

Final Report

Physical and Programmatic Accessibility Assessment Findings and Recommendations for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities in the Programs, Services, Activities and Facilities Offered by the Forest Preserve District of Will County

March 2008



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Table of Contents

I. Background	5
II. Purpose.....	7
III. How to Use This Report & Recommendations.....	8
IV. Key Findings	11
V. Recommendations for Improving Program Access	14
1. Title II Administrative Requirements.....	14
2. Program Access.....	19
3. Physical Access Issues with Implications for Program Access	26
4. Plan Review and Construction Oversight.....	32
5. Communications	32
6. Risk Management.....	37
7. Purchasing	39
8. Maintenance	40
9. Employment	41
10. Staff Training	42
VI. Recommendations for Removal of Physical Barriers to Programs, Services, Activities, Preserves and Facilities	
Braidwood Dunes & Savannah	
Cherry Hill Police and Maintenance Building	
Environmental Learning Center	
Forked Creek – Forsythe Woods	
Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve	
Hammel Woods	
Hickory Creek Preserve – Hickory Creek Barrens	
Hickory Creek Preserve – Hickory Creek Junction	

Hickory Creek Preserve – LaPorte Access/Hickory Creek Bikeway
Isle a la Cache
I & M Canal Trails – Schneider’s Passage/Centennial Trailhead
Joliet Iron Works Historic Site
Keepataw Preserve
Lake Renwick Preserve – Copley Nature Park
Lake Renwick Preserve – Heron Rookery Nature Preserve
Lake Renwick Preserve – Turtle Lake
Lambs Woods
Laughton Preserve
Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve
McKinley Woods
Messenger Woods Nature Preserve
Monee Reservoir
Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve
Riverview Prairie
Rock Run Greenway – Black Road Access
Rock Run Greenway – I & M Canal Access
Rock Run Greenway – Nichols Access
Rock Run Greenway – Theodore Marsh
Runyon Preserve
Sugar Creek Preserve and Administration Center
Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve
Veterans Woods
Whalon Lake

VII. Appendix

- A. Technical Recommendations for fpdwc.org
- B. Guidelines and Standards
- C. References

I. Background

The Forest Preserve District of Will County, Illinois strives to preserve and protect natural areas and to provide opportunities for education and recreation for its residents. The Preserve District serves approximately 668,000 residents from Will County in addition to individuals from neighboring communities. According to the U.S. Census data (2006), 8.7% of the residents of Will County have reported to have one or more types of disability. These reports of disability could include a long-lasting sensory, physical, mental or self-care disability; reported difficulty going outside the home because of a physical, mental or emotional condition lasting six months or more; or reported difficulty working at a job or business because of a physical, mental or emotional condition lasting six months or more. U.S. Census data collected over the last seven years suggests the national occurrence of disability as 20% of the general population, while projections for the 2010 census predict the average to significantly increase factoring in the aging Baby Boomer population, health issues associated with obesity and earlier diagnosis of disability among children. Statistics aside, it is reasonable to conclude that, among Will County residents, the Preserve District could potentially serve tens of thousands of citizens with disabilities.

In September 2005, a Project Civic Access Agreement between the Forest Preserve District of Will County and the U.S. Department of Justice was signed following an accessibility compliance review of the District. This agreement placed the onus on the Preserve District to ensure compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act by making their programs and facilities accessible for people with disabilities. District staff designed a comprehensive accessibility management program and outlined their transition plan goals. These goals included the completion of a full compliance review of District facilities, programs and services.

The National Center on Accessibility (NCA) was contracted in October 2006 to conduct the physical and programmatic accessibility assessments for the Forest Preserve District of Will County. NCA conducts research and provides training, technical assistance and consultation on the inclusion of people with disabilities in parks, recreation and tourism. Established in 1992, NCA is a center of the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies in the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Indiana University. Over the last 15 years, NCA has provided consultation to the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Access Board, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove Park Districts along with several other entities focused on

successfully integrating people with disabilities in a wide array of programs, services, parks and facilities.

II. Purpose

A comprehensive physical accessibility assessment was conducted on the 32 preserves and 16 facilities of the Forest Preserve District of Will County. In addition, a full accessibility assessment of all District programs, administrative policies and operations was conducted through interviews with key District staff. The purpose of the assessments was to provide the District administrative staff with a snapshot of the current level of physical and programmatic access for people with disabilities and recommendations for improving accessibility and implementing an approach of universal design to accommodate the widest spectrum of citizens of all ages and all abilities. Recommendations for improving program access through modification of policies and procedures are included in Part V of this report. Further, the National Center on Accessibility has tailored an electronic information system, which will be described in Part III. Details of physical barriers to preserves and facilities along with recommendations for barrier removal are reported specific to preserve/facility in Part VI.

III. How to Use This Report and Recommendations

Through interviews, assessments and data analysis, recommendations presented in the final report have been divided into the following sections:

Part IV. Key Findings

This section is a review of major findings regarding accessibility and inclusion within the Forest Preserve District of Will County summarized for the District's Board of Commissioners and Executive Staff.

Part V. Recommendations for Improving Program Access

This section concentrates on recommendations based upon the administrative requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, program access, communications, technology, and staff training.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that state and local governments provide people with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all of their programs, services, and activities: otherwise known as "program accessibility." This report summarizes the findings from interviews completed with key District staff and makes recommendations for improving District program access for citizens with disabilities.

Recommendations are categorized as either "required" or "recommended" and defined as:

Required: Corrective action is required in order to meet compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Recommended: The action is recommended based on trends and best practices in the field of recreation regarding inclusive services for people with disabilities.

The program assessment, data analysis and recommendations are only three components of what could be considered a self-evaluation. A comprehensive self-evaluation must include corrective actions that prohibit disability-based discrimination and enable the full opportunity for participation and benefit from District programs, services and activities. Upon receipt of this report, it is the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners and Executive Staff to complete the self-evaluation by 1) implementing administrative, policy, procedure and program corrective actions, 2) documenting those actions providing greater

inclusion of people with disabilities, and 3) making such documents available for public inspection.

Part VI. Recommendations for Removal of Physical Barriers to Programs, Services, Activities and Facilities

This section is divided by preserve/facility. As part of the data analysis of the physical accessibility assessment, the National Center on Accessibility tailored its *Park and Recreation Accessibility Management System*® v1.2 (PRMS) to the constructs of the Forest Preserve District of Will County and eventual need for a system to assist with transition planning and work orders. Within PRMS®, NCA staff has identified each physical barrier at a preserve/facility, cited the corresponding accessibility standard or guidelines, and made recommendations for barrier removal.

The deficiencies are given a priority rating by the assessors. The three accessibility deficiency priorities are:

- **Critical** - A critical priority would be given to those deficiencies that occur in an asset, facility, or program that is utilized by a significantly high number of people (visitors or employees); or "prohibits" or seriously inhibits people with disabilities from utilizing the facility or from receiving the benefits of the program.
- **Serious** - A serious priority would be given to those deficiencies that occur in an asset, facility, or program but only modestly inhibit an individual with a disability from utilizing the facility or from receiving the benefits of the program.
- **Minor** - A minor priority would be given to those deficiencies that occur in any asset, facility, or program but only slightly inhibit an individual with a disability from utilizing the facility or from receiving the benefits of the program. Minor classifications can also signify that the deficiency can be easily corrected with maintenance and/or minor adjustments or that correction might take more time and money but only needs to be corrected when renovations/replacements are scheduled.

For this assessment, the National Center on Accessibility used the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) to assess parking areas, buildings, restrooms, and concession facilities. However, ADAAG only addresses a small portion of the recreational opportunities afforded to the citizens of the Forest Preserve District of Will County. To provide the most effective and accurate accessibility assessment of all Preserve facilities and elements, several sets of guidelines were utilized in addition to the current ADAAG. The other guidelines used (ADA-ABA, NPRM-Outdoor) have not yet been adopted by the

U.S. Department of Justice and are therefore not yet enforceable. However, these guidelines are considered best practice for accessibility in recreation and outdoor areas and will likely become enforceable standards before the Forest Preserve District works through its entire transition plan. See appendix for further explanation of standards and guidelines cited in this assessment.

In some instances, multiple options for barrier removal may exist. As such, it is the responsibility of the Forest Preserve District of Will County to choose the barrier removal solution(s) most optimal and in sync with the District's values, priorities, and resources with input from citizens with disabilities through the transition planning process.

Within PRMS® only recommendations for physical improvements are presented. In some cases, programmatic solutions may exist and should be considered during the transition planning process. Note that the information regarding specific barrier removal is not described in this narrative. Reports from the database are printed and included in the individual preserve sections along with a narrative summary of key findings. These are also available on the enclosed CD.

To provide continuity between the physical accessibility assessment and the transition planning process, fields have been built into PRMS® for FPDWC administrators to complete throughout the planning process including transition plan priority, target date, lead department, lead staff, completion date, and description of work completed. Should alternative actions or non-actions be taken, there are fields to document such, including explanation of undue burden and steps in lieu of barrier removal. If maintained, these fields will provide supported documentation in the event of citizen inquiry.

PRMS® is a dynamic database of information reliant on administrators to update on an ongoing basis. A supplemental support to administrators and planners is the narrative Summary Report with findings and recommendations for each preserve/facility. These are included with the Detail Report for each. A CD of corresponding photos for each preserve/facility will assist with the visualization of physical barriers.

IV. Key Findings and Major Recommendations

1. Positive attitude of staff

The accessibility assessment conducted by the National Center on Accessibility was initiated because of a compliance review by the U.S. Department of Justice. Often in these situations, an organization can become resentful and resistant to the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act due to the enforcement process. Conversely, at the Forest Preserve District of Will County, the attitudes of its personnel, the frontline staff, maintenance and programming personnel, administrators and project managers, have generated an organizational culture that is receptive and eager to create a program that is inclusive of all people. From the transition plan goals set in August of 2006, to the interviews conducted of key staff and administrators, to the numerous technical assistance calls NCA receives from District staff, the positive attitudes, perceptions and approaches towards the ADA and inclusion of people with disabilities became overwhelmingly evident. Even with the transition to new executive leadership, the commitment has continued. This positive climate will serve to benefit the District as future actions are implemented.

2. Physical access with programmatic implications

Several programs rely on physical spaces for program delivery. The approach to barrier removal and accessibility improvements to physical spaces at preserves and facilities will have an impact on programs. Several issues and recommendations related to physical access to recreation environments such as the Environmental Learning Center, Monee Reservoir and the Nature Centers are addressed in latter sections of this report.

During the physical assessment process, both new and renovated facilities were reviewed for accessibility compliance. Some of these facilities demonstrated instances where new construction and alterations did not meet the minimum accessibility standards under the ADA or the Illinois Administrative Code. For example, some features within the Sugar Creek Administration Building were either not originally designed to meet the minimum accessibility standards, or if they were, changes were made on site during construction, thereby rendering the feature inaccessible. There is a critical need for the District to have staff with expertise on the accessibility standards and universal design in order to review drawings during the planning process and to inspect features during construction. Lack of this expertise on staff could, in the long term, cost the Preserve District additional money to go back to fix new construction projects that are not compliant and, ultimately, put the District at risk of an ADA-related complaint or litigation.

3. Implementation of an accessibility management program

Title II of the ADA requires that an official within the organization is designated to receive ADA-related grievances. The Executive Director or her designee currently responds to any complaints submitted to the Public Information Office Supervisor. However, there is also an operational need for public agencies to have an ADA Coordinator to oversee implementation of an accessibility management program. This does not have to be the same person. The District has already established a team of people to address the problems with the built environment. However, this does not cover programmatic issues. There is a need for a coordinated effort to oversee the ongoing implementation efforts required under Title II, including program access. An accessibility coordinator, trained in Title II and supported through various regional and national resources, could oversee the District's ongoing accessibility projects, be an internal resource for project managers and programmers and initiate collaborative opportunities with the disability community who could offer insight and concerns related to accessibility and recreation.

4. Action planning and planning for action

Based on the presentation of this report, recommendations for improving program access and recommendations for removing structural barriers, there is a wealth of information that the Preserve District Commissioners and executive staff will need to process and eventually take action on. Compliance with the ADA and designing for inclusion of people with disabilities is not the sole responsibility of one staff member, the executive director, board president, program coordinator or even an ADA Coordinator. Inclusion of people with disabilities must exist as a value within the organization in order for it to be successfully and effectively planned and implemented. In order to support the inclusion of people with disabilities, each staff, volunteer, administrator and board member must understand their own responsibility in relation to their individual and collective roles within the Preserve District. Part V of this report will describe issues related to accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities in District programs, activities, services and facilities. NCA has suggested further actions, either required or recommended. Upon the receipt and acceptance of this report, the Forest Preserve District of Will County Board of Commissioners and Executive Staff have created a window of opportunity to push the efforts toward the inclusion of people with disabilities to a higher level. At a minimum, the National Center on Accessibility recommends the next steps toward action planning:

1. Plan for action;
2. Proceed with assessment of the trail system to gain a complete picture of the accessibility needs of the District's preserves, programs and facilities.
3. Identify a lead staff person to oversee the coordination of the District's accessibility compliance program and support services for people with disabilities;
4. Establish an Accessibility Team with staff representing various programs and areas of responsibility including programming, safety/risk management, maintenance, purchasing, and human resources;
5. Provide training on the proposed accessibility guidelines on outdoor developed areas for appropriate staff.
6. Involve citizens with diverse backgrounds, interests and expertise;
7. Provide training on the accessibility standards/guidelines and principles of Universal Design for the Accessibility Team and citizens who will be involved in the transition planning process;
8. Set action planning in motion through the development of a transition plan; and
9. Continue meeting quarterly or at a minimum semi-annually to plan for accessibility improvements until all are complete.

The National Center on Accessibility has provided training, technical assistance, and research to park and recreation professionals since 1992. As such, NCA will continue to serve as a resource to the Forest Preserve District of Will County through the provision of technical assistance on short subject-specific inquiry, consultation on more in-depth issues through the transition planning process and other services as needed by the Preserve District.

V. Recommendations for Improving Program Access

Physical accessibility is but one component of a comprehensive and effective accessibility management program. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) is required to operate each program, service, or activity so that the program, service, or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities [28 C.F.R. §35.150(a)].

A comprehensive program assessment was conducted in early 2007 by interviewing key program and administrative personnel and reviewing the District's policies and procedures.

The report that follows summarizes the findings and makes recommendations for improving the District's access for individuals with disabilities. Recommendations are categorized as either "required" or "recommended" and are defined as:

- **Required:** Corrective action is required in order to meet compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- **Recommended:** The action is recommended based on trends and best practices in the field regarding inclusive services for individuals with disabilities.

Combined analysis of data from the physical assessment with findings from the programmatic assessment will provide guidance in developing a long-term plan for barrier removal and in creating an efficient and effective transition plan.

1. Title II Administrative Requirements

The Forest Preserve District of Will County has made efforts to meet the administrative requirements of Title II. However, a more formalized approach is required to ensure administrative policies and procedures are communicated to staff and to the general public.

1.1 Designation of Responsible Employee

The Forest Preserve District of Will County has developed a district-wide policy for receiving and responding to the public's ADA-related requests and complaints. According to the District's web site, the Executive Director or his/her designee

will respond to any complaints. The Public Information Office Supervisor has been designated as the official to receive and distribute requests to the appropriate division. The Public Information Office handles all requests related to effective communication. Programmatic requests are handled by individual division directors, and employee requests are handled by Human Resources.

Recommended: Designate an ADA/Accessibility Coordinator for the District. Title II requires a responsible employee be designated to receive and respond to ADA-related complaints and oversee compliance. This individual should be relatively high ranking in the administration and have some decision-making authority. This responsibility has essentially been delegated throughout the District. However, a central coordinated effort is usually required to ensure an accessibility management program is effective. An Accessibility Coordinator, or even an Access Team, trained in the requirement of the ADA and the accessibility standards, can ensure cohesiveness and consistency of program modifications, barrier removal, and compliance implementation among various programs, services, events, projects and facilities.

Recommended: Include the designated individual's name along with the position title and contact information in all notices. An individual contact name, not just a title, creates a welcoming environment for the public.

1.2 Notice

The District has developed a statement of its intent to comply with the ADA and informs the public that its programs, services, and activities are prepared to make accommodations. The ADA compliance statement can be found on the District's Web site with a variation of the notice in the seasonal program guides. The statement, as listed in the program guide, is as follows:

Everyone is entitled to participate in the Forest Preserve programs. If you need personal accommodations or information about a program, contact the Forest Preserve District of Will County, Public Information Office, 17540 W. Laraway Road, Joliet, Illinois 60433 or call 815.727.8700. Forest Preserve staff will make all reasonable program accommodations; advance notice required.

The Forest Preserve District of Will County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. Persons believing they have been discriminated against may file a complaint with either the Forest Preserve District of Will County or the Office of Equal Opportunity, US Department of Interior, Washington D.C. 20240.

The notice is found inconsistently on other printed material published by the District including preserve brochures, announcements of public programs and events, volunteer material, or postings at preserve locations.

Required: Ongoing, the Department should make available information to applicants, participants, beneficiaries, and other interested persons, of the provisions and applicability of Title II to its programs, services, and activities (28 C.F.R. §35.106).

Recommended: The audience for this notice is expansive and includes everyone who interacts or potentially interacts with the District. It is the District's responsibility to determine the most effective ways of providing notice. However, this statement should be presented in a consistent manner throughout the District and should be included in all public communication which includes: job and program applications; newspaper legal notices or advertisements; public service announcements; the District's web site; postings at all facilities and/or programs; brochures, manuals, and handbooks that are distributed to the public; district-sponsored brochures, volunteer material, and activity announcements; contracts; and other marketing materials. All notices must comply with Title II requirements for effective communication, including alternate formats, as appropriate.

Recommended: All District-sponsored activities and organizations should include the District's statement of intent to comply with the ADA on program brochures and other marketing materials, (i.e. Thorn Creek News, Dog Agility classes, etc). Contact information for the District's designated responsible individual should be listed as well. All notices must comply with Title II requirements for effective communication, including alternate formats, as appropriate.

