enhancements of existing infrastructure in order to improve accessibility;
- Projects that provide rehabilitation, upgrade or enhancements of existing interpretive media, programs or equipment to improve accessibility;
- Projects that are based on an assessment of park accessibility barriers, address high priority needs and provide assurances they will conform to current standards, regulations and guidelines; and
- Projects that work in partnership with private and non-profit organizations to create a more accessible park experience.

The response to this call was enormous with over \$25 million worth of projects submitted. Each

of the seven regional offices initially reviewed the projects submitted within their regions and selected up to \$2 million of requests for final consideration. A national review committee then pared that \$14 million worth of projects down to the \$5 million available. After careful consideration, a total of 120 projects were funded, for a total of \$5,018,000

Consequently, the breakdown of approved projects included: 67 projects related to buildings and structures; 16 projects related to outdoor recreation facilities; 35 projects related to enhanced interpretation and education programs; and, 2 projects related to improved transportation systems.

For more information on this program, contact David Park, NPS Accessibility Program Coordinator, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington D. C. 20240.

A sample of NPS projects slated to improve access for visitors with disabilities:

- ï Rebuild amphitheater at Fort Laramie
- ï Upgrade interpretive opportunities at Boca Negra Canyon
- ï Rehabilitate accessible entrances to Ford's Theatre
- ï Construct accessible entrance to USS Cassin Young
- ï Install wheelchair lifts for trolleys at Lowell NHP
- ï Develop tactile maps of Mojave National Preserve
- ï Create battlefield audio tour at Kings Mountain NMP

Tactile Exhibits: A Model Maker's Perspective

by Rebecca Fuller
RAF Models & Displays

The goal of Universal Design is to make information and experiences accessible to as wide an audience as possible. This audience will include people with varied intellectual and physical abilities, people of different sizes and ages, as well as people with different backgrounds and interests.



Tactile exhibits fill an important role in providing a multi-sensory experience for all museum visitors by providing a "hands-on" experience for everyone. Additionally, the tactile exhibit may be the primary tool that provides access to the information being presented to the audience with visual impairments.

When setting out to create "tactile exhibits" there are a number of questions to ask yourself: Questions such as, "What do you want to accomplish with a tactile exhibit, what type of information are you trying to convey - and what level of information are you trying to get across?"

Tactile exhibits vary widely but some broad categories of their function are Orientation, Interpretation and Comparison.



ORIENTATION

One possible goal for a tactile model is orienting people to the physical layout of your site. The Brazo's Bend State Park model is an example of a "Tactile Orientation Map."

By providing a tactile, or raised graphic map, you give the visitor a method, through touch, of understanding the relationships of the different elements of the site. The Brazo's Bend map conveys information such as, "if I leave the Visitor's Center and travel west on the Loop Road, when I reach the point where I can turn left on the trail, I will be half way to the fishing pier."

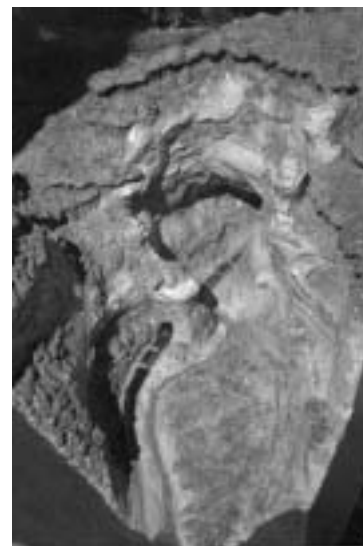
It is important that an orientation map keep the information clear and concise. There is no need to know that you pass 32 trees between the Visitor's Center and the fishing pier.

Another possible goal of an orientation map is to locate the Park within a larger geographic area. A model such as Pecos National Historical Park tells the visitor that the park is located below the bluffs and that both the Interstate and the Santa Fe Trail pass through the park. All visitors get a "bird's eye view" that would only be possible if they were in an airplane.

INTERPRETATION

Other tactile models are designed to give a greater understanding of a site to the entire audience. A highly realistic "tactile" model of a tunnel passing through a mountain - such as the model of Natural Tunnel State Park - allows children to reach into the tunnel on one side of the model and touch the fingers of someone reaching from the other side. Along with interpretation provided by the naturalists, it enables people to feel and understand how a tiny stream found it's way through a crack in the mountain and eventually eroded away so much of the mountain that a train can now travel through the passageway.