Recommended: Outline the specific steps for responding to public requests for accommodations and communicate the procedure internally for employees, board members, volunteers, and contractors. A formal, written procedure for responding to public requests for accommodations should be published to further facilitate communication of the District's intent to comply with the ADA. This process should detail where requests for accommodations should be directed, timelines (if applicable), who will make contact with the individual, how the request will be assessed, and what type of actions may be taken. Internally, this information should be included in manuals for volunteers and staff. Externally, this information could be included in the District's general brochure, web site, and/or a brochure specific to services for individuals with disabilities.

1.3 Grievance Procedure

Reference to a grievance procedure is included in the District's web site and states the District's Executive Director or his/her designee will respond to any complaints submitted to the Public Information Office Supervisor. However, the procedure for handling complaints is not specifically outlined.

Required: Distribute and publish the grievance procedures and, as necessary, any updates to procedures and contact information. In addition, notification of the grievance procedures must comply with Title II requirements for effective communication, including alternate formats, as appropriate [28 C.F.R. §35.107(b)].

Recommended: The grievance procedure should be included in the District's policy manual and handbooks, on the District's web site, a brochure specific to services for individuals with disabilities, and/or posted in public spaces within the District.

Recommended: Outline the specific steps in the grievance procedure and communicate the procedure internally for employees, board members, volunteers, and contractors. A formal, written procedure for responding to complaints should be published to further facilitate communication of the District's intent to comply with the ADA. This process should detail the procedure if a complaint is received at the front counter of a facility, outline the process to forward the complaint to the designated responsible employee, along with the steps to respond to the complaint, track corrective actions, document outcomes, and maintain files with the designated responsible employee. Internally, this information should be included in manuals for volunteers and staff. Externally, this information could be included in the District's general brochure, web site, and/or a brochure specific to services for individuals with disabilities.

1.4 Self-Evaluation

The National Center on Accessibility has conducted both a physical and a programmatic accessibility assessment for the District. The compiled report is only one part of the District's self-evaluation. It is the responsibility of the Forest Preserve District of Will County to complete and maintain a document describing the corrective actions the District has taken to come into compliance with Title II of the ADA.

Required: Modify the identified policies, practices, and services to ensure equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities to participate in and benefit from District programs, services, and activities [28 C.F.R. §35.105(a)].

Required: Provide an opportunity for interested individuals, including individuals with disabilities or organizations representing individuals with disabilities, to participate in the self-evaluation process by submitting comments [28 C.F.R. §35.105(b)].

Required: Maintain information regarding the self-evaluation on file and make it available for public inspection for three years. The information on file should include: a list of the interested persons consulted, a description of the areas examined and any problems identified, and a description of any modifications made [28 C.F.R. §35.105(c)].

1.5 Transition Plan

The National Center on Accessibility has conducted physical accessibility assessments of the 32 preserves and 16 facilities of the Forest Preserve District of Will County. Through this assessment conducted from December 2006 through June 2007, a series of physical barriers that either currently pose or have the potential for posing barriers to programs, services, and activities have been identified. It is the responsibility of the District to prioritize barrier removal through the development of a transition plan. A transition plan is necessary when structural changes are required to achieve program access. The purpose of the transition plan is to detail needed structural changes, prioritize these changes, and to create a timeline for barrier removal.

Required: Develop a transition plan that contains at a minimum:

- a list of the physical barriers to facilities that limit the accessibility to programs, services, or activities for individuals with disabilities;
- a detailed outline of the methods to be used for removal of these barriers;
- a schedule for taking the steps necessary to achieve compliance and, if the time period of the transition period is longer than one year, identify interim steps that will be taken during each year of the transition period;
- and the name of the official responsible for plan's implementation [28 C.F.R. §35.150(d)].

Required: Provide an opportunity for interested individuals, including individuals with disabilities or organizations representing individuals with disabilities, to participate in the development of the plan and/or to submit comments [28 C.F.R. §35.150(d)].

Required: Upon review of the physical accessibility assessment data, options to provide program access within existing preserves and facilities may be

presented. Some options may be considered fundamental alterations to the nature of the program, service, or activity or an undue financial or administrative burden. The decision that compliance would result in such an alteration or burden must be made by the head of the agency or designee considering all resources available for use in the funding and operation of the program, service, or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. Alternate actions will still be required to ensure individuals with disabilities can receive the benefits of the program, service, or activity [28 C.F.R. §35.150(a) (3)].

Required: A copy of the transition plan should be made available for public inspection [28 C.F.R. §35.150(d)].

Recommended: The transition plan is designed to detail the removal of structural barriers; however, the removal of programmatic barriers is just as important to the provision of District programs, services, and activities. The removal of programmatic barriers (detailed in the next section) has financial and scheduling implications that cannot be overlooked. The purchase of items such as assistive listening systems and printing costs of marketing materials have an impact in the prioritization and scheduling of barrier removal. Inclusion of programmatic barriers in the transition plan gives a fuller picture of all the steps needed for the District to come into compliance with the ADA.

Recommended: Implement a design review procedure in the barrier removal process by which all construction projects are reviewed to ensure the plan meets the minimum accessibility standards. Refer to Section 4: Plan Review and Construction Oversight for further information.

2. Program Access

The Forest Preserve District of Will County offers a variety of programs, services, and activities throughout the 32 preserves and 16 facilities. Opportunities include such programs as picnicking, camping, hiking, biking, interpretive trails, educational programs for adults and youth, preserve tours, concessions, equipment rentals, and special events. These programs are offered throughout the preserves and facilities such as Thorn Creek Nature Center, the Environmental Learning Center, Isle a la Cache Museum, and Plum Creek Nature Center. The District works closely with local, state, and national agencies in cooperative research, education, and conservation projects.

Required: A public entity shall operate each service, program, or activity so that the service, program, or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities [28 C.F.R. §35.150(a)].

2.1 Customer Service

Customer service representatives serve as the first point of contact for citizens and perspective program participants at the Sugar Creek Administrative Center, as well as the Lake Renwick Visitor Center, Monee Reservoir Concessions, Thorn Creek Nature Center, the Environmental Learning Center, Isle a la Cache Museum, and Plum Creek Nature Center. As the first point of customer contact, citizens will have an expectation that staff can answer basic inquiries related to accessibility features at facilities and provisions within programs. Customer service staff at the administration office and other facilities should be prepared to respond to requests for public documents, maps, and brochures in alternate formats, information about accessible entrances to parks and facilities, and how support for a participant with a disability may be provided in a District program.

Recommendation: Provide seasonal training for customer service staff on new accessibility features of preserves and facilities, the accommodation process, techniques for interacting with people with disabilities, and the use of people first language.

Recommendation: Acquire a TTY for the customer service desk at the Sugar Creek Administration Center. Provide training for all staff who answers the phone on the location and operation of the TTY along with the procedures for using the statewide relay service.

2.2 Registration

Registration for District programs is processed by customer service representatives at each individual facility. If an accommodation is requested, the request is forwarded to the program coordinator. Currently, there is no question regarding accommodations on the general program registration form and the accommodation process is not specifically outlined in a procedural/employee manual.

Recommended: Add an accommodation question to the general District registration form seeking information specific to any accommodations that may be necessary for successful participation in programs and services.

Example:

To plan for your full enjoyment in the program, please indicate if you require any of the following accommodations. If an accommodation is selected, a program staff will contact you prior to the start of the program to discuss your needs in more detail and plan for an enjoyable first day.

A sign language interpreter?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
An assistive listening device?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Written materials available in alternative formats?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Please indicate your preference:

- Braille
- Large Print
- Audio Cassette
- Computer Disk

Other? Please describe:

Recommended: Where program specific registration forms exist but do not use an accommodation question, such as for Thorn Creek Nature Center programs or Dog Agility classes, tailor a question to gather information to plan for accommodations prior to the start of the first day of the program.

2.3 Eligibility Requirements

The District offers programs with a variety of skill level requirements, including interpretive classes, outdoor recreation skill development, preserve tours, and professional development courses. Participation criteria includes enrollment in the program and age/group size restrictions.

Required: Eligibility criteria for programs, services, and activities should not screen out or tend to screen out individuals with disabilities, unless it can show that such requirements are necessary for the provision of the program, service, or activity [28 C.F.R. §35.150(b)(7)].

Recommended: If a course or program requires certain eligibility criteria for participation, the specific eligibility requirements should be included in the program guide. A “prerequisite” field should be added (if applicable) to accompany the common program fields such as day, time, location, etc.

Recommended: All program coordinators should evaluate their programs for any applicable “prerequisites” and document the eligibility criteria for each program with the program description, lessons/activities, and other planning documents.

Recommended: Prior to marketing programs, the eligibility criteria for each should be reviewed with the ADA Coordinator to ensure the prerequisites are consistent with business/program necessity and do not screen out persons with disabilities. All program staff should be aware of the eligibility criteria for their respective programs.

Recommended: Outline a procedure to review issues related to participation and eligibility criteria on a case by case basis that includes the ADA Coordinator. The procedure should also describe the process to document decisions with rationale for inclusion or denial of participation.

2.4 Program Support

Requests for accommodations/modifications in programs are assessed on a case by case basis with the program coordinator and division head. Most program staff recognize that accommodations/modifications are needed on a participant-specific basis. Program coordinators are quick to adapt their programs on the spot in order to include participants with disabilities.

As District staff become more experienced with providing accommodations for participants in the programs, it is likely the number of participants with disabilities will increase. Word of good service will spread.

Recommended: Identify programs where participation among individuals with disabilities has become consistent, and even increased, and hire/train/develop staff with experience working with people with disabilities to serve as part of the program staff.

Recommended: Establish a system to follow up with participants receiving accommodations to continually monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the accommodation. This will allow the District to determine if the accommodation allows the individual to participate and enjoy the benefits of the program, service, or activity and whether there are any considerations for future accommodation requests.

2.5 Marketing

The ADA statement in the District's program guide is the first opportunity to welcome people with disabilities to participate in District programs, services, activities, and facilities. However, involving people with disabilities in recreational opportunities requires a more concerted marketing effort, and to some degree, leisure education. While "Build it and they will come" is a popular saying, they must first know about it in order to get there. Individuals with

disabilities can experience a variety of environmental and social barriers that make the effort to seek out inclusive opportunities a low priority. It should also be noted that many individuals know what his/her ability may be, but do not identify or label him or herself as an individual with a disability. It is critical that the District employs a targeted marketing strategy in order to build an inclusive and welcoming environment for individuals with disabilities.

Recommended: Develop a comprehensive marketing strategy towards people with disabilities, their families, and caregivers regarding the benefits of recreation, leisure education, accessibility within the District, and the availability of programming supports. Incorporate individuals with disabilities into all District marketing materials.

Recommended: Develop a brochure specifically targeted to individuals with disabilities highlighting the physical and programmatic accessibility features, programs, and services within the District. The brochure could include the procedure for requesting an accommodation and also highlight various capital projects where accessibility improvements are made to parks and facilities.

Recommended: Where facilities and programs use separate brochures or marketing vehicles, include a brief statement on the accessible features of the program or facility.

Recommended: Celebrate accessibility improvements and accomplishments to help spread the word about new recreation opportunities available through the District.

2.6 Field Trips and Excursions

Some District programs involve trips or excursions to special destinations but these programs are small in number. Typically, the destination is selected first and then only evaluated for accessibility in the event a participant with a disability registers for the program. Accessible transportation is contracted on an as needed basis.

Required: The field trip and/or excursion should be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities when viewed in its entirety. In the event that some amenities are not accessible, the Department should be prepared to assess and identify alternatives so an individual with a disability will still be able to participate in and enjoy the benefit of the course or program experience.

Recommended: All destinations, including points of interests, transportation, and support facilities (restrooms, overnight accommodations, etc.) should be

assessed for physical and programmatic access by the District's ADA Coordinator and program coordinator prior to the final trip selection.

Recommended: Adopt a checklist for program coordinators to use to assess the proposed destination for physical and programmatic accessibility.

Recommended: Adopt a practice to provide accessible transportation if requested as an accommodation when transportation is provided as part of a program.

2.7 Museum and Nature Center Programming

The Isle a la Cache Museum interprets the history of the 18th century fur trade. Visitors to the museum can learn about the French fur traders and Native American history. The Lake Renwick Visitor's Center, the Plum Creek Nature Center, and the Thorn Creek Nature Center provide interpretive exhibits focusing on the surrounding environment and the unique plant and animal life found in the area. Most of the attendance at these locations is scheduled programming for schools and special groups like scout troops.

The Isle a la Cache Museum had just completed an extensive renovation and it was clear that District staff considered accessibility during the planning, design, and construction phases. One example of accessibility is the wigwam where the route is accessible and interpretive items are hung within reach range. However, there are instances at other facilities, particularly at Thorn Creek Nature Center, where routes are not accessible due to the placement of non-fixed items such as tables, bookshelves, puppet stages, display racks, and exhibit cases. Many interpretive items are located on walls and shelves that place them out of reach range. Exhibit labels are placed in locations and at angles that are difficult to read. Thorn Creek Nature Center also has a stage and a bird observation area that are inaccessible due to a step. The Nature Center also provides programming and interpretive exhibits on the 2nd floor and in the basement which are only accessible by stairs.

In many cases the serif font and size of labels at interpretive exhibits can be considered too small for viewing distances. Low contrasts between background and foreground font on labels can be difficult for visitors with visual impairments to read. Based on the materials and presentation of exhibits, the experience for people with visual impairments is significantly limited compared to visitors without visual impairments. At the time of the assessment, staff and docents did not have expertise in the art and practice of audio description for making exhibits and museum experiences accessible to people with visual impairments,

and limited experience with adapting the language of a guided tour script to accommodate visitors with intellectual disabilities.

Most staff has not received specific requests for sign language interpreters. They are aware that the District has some assistive listening systems but few know where they are and are not familiar with their operation. Availability of sign language interpreters and other auxiliary aids or services is not prominently promoted in marketing publications.

Required: Provide an accessible route to the stage and bird observation area at Thorn Creek Nature Center. One option for providing accessibility includes creating a ramp along the length of the outer wall that would access the bird observation area. The stage could then be accessed from the bird observation area.

Required: Evaluate options for providing access to programs and activities located on the 2nd floor and in the basement of the Thorn Creek Nature Center. Options could include the installation of an elevator in one of the stairwells or providing programmatic access by relocating programs and activities to an accessible location as accommodation requests are received.

Recommended: When planning new exhibit labels and displays, reference the Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design (<http://www.si.edu/opa/accessibility/exdesign/start.htm>).

Recommended: Design guided tours to seamlessly integrate various delivery methods including alternate formats, sign language interpreters, and assistive listening systems. This can include adapting the script and specific language to an easier comprehension level for visitors with intellectual disabilities. Promote the availability of auxiliary aids and services through marketing materials.

Recommended: Utilize the expertise of professionals trained as audio describers to integrate audio description into the existing tour and to plan for audio description to be used in new programs and exhibits.

Recommended: Although there are several very good tactile exhibits and objects, there are many opportunities for other tactile reproductions that would be considered integral to the subject matter. Adding additional tactile pieces would insure an opportunity to benefit equal to that of sighted visitors.

Recommended: Use new technology to enhance experience for all visitors. For example, if podcasts are developed, also consider an audio described version to accommodate visitors with visual impairments. Development of all new

media should voluntarily follow the accessibility requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act which includes the use of captioning, audio description and other accessible electronic and information technology. The use of new technology should also use simple intuitive buttons for playback, fast forward, etc. as opposed to only using a device dependent on the visual display to give commands for use.

Recommended: Ensure staff and volunteers are trained on the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and specific programmatic and customer service accommodations for visitors with disabilities.

2.8 Special Events and Meetings

A number of special events, such as the Island Rendezvous and Earth Day, are scheduled each year by the District. These events draw thousands of visitors, who come to learn about the cultural and natural features Will County offers. Currently the District includes an accessibility checklist as part of the special event inspection safety policy. It is the responsibility of the facility coordinator to conduct pre-event inspections. The District holds both internal meetings and those open to the public on a regular basis. It is currently the responsibility of the meeting coordinator to ensure accessibility.

Recommended: Add questions to the accessibility checklist regarding choosing an accessible location, the provision of designated accessible parking and signage, accessible transportation (such as parking shuttles), auxiliary aids and services (such as assistive listening systems, audio description, and/or sign language interpreters), and directional signage for accessible routes and amenities at the special event.

Recommended: Develop a checklist for meeting planners to use to assess the physical and programmatic accessibility of proposed meeting and special event locations.

3. Physical Access Issues with Implications for Program Access

The “program access” standard under Title II of the ADA requires that a public entity operate its services, activities, and programs so that when viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This does not necessarily mean that an entity must make all of its existing facilities accessible (28 CFR §35.150(a) (1)). Alterations to existing facilities and/or structural changes may be one method by which services, activities, and programs can be made accessible. The means by which services, activities,

and programs are made accessible should give priority to the methods that would provide services, activities, and programs in the most integrated setting appropriate (28 CFR §35.150(b)).

There are a number of reoccurring issues that were identified upon completion of the accessibility assessments of the District's 32 preserves and 16 facilities. These issues have implications for program access that administrative staff will need to address during the transition planning process. Some of the physical access issues with implications for program access are identified as follows. For information specific to a preserve or facility, see the individual Summary and Detail Reports for each preserve/facility in Part VI.

3.1 Access Routes to Program Spaces

Many facilities and outdoor restrooms have interior and exterior doors that require excessive force (more than 5-8.5 lbs) to open. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) specify that interior doors be operable with no more than 5 lbs force (ADAAG 4.13). However, the opening force requirement for exterior doors in ADAAG is reserved. The ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines revert to the local administrative authority on the opening force for exterior doors considered to be fire doors. The Illinois Accessibility Code (IAC) also reverts to the local administrative authority on opening force for exterior doors considered to be fire doors. However, the IAC does require that other exterior doors have an opening force that does not exceed 8.5 lbs (IAC 400.310(j)).

Recommended: All doors to program spaces have been assessed and noted as to compliance or non-compliance with the minimum accessibility standards. During the transition planning process, the District administrators are advised to prioritize routes with doors and evaluate the methods to make a minimum of one route accessible to each program space. Options could include adjustment of tension on door closers, replacement of heavy doors with lighter units, installation of automatic door opening systems, or assigning staff to maintain doors as open if it does not pose a conflict with fire/safety codes. Employing universal design in the solution will create greater access for a much larger number of people. This could include automatic door opening systems for heavy use areas or even doorless entries into some spaces such as restrooms.

3.2 Parking Signage

At most preserve parking locations, signage is located between the parking space and the access aisle. Signage is usually installed too low and up to 9'

from the front of the space. Van accessible spaces lack a van accessible designation.

Recommended: Install signage at the front center of parking space a maximum of 5' from front of space. Install signage so the bottom of the sign is 60" min above the ground. Add van accessible designation to spaces that meet van accessible criteria [ADAAG: 4.6.4; ADA-ABA: 502.6; IAC: 400.310(c) (7)].

3.3 Portable Toilets

Portable toilets are located at a few preserves throughout the District. Of those units assessed, none were accessible. One "accessible" unit was designated at Goodenow Grove. However, after closer inspection, the "accessible" unit, as marketed by the vendor, did not have the required clear floor space for approach and use of the toilet fixture. The containment box for the unit interfered with use of the clear floor space adjacent to the toilet fixture and the use of the grab bars for a safe transfer.

Required: Where portable toilets are provided, a minimum of one accessible unit, that meets the ADAAG technical requirements for a toilet stall, should be provided and located on an accessible route.

3.5 Outdoor Recreation Access Routes

The Forest Preserve District of Will County maintains preserves that include several picnic, camping, and trailhead areas. In almost all instances there are no outdoor recreation access routes connecting elements within the picnic area, camping area, and designated trailhead area. The primary routes used by visitors are usually along natural surfaces such as grass and dirt. On any given day, a grass or dirt surface may or may not be accessible. Obstacles, roots, ruts, changes in level, along with the firmness and stability of the ground surface based on the moisture content and precipitation, will affect the daily accessibility condition of routes to the picnic, camping, and trailhead areas.

Recommended: As best practice, reference the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas under the Architectural Barriers Act (2007) for scoping and technical provisions specific to outdoor recreation access routes.

Recommended: Provide outdoor recreation access routes connecting the elements within the picnic, camping, and designated trailhead areas so that the routes comply with NPRM Outdoor T304.

Recommended: Through the transition planning process, each area should be evaluated and categorized for its use and the feasibility to install outdoor recreation access routes from the parking and/or point of entry to the elements located within the areas. The feasibility of various systems from permanent surfacing to temporary surfacing systems should also be reviewed. In large preserves and/or heavily used areas, permanent surfacing solutions such as soil stabilizers could be integrated into the existing environment. In smaller areas with less use, temporary surfacing systems may be a more economical solution.

Recommended: Ensure staff understands the difference between an outdoor recreation access route and an accessible route. These differences can be subtle and change the accessibility guidelines and/or standards staff must follow in order to provide accessibility in picnicking, camping, and trailhead areas.

3.6 Designated Trailheads

The District has over 100 miles of interlinking trails that crisscross Will County and provide opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. These trails allow hikers, bicyclists, in-line skaters, joggers, equestrians, and cross-country skiers to enjoy a safe and scenic environment. Only designated trailheads were included in this assessment.

The majority of trailheads consist of an information kiosk where preserve and trail maps are posted along with notices regarding environmental information, preserve district policies, and/or local activities. Information is posted on bulletin boards behind Plexiglas. There are no trail brochures/maps available at any kiosk. Trail detail, including trail access points, trail length, surface, and terrain or scenic feature, is found in a chart on the District's web site where preserve maps can also be found. This chart was not found at any trailhead.

Recommended: As best practice, reference the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas under the Architectural Barriers Act (2007) for scoping and technical provisions specific to trailheads and trail signage.

Recommended: Complete a full accessibility assessment of all trails within the Forest Preserve District of Will County. As best practice, reference the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas under the Architectural Barriers Act (2007) for scoping and technical provisions specific to trails. Based on the knowledge gained from the assessment, create a system of signage identifying trails and trail segments that comply with NPRM- Outdoor T303 (Trails) at the trailhead and all designated access points. Signage

should include a symbol designating if the trail/trail segment is accessible, include total distance of the accessible trail/trail segment, and the location of the first point where exceptions from the trail technical provisions apply.

Recommended: Given the wide variability in the actual characteristics that may be encountered on a trail, it is recommended that objective information about the actual trail conditions be provided for all trails, whether or not they are accessible. Objective information regarding trail conditions will assist users in determining whether the trail meets their own abilities. For accessible trails, trail condition information should include: trail symbol, running slope (average and maximum), cross slope (maximum), clear tread width (minimum), surface type, trail length, trail elevation (at trailhead), and maximum elevation attained. For trails that do meet NPRM-Outdoor technical provisions, trail condition information should also include: average cross slope, average clear tread width, surface firmness and stability, tread obstacles (magnitude and frequency), and total elevation change with both the maximum and lowest elevation attained.

Recommended: Provide training on Outdoor Developed Areas, including guidelines for trails, for all appropriate District staff.

3.7 Camping Areas

The District operates camping sites at Forsythe Woods, Hammel Woods, McKinley Woods, Goodenow Grove, and Messenger Woods. Currently, none of the camping sites are considered accessible.

Recommended: As best practice, reference the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas under the Architectural Barriers Act (2007) for scoping and technical provisions specific to camping facilities.

Recommended: Provide the appropriate minimum number of accessible camping spaces dispersed throughout each individual camping area that comply with the applicable provisions of NPRM Outdoor T318. Identify accessible sites with the International Symbol of Accessibility unless all sites are accessible.

Recommended: Evaluate the reservation policy to ensure visitors with disabilities have access to the accessible camping spaces. This may require setting a policy that states visitors without disabilities can reserve an accessible campsite only if all other sites are full or if no other site will accommodate the visitor's camping equipment. These allow the District the option of booking the accessible sites so there are no unused campsites during peak hours.

Recommended: As camp sites are added or renovated, create only accessible camp sites. When all sites are accessible, opportunities and choices are increased and there is no need for an additional reservation policy or for identifying accessible sites with the International Symbol of Accessibility.

3.8 Benches, Picnic Tables, Trash Receptacles, Grills, and Fire Rings

The District maintains outdoor benches, picnic tables, trash and recycling receptacles, grills, and fire rings throughout its preserves and facilities. Enforceable accessibility standards for these outdoor elements do not yet exist under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Recommended: As best practice, reference the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas under the Architectural Barriers Act (2007) for scoping and technical provisions specific to these elements.

Recommended: When new elements and fixtures are purchased, such as picnic tables, benches, grills, and fire rings, match the product specifications with the accessibility guidelines and standards to ensure the products truly are accessible and not just claimed as accessible by the manufacturer.

Recommended: Add or replace non-accessible picnic tables, benches, grills, and fire rings with accessible units so that a minimum of 50% are accessible and at least 40% of those are located on accessible routes and/or outdoor recreation accessible routes depending on the location of the unit.

Recommended: Locate and maintain trash and recycling receptacles within reach range on accessible routes.

Recommended: Provide clear space surrounding the site elements that is firm and stable and has slope not to exceed 2% in any direction.

3.9 Seasonal Activities

The District offers ice skating and sledding seasonally at Monee Reservoir and Goodenow Grove. These programs are not accessible due to a lack of accessible route to the program locations.

Required: Evaluate the feasibility of providing a mechanical tow to the sledding activities at Goodenow Grove to transport visitors with disabilities to the top of the hill. Modify policies to permit visitors with disabilities the use of adaptive equipment for sledding and ice skating.

Required: Install temporary surfacing systems which meet the requirements of accessible routes to ice skating ponds in Goodenow Grove and Monee Reservoir in order to provide access for visitors with disabilities.

4. Plan Review and Construction Oversight

The current system within the District relies on the project coordinator to ensure accessibility standards are met. This system relies on staff that may or may not be knowledgeable about accessibility standards and guidelines and allows for inconsistencies among projects. Staff relies on the architect or construction personnel to have knowledge of the standards and is therefore unable to catch and correct critical errors of non-compliance either at the plan review phase or when change orders are issued during construction.

Recommended: Staff involved in the design, construction, and maintenance of facilities, preserves, and trails should be trained and knowledgeable on the ADA accessibility standards, the Illinois Accessibility Code, and proposed accessibility guidelines including those for outdoor developed areas.

Recommended: Adopt a process to review plans on all new construction, alteration and renovation projects with a specific role for checking compliance with the accessibility standards.

Recommended: Assign personnel with construction oversight responsibilities specific to compliance with the accessibility standards. If any change orders are made either in the planning process or on site, they can be reviewed for compliance with the accessibility standards, and the construction crew or contractors can be held accountable for standards compliance before the District administration signs off and accepts the final completed project.

5. Communications

Under Title II of the ADA a public entity is required to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that communications with applicants, participants, and members of the public with disabilities are as effective as communications with others (28 C.F.R. §35.160). This effective communication requirement applies to all members of the public with disabilities, including job applicants, program participants, and people who simply contact the District seeking information about programs, services, or activities. Currently, requests to provide materials in alternate formats or to provide auxiliary aids and services are filed with the Public Information Office Supervisor.

5.1 Publications & Alternate Formats

The District does not use standardized style rules for publications. A seasonal guidebook is published as the primary means of marketing District programs. In addition to distributing the guidebook through the community, activities and preserve information are posted on the District's web site, sometimes in PDF format. A PDF is not accessible for a person using a screen reader or other assistive technology.

On occasion, program staff develops their own specialty brochures or newsletters. For example, a newsletter for Thorn Creek Nature Preserve is published with listings of upcoming programs and special events. Several publications are printed on color paper with little contrast between the foreground text color and the background paper color, while other publications use small font sizes that are difficult for aging eyes to read. Not all District publications are readily available in alternate formats such as large print, Braille, audio, or computer disk.

Required: Provide Department publications in alternate formats upon request. Alternative formats may include: Braille, large print, computer disks, audio recordings, and/or qualified readers [28 C.F.R. §35.160(b) (1)].

Required: Primary consideration in determining what type of alternate format is necessary should be given to the choice expressed by the individual requesting the publication [28 C.F.R. §35.160(b) (2)].

Required: Notify the public of the procedure for requesting a publication in alternative format through various communication outlets such as the District's policy manual and handbooks, the District's web site, a brochure specific to services for individuals with disabilities, and/or posting in public spaces within the District [28 C.F.R. §35.163(a)].

Recommended: Establish a procedure for generating publications in alternate formats in a timely manner. This procedure should include a designated responsible person and a timeline for providing materials to the individual.

Recommended: Maintain a list of resources and/or vendors that are available to translate documents and other information into alternate formats such as Braille, large print, audio recordings, and CD or other electronic file format. Update this list yearly.

Recommended: Adopt a practice by which popular publications are routinely developed in alternate formats as part of the publication process.

Recommended: Adopt a practice that all publications readily available for the taking (i.e. newsletters) be offered in alternative formats at each location for immediate distribution.

5.2 Auxiliary Aids & Services

The District owns an assistive listening system but few know of its location or how to operate it. The District does not own a TTY. These situations create barriers to effective communication for individuals who are deaf or have hearing impairments. Availability of sign language interpreters, the assistive listening system, and other auxiliary aids is not marketed to the public.

Required: Provide auxiliary aids and services upon request. Auxiliary aids and services may include items such as: qualified interpreters, assistive listening systems, computer-aided real-time transcription and communication boards [28 C.F.R. §35.160(b) (1)].

Required: Primary consideration in determining what type of auxiliary aid or service is necessary should be given to the choice expressed by the individual requesting the auxiliary aid or service [28 C.F.R. §35.160(b) (2)].

Required: Some auxiliary aids and services may be considered fundamental alterations to the nature of the program, service, or activity or an undue financial or administrative burden. The decision that compliance would result in such an alteration or burden must be made by the head of the agency or designee after considering all resources available for use in the funding and operation of the program, service, or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. Alternate auxiliary aids and services will still be required to ensure individuals with disabilities can receive effective communication (28 C.F.R. §35.164).

Required: Notify the public of the procedure for requesting auxiliary aids and services through various communication outlets such as the District's policy manual and handbooks, the District's web site, a brochure specific to services for individuals with disabilities, and/or posted in public spaces within the District [28 C.F.R. §35.163(a)].

Required: Where a public entity communicates by telephone with applicants and beneficiaries, TTY's or equally effective telecommunication systems shall be used to communicate with individuals with hearing or speech impairments (28 C.F.R. §35.161).

Recommended: Verify that the existing assistive listening system is operational or purchase a minimum of one portable assistive listening system for use in District programs, services, and activities. The purchase of additional systems may be necessary based on demand. Train staff on the multiple uses for an assistive listening system and adopt a procedure to check out the equipment and make it readily available for events such as board meetings, training programs, and other public events. Notify the public that an assistive listening system is available for use.

Recommended: Purchase a minimum of one TTY to be used at the Sugar Creek Administrative Center/customer service desk where calls from the public are received. Train staff on the location and use of the TTY and market the availability of the TTY in brochures and through signage at District facilities.

Recommended: Maintain a list of resources and/or vendors that are available to provide auxiliary aids and services such as real-time transcription, audio description, captioning services, and sign language, oral, or cued speech interpreters. Update this list yearly.

Recommended: Any programs that are interpretive and/or mobile should be planned and readily adaptable to provide audio description to effectively communicate the visual and abstract information for people who may have sight or cognitive impairments.

5.3 Audio-Visual Technology and Material

Audio-visual material is consistently integrated into the District's programs, services, and activities. Whether it is a video shown in a program, a power point presentation at staff training, or a video conference, audio-visual technology is part of the communication system. Currently, the District does not have a system for ensuring audio-visual technology and materials meet the requirements for effective communication.

Required: Power point presentations should be provided in alternate formats upon request. Alternative formats may include: Braille, large print, computer disks, audio recordings, and/or qualified readers [28 C.F.R. §35.160(b) (1)].

Required: Audio-visual technology and material (such as videos, DVDs, and video conferences, etc.) used in District programs, services, or activities should be captioned, audio described, and readily available for use in the District [28 C.F.R. §35.160(b) (1)].

Recommended: Adopt a practice to purchase materials that are readily available with audio description and captioning. If the material is not available with these capabilities, either purchase alternate materials with these features or contract with a vendor that will provide these features.

5.4 Web Site

The Forest Preserve District of Will County utilizes a web site to communicate information on programs, activities, services, parks and facilities to the public, www.fpdwc.org.

Since the ADA was issued before the emergence of the Internet as a mass communications vehicle, the regulations are not specific to whether a web site should be made accessible. However, legal pursuits by disability advocacy groups and the U.S. Department of Justice lead practitioners to believe the maintenance of an accessible web site is in the best interest of the entity and the public. According to the U.S. Department of Justice (2003):

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and, if the government entities receive Federal funding, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, generally require that State and local governments provide qualified individuals with disabilities equal access to their programs, services, or activities unless doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of their programs, services, or activities or would impose an undue burden. One way to help meet these requirements is to ensure that government websites have accessible features for people with disabilities... An agency with an inaccessible website may also meet its legal obligations by providing an alternative accessible way for citizens to use the programs or services, such as a staffed telephone information line. These alternatives, however, are unlikely to provide an equal degree of access in terms of hours of operation and the range of options and programs available. For example, job announcements and application forms, if posted on an accessible website, would be available to people with disabilities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The National Center on Accessibility, in collaboration with the Great Lakes ADA & IT Center, conducted accessibility and usability testing of the Forest Preserve District web site referencing the accessibility guidelines in Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (amended 1998) and the voluntary W3C Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (May 1999). Based on the review of the source code and usability testing, there is significant coding error rendering the web site inaccessible when viewed in its entirety.

Recommended: It would be feasible for a web developer to add the required HTML code to make the web site accessible. However, it would most likely take less time to develop a new web site which references and applies the W3C web accessibility guidelines from the very beginning stages of development.

Recommended: Based on the rapid growth of technology and web design, most web page designs only have a life expectancy of five years. Should the web site be redesigned, the designer or contractor should have experience with the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, emerging guidelines, and usability testing among people with disabilities who utilize adaptive equipment for surfing the web.

6. Risk Management

A fundamental mission of any public agency is ensuring, so far as reasonably practical, the health and safety of all volunteers, employees, and members of the public entering the District through a physical location or program participation. Divisions work cooperatively with one another in developing risk management strategies through the Safety Committee. The District currently uses PDRMA in reviewing and documenting safety issues throughout the preserves. However, at the time of the assessment, the District does not have a formal process in place for evaluating instances where participation may evoke concerns of safety or direct threat as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

6.1 Participation

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Title II regulation states:

A "direct threat" is a significant risk to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by a modification of policies, practices, or procedures, or by the provision of auxiliary aids or services. In *School Board of Nassau County v. Arline*, 480 U.S. 273 (1987), the Supreme Court recognized that there is a need to balance the interests of people with disabilities against legitimate concerns for public safety. Although persons with disabilities are generally entitled to the protection of this part, a person who poses a significant risk to others will not be "qualified," if reasonable modifications to the public entity's policies, practices, or procedures will not eliminate that risk.

There may be instances in District programs, services, and activities where participation by individuals with disabilities could cause concern for safety and general well-being. In these instances, the District should be prepared to make informed decisions on participation and risks. These decisions must be based on an individualized assessment, on reasonable judgment relying on current medical evidence, or on the best available objective evidence.

Recommended: Develop a review team with knowledge of accessibility and risk management issues to receive, review, and determine to allow or prohibit, if prohibition becomes necessary, participation by the general public in a program, service, or activity when a safety concern or issue of direct threat of injury involves a person with a disability.