Some sites, such as the prehistoric cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde, take a great deal of physical effort to reach. In this type of situation a large portion of the audience may not have the ability to make the climb, or may not have the desire to go to the height necessary to reach the caves. A tactile model of the cliff dwellings will provide an understanding of the site to all visitors.





COMPARISONS

Tactile models can be used to facilitate making comparisons between different things. One example is an exhibit that discussed how the physical structure of a jawbone allows one to draw conclusions about the diet of an animal. This was illustrated by: increasing the size of a mouse skull, decreasing the size of a moose skull and recreating a wolf skull at its actual size; thus making it possible to compare the shape and locations of the teeth and jaw, and to see that each animal was "built" to handle a completely different diet.

Another important example of using tactile models to make comparisons is the exhibit of Bath House Row at Hot Springs National Park. Here the designer has worked with the Park to use four different scales to increase the visitor's understanding.

1. The "bird's eye view" model uses texture to distinguish and locate the area of the Park within the surrounding landscape. In this model the buildings in Bath House Row are approximately the size of sugar cubes, and the entire row of buildings is perhaps 6 inches long.



2. In the next larger model Bath House Row is 6 feet long with individual buildings ranging from 4 to 9 inches wide. At this scale the texture of the roofs and the indentation of the windows and other architectural details are distinguishable both by sight and touch.



3. The third enlargement shows the facades of two of the Bath Houses at a scale large enough (one façade is 14 inches wide, the other is 24 inches wide) to include a high level of textural detail. It is possible to distinguish the carving of the Indian head above the door of one of the buildings - and then make a comparison to, in the fourth step:



4. An exact, full-scale replica of the Indian head architectural detail which was made by creating a mold of the actual architectural detail, casting it and putting it inside on the wall where all visitors can explore the intricacies of the carving.



The exhibit at Hot Springs National Park is an excellent example of using the comparison of different scales to give all visitors a clearer understanding of the rich architectural detail of the Bath Houses. It is also a perfect example of Universal Design deepening and enriching the learning and experience of every visitor.

The possible applications of tactile models are limited only by the imaginations of exhibit designers, model fabricators and site interpreters. The wide range of durable materials now available; from bronze, which has been used for thousands of years, to plastics and space age polymers, allows for an endless variety of tactile models.

The most exciting facet is the design and creation of tactile exhibits through the collaboration of the designer, interpreter and fabricator working together to create a tactile exhibit unique to that particular site, which will enhance the understanding and experience of all visitors.

Making the Grade

Making the Grade is a new feature of Access Today and the NCA web site. The forum showcases best practices and accessibility projects that exceed the minimum standards and facilitate optimum access for visitors with disabilities.

The first project highlighted in the premier of Making the Grade is from Brian Polk of Florida State Parks. The Fanning Springs project uses a wire mesh railing treatment along a boardwalk making for easy viewing of the scenic Suwannee River. The project is highlighted on the NCA web site. This month's highlighted project, access to a trolley excursion ride, comes from Barb Baptista at the Rockford (IL) Park District.

Professionals are encouraged to submit accessibility projects and innovations in universal design for recreation environments. The project descriptions will be formatted for the NCA web site to share with park and recreation professionals throughout the United States and internationally. To submit a project for Making the Grade include the following:

1. Brief description of the project including the barrier and solution to achieve access
2. Photos (either digital photo, prints or slides)
3. Contact (name, address, phone, e-mail)

Projects can be submitted by e-mail to nca@indiana.edu or mail to:

Jennifer Bowerman
National Center on Accessibility
2805 East 10th St, Suite 190
Bloomington, IN 47408-2698

Lift on Trolley Gives Visitors Opportunity to Experience Park & Garden Tour



One of the most popular attractions to Sinnissippi Park is Trolley Car 36 and the excursion it takes visitors on. Throughout the summer, trolley riders can take an interpretive tour as it meanders through the Sinnissippi Gardens and along the Rock River in Rockford, Illinois. The Rockford Park District, which operates Trolley Car 36 and the tour through the gardens, has been exploring options and has come up with a solution for making the trolley accessible.

The trolley excursion was first identified with an architectural barrier in the District's transition plan back in 1992. Many discussions amongst staff over the years have centered on creative solutions for making the trolley accessible. At one point, discussion focused on adding boarding ramps at the trolley station and at stops along the railway. However, railroad regulations restricted the

placement of such boarding ramps in too close a proximity to the railroad tracks. So discussion turned to modifying the historic trolley itself.