Recommended: Should the decision be made to prohibit participation based on a safety concern or issue of direct threat, the decision should be approved by the head of the agency and should be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. The decision and rationale should be maintained on file.

The District has a unique circumstance for “participation” involving the District police. The police function as any other police force in the state and have multiple state and federal laws and procedures that must be followed in order to ensure public safety. Sometimes these laws (i.e. Homeland Security regulations) may be in direct conflict with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Recommended: Provide specific training on the ADA for the District's law enforcement personnel. Acquire a working knowledge of materials published by the U.S. Department of Justice pertaining to law enforcement and the ADA (<http://ada.gov/>). Where appropriate, District police should be involved in the review team that makes decisions regarding safety concerns or issues of direct threat.

6.2 Emergency Preparedness

One of the most important responsibilities of the District is its role in preparing the public for and responding to emergencies. Making emergency preparedness and response programs accessible to people with disabilities is a critical part of this responsibility. The District has created emergency plans for each individual facility. The current plans do not reference general guidelines for people with disabilities during an emergency evacuation.

Recommended: Emergency preparedness plans should cover all types of emergencies (fire, natural disasters, medical, and human-caused events) and

address all stages of an emergency including the notification, evacuation, temporary sheltering, return of people with and without disabilities, and all communication during these stages. Plans should consider the guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Fire Protection Association, and the National Recreation and Park Association.

Recommended: Solicit and incorporate input from individuals with different types of disabilities (e.g. mobility, visual, hearing, intellectual, and other disabilities) regarding all phases of the emergency management plan (preparation, notification, response, and clean up) for all types of emergencies. People with disabilities will help identify their needs and help evaluate effective emergency management practices. Issues that have the greatest impact on people with disabilities include notification, evacuation, emergency transportation, sheltering, access to medical care and medications, access to their mobility devices or service animals while in transit or at shelters, and access to information.

Recommended: Plans should include specific procedures for evacuating individuals with different types of disabilities. Disabilities manifest themselves in varying degrees, and the functional implications of the variations are important for emergency evacuation.

Recommended: Information identifying the procedure for all types of emergencies, including evacuation procedures and areas of rescue assistance, should be made available to the public at each facility. Maps containing the accessible exits and evacuation routes, accessible tornado shelters, and areas of rescue assistance should be included in this information. Information should be readily available in alternate formats.

Recommended: Conduct an evaluation of all emergency alarm/warning systems in all facilities to ensure that they include, in working order, audible and visual alarms (ADAAG 4.1.2(14), ADAAG 4.28).

Recommended: The acquisition and/or ready storage of emergency equipment, such as an evacuation chair for multi-story buildings, may be necessary to facilitate the evacuation of individuals with disabilities.

7. Purchasing

The District utilizes language in contracts and purchasing agreements that requires contractors to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities

Act and other applicable laws in terms of employment and the provision of service. However, contract language does not specifically hold the contractor/vendor responsible for ensuring that the final product or deliverable meets the minimum accessibility guidelines of the ADA. Staff relies on the manufacturer to confirm the product is accessible or on the architect/contractor to confirm the design and final construction are accessible.

Required: Notify each contractor of its responsibilities for providing services in a nondiscriminatory manner through public notices, RFPs/RFQs, bids, contracts and other binding agreements. Include a statement attesting to the agency's intent to comply with the ADA and the agency's expectations of contractors, vendors, suppliers and all others with whom the District conducts business.

Recommended: Identify specifications for each product that the District considers for purchase to ensure that the product will meet accessibility guidelines. Include the specifications in the bidding and purchasing informational packets/announcements.

Recommended: Develop a procedure and written policy to ensure the purchase of equipment and fixtures by program and maintenance staff is accessible to people with disabilities.

Recommended: Adopt a practice to inspect all construction projects for ADA compliance prior to accepting the completed project. In instances of non-compliance, hold the contractor accountable for correcting the non-compliance through the language that has been included in the contract and other binding agreements.

8. Maintenance

Once accessible equipment and features are purchased and installed, if they are not maintained as accessible they become unusable to the people that require such equipment and features for participation in programs, services and activities. Currently the District does not have a system in place to inspect and/or test accessible equipment and features (such as assistive listening system or the placement of picnic tables) on a regular basis.

Required: A public entity must maintain in operable working conditions those features of facilities and equipment that are required to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities (28 CFR §35.133).

Recommended: Establish a procedure to perform preventative and routine maintenance checks on adaptive equipment to ensure effective operation.

Recommended: Equip the Accessibility Coordinator and all maintenance staff with copies of the accessibility guidelines (ADAAG, IAC, ADA/ABA, NPRM-Outdoor).

Recommended: Develop a program to ensure maintenance of accessible routes to all facilities, site amenities, and program areas within the District. Procedures should also be put in place for the maintenance of vegetation and snow removal that may impact the usability of accessible routes.

9. Employment

Procedures for employment and human resource management are centralized through the District's Human Resources Office.

9.1 Application & Recruitment

The District's employee application asks whether an employee can perform the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodation. District job descriptions, job announcements, and postings do not contain an EEO statement.

Recommended: Continue to ensure all job descriptions accurately describe the essential and marginal functions required of the position.

Recommended: Ensure that all job announcements include a statement, both those posted internally and externally, indicating the District is an equal opportunity employer.

9.2 Interviews

Interviews are usually conducted by the immediate supervisor and/or as a team. However, this process is determined by the nature of the job position.

Recommended: Communicate information to job applicants that accommodations for the interview process are available upon request and indicate the name and phone/TTY number of the contact.

Recommended: Adopt a practice to standardize interview questions to ensure questions relate specifically to job functions and do not elicit information

regarding disability. Work with Human Resources to ensure staff involved in the interview process receives guidance involving specific phrasing of questions.

9.3 Accommodations

Accommodations for employees are handled through the Human Resources representative.

Required: Every employer under Title II shall post notices in an accessible format to applicants, employees, and members describing the applicable provisions of this Act, in the manner prescribed by section 711 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e-10).

Required: Maintain a secured filing location for disability/accommodation related information which is separate from employee personnel and medical records (29 C.F.R. §1630.14).

Recommended: Ensure each new employee is informed of ADA policy and procedures during the employee orientation process.

10. Staff Training

Training is done on an as needed basis and the District has been pro-active in developing ADA training for full-time employees. Through interviews with key staff, there is concern that not all staff and volunteers are aware of the District's ADA compliance responsibilities or how ADA plays a role in their jobs.

Recommended: Conduct training on the accessibility standards and guidelines for buildings and recreation environments, along with an introduction to the principles of universal design for staff.

Recommended: Conduct annual training for staff with employment/supervisory responsibilities covering Title I of the ADA.

Recommended: Conduct training on disability awareness and methods to accommodate visitors with disabilities in District programs, services, and activities.

Recommended: Tour preserves with customer service staff to show accessibility features. This will enable customer service staff to provide accessibility information to the public.

Recommended: Develop an ongoing calendar of training topics. Topics requested by various staff during interviews include:

- planning accessible special events
- accessibility standards and guidelines
- what to look for during site inspections
- trail construction
- disability awareness and specific teaching techniques
- designing accessible exhibits
- preparing accessible interpretive presentations
- adaptive equipment training
- adaptive water activities (paddling, etc.)
- camping and camping programs
- effective communication
- ADA compliance and accommodations process
- state and local resources
- and Universal Design.

Recommended: All trainings and training materials must comply with Title II requirements for effective communication, including alternate formats, when requested as an employee accommodation.

Braidwood Dunes & Savanna Nature Preserve Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 2, 2007

General description

The Braidwood Dunes & Savanna Nature Preserve is located on Route 113, east of Route 53 and I-55, approximately .75 miles east of Braidwood. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, restrooms, and a trail.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The gravel parking has 19 total parking spaces and does not have any designated accessible parking spaces or access aisles. The surface is not firm, stable or slip resistant.
- There is no outdoor recreation access route from the parking lot to the trailhead area.
- Braidwood Dunes trailhead area has 1 kiosk and 1 recycling receptacle. These site elements are not located on an accessible surface (grass) and there is no outdoor recreation access route connecting the elements within the trailhead area.

Recommendations

- Add 1 designated accessible parking space striped for a standard van accessible space (96" space with 96" access aisles) or for a universal parking space (132" space with 60" access aisle). Replace gravel with a surface that is firm and stable. Install signage at 60" min above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide additional van-accessible signage at van accessible spaces.
- Provide an outdoor recreation access route from the parking lot to the trailhead area so that the route complies with NPRM-ODA T304.
- Provide outdoor recreation access routes connecting the elements within the trailhead area so that the routes comply with NPRM-ODA T304. Provide clear space surrounding the site elements that is firm and stable and has slope not to exceed 2% in any direction.

Cherry Hill Operations & Law Enforcement Facility Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: February 2 & 27, March 14 & May 23, 2007

General description

The Cherry Hill Operations & Law Enforcement Facility is located at Cherry Hill Road and Manhattan Road south of Laraway Road. This facility houses the Forest Preserve Police and Operations and Maintenance.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The parking spaces and access aisles in the front parking lot have slope greater than 2%. The parking signs are installed too low.
- Signage throughout the facility is inconsistently provided, with a few permanent rooms and spaces having Braille and tactile signs, several having signs that do not comply with requirements and most having no sign.
- Exterior and interior doors consistently require excessive force to open. See detailed report for specific locations.
- Exterior stairs near main entrance have a corner that overhangs the sidewalk at 39" above the ground with no cane-detectable warning.
- The vestibule inside Entrance 3 is too small at 50"x52".
- Step inside Entrance 3 has no compliant cane-detectable warning or color contrast warning.
- There is a gap in pavement in front of entrance near garage doors that is 1" wide and has 1-1/2" abrupt level change.
- Curb cut from accessible parking spaces to main entrance has running slope up to 11.4%; parking lot pavement right before curb cut is in disrepair and has dangerous gap; some cross slope up to 3.3%; detectable warning at curb cut is crosshatch rather than truncated domes.
- The sidewalk between the main entrance and the entrance to the right has running slope exceeding 5% with no handrails.
- Coat hooks/rods and shelves provided for the public in the lobby and conference room are too high and out of reach range.
- Safety equipment like fire extinguishers and fire alarm pull stations are mounted out of reach range and access is obstructed by loose items.

- The toilet room off of the lobby is inaccessible due to door swing, interior dimensions, location of water closet, absence of grab bars, lavatory height, and coat hook height.
- The designated accessible restroom in the Police area has the following deficiencies: the toilet centerline is too far from the side wall at 22", the employee locker obstructs the clear floor space and turning radius, and the pipes below the lavatory are not insulated.
- In the designated accessible restroom in the Operations locker room, the rear grab bar is too short at 26", the hooks are too high at 60 ½", the shower stall is too small with a 7 ½" lip and no grab bars or seat.
- The sink in the employee kitchen is too high with a counter height of 36" above the floor. The paper towel dispenser above the sink is out of reach range.
- Some doors throughout the building have door knobs that require tight grasping and twisting of the wrist.
- The second floor employee restroom has a clear door opening of 27-1/2", round knob door hardware, toilet seat at 15" aff, no grab bars, lavatory lacks required knee clearance and insulation, bottom of mirror at 55" aff, shelf height at 53" aff; no visual alarm.

Recommendations

- Correct slope in parking spaces and access aisles not to exceed 2% in any direction. Install parking signs so bottom of sign is at least 48" above the ground; 60" preferred.
- Provide required signage for all permanent rooms and spaces, including employee-only areas.
- Adjust door closers to allow 8.5 lbs of force max for exterior doors and 5 lbs of force max for interior doors.
- Provide a permanent cane-detectable warning below the staircase corner.
- The vestibule could be part of an emergency egress route. Evaluate feasibility of modifying the area or providing automatic door openers.
- Evaluate safety and emergency egress procedures for building and determine if this entrance (3) and vestibule should be modified to provide an accessible route or minimally, should have a compliant cane-detectable warning and color contrast at edges.
- At entrance near garage doors, correct gap not to exceed 1/2" and change in level not to exceed 1/4".
- Repair or replace curb cut with running slope not to exceed 8.33% and cross slope not to exceed 2% and to comply with detectable warning requirements.
- Correct running slope not to exceed 5% or add handrails on both sides of 36" wide area.

- Provide additional coat hooks and shelves at heights that comply with requirements OR implement policy that staff will offer to hang coat of visitor with disability who cannot reach existing coat rack.
- Relocate safety equipment between 15"-48" above the floor.
- Modify the designated accessible restroom in Police area to achieve full compliance and then provide compliant directional signage at restroom in lobby directing people to the accessible restroom in the Police area.
- In the restroom in the Police area, remove the locker from the room, when replacing toilet or renovating the room, relocate so that centerline is at 18" from the side wall and insulate the pipes below the sink.
- Common employee areas are required to be accessible. Replace rear grab bar in Operations locker room restroom with a 36" min bar. Add or replace hooks at 48" max. When renovating or if needed for an accommodation, replace shower with one that is fully accessible.
- Relocate towel dispenser in kitchen to 48" max above the floor. When renovating or if needed for an employee accommodation, lower sink to 34" max above the floor.
- Replace all doorknobs with lever handles with push button locks.
- Modify second floor restroom for accessibility or provide directional signage to accessible restroom.

Forsythe Woods Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 2, 2007

General description

Forked Creek Preserve features Forsythe Woods which is located on Kahler Road, one mile east of Route 102 in Wilmington. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic areas and shelters, restrooms, and trails for hiking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The parking space closest to the road is too narrow at 90". There is no designated accessible parking located on the shortest accessible route to the trails. Signage is located off center in the space, mounted too low at under 60". There is no van accessible designation.
- The curb cut from the parking lot has a slope up to 10%. The route from the information kiosk to the restroom has running slope up to 9.5%. The route from the kiosk to the crosswalk has cross slope up to 4.7%. There is deterioration at the transition from the sidewalk to the cross walk causing gaps and changes in level.
- The signage on both restroom doors has faded and lacks color contrast. The pressure required to open the door is up to 19 lbs. The toilets are inaccessible because they are located diagonally in the corner of the toilet room. The side grab bars are pipes that allow a 2 1/4" gap between the wall and bar. The rear grab bars are too short at 31" long.
- There is no accessible route from the parking lot to the picnic area, the fishing area, or the trailhead. The current route is a grass surface and contains steep grades.
- West of the parking lot near the river and at the picnic shelter, the site elements (fire rings, grills, and picnic tables) are not located on an accessible surface and there is no outdoor recreation access route connecting the elements.
- The non-fixed picnic tables throughout the preserve do not provide the required space for wheelchair seating.
- The 2 grills in this area have cooking surfaces that are too high to be accessible.

Recommendations

- Add or relocate 1 space to serve the shortest accessible route for the trails. Restripe spaces for standard van accessible spaces (96" space with 96" access aisle) or for universal parking spaces (132" space with 60" access aisle). Install signage at the front center of parking space a maximum of 5' from front of space. Install signage so the bottom of the sign is 60" min above the ground. Add van accessible designation.
- Correct running slope of the curb cut not to exceed 8.33%. Correct route so the maximum cross slope is 2.0% and running slope is 5% or 8.33% with handrails and landings as required for ramps. Correct openings not to exceed ½" and changes in level not to exceed ¼".
- Install restroom signage with contrasting colors, raised letters, Braille and pictograms. Adjust door closers to allow opening force of 8.5 lbs maximum. Remount the toilets to be perpendicular to the rear wall with a centerline measuring 18" (ADA-ABA - 16"-18") from the side wall. Replace the pipes with grab bars to provide a 1 1/2" gap between the wall and grab bar. Replace the rear grab bar with one that is 36" long min.
- Provide an accessible route from the parking to the picnic area. Due to environmental concerns, evaluate whether an accessible route to this area can be accomplished through innovative design or whether the picnic area, fishing area, and/or trailhead can be moved to a more accessible location.
- Provide outdoor recreation access routes connecting the elements within at least one picnic area so that the routes comply with NPRM-ODA T304. Provide clear space surrounding the site elements that is firm and stable and has slope not to exceed 2% in any direction.
- Add or replace tables so that 50% are accessible and provide accessible spaces with a knee clearance of 27" min height, 30" min width, and 19" min depth and 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. Where multiple picnic tables are provided in an area, at least 40% of the accessible tables must be on an outdoor recreation access route.
- Where one grill is provided, it must be accessible. Where two or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than two must have a cooking surface between 15" minimum and 34" maximum above the ground. Replace both grills with accessible units or provide 2 additional accessible grills on an accessible route and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.

Hammel Woods Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 3 & June 5, 2007

General description

Hammel Woods is located on Route 59, north of Route 52 (Jefferson Street), in Shorewood. DuPage River Access and Crumby Recreation Area are located on Black Road, approximately .25 miles east of Route 59, in Shorewood.

The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic areas and shelters, restrooms, camping, fishing, canoeing, a dog park and trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

Hidden Shelter

- The signs for the accessible parking spaces are currently installed directly between the parking space and access aisle. The signs are too low at 47 1/2" or less to the bottom of the signs.
- An opening over 1" wide runs parallel with the path of travel at the curb cut. There is a change in level up to 1" at the curb cut. The cross slope in front of the restrooms is up to 3.3%. There is a change in level up to 1" at the restroom entrances.
- The verbal description of the pictograms for each restroom is placed above the pictograms instead of below. The Braille is not located directly below the text. The toilet seat is too high at 19 1/2". The toilet in the men's room is too far from the side wall with a centerline of 19". The men's and women's restroom doors are too heavy, requiring at least 10 lbs of force to open.
- There are 9 picnic tables in the shelter and 4 throughout the grounds. 50% of the picnic tables are not accessible due to the lack of clear floor space around them.
- There are 3 grills with a top cooking surface of up to 37". One grill is not on an accessible route.
- The location of the trash receptacles does not allow a 36" access route around the picnic shelter to the grills.
- There is no access route to the horseshoe pits.