The Rockford Park District added a lift to the trolley to create access for people who use wheelchairs. The modification has made Trolley Car 36 one of the most popular excursions for people with disabilities, their family members and friends. The following is an interview with Barb Baptista, Senior Manager of Community and Therapeutic Recreation at the Rockford Park District.

How did you decide to go with a lift instead of the ramp?

When you look at the options offered to trolley riders, it includes getting out of the trolley at Sinnissippi Park for a brief tour around the gardens. By having the lift on the trolley, our patrons

who use a wheelchair or those with mobility impairments are not restricted from the experience. It becomes a safety feature as well, in case passengers need to disembark from the trolley at places other than the station in an emergency.

What type of lift was installed?

We purchased the Mobile Tech Fully Automatic Model XM-UVL-600X (bought out by Braun, Inc.) which is a model commonly installed in vehicles. It "houses" the lift under the vehicle when it is not in operation. The lift was purchased through Vehicle Ventures the local vendor. The owners, Jan and Larry Nalley would be available for more info at (815) 874-5925, fax (815) 874-5911.

Was it specially modified in any way?

The lift itself was not modified. We did make a small modification under the trolley, rerouting a tank so that the lift could fit under it.

How much did it cost?

\$7,730 (which includes the lift, shipping, and labor) plus a few hours of labor by our own mechanics. They made modifications underneath the trolley to put a ring on the running board around the trolley. One point that I would like to highlight was the fact that we preserved the integrity of the trolley and you don't even notice the lift when it isn't in use.

Did you have to get any special approval to have the lift installed on the trolley car?

No. None was needed



What are park visitors saying about the lift?

They appreciate the opportunity to enjoy the entire trolley ride experience. They also appreciate the security of the lift while loading and unloading passengers and how user friendly it is in terms of the time it takes for the complete operation.

Any other interesting information that people should know in the event they are looking at retrofitting a similar type ride in their park?

Incorporate training for staff riding/operating the trolley (especially if staff are seasonal or new to the job). Include discussion on how to operate the lift safely, appropriate loading and unloading of wheelchairs and position of the operator when lift is being used. Another topic for discussion in training is the etiquette of interacting with the patron receiving assistance. You know... the soft skills you can never buy. Consider quality promotion, make sure that all written materials allude to our "wheelchair accessible trolley" (or have the international symbol) so that potential park visitors will



know that the excursion is accessible.

Also, we understand that you are marketing one tour a month with a sign language interpreter. What has been the feedback on the tour with the interpreter?

The set schedule allows for planning without the hassle of needing to call and request a sign language interpreter in advance. Currently we ask for 48 hours advanced notice for requesting a sign language interpreter on tours that are not already scheduled for an interpreter. We would like more people who are deaf or hard of hearing to come out to enjoy the ride and give the Park District reasons to expand on the number of rides interpreters are automatically scheduled.

For more information, contact:

Barb Baptista
Rockford Park District
1401 North Second St
Rockford, IL 61107
(815) 987-1600 (voice or tty)

Larry Nally
Vehicle Ventures
(815) 874-5925
fax (815) 874-5911

NCA News On-line

NCA News is a informational listserv of the National Center on Accessibility. NCA News is a vehicle to share the latest information on access to parks, recreation and tourism while promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of our communities. Information posted to NCA News includes announcements of upcoming training opportunities, research findings related to recreation access, technical assistance issues and articles. Topics include access to playgrounds, beaches, trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, golf, sports facilities, boating and fishing facilities, and more.

To subscribe to NCA News, send an e-mail message to listserv@listserv.indiana.edu Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message type: subscribe NCA-News-L Be sure to include the space between "subscribe" and "NCA." And be sure to include the hyphens in NCA-News-L. Subscribers will receive an e-mail confirmation that requires a reply message in order to validate the subscription. Simply follow the instructions in the forthcoming e-mail confirmation.

NCA Resources

The following resources are available through NCA. Call for more information.

Functional Aspects of Accessible Picnic Elements

Access to Outdoor Recreation Environments Satellite Seminar (video)

Retrofitting for Accessibility (video)

Product Review

New power-assisted doors easily operable for all users

Power-assisted doors are often added in high traffic areas of facilities to provide ease of access through entry doors that often exceed the force requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. One of the long standing criticisms to the power-assisted door models has been that because of the tension on the door opener, they are difficult to manually open. New power-assisted door models by Stanley Doors, AmeriLite and others address the issue.

In addition to the common door activating buttons, pressure pads and sensors, the low-energy power-assist operating system offers a low force requirement making the door much easier to operate manually. The user activates the system with a slight push or pull of the door handle, after which the operating system takes over and opens the door to a full 90 degrees with no further exertion from the user. The opening of the door can be extended past 90 degrees if desired, simply by changing settings on the operating mechanism. The low-energy operating units open and close doors slowly, stop when an obstruction is encountered and are designed with adjustable time delays. These units also work in conjunction with other operating units such as activation buttons and push pads

Tim Ball, former Facilities Manager for the City of Bloomington, Indiana states "I was really interested in the new doors because they had wireless remotes, where you could open

the door just about wherever you wanted to. So it gave me a lot of flexibility as far as to where to put the remote buttons to open the door; I have one on the outside, one on the inside and I have one at the greeter's stand inside the lobby of the city's municipal building. It takes no wiring, they are operated by a 9-volt battery with a little antenna on the door itself. They've actually worked quite well." Jim Lang, the current Facilities Manager for the City of Bloomington concurs, " They work quite well. People do like them."

Bob Tegart, Department Head for Facilities Management at the Von Maur Department Store in Indianapolis says the doors also have a lower occurrence of replacement, having only replaced one unit in the last three years. Tegart believes that most problems occur when people to try to assist the door during its closing cycle, however the operating units themselves are quite durable.

Interpretive Planning, Programs and Design



One of NCA's most popular training courses, "Interpretive Planning, Programs and Design" explores methods to create access for visitors with disabilities. This course is ideal for interpreters and educators, interpretive planners and specialists, accessibility coordinators, curators and exhibit planners or designers from park, recreation, museum, outdoor education and historic environments. Sessions will provide an understanding of the needs of people with disabilities and the application of the principles of Universal Design to interpretive programs and exhibits. Topics to be addressed include exhibits, audiovisuals, museum and education programs, published materials and communications, issues unique to parks, recreation and interpretive environments, and innovative methods to include the widest spectrum of users.

**December 10-14
New Orleans**

**Exhibits
Tactile maps &
models**

**Program access
New technologies
Published materials**

Providing a greater understanding of tactile methods with maps, exhibits and objects will be the one of the objectives of this course. New technologies involving sound, visual and computer programs will be discussed. In addition, exhibit design methods and techniques to achieve accessibility will be presented. There will also be an introduction to some existing exhibit and programmatic guidelines. Various local sites will be used for field exercises to enhance understanding of classroom instruction. New Orleans has a wide variety of suitable sites that are ideal for this purpose.

Prerequisite: A prerequisite seminar on disability awareness will be held on December 10. The disability awareness seminar will include sessions on: legislative summary, attitudes & terminology, and an understanding of the characteristics and needs of people with disabilities. The prerequisite seminar is mandatory for all participants who have not attended an NCA core course or NCA disability awareness seminar in the last three years.

Tuition: Disability Awareness-\$100 * (Prerequisite)
 Interpretive Planning, Programs & Design - \$500

Class Size: 30 - 50

Registration: Registration form available on the NCA web site at www.ncaonline.org. Deadline to register is October 22, 2001. Late registrations will be accepted as space allows. A \$150 fee will be assessed for all cancellations after November 5, 2001.

Location: DoubleTree New Orleans
 300 Canal Street
 New Orleans, LA 70130
 (504) 212-3600
 (504) 523-3526 Fax
 www.doubletreeneworleans.com

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming NCA Training Courses

Universal Design Approach to Interpretive Environments

December 10-14, 2001
New Orleans

Golf Symposium

Dates to be announced
Los Angeles, Atlanta

Playground Symposium

Dates to be announced
Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago

Access to Outdoor Recreation and Interpretive Environments

February 11-15, 2002
Cocoa Beach, FL

Universal Design

Tentatively scheduled for April 22-26, 2002
San Antonio, TX

Training for Accessibility Coordinators

Date to be announced
Indianapolis, IN

Access to Outdoor Recreation Environments

October 2002
Alaska

Non-Profit
Bulk Rate
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 2
Bloomington, IN

a program of Indiana University
National Center on Accessibility
Indiana University
2805 East 10th St, Suite 190
Bloomington, IN 47408-2698