Shorewood Grove

- The parking space closest to the restroom does not have a sign designating it as accessible. The signs for the other 3 accessible parking spaces are currently installed directly between the parking space and access aisle. The signs are too low at 49" or less to the bottom of the signs.
- The access aisle at the curb cut is too narrow at 82".
- There is a 2" change in level at the curb cut and a 1" opening running in the direction of travel.
- The verbal description of the pictograms for each restroom sign is placed above the pictograms instead of below.
- The toilet in the men's room has a centerline of 18 1/2". The toilet in the women's room is too high at 19 1/2". The doors to the men's and women's restrooms are too heavy requiring up to 15 lbs of force to open.
- There is a 4" change in level at the water pump.
- There are 6 picnic tables in the shelter and 16 throughout the grounds. More than 50% of the picnic tables are not accessible due to the lack of an accessible route or clear floor space.
- There are 5 grills with a top cooking surface of 36". Three grills are not on an accessible route.
- There is a 5" step at both fireplaces in the shelter.
- The two benches directly in front of the fireplaces have no back support. None of the 6 existing benches provide an armrest.
- There is no accessible route to the horseshoe pits.

Grinton Grove

- The sign for the accessible parking space is currently installed directly between the parking space and access aisle. It is installed too low at 47" to the bottom of the sign from the ground.
- The striped access aisle has a slope of up to 3.3%. There is a change in level up to 1" from the asphalt to the concrete. The running slope of the curb cut is too high at 12.1%.
- The door to the men's restroom requires 11 lbs of force to open. The door to the women's restroom requires 15 lbs of force to open.
- The toilets in both restrooms are set diagonally and are not aligned to achieve the required distance from a side wall and easy use of the grab bars. The rear grab bar in each restroom is a pipe rather than a standard bar. They are mounted too far away from the side wall (over 17") and the gap between the pipe and the wall is too wide at 2" or more. The bars on the side walls are too short.
- There are 6 picnic tables; only one is accessible and none are on an accessible route.
- There are 3 grills; none are on an accessible route.

- The curb cut onto the island leading to the picnic area and water pump is too narrow at 24". The asphalt in front of the curb cut is uneven and deteriorating.
- The sidewalk near the parking lot in front of the restrooms has a cross slope up to 5.6%. The route to the restrooms has a running slope up to 7.9%. The path from the restrooms to the bridge has a running slope up to 8.7% with no handrails. The route to access the kiosk is not continuous. There is up to a 3" change in level and 10" gap which do not allow close access to the kiosk. There is running slope up to 6.6% west of the bridge and 13.1% east of the bridge; a 2" opening at both ends of the bridge with change in level up to 1"; running slope on bridge up to 7.3% with no handrails or edge protection.
- There is a 4" change in level from the asphalt path to the natural surface of the canoe launch.
- The top of the handrail around the fishing pier/overlook is too high at 43".
- The large multi-level concrete area at the fishing pier/overlook is not accessible. If this area is used for programming, participants with mobility impairments are limited to the top level.

Crummy Recreation Area

- The accessible parking space on the north side of the west lot does not have signage. The signs at the accessible space in front of the information kiosk and in the northeast corner of the east lot are too low at 48" to the bottom of the signs.
- There is a 1 1/2" opening running in the direction of the path of travel in the curb cut from the access aisle to the sidewalk near the information kiosk. The ground in front of the information kiosk has significant cross and running slope caused by the curb cut from the parking lot.
- There is no access route from the parking area to the picnic area. The curb cut from the east parking lot leading to the picnic shelter has a running slope of 9%. There is some change in level greater than 1/4" at the transition between the asphalt and concrete.
- The sidewalk leading to the restrooms has running slope at the curb cut up to 11.8% and cross slope up to 5.3%. There is a 1" change in level in front of the restroom doors.
- The verbal description of the pictograms for each restroom sign is placed above the pictograms instead of below. The Braille is not located directly below the text.
- The men's restroom door requires 15 lbs of opening force.
- There are no outdoor recreation access routes connecting the elements in the picnic area near the restrooms (tables, waterpump, grill, trash receptacle, restrooms).

- The waterpump is not located on an accessible route. The existing concrete around the water spout of the pump does not provide the recommended clear ground space for a wheelchair.
- There are 15 non-fixed picnic tables in the area in and around the shelter. Only those in the shelter are on an accessible route but they do not all provide the required space for wheelchair seating. There are two additional non-fixed picnic tables. Neither provides the required space for wheelchair seating. Neither is located on an accessible surface.
- There are 5 grills in the picnic shelter area. The 2 in the shelter are on an accessible route but the top cooking surface is too high at 37". The other three are not on an accessible route. There are two grills near west parking lot across from restrooms. Neither has clear space in front that is firm and stable.
- The location of the trash receptacles does not allow a 36" access route around the picnic shelter to the grills.

DuPage River Access

- The 2 striped access aisles for the designated accessible parking spaces have significant slope.
- The access route leading to the outside gate of the dog park has a running slope up to 8.7%.
- None of the trash receptacles in the dog park are on an accessible route.
- There is not 18" of clear ground space on the latch side of the gates for the dog park.
- The path between the dog park entrance and information kiosk has running slope up to 5.7% and cross slope up to 4.6%. The running slope leading to the waterpump is 5.9%. There is a change in level greater than 1/4" between the asphalt and concrete around the pump.
- The two non-fixed picnic tables do not provide the required space for wheelchair seating and are not located on an accessible route.
- There is one grill in the middle of the field. It is not located on an accessible route.
- There is a 1" change in level at the transition between the asphalt and the wood floor of the unisex restroom building.
- The verbal description of the pictograms for each restroom is placed above the pictograms instead of below. The Braille is not located directly below the text.
- The door requires 13 lbs of force to open.

Recommendations

Hidden Shelter

- Install parking signs at the front center of the parking space and so that the bottom of the sign is 60" min above the ground.
- Correct opening not to exceed 1/2". Correct changes in level not to exceed 1/4". Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (2.08% ADA-ABA).
- Replace restroom signs so that the text descriptors are located directly below the pictograms and the centerline of the signs is 60" above the ground (ADA-ABA - tactile characters are located 48" min above the ground from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60" max above the ground from the baseline of the highest tactile character. Braille should be located directly below the text). Remount toilet in men's room with centerline of 18" (ADA-ABA 16"-18") from side wall and seat height 17-19" above floor. Adjust door closers to allow opening force of 8.5 lbs max.
- Provide at least 50% of picnic tables with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. These tables must comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance and be on an accessible route.
- Where two or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Replace 2 grills with accessible units on accessible routes and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Locate trash receptacles so that they are within reach range and usable from the accessible route but do not block access to other amenities.
- Provide an accessible route to sport activity field for horseshoe area and viewing area.

Shorewood Grove

- Add sign to parking space closest to the restroom. Install parking signs at the front center of the parking space and so that the bottom of the sign is 60" min above the ground.
- Add an additional striped access aisle at the other end of the designated accessible parking spaces so that the first aisle is not assigned to a parking space. Or restripe the entire area so that each parking space and access aisle is 96" wide.
- Correct changes in level not to exceed 1/4" and openings not to exceed 1/2".
- Replace signs so that the text descriptors are located directly below the pictograms and the centerline of the sign is 60" above the ground (ADA-ABA - tactile characters are located 48" min above the ground from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60" max above the ground from the baseline of the highest tactile character. Braille should be located directly below the text).

- When replacing, install toilets in both restrooms with a rim height of 17"-19" and so that the centerline is 18" (ADA-ABA - 16"-18") from the side wall. Adjust door closers to allow 8.5 lbs max opening force.
- Correct change in level at water pump not to exceed 1/4".
- Provide at least 50% of picnic tables on an accessible route with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. These tables must comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance.
- Where 2 or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Replace 3 grills with accessible units on accessible routes and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Eliminate step to provide access to at least one fireplace in the picnic shelter.
- Add or replace benches in front of fireplaces in picnic shelter with a minimum of 50% compliant with NPRM T313. Accessible benches should have backrests and at least on armrest.
- Provide an accessible route to sport activity field for horseshoe area and viewing area.

Grinton Grove

- Install parking signs at the front center of the parking space. Install so that the bottom of the sign is 60" minimum above the ground.
- Correct slope in access aisle not to exceed 2%. Correct change in level not to exceed 1/4". Regrade curb cut not to exceed running slope of 8.33%.
- Adjust door closers so that each door requires 8.5 lbs maximum opening force.
- Reset toilets so that the centerline of the toilets is 18" from the side wall (ADA-ABA - 16"-18"). Replace the rear bars with standard 36" grab bars installed with one end 6" max from the side wall and 1 1/2" of clearance between the bar and the wall. Replace the side bars with 42" bars minimum installed with one end 12" maximum from the rear wall.
- Provide at least 50% of picnic tables with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. These tables must comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance and be on an accessible route.
- Where two or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must be on an accessible route and have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Replace at least one grill with an accessible unit on an accessible route and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Correct curb cut to allow 36" minimum of clear width at entry. Repair asphalt to achieve a firm and stable access route.

- Correct running slopes not to exceed 5% or 8.33% and add handrails and landings as required for a ramp. Correct change in level and fill 10" gap with concrete to create continuous access to kiosk to allow a viewer a close approach. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2.0% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%).
- Correct change in level at the canoe launch not to exceed 1/4".
- Lower portions of the railing so that at least 25% is 34" max above the ground. Disperse the lowered portions to allow fishing at different locations on the pier.
- Determine if the multi-level fishing area offers a unique experience for fishing or other programming, different from that offered on the pier/overlook. Consider a new design for inclusion.

Crumby Recreation Area

- Designated accessible parking spaces are required to have signage. Provide signage in the front center of the parking space. Install so that the bottom of the sign is 60" minimum above the ground. Provide "Van Accessible" designation.
- Correct the opening in the curb cut near the information kiosk not to exceed 1/2". Relocate the information kiosk or regrade the concrete so that the clear ground space in front of it does not exceed 2% in any direction (ADA-ABA - 2.08%).
- Provide a curb cut and accessible route from the accessible parking to the picnic area near the restrooms. Correct running slope of curb cut in east parking lot not to exceed 8.33%. Correct change in level not to exceed 1/4".
- Correct running slope leading to restrooms not to exceed 5% or 8.33% with handrails and landings as required for ramps. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%). Correct change in level at restroom doors not to exceed 1/4".
- Replace restroom signs so that the text descriptors are located directly below the pictograms and the centerline of the sign is 60" above the ground (ADA-ABA - tactile characters are located 48" min above the ground from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60" max above the ground from the baseline of the highest tactile character. Braille should be located directly below the text).
- Adjust door closer of men's restroom to allow 8.5% of opening force.
- It is recommended that the west picnic area be made accessible due to its close proximity to the restrooms. Provide outdoor recreation access routes compliant with NPRM Outdoor T304 to connect elements within the picnic area.
- Provide a 60"x60" minimum clear space with a firm and stable surface at the water spout of the pump.

- Where 2 or more picnic tables are provided in an area, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the tables must be accessible and comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance. Replace both tables across from restrooms or provide 2 accessible units on a firm and stable surface with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. At least 40% of the accessible picnic tables in and around the shelter should be on an outdoor recreation access route with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat.
- Where 2 or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. At least 40% of the accessible grills must be on outdoor recreation access route. Provide accessible units with a firm and stable clear ground space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Locate trash receptacles so that they are within reach range and usable from the accessible route but do not block access to other amenities.

DuPage River Access

- Regrade accessible parking spaces and access aisles so that slope does not exceed 2% in any direction.
- Correct running slope outside of dog park not to exceed 5%. If this is not possible, correct slope not to exceed 8.33% and add handrails and landings as required for ramps.
- Locate at least one trash receptacle within the dog park so that it is within reach range and usable from the accessible route.
- If the gates in the dog park are to open toward the user, there must be 18" of clear space on the latch side. Extend the concrete at least 18" on the latch side of the gate to provide this clear space.
- Correct running slope not to exceed 5% or add handrails and landings as required for ramps. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%). Correct change in level between the concrete and asphalt not to exceed 1/4" in height.
- Add or replace tables so that 50% are accessible and comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance. At least 40% of the accessible tables should be on an outdoor recreation access route with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat.
- Where one grill is provided in an area, it must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Replace grill with accessible unit or add two accessible grills located on accessible routes and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Correct change in level at restroom entrance not to exceed 1/4".
- Replace restroom signs so that the text descriptors are located directly below the pictograms and the centerline of the sign is 60" above the

ground (ADA-ABA - tactile characters are located 48" min above the ground from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60" max above the ground from the baseline of the highest tactile character. Braille should be located directly below the text).

- Adjust restroom door closer to allow 8.5 lbs of opening force.

Hickory Creek Barrens Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 1, 2007

General description

The Hickory Creek Barrens Access is located on Route 30, one mile west of Wolf Road in Mokena. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic shelter, restrooms, and trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- There are 79 parking spaces in the lot plus three designated accessible spaces. The lot is short one accessible parking space.
- The signage for the accessible parking spaces is hung too low at 54 3/4" maximum to the bottom of the signs.
- The running slope of the curb cut is up to 8.5%. This curb cut intersects with the path of travel from the small picnic area to the restrooms, resulting in a very steep cross slope along the access route.
- There are 7 picnic tables in the picnic shelter and 6 tables scattered throughout the grounds. The tables on an accessible route do not have 36" of clear space around the usable portions of the tables.
- The drinking fountain has a knee clearance of 26 3/4"; the spout's water flow is only 2" high. It requires 8 lbs of pressure to operate the drinking water and 12 lbs of pressure to operate the faucet.
- The sidewalk in front of the restrooms has a cross slope up to 4%. The curved path to the restrooms has running slope up to 7.5%. There is a change in level up to 1" at the sidewalk. The sidewalk/outdoor recreation access route has a cross slope up to 4.7%.
- The restroom doors require an opening force of up to 12 lbs. The centerline of the toilets in the men's and women's restrooms is at 18 3/4". The hooks in the restrooms are too high at up to 51" above the ground.
- The verbal description of the pictograms for each restroom is placed above the pictograms instead of below.
- The recycling receptacle is out of reach from the accessible route at 47" high and 32" deep.
- The two grills in the shelter are too high with a top cooking surface at 35". There are no access routes to the other 4 grills throughout the property.

Recommendations

- Add one accessible parking space for a total of 4 spaces.
- The current signage placement meets IAC and ADAAG code. ADA-ABA recommends that the bottom of the sign be at 60" minimum above the ground. IAC requires 48"-60".
- Reconfigure access route or curb cut near restrooms so that the slope of the curb cut does not exceed 8% and does not intersect with the perpendicular accessible route.
- Provide at least 50% of picnic tables with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. These tables must comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance and be on an accessible route.
- When completing area renovations, raise unit to provide 27" knee clearance. Adjust water flow height to 4" min with 5lbs max operating force for all controls. Install a standing unit or hi-lo combo nearby so as to provide 50% of drinking fountains accessible to those who have difficulty bending or stooping.
- Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%). Correct running slope not to exceed 5% or add handrails and landings as required for ramps. Correct change in level not to exceed 1/4".
- Adjust restroom door closers to allow 8.5 lbs of force to open. When replacing the toilets, install so that the centerline is 18" (ADA-ABA - between 16"-18"). Lower hooks or add additional hooks so that all usable parts are 48" maximum above the floor.
- Replace restroom signs so that the text descriptors are located directly below the pictograms and the centerline of the sign is 60" above the ground (ADA-ABA - tactile characters are located 48" min above the ground from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60" max above the ground from the baseline of the highest tactile character. Braille should be located directly below the text).
- Locate the recycling receptacle so that it is usable from the accessible route with a reach depth of 10".
- Where two or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Replace 3 grills with accessible units on accessible routes and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.

Hickory Creek Junction Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 1, 2007

General description

Hickory Creek Junction is located on Route 30, approximately 1.0 miles west of Wolf Road, in Mokena. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic areas and shelters, restrooms, drinking water, playground and trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- In the parking lot west of the playground, the sign for the accessible parking space is too low at 47 ¼" to the bottom of the sign. In the lot south of the playground the signs are at 50 ½" to the bottom of the tallest sign. The sign at the accessible space near the trailhead is at 56 ¼" to the bottom of the signs.
- There is an opening of up to 1" between the asphalt access aisle in the parking lot and the concrete walkway. The route from the west parking lot to the preschool play component on the north end of the playground has running slope up to 5.7% and cross slope up to 2.2%. The access route from the parking lot south of the playground to the east side of the playground is deteriorating at the transition from asphalt to concrete creating openings greater than 1". The path has a running slope up to 6.3%. The striped access aisle at the parking space near the trailhead has a slope up to 5.7%.
- The ramp from the sheltered pavilion to the preschool play component has a running slope of 9.3%.
- In the picnic shelter south of the playground, the location of the picnic table does not provide clear space around its perimeter.
- The usable portion of the recycling receptacles is out of reach from the accessible route of 47" high and over 20" deep.
- In the parking lot on the north end of the preserve, the striped access aisle has a slope of 3.6%. The parking signs for the designated accessible spaces are hung at 49" max to the bottom of the signs.

- There is up to a 1 ½" change in level at the transition from the parking lot to the access route leading to the picnic shelter, at the access to the water pump and onto the concrete pad of the picnic shelter.
- There are 9 picnic tables in the picnic shelter and 7 throughout the grounds. 50% of the picnic tables are not accessible due to the lack of clear floor space around them.
- There are 4 grills in the picnic shelter with a top cooking surface of 36". Three grills near the parking lots are not on an accessible route.
- The verbal description of the pictograms for each restroom sign is placed above the pictograms.
- The restroom doors require at least 12 lbs of opening force.

Recommendations

- Install parking signage so that bottom of sign is 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Include signage for van accessible designation.
- Correct openings not to exceed ½". Correct running slopes not to exceed 5% or add handrails and landings as required for ramps. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA 2.08%). Striped access aisles should have a slope not to exceed 2% in any direction.
- When playground composite structure is renovated/altered/replaced, correct slope on ramps not to exceed 8.33%.
- Center picnic table in shelter so that there is 36" of clear space around the usable portions of the table measured from the back edge of the seat.
- Locate trash and recycling receptacles so that they are usable from the accessible route with a reach depth of 10".
- Correct slope in access aisle not to exceed 2% in any direction or move accessible space to a different area in the lot on the shortest route to the amenities. Install parking signs at 60" above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Include "van accessible" designation.
- Correct change in level not to exceed ¼".
- Provide at least 50% of picnic tables with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. These tables must comply with the requirements for height, width and knee clearance and be on an accessible route.
- Where 2 or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Replace 4 grills with accessible units and have 40% of those on accessible routes with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Replace restroom signs so that the text descriptors are located directly below the pictograms and the centerline of the sign is 60" above the ground. (ADA-ABA recommends tactile characters be located 48" min

above the ground from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60" max above the ground from the baseline of the highest tactile character. Braille should be located below text.

- Adjust restroom door closers so that opening force does not exceed 8.5 lbs.

Hickory Creek – LaPorte Road Access Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 1, 2007

General description

The LaPorte Road Access to the Hickory Creek Preserve is located on LaPorte Road, one mile east of Wolf Road in Mokena. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic areas and shelters, restrooms, and trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- None of the designated accessible parking spaces have striped access aisles as required by ADAAG and the Illinois Accessibility Code. All of the signs designating the accessible parking spaces are installed too low and do not contain van accessible designation.
- The access routes around the picnic shelters are too narrow due to location of trash receptacles.
- Some areas of the access route have cross slope exceeding 2.08% or have openings greater than ½" or changes in level greater than ¼". See detailed report for specific areas.
- The signage for the restrooms in Hickory Hollow and Shagbark Shelter is either missing or faded and the doors are too heavy. The grab bars in these restrooms are installed too far from the opposite walls.
- The horseshoe pits are not on an accessible route.
- All of the grills in this area have cooking surfaces that are too high to be accessible.
- In the Shagbark Shelter area, there are 19 non-fixed picnic tables. Eight of them are in the picnic shelter. The others are scattered throughout the grounds with no accessible routes provided. More than 50% of the tables do not provide the required space for wheelchair seating.
- In the Shagbark Shelter area, there is not enough clear ground space for someone in a wheelchair to operate the water pump.
- The recycling receptacles are not located on accessible routes.

Recommendations

- Provide accessible parking spaces that are 96" wide, each with its own 96" wide striped access aisle. Slope should not exceed 2% in any direction. Install parking signs at the front center of the parking space, a maximum of 5' from the front of the space. Install so that bottom of sign is 60" minimum above the ground. Include signage for van accessible designation.
- Relocate trash receptacles so that they do not block the access route around the picnic shelters but are still within reach range and usable from the accessible route.
- Correct cross slope not to exceed 2.08%, openings not to exceed ½" and changes in level not to exceed ¼".
- Install restroom signage with contrasting colors, raised letters, Braille and pictograms. Adjust door closers to allow opening force of 8.5 lbs maximum. Remount the rear grab bars with one end installed 6" max from the side wall; remount the side bars with one end installed 12" max from the rear wall.
- Provide an accessible route to the horseshoe areas and viewing areas.
- Where one grill is provided, it must be accessible. Where two or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than two must have a cooking surface between 15" minimum and 34" maximum above the ground. Add or replace the appropriate number of grills with accessible units and locate on an accessible route with a 48"x48" clear space in front of the cooking surface.
- Add or replace picnic tables so that 50% are accessible and provide accessible spaces with a knee clearance of 27" min height, 30" min width and 19" min depth. Where multiple picnic tables are provided in an area, at least 40% of the accessible tables must be on an outdoor recreation access route.
- Provide a 30"x48" clear ground space at the handle for the water pump.
- Relocate the recycling receptacles so that the usable portion is within reach range of 48" above the ground and reachable from the accessible route.

**I & M Canal Trails
(Isle a la Cache/Centennial Trailhead/Schneider's Passage)
Accessibility Assessment Summary Report**

Assessment date: June 5, 2007

General description

This connecting trail consists of three segments for a total of 11.4 miles. The Centennial Trail extends north of 135th Street for 3 miles along the Des Plaines River to the Cook County border.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The designated parking space at the trailhead is wide enough at 192" but there is no striped access aisle.
- The bench seat height is too low at 12 1/2" above the ground.

Recommendations

- Restripe parking space for standard van accessible space (96" space w/ 96" striped access aisle).
- Add or replace bench with a minimum of 50% compliant with NPRM T313, including a seat height of 17"-19" above the ground.

Isle a La Cache Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 1, 2007

General description

Isle a la Cache, an island in the Des Plaines River, is an 87 acre preserve housing the Isle a la Cache Museum, a museum devoted to the 18th century fur trade. It is located on 135th Street in Romeoville. Other amenities in this preserve include parking, picnic areas, an amphitheater, fishing, a canoe landing and trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

1. In the west parking lot, the signs designating the accessible parking spaces are installed too low and none of the signs for the Museum parking lot contain van accessible designation.
2. The east access route leading from the parking lot to the picnic area has cross slope up to 5.3%.
3. There are no outdoor recreation access routes connecting accessible elements (picnic tables, fire rings, grills) within the picnic areas on the east or west sides.
4. The cooking surfaces of the fire rings are too low at less than 15". The ground around the fire rings is not firm and stable.
5. The picnic areas on the east side of the Museum and near the canoe dock have picnic tables that do not provide the required space for wheelchair seating.
6. The water faucet at the east side picnic area requires tight grasping and twisting of the wrist to operate.
7. Large white stones are placed outside of the main entrance to the Museum and at the entrance to the Traders Cabin. If these stones are intended to be used as benches, they do not meet accessibility requirements of back support, arm rests and shoulder to shoulder seating.
8. There is a 2" change in level between the asphalt path near the east side of the Museum and the limestone path leading to the Longhouse. The lower section of the path has a running slope up to 9.5% and cross slope up to 5.2%. The upper portion of the path has a running slope up to 5.3% and a cross slope up to 3.2%.

9. The small amphitheater behind the Longhouse seats approximately 30 people on large natural logs. There is no access route to the staging area. The logs do not provide accessible seating or room for dispersed wheelchair shoulder to shoulder seating.
10. The capacity of the large amphitheater is 200. There is no shoulder to shoulder companion seating available in the amphitheater. The only spaces for wheelchairs are at the top and bottom of the seating area.
11. The stairs in the center of the seating area of the large amphitheater are sloping forward causing a slope of up to 14.2%. There is a 6'-8' width of mulch surfacing that must be crossed to access the top of the amphitheater steps. The cross slope of the access route in front of the bottom row of seats is up to 5%. The path from the bottom of the amphitheater toward the museum has a running slope up to 6%.
12. The paths around the pond and leading to the canoe launch have areas of significant running slope and cross slope. Both ends of the bridge behind the Museum have large openings and changes in level. See detailed report for specific findings.
13. The existing grills are not accessible because they are too high, there is no access route to them and they do not have clear space in front of the cooking surface.
14. There is one bench in the canoe dock area located at the shore. There is no accessible route to the bench and the ground surface is not firm and stable. There are no armrests.
15. There is a 2" opening between the asphalt and the boating pier. The dock has a railing on one side with a top height of 36" and the lowest rail at 5" above the surface. The edge protection along the opposite side and the far end of the boarding pier is too wide at 4".
16. Some areas of the access route have cross slope exceeding 2.08% or have openings greater than ½" or changes in level greater than ¼". See detailed report for specific areas.
17. The outside steps near the east entrance to the Museum have no handrails.
18. Several exterior and interior doors require excessive force to open. See detailed report for specific doors.
19. The pull-down handles for the baby-changing tables in both the men's and women's restrooms are too high at 50 ½" above the floor. In their lowered position the top of the work surface is too high at 39 ¼".
20. The grab bars in the men's and women's restrooms and in the employee restroom are installed too high with the top of the gripping surfaces more than 36" above the finished floor.
21. The basement has ceiling beams that are lower than 80" above the floor and are protruding objects.

Recommendations

1. Install parking signs at the front center of the parking space, a maximum of 5' from the front of the space. Install so that bottom of sign is 60" minimum above the ground. Include signage for van accessible designation.
2. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2.08%.
3. Provide outdoor recreation access routes that are compliant with NPRM Outdoor T304 to all accessible elements within an accessible area (picnic areas, grills, fire rings).
4. Add or replace fire rings to provide a fire building surface of 9" min and a cooking surface between 15"-34" above the ground. Provide a clear space that is 48" deep minimum measured from the cooking surface and 48" wide with a firm and stable surface for all usable portions of the fire ring.
5. Add or replace picnic tables so that 50% are accessible and provide a knee clearance of 27" min height, 30" min width and 19" min depth for wheelchair seating. At least 40% of the accessible tables should be on an outdoor recreation access route with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat.
6. Replace faucet knob with mechanism that can be operated with one hand without tight grasping and twisting and that requires no more than 5 lbs of pressure.
7. Add or install accessible benches compliant with NPRM Outdoor T313 so that 50% are accessible. Provide back support the full length of the bench, at least one armrest on each bench and adjacent clear floor space for shoulder to shoulder seating.
8. Correct change in level at entrance to path to Longhouse not to exceed 1/4". Correct running slope not to exceed 8.33% for 30' max run and add handrails and landings as required for a ramp or reroute path not to exceed a 5% running slope. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2.08%.
9. Provide a 36" access route to front of small amphitheater. Provide shoulder to shoulder seating for two wheelchairs. Consider making available a chair or bench for someone who requests back and arm support.
10. Provide 5 wheelchair spaces with shoulder to shoulder seating dispersed throughout the amphitheater seating area to provide spectators with choices of seating locations and viewing angles.
11. Repair steps of large amphitheater so that the slope of the tread is not steeper than 2.08%. Create an access route to the top of the amphitheater steps that is firm and stable. Correct cross slope in front of seating area not to exceed 2.08%. Correct running slope leading toward museum not to exceed 5% or add handrails and landings as required for ramps.

12. Correct running slope and/or install handrails and landings as required for ramps. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2.08%. Correct gaps not to exceed ½" and changes in level not to exceed ¼".
13. Where one grill is provided, it must be accessible. Where two or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than two must have a cooking surface between 15" minimum and 34" maximum above the ground. Add or replace the appropriate number of grills with accessible units and locate on an accessible route with a 48"x48" clear space in front of the cooking surface.
14. Add or replace bench with a minimum of 50% compliant with NPRM Outdoor T313, located on an accessible route with a firm and stable surface. Provide at least one armrest on the bench.
15. Correct opening at boarding pier not to exceed 1/2". Where railings are provided on a fishing pier, 25% of it must be 34" max above the deck surface. Edge protection for railings must be either a curb or barrier extending 2" min above the surface. For a boarding pier without a railing, edge protection is permitted provided it is 4" high max and 2" wide max. Replace the railing and edge protection on the pier.
16. Along access route, correct cross slope not to exceed 2.08%, openings not to exceed ½" and changes in level not to exceed ¼".
17. Install handrails on both sides of steps that have a top gripping surface between 34"-38" above the walking surface and extends 12" minimum at the top of stairs and at least one tread length at the bottom of stairs.
18. Adjust door closers of exterior doors to allow 8.5 lbs maximum opening force. Adjust door closers of interior doors to allow 5 lbs maximum opening force.
19. Lower the baby-changing stations so that the pull-down handles are 48" maximum above the floor and, when lowered, the top of the work surface is between 28"-34" above the floor with a 27" knee clearance.
20. Reinstall grab bars so that the top of the gripping surface is between 33"-36" above the finished floor.
21. Provide cane detectable warnings below the ceiling beams that are lower than 80" above the floor.

Joliet Ironworks Historic Site Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: January 22, 2007

General description

The Joliet Ironworks Historic Site is located .10 miles east of Route 53 (Scott Street) and .10 miles east of the Ruby Street Bridge, on Columbia Street in downtown Joliet. The amenities in this area include parking, picnic areas and shelters, restrooms, and trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- There are 43 total parking spaces with 2 designated as accessible. The spaces measure 108" (aisle 72") and 108" (aisle 84"). Both spaces are located closest to the amphitheater area and none are located near the trailhead. Signage is located off center in the space and too low at 45". There is no van accessible designation.
- The amphitheater has bench seating for approximately 60 people and does not provide wheelchair or companion seating. No aisle seats are designated as accessible. The seating lacks back support and armrests.
- The stairs to the amphitheater stage lack handrails.
- The ramp to the amphitheater stage has handrails mounted at 36 1/2" high with extensions at the top and bottom at 11 1/2", located only on 1 side with no edge protection, and slope up to 9.1%.
- At the trailhead, the trash receptacle, recycling receptacle, and doggie bag station are located off the accessible route and out of reach range.

Recommendations

- Restripe designated accessible parking space striped for a standard van accessible space (96"space with 96" access aisle) or for a universal parking space (132" space with 60" access aisle). Add a designated accessible space on the shortest accessible route to the trailhead area. Install signage at the front center of parking space a maximum of 5' from front of space. Install signage so the bottom of the sign is 60" min above the ground. Add van accessible designation.

- Dispersed throughout the seating area, provide a minimum of 4 wheelchair spaces 36" wide min x 48" long min for a forward approach with slope not exceeding 2.08% in all directions. Provide companion seating adjacent to these spaces with shoulder to shoulder seating. Provide seating with back support and armrests. Identify the designated aisle seats with signs or markers.
- Provide handrails on both sides of the amphitheater stairs with a continuous gripping surface mounted 34-38" high, a diameter 1 1/4"-1 1/2" and extend 12" minimum beyond the top and bottom.
- Correct ramp to have slope of 8.33% max. Provide handrails on both sides of the ramp with edge protection and a continuous gripping surface mounted 34-38" high, a diameter of 1 1/4"-1 1/2" and extend 12" minimum beyond the top and bottom.
- Locate trash receptacle, recycling receptacle, and doggie bag station so that they are within reach range and usable from the accessible route.

Keepataw Preserve Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 3, 2007

General description

The 216-acre Keepataw Preserve is accessed on Bluff Road, three-quarters of a mile east of Joliet Road, in Bolingbrook. The amenities in this area of the preserve include trails for hiking.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The parking lot has a gravel surface which is not firm, stable or slip resistant. There are 13 parking spaces; none are designated as accessible.
- The two trash receptacles and one recycling container are not on an accessible route.

Recommendations

- Designate an accessible parking space on the shortest route to the trailhead and provide an accessible route to the trailhead. Provide a 96" parking space with a 96" striped access aisle on a firm, stable and slip resistant surface; provide required signage.
- Locate receptacles so that they are within reach range and usable from the accessible route.

Lake Renwick Preserve – Copley Nature Park Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: June 6, 2007

General description

Lake Renwick Preserve - Copley Nature Park is located on Route 30 (Plainfield Road), approximately 1.0 mile north of Renwick Road, in Plainfield. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, restrooms and a bird viewing platform.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The cross slope for the access aisle in the parking lot is 2.2%. The accessible parking space near the restroom has no signage. The sign for the other parking space is installed too low at 38" above the ground. There is no van accessible designation.
- There is cross slope up to 2.9% in front of the information kiosk.
- In the small shelter east of the restrooms, there are 2 benches. Seat height of benches is too low at 16 1/4".
- Along the path between the small resting shelter and the bird viewing area there is cross slope up to 5.4%.
- The wayside exhibit where one can measure their height compared to a blue heron is just off of the accessible route.
- The viewing scope is not accessible at 58" above the ground to the top of eye piece and an 11 1/2" step up to scope.
- The railing around bird viewing area is too high at 35 3/8" continuous.
- The raised text/Braille signage for the restroom is mounted at too low at 50 1/2" above ground to centerline of sign.
- The curb ramp from the parking lot to the restroom does not have a landing at the top because of the location of the restroom.

Recommendations

- Correct cross slope of access aisle not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA 2.08%). Install signage designating accessible parking space at min. 60" from finished grade to bottom of the sign. Include "van accessible" designation.
- Correct slope of clear space in front of kiosk not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%) in any direction.

- Add or replace benches with a minimum of 50% compliant with NPRM T313 with seat height between 17" and 19" above the ground, back support and arm rests.
- Correct cross slope along route to bird viewing area not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA 2.08%).
- Move the blue heron measuring exhibit so that there is clear ground space in front of it, or extend the concrete up to the exhibit so that there is a firm and stable surface in front of it.
- NRPM recommends placing viewing scope on a clear space with the eyepiece usable from a seated position. Install adjustable scope, an adjustable seat, or a single base with two viewing scopes located at different heights.
- NRPM recommends providing a minimum of 1 unrestricted viewing opportunity for each point of interest at eye levels between 32" and 51". Lower railing to 32" or install see through panels at each point of interest.
- Install signs so that centerline is 60" above ground (ADA-ABA tactile characters should be 48" min. above ground from baseline of lowest character and 60" max above ground from baseline of highest character).
- Consider moving the accessible parking space and access aisle and providing a curb cut from the new access aisle that will allow a landing at the top that is at least 36" deep and at least as wide as the ramp.

Lake Renwick Preserve – Heron Rookery Nature Preserve Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: January 22, 2007 & June 6, 2007

General description

The Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve is located 0.5 miles east of Route 30 (Plainfield Road), in Plainfield. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, a visitor center, restroom, bird viewing platforms and trails for hiking.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The center and far right accessible parking spaces are too narrow at 93". The striping is fading. The signs for the accessible parking spaces are currently installed directly between the parking space and access aisle and are installed too low.
- There is a change in level from parking area to access route toward the visitor center that is up to 1". There is up to a 2" change in level from access route into bathroom.
- The change in level at threshold to Visitor Center exceeds 1/2".
- Entrance door to Visitor Center requires 13 lbs of force to open door. The rear door requires 11 lbs of force to open door.
- The counter in the Visitor Center is too high at 43 1/2" above floor.
- The Visitor Center offers an exhibit where visitors can list the birds they have sighted. Almost entire writing surface of exhibit is located above 48" reach range from floor.
- A water cooler and coffee maker is available in the Visitor Center for public use but the clear width past the bird sightings checklist display to access them is too narrow at 23 1/2".
- Width of access route to employee area behind counter was restricted to 24" clear width at time of assessment.

Recommendations

- Restripe to provide accessible spaces that are a minimum 96" wide while maintaining a 96" minimum access aisle for each accessible space. Install parking signs at the front center of the parking space so that the bottom of the sign is 60" min above the ground. Add "van accessible" designation.

- Correct change in level at transition from parking lot to access route and at restroom not to exceed 1/4" or 1/2" beveled.
- Correct change in level at threshold not to exceed 1/4" or 1/2" beveled.
- Adjust door closers of Visitor Center to allow opening force of 8.5 lbs. max.
- Relocate bird sightings exhibit to 48" from floor to centerline of writing surface.
- Provide either a portion of the counter or an auxiliary counter at 36" high max. above floor, with knee clearance of 27" high and 19" deep, and with adjacent clear floor space of 30" deep x 48" wide min.
- Move display to ensure 36" wide min. (or 32" wide min. for 24" max.) access route, and 30" x 48" min. clear floor space to public use items or move public use items to ensure clear floor space.
- Re-configure counter and non-fixed furniture position to ensure a 36" wide min. (or 32" wide min. for 24" max.) access route to employee area behind counter.

Lake Renwick Preserve – Turtle Lake Access Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: June 6, 2007

General description

Lake Renwick Preserve - Turtle Lake is located on Lockport Street, east of Route 59, in Plainfield. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, restrooms, picnic areas, shoreline fishing and trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

There are significant slope issues throughout Turtle Lake Access. Running slope consistently runs above 5% with no handrails or landings as required for ramps. In some areas, it exceeds 8.33% which is not accessible. Cross slope often exceeds the required 2%. This occurs along access routes, on fishing piers and shelter/overlook areas. See list below and database entries for more detailed locations and deficiencies.

- There are 55 total parking spaces in the lot, 2 are designated as accessible. The parking signs are installed too low at less than 50" to the bottom of the signs.
- The access route to Budde Lake from the parking lot has running slope up to 6.9%. The cross slope of access route leading to picnic shelter is up to 2.4%. Access route leading to unisex restroom has cross slope up to 10.4%. The asphalt path to the amphitheater has running slope up to 5.5% at the top of the route.
- In the unisex restroom, the grab bars behind and adjacent to toilet are too short at 33 3/4" long. Gap of rear grab bar is too narrow at 1 3/8". Toilet seat is too high at 19 1/2". Centerline of toilet is too far from side wall at 19".
- The path between restroom and shelter on east side of preserve has cross slope up to 4.1%. Concrete path leading to shelter on east side of park has cross slope up to 6%.
- There are three benches near the overlook shelter on the east side of preserve. There are two benches in the small shelter on the fishing pier, 2 benches in the shelter on the west side of the parking lot and another 2 on

the shelter near the amphitheater. Another bench is placed along the route to the amphitheater. There is no adjacent clear ground space for shoulder to shoulder seating next to the benches. Seat heights are too low at 16 1/4" max above ground.

- The overlook shelter floor has slope up to 2.6% with no edge protection at the cliff edge. The floor of the shelter on the west side of the parking lot has slope up to 4.4%.
- The route down to the east fishing pier has cross slope up to 2.4% and running slope up to 6.2%. Concrete path to west fishing dock near amphitheater has running slope up to 6.7% and cross slope up to 4.6%.
- The running slope at railing of fishing pier is up to 10.6%. Cross slope up to 3.6%. Running slope outside small shelter on fishing pier is up to 9.2%.
- The height of the pier railings are up to 41 3/4" with lowered sections up to 33 1/2".
- The stairs leading from access route to pier/observation deck have a railing on only one side. Height of railing is 32 1/4" above stairs.
- At the fishing pier near the amphitheater there is a change in level that exceeds 1/2". There is cross slope up to 6.1% in center of dock area and running slope up to 7.2% on perimeter of shelter area.
- There is no designated wheelchair seat seating or companion seating in the amphitheater.

Recommendations

Evaluate what amenities are offered at Turtle Lake, along with which ones are most used by the public. Determine from this information which routes should be priorities for accessibility modifications. If both fishing areas offer the same experience, determine which will be more easily modified.

- Add one additional designated space for a total of 3 designated accessible spaces. Include appropriate signage. Install so the bottom of the sign is at 60" min above the ground.
- Correct route, not to exceed 5% running slope or install handrails and landings as required for ramps. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA 2.08%).
- Replace grab bars to ensure length is 36" min. behind toilet and 42" min. at side of toilet with 1 1/2" gap between grab bars and wall. Adjust/replace toilet to ensure seat height is 17"-19" above finished floor and centerline is 18" from side wall (ADA-ABA 16"-18").
- Correct route, cross slope not to exceed 2% (2.08% ADA-ABA).
- Add or replace benches with a minimum of 50% compliant with NRPM T313 including seat height of 17"-19" and adjacent clear floor space for shoulder to shoulder seating.
- Correct slope of shelter floor not to exceed 2% (2.08% ADA-ABA). Add edge protection at least 2" high along edge.

- Correct route to fishing piers, not to exceed 5% running slope or install handrails and landings. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (2.08% ADA-ABA).
- Correct route on fishing pier, not to exceed 5% running slope. If treating area as ramp, correct running slope not to exceed 8.33% and cross slope not to exceed 2% (2.08% ADA-ABA) and add handrails and landings.
- NRPM recommends providing min. 1 unrestricted viewing opportunity for each point of interest at eye levels between 32" and 51". Lower railing on fishing pier to 32" or install see through panels at each point of interest.
- Install second handrail on opposite side of stairs to pier/observation deck. Adjust height of existing railing so that it is 34" to 38" above stairs.
- Correct route on west fishing pier and near shelter, change in level not to exceed 1/4" or 1/2" beveled, running slope not to exceed 5%, cross slope not to exceed 2% (2.08% ADA-ABA).
- Seating capacity of the amphitheater is estimated at 200. Redesign assembly area to ensure required minimum 4 wheelchair spaces with minimum 2 aisle spaces and adjacent shoulder to shoulder seating and companion seating. ADA-ABA recommends 5 dispersed spaces.

Lambs Woods Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: December 15, 2006

General description

Lambs Woods is located at the intersection of Farrell and Bruce Roads on the outskirts of Lockport. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, a picnic shelter, drinking water and restrooms.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The parking lot has a gravel surface which is not accessible. There is signage for one accessible parking space but the lot is not striped.
- The door to the women's restroom requires 14 lbs of opening force.
- There is a 10.4% running slope on the outdoor recreation access route in the area leading to the water pump.
- There are 9 non-fixed picnic tables in the area. 50% do not meet requirements for accessibility. The tables in the pavilion do not have required 36" clear space around the usable portions.
- There are 4 grills; 2 are in the pavilion and 2 are on the grounds. The top of the cooking surfaces are over 34" above the ground.

Recommendations

- Provide a 96" wide parking space with a 96" wide striped access aisle on a firm, stable and slip resistant surface.
- Adjust restroom door closer to allow 8.5 lbs maximum opening force.
- Correct running slope not to exceed 5% or 8.33% with handrails (10% - NPRM).
- Add or replace tables so that 50% are accessible and comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance. At least 40% of those picnic tables should be on an outdoor recreation access route with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat.
- Where 2 or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Replace 2 grills with accessible units on accessible routes and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.

Laughton Preserve Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: January 24, 2007

General description

Laughton Preserve is located on Route 52, west of Route 45, in Wilton Center. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic sites and shelter, restrooms and drinking water.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The parking lot has a gravel surface which is not accessible. There are no designated accessible parking spaces.
- There are no access routes throughout the Preserve picnic area, from the parking to any of the amenities including the shelter, restrooms or waterpump.
- The picnic shelter does not have an accessible entrance. The floor of the shelter is inaccessible with changes in level due to heaving, openings and an uneven terrain.
- There is one picnic table in the shelter and 4 throughout the grounds. Only one meets accessibility requirements but it is not on an accessible route.
- There are two grills; neither is on an accessible route.
- There is a change in level up to 2" to access the waterpump.
- The men's and women's restrooms are inaccessible. The doors are 20" wide, there is no clear floor space inside and no grab bars. The signage is too high and does not have required text or Braille.

Recommendations

- Designate one accessible parking space on the shortest route to the Preserve entrance. Provide a 96" parking space with a 96" striped access aisle on a firm, stable and slip resistant surface; provide required signage so that the bottom of the sign is 48" min above the ground (ADA-ABA - 60").
- Provide accessible routes from parking to the picnic shelter and restrooms. Provide an outdoor recreation access route between the accessible Preserve amenities.
- Provide at least one accessible entrance into the picnic shelter. Fill in openings in the floor surface so as not to exceed 1/2" max and correct

changes in level not to exceed 1/4" max. This may require some sanding of the flagstone floor.

- Provide at least 50% of picnic tables on an accessible route with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. These tables must comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance.
- Where two or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Add two grills or replace both existing grills with accessible units on accessible routes and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Correct change in level at waterpump not to exceed 1".
- Evaluate possibility of replacing existing restroom structure with accessible restrooms.

Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 3, 2007

General description

Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve is located at Route 53 (Broadway) and Division Street, approximately 1.0-mile south of Route 7. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking and trails for hiking.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- There are gravel pull-offs on the side of the street for parking. There is no designated accessible parking space.
- A wooden barricade prohibits an accessible route to the trailhead. The route is only 29" wide around the barricade.
- The information kiosk and wayside exhibit are not on an accessible route. The clear space in front of each has a slope greater than 2.08% and is not firm, stable or slip resistant.

Recommendations

- If parking is provided, an accessible space must be designated on the shortest possible route to the entrance. Provide 1 parking space for standard van accessible space (96" space w/96" access aisle) or universal parking space (11' space w/ 5' access aisle) (132" space w/60" access aisle). Include signage.
- Provide a 36" wide min access route with a firm and stable surface to the trailhead.
- Provide an accessible route to the information kiosk and wayside exhibit. Provide clear space in front of each that has a slope of 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%) maximum and has a surface that is firm, stable and slip resistant.

McKinley Woods Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 2, 2007

General description

McKinley Woods is a 475 acre preserve located south of Route 6 and Bridge Road in Channahon. The preserve amenities include parking, picnic areas and shelters, restrooms, tent camping, fishing, and canoeing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

1. The signs for the accessible parking spaces are currently installed directly between the parking space and access aisle. The signs are too low at 47 3/4" to the bottom, and are located 9' from curb. There is no van accessible designation.
2. The curb ramp from the accessible parking spaces in Frederick's Cove leading toward the restrooms is partially blocked by a parking space. There is no landing at the top of the curb ramp.
3. The restrooms have faded signage, doors that are too heavy, toilets that are mounted diagonally from the corners and grab bars that do not meet compliance.
4. At least 50% of the non-fixed picnic tables throughout the preserve do not provide the required space for wheelchair seating.
5. The floor of the picnic shelter is made of flagstone which has an uneven surface with changes in level and openings between the stones.
6. In Frederick's Cove there is no accessible route to the picnic area near the restrooms or to the picnic area near the fishing pier.
7. The site elements in the picnic area near the restroom (picnic table, grill, and trash receptacle) and the fire ring near the picnic shelter are not located on an accessible surface and are not connected with an outdoor recreation access route.
8. There are several areas where there is no accessible route to reach the program area (trailhead, canoe launch, camping area, fishing pier, horseshoe pits) or the accessible route contains gaps and heaving.
9. The current design of the fishing dock is inaccessible due to steps and non-compliant access routes.
10. There are no designated accessible camping spaces.

11. Cooking surfaces throughout the preserve are either too low (fire rings) or too high (grills).

Recommendations

1. Install signage at the front center of parking space a maximum of 5' from front of space and 60" min above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Add van accessible designation.
2. Restripe the accessible parking area so that an access aisle is located in front of the curb cut so that a parked car cannot block access to it. Install a landing at the top of the curb ramp that is at least as wide as the ramp and 36" long minimum with a slope not to exceed 2.08% in any direction.
3. Ensure restrooms have signage with color contrast, doors with 8.5 lbs maximum opening force, and toilets that are mounted perpendicular to the rear wall with grab bars mounted in compliance with ADA/ABA 604.5 & 609.
4. Add or replace picnic tables so that at least 50% in each picnic area are accessible and provide accessible spaces with a knee clearance of 27" min height, 30" min width and 19" min depth. 40% of these accessible tables should be on an outdoor recreation accessible route.
5. Because the picnic shelter offers a unique experience and the only protection from weather, it must be accessible. If the flagstone will remain as the floor surface, openings greater than ½" must be filled and changes in level greater than ¼" must be removed. This might require sanding the stones to create a more even surface.
6. In Frederick's Cove, the picnic site near the restroom, the picnic site in and around the shelter and the picnic site near the fishing pier are seen as three separate picnic experiences because each offers its own unique experience. Therefore, it is recommended that all three sites be made accessible. Provide access routes to each picnic area.
7. Provide outdoor recreation access routes connecting the elements within the picnic areas so that the routes comply with NPRM Outdoors T304. Provide clear space surrounding the site elements that is firm and stable and has slope not to exceed 2% in any direction.
8. Ensure the preserve has accessible routes to each program area so that the route complies with ADA/ABA 402.
9. Evaluate the feasibility of either adding an accessible route to the fishing pier or installing a redesigned accessible fishing pier.
10. Provide at least two accessible camping sites dispersed throughout Boatman's Landing. Each should provide a 48" wide min clear space around the tent pad, a surface that is firm and stable with a 2% max slope in all directions. Where picnic tables, fire rings, utilities, or other elements are provided in camping spaces, they must comply with applicable provisions of NPRM-ODA. These elements within the designated accessible camp sites should be connected by an outdoor recreation

access route. Evaluate reservation policy to ensure visitors with disabilities have access to the accessible camping spaces.

11. Where one grill or fire ring is provided in an area, it must be accessible. Where two or more grills or fire rings are provided in an area, at least 50% but no fewer than two must be accessible. At the grills, provide a 48"x48" clear space in front of the cooking surface. At the fire rings, all usable portions must have a clear space that is 48"x48".

Spring Creek Greenway – Messenger Woods Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 1, 2007

General description

Messenger Woods is located on Bruce Road, north of Route 6 (Southwest Highway) and east of Cedar Road, in rural Lockport. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic sites and shelter, restrooms, camping, drinking water, horseshoe pits and trails for hiking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The signs for all accessible parking spaces are too low at 47" or less above the ground. Some signs are installed directly between the parking space and access aisle.
- At each grove, the running slope of the curb ramp exceeds 8.33%. The width of the entrance to the curb ramps is less than 36".
- At Oak Knoll there is a 1 ¼" change in level between the asphalt path and the concrete pad in front of the restroom doors. The clear space required on the latch side of the restroom doors is obstructed by either a trash receptacle or uneven ground and changes in level. The restroom doors in both groves require 10 lbs min opening force. There is a 2" min change in level at the threshold into each restroom in Oak Knoll and Hawthorn Shelter.
- The centerline of toilets is at 16" max. The side grab bars are too short at 36". The rear bars in the men's rooms are installed too far from the side wall with a space from the wall of 1 ¾". Some bars are installed too low.
- There are several areas where there are changes in level greater than ¼", openings greater than 1", running slope greater than 5% and cross slope greater than 2%. See detailed report for specifics.
- There are non-fixed picnic tables in the shelters, on the grounds and in the camping area. Only those tables in the shelters are on an accessible route but they do not all comply with requirements for height, width, knee clearance or clear floor space.
- In Oak Knoll, the existing concrete pad around the water pump does not provide the required clear ground space for a wheelchair to access the

pump and turn around in the space. In Hawthorn Shelter, the cross slope in front of the water pump is 7.8%.

- There is no access route to the horseshoe pits.
- In Hawke Hollow, there is no accessible route to the camping/picnic area. The two fire rings in the camping area do not have a firm and stable clear space around them.

Recommendations

- Install signage at the front center of the parking space at 60" min above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide additional van-accessible signage.
- Correct running slope of curb ramps not to exceed 8.33%. Ensure that width of curb ramps are 36" min. (See detailed report for more specifics on each grove.)
- Correct changes in level not to exceed ¼" or ½" with a bevel. Relocate trash receptacle and correct uneven ground to allow 18" min clear space on the latch side of the restroom doors. Adjust door closers to allow 8.5 lbs max opening force.
- Install toilets so that the centerline is 18" from the side wall (ADA-ABA 16"-18"). Replace the side bars in both restrooms with a 42" bar installed with one end beginning 12" max from the rear wall. Reinstall the rear bar in the men's room so that it extends from the centerline (18') of the toilet 12" min on one side and 24" min on the other side and has a 1 ½" space between it and the wall. The top gripping surface of the bars should be 33"-36" above the floor.
- Correct changes in level not to exceed ¼". (NPRM Outdoor guidelines all changes in level up to 1" for outdoor recreation access routes but those guidelines are not yet enforceable.) Correct openings not to exceed ½". Correct running slope not to exceed 5% or add handrails and landings as required for ramps. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2%. See detailed report for specific barrier removal recommendations.
- In each picnic area that provides a unique experience, add or replace picnic tables so that 50% are accessible and comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance. At least 40% of those should be on an outdoor recreation access route with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat.
- Expand the concrete pad at the Oak Knoll water pump to provide a 60"x60" min clear turning space at the water pump. Correct cross slope at Hawthorn water pump not to exceed 2%.
- Provide an accessible route to sport activity field for horseshoe area and viewing area.
- Create a 36" wide curb cut from the parking lot and an accessible route with an accessible surface to the camping area. Where 2 or more fire rings are provided in an area, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 should be

accessible and on an outdoor recreation access route. Provide an outdoor recreation access route to both fire rings. Provide a clear space 48"x48" min around all usable portions of the fire rings. The surface should be firm and stable.

Monee Reservoir Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: December 13 & 15, 2006

General description

Monee Reservoir is located on Ridgeland Avenue, west of Route 50 and south of Pauling Road, 2.0 miles south of Monee. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic sites and shelters, restrooms, concessions, fishing, canoeing, row boating, ice skating, drinking water and trails for hiking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The striped access aisles in the parking lot near the Visitors Center have slope up to 3.8%. The slope in the accessible parking area near Catfish Corner picnic area is up to 8.4%. The signs for all of the accessible parking spaces are too low and some are currently installed directly between the parking space and access aisle. There is no van accessible designation.
- There are running slope and cross slope issues throughout the area: from the parking lot to the Visitor Center; to the boating and fishing areas; and to the picnic grove/shelter areas. See Detail Report for more specifics.
- Visitors Center public areas - The top of the concessions counter is too high at 38 1/4". Bait is sold from the side concessions windows. There are two storage bins below the windows that block access to them. The doors to the Visitors Center are too heavy requiring 11 lbs of force to open. The counter at the inside service window is too high at 36 1/8" above the floor.
- Visitors Center - The hardware on all doors are knobs with twist locks which require grasping, pinching and twisting of the wrist.
- Employee restroom in Visitor Center - The restroom door swings into the clear space of the room. The two trash receptacles block the clear floor space in the restroom. The toilet is too high with a seat height at 20"; the flush control is on the far side of the toilet. The grab bars at the toilet are too short and installed too high. The sink is too high at 34 1/2" to the top rim. The pipes underneath the sink are not insulated. The mirror above the lavatory is too high at 56 1/2" to the bottom of the reflective surface.

- There is a 2" change in level on the north end of the wood deck used for fishing and a 3 1/2" change in level on the south end. The concrete path that runs adjacent to the wood boardwalk has cross slope up to 7%.
- Interpretive wayside exhibits are up to 40 1/4" to bottom leading edge.
- There is no designated wheelchair seating or companion seating in the amphitheater.
- There is a 1 1/4" change in level at the boat dock and a 4" opening between the concrete and the boat dock.
- Restroom buildings - The verbal description of the pictograms for each restroom sign is placed above the pictograms instead of below. All restroom doors require up to 11lbs of opening force. The toilets are too high at over 19".
- There is no accessible route to the canoe launch area.
- There is no accessible route to the ice skating area. The rubber mat being used at time of assessment was only 24 3/4" wide. Three benches are provided along the access route to the skating area. None have back support or arm rests.
- There is a change in level up to 2" on both ends of bridge near ice skating area at transition from asphalt. There was some rotting of boards at time of survey; there were some openings greater than 1". The running slope of the bridge is up to 7.8%. There are no handrails at the proper height or diameter.
- There are many areas for picnicking in the Preserve. The number of accessible picnic tables and accessible grills on accessible routes is not in compliance with recommendations.
- Maintenance Building - There is no designated accessible parking space. There is a 2" change in level in route to front entrance door. The front door hardware is a knob with a twist lock that requires tight grasping, pinching and twisting of the wrist.

Recommendations

- Correct slope of accessible parking spaces not to exceed 2% in any direction. Install parking signs at the front center of the parking space at 60" to the bottom of the sign. Include "van accessible" designation.
- Correct running and cross slope throughout preserve.
- Lower a portion of the concessions counter at least 36" in length to a maximum height of 36" above the ground. Relocate the storage bins below bait window to allow access. Adjust door closers to allow 8.5 lbs max opening force. When modifications are made to the interior of the building, lower the inside service countertop to 36" above the floor.
- Visitor Center - Replace knobs with lever handles with push-button locks.
- Visitor Center - Consider having the restroom door swing out rather than into the restroom. Relocate or replace trash receptacles to allow clear floor space in the restroom for approach to the toilet. Install toilet with a top seat height of 17"-19" above the floor and the flush controls on the

wide side of the toilet. Ensure toilet centerline is 18" from the side wall (ADA-ABA 16"-18"). Replace grab bars so that the rear bar is 36" long min and installed 6" max from the side wall. The side bar should be 42" long min and installed with one end 12" max from the rear wall. The top of the gripping surface should be 33'-36" above the floor. Install lavatory so that top finish height is 34" maximum with knee clearance a minimum of 27" under the lavatory. Add insulation or configure pipes to protect against contact. Lower mirror so bottom edge of reflecting surface is no higher than 40" above the floor or install a full length mirror.

- Correct fishing area so that cross slope does not exceed 2% and there are no changes in level greater than 1/4".
- The Harpers Ferry Center with the National Park Service has created accessibility guidelines for their interpretive media including wayside exhibits. These kinds of programmatic elements are not covered in guidelines issued by the United States Access Board. The Harpers Ferry guidelines are seen as best practice in this area. Their recommendation for heights of wayside exhibit panels is 32" above the ground if angled at 30 or 45 degrees. For further information on these guidelines, go to <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/pdf/accessibility/access-guide-oct2007.pdf>.
- With an estimated capacity of over 50 in the amphitheater, 4 wheelchair spaces are required. Redesign assembly area to ensure 4 w/c spaces with min 1 aisle space and adjacent shoulder to shoulder seating and companion seating. ADA-ABA recommends 5 dispersed spaces.
- At the entrance to the boat dock, correct change in level not to exceed 1/4" and opening not to exceed 1/2".
- Replace restroom signs so that the text descriptors are located below the pictograms and so the tactile characters are located 48" min above the ground from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60" max above the ground from the baseline of the highest tactile character. Adjust door closers to allow 8.5 lbs max opening force. Install toilets with centerline 18" from side wall (ADA-ABA 16"-18") and seat height 17-19" above floor.
- Provide an accessible route from the paved walkway to the canoe launch. A temporary surface that is at least 36" wide with a firm and stable surface can be used.
- Provide a 36" accessible route to the ice skating area and viewing area. Add or replace benches with a minimum of 50% compliant with NPRM T313. Provide back support and at least one armrest on accessible benches.
- Correct change in level on both ends of bridge not to exceed 1/4" or 1/2" beveled. Replace boards where necessary to eliminate openings greater than 1/2". Provide handrails 1 1/4"-1 1/2" in diameter with top of gripping surface at 34"-38" above the ground.

- Add or replace tables and grills so that 50% are accessible and comply with requirements for height, width, knee clearance and clear ground space. Provide at least 40% of those on an accessible route.
- Maintenance Building - Provide accessible parking space (96" parking space with 96" striped access aisle) to serve shortest accessible route from parking entrance. Provide required signage. Correct change in level near entrance not to exceed 1/4" or 1/2" with bevel. Replace door knob with lever handle or other hardware operable with one hand without twisting/grasping/pinching and does not exceed 5 lbs force for operation.

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment dates: December 14, 2006; January 24, 2007; April 30, 2007

Preserve Overview

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve covers almost 700 acres and is one of the largest holdings within the Forest Preserve District. Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve offers such amenities as picnic sites and shelters, camping areas, restrooms and drinking fountains, and a cattail marsh and pond. Programs offered to visitors include interpretive exhibits and programs located at the Plum Creek Nature Center and the amphitheater, camping, picnicking, hiking, and winter activities such as sledding, ice skating, and cross country skiing. This assessment consisted of the physical and programmatic evaluation of the entire Preserve including the Plum Creek Nature Center, the Maintenance Building, camping areas, picnic sites and site amenities, as well as the exterior environment including all routes, parking lots, and restrooms.

Physical Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that buildings and facilities that are designed, constructed, or altered comply with Federal standards for physical accessibility. The following document lists the individual deficiencies found during the assessment of the Preserve. The deficiencies are given a priority rating by the assessors. The three accessibility deficiency priorities are:

- **Critical (C)** - A critical priority would be given to those deficiencies that occur in an asset, facility, or program that is utilized by a significantly high number of people (visitors or employees); and "prohibits" or seriously inhibits people with disabilities from utilizing the facility or from receiving the benefits of the program.
- **Serious (S)** - a serious priority would be given to those deficiencies that occur in an asset, facility, or program but only modestly inhibits an individual with a disability from utilizing the facility or from receiving the benefits of the program.
- **Minor (M)** - a minor priority would be given to those deficiencies that occur in any asset, facility, or program but only slightly inhibits an individual with a disability from utilizing the facility or from receiving the benefits of the program.

The main and employee entrances to Plum Creek Nature Center are inaccessible due to excessive running slope. The outdoor exhibits located behind the nature center are inaccessible due to lack of maintenance and uneven surfaces of pathways. The Sledding Hill is inaccessible due to the lack of

an accessible route to the top and excessive slope issue along the current route. For the purpose of the assessment, camping areas Foxfire I and II were seen as one area due to the similarity of experiences and opportunities. Raccoon Hollow and Thumper's Thicket were seen as a second camping area. All camping areas are inaccessible due to the lack of outdoor recreation access routes from the parking to any of the camping areas, as well as the lack of outdoor recreation access routes within the camping area itself. For the purpose of the assessment, Thorn Apple Meadow, Meadowlark Shelter, and the surrounding area are seen as one area for picnicking due to similarities of experiences and location. Plum Creek Pavilion, Nodding Oaks Grove, Sledding Hill, the Amphitheater, and the surrounding area are seen as a second area for the same reasons. Several picnic areas are inaccessible also due to the lack of an accessible route and the lack of outdoor recreation access routes within the picnic site. If it is determined that physical accessibility is not achievable, permanent programmatic alternatives will need to be provided. Until the final determination is made, FPDWC is obligated to provide programmatic alternatives for those who are unable to access various exhibits and experiences at Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve.

Program Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act states that people with disabilities can not be denied the benefits of or be excluded from the participation in programs, services and activities. The ADA also requires that communications with individuals with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. At Plum Creek Nature Center information is communicated through publications, exhibits, demonstrations and personal services. Park brochures are not readily accessible to people who are blind and people with visual impairments. Exhibits lack audio of printed information, audio description of visuals and tactile opportunities for people who are blind and people with visual impairments. In addition, the use of inaccessible font styles/types and sizes make exhibits inaccessible to people with visual impairments. Programs with audiovisual components (videos) do not provide assistive listening devices for people with hearing loss, captions for people who are deaf or audio description of the visuals for people who are blind and people with visual impairments.

Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: December 15, 2006

General description

Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve is located on Pauling Road, east of Route 50 (Governors Highway), 1.0 miles south of Monee. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking and drinking water.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The parking lot has a gravel surface which is not accessible. There are no designated accessible parking spaces.
- There is no outdoor recreation access route from the parking lot to the trailhead area.
- Raccoon Grove trailhead area has 1 kiosk, 1 recycling receptacle, and 1 waterpump. The site elements are not located on an accessible surface (natural surface) and there is no outdoor recreation access route connecting the elements within the trailhead area.

Recommendations

- Add 1 designated accessible parking space striped for a standard van accessible space (96" space with 96" access aisle) or for a universal parking space (132" space with 60" access aisle). Replace gravel with a surface that is firm and stable. Install signage at 48" min above the ground to the bottom of the sign (ADA-ABA - 60"). Provide additional van-accessible signage at van accessible spaces.
- Provide outdoor recreation access route from the parking lot to the trailhead area so that the route complies with NPRM Outdoor T304.
- Provide outdoor recreation access routes connecting the elements within the trailhead area so that the routes comply with NPRM Outdoor T304. Provide clear space surrounding the site elements that is firm and stable and has slope not to exceed 2% in any direction.

Riverview Farmstead Preserve Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: June 7, 2007

General description

The Riverview Farmstead Preserve is located on the northeast corner of W. 119th Road and Book Road on a natural prairie. The home on the property consists of a one-room schoolhouse built in the early 1880s and a house built in 1871 connected by a more recently constructed hallway/foyer. The home was privately owned until recently being transferred to the Forest Preserve District of Will County. Other amenities on the grounds consist of a two-story garage, gardens and a campsite. There are also three trails through the prairie that were not included in this assessment.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this site, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

1. The parking lot is gravel which is not firm, stable or slip resistant. There is no designated accessible parking space.
2. The access routes around the home are made of materials such as flagstone, limestone or are natural surfaces and are not accessible due to steps, changes in level or surface materials.
3. The front door is only accessible by use of steps. There is no ramp to the front entrance. The screen door at the front entrance is too heavy, requiring 10 lbs of force to open.
4. In the main room of the schoolhouse, there is no wheelchair access to the stage area which has an 18" elevation.
5. There is a sink on the rear wall of the schoolhouse with a counter that is too high and no clear space underneath.
6. There is no accessible restroom on the first floor of the building.
7. The exterior door from the east side of the porch into the dining area is too narrow at 31". Both entrances into the house from the wrap-around porch have a step.
8. Access into the living room from the foyer area is restricted near the back door due to the narrow doorways and tight turning radius at the stairwell. The doorway from the foyer into this area is only 28" wide. The clear width around the bottom of the stairwell is narrowed to 31 ½".

9. The kitchen has two entrance doorways from the dining area. The right entrance is too narrow at 30 ¼"; the doorway on the left has the required clear width but it is narrowed to 26" by the location of the refrigerator.
10. The kitchen as currently designed has several barriers. The location of the stove and the large central counter/sink unit does not allow a clear 36" access route through the room. The sink and counter are too high at 36" above the floor. There is no clear space below the sink due to the existing cabinet. The stove top is too high at 35" above the floor. Access around the end of the central counter is not possible due to a floor-to-ceiling support beam.
11. There are three stairways to the second floor: two in the house and one in the schoolhouse. None have the required handrails on both sides of the stairs.
12. On the second floor, all doors, except the one leading into the library, are too narrow to be accessible. There are three restrooms on the second floor: two in the living quarters and one above the schoolhouse. None have any accessible features.
13. The ground surface in the campsite/bonfire area to the northeast of the house is inaccessible because it is not firm, stable or slip resistant.

Recommendations

1. Provide one accessible parking space for every 25 parking spaces on the property. The space should be 96" wide and have its own 96" wide striped access aisle. Slope should not exceed 2% in any direction. The entire space should have a surface material that is firm, stable and slip resistant and should be on the shortest accessible route to the entrance. Install parking sign at the front center of the parking space, a maximum of 5' from the front of the space. Install so that bottom of sign is 60" minimum above the ground. Include signage for van accessible designation.
2. If routes around the grounds will be open for public use, they must be accessible. Replace the existing routes or create alternative routes using similar materials that are compatible with the existing materials. Accessible routes should not have changes in level greater than ½", openings greater than ¼" or slopes greater than 5%. If ramps are used with slopes between 5-8.33%, include landings and handrails as required.
3. Determine necessary length of a ramp to access the front door so that it does not exceed 8.33% running slope. Design and construct ramp to be easily accessed from the designated accessible parking space. Replace the existing screen door with one that does not exceed 8.5 lbs of opening force.
4. Based on the expected future use of main room of the schoolhouse as an art gallery or studio, it should be determined if this elevated area will need to be accessible for public use. If so, an 18' ramp with handrails could be constructed on the north (right) side of the room along the wall.

5. If a sink will be required in this main room of the schoolhouse, replace the existing sink with one with a top height of 34", knee clearance height of 27", insulated pipes and accessible hardware.
6. One option to provide a restroom on the first floor would be to construct a single-user restroom on the south (left) side of the schoolhouse in the old kitchen area. However, if a ramp is built to access the stage, it will already reduce the usable space in the room. Another option is to convert the existing laundry room off of the foyer to a single-user restroom. The door from the foyer into this room will need to be widened to have at least 32" of clear width. If possible have the door open into the new restroom so that it does not impede use of the front door. The closet directly inside the door can be removed to provide additional clear floor space. Provide a toilet, lavatory, grab bars and dispensers that meet accessibility guidelines. Also install signage on the latch side of the restroom door that includes Braille, text, pictograms and color contrast.
7. If the porch is to be accessed by the public from inside the house, or if either door on the porch is to be used as an employee entrance, at least one must be made accessible. This would require a 5x5 landing at the door with a ramp to the porch level. If the door into the dining area is to be made accessible, it must also be widened to provide at least 32" of clear width. Swing-back hinges might be a possibility to provide the additional 1" of clear width needed at this door.
8. Explore the feasibility of redesigning this small foyer area inside the back door. The doorway from the foyer can be widened to 32" of clear width. Possibly remove the wall behind the opened back door and relocate the doorway into the living room so that it is a straight route through the foyer rather than requiring a turn around the bottom step of the stairway. Consider whether an actual closeable door is necessary.
9. Relocate the refrigerator to allow 32" of clear width at doorway into kitchen.
10. Even if the kitchen area will only be for employee use, it is not considered a "work area" and must be accessible. This includes all of the elements in the kitchen as well as the access route through it. Consider removing the large central counter/sink and replacing with a smaller unit. The sink must have clear floor space underneath for a forward approach. The top of the sink counter and stove top should be 34" max above the floor. The existing stove has front controls which are recommended so the user does not risk being burned by leaning over the heat source. The counter on the left side of the stove should be removed to allow a clear access route into the room.
11. Handrails are required on any stairways that are a means of egress. Determine if each of the three stairways in the facility meet this requirement and install handrails on both sides of those stairwells. If the stairs are not considered part of a means of egress, State or local building codes may still require handrails or guards.

12. When making alterations on the second floor or when necessary for an employee accommodation, widen doorways to allow 32" of clear width and modify at least one restroom to be fully accessible.
13. If this camp/bonfire site will be open to public access, replace existing gravel with a surface material that is firm, stable and slip resistant.

Rock Run Preserve – Black Road Access Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: June 5, 2007

General description

Rock Run Preserve – Black Road Access is on Black Road, approximately 0.25 miles east of the I-55 overpass, in Joliet. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic shelter, restrooms, and trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- There are 41 parking spaces with 2 designated as accessible. The two spaces are each 138" wide. Only the right space has a striped access aisle which is 146" wide. Striping is fading. The parking signs are at 48" maximum to the bottom of the signs.
- Removable post barrier in center of curb cut blocks access to the curb ramp for wheelchair use.
- The floor of the restroom has a 5.8% slope. The restroom door requires 11 lbs of force to open. The space between the grab bars and the wall is up to 2" due to the unevenness of the walls.
- There are 3 grills in the picnic shelter with a top cooking surface of 38 1/2".
- There are 5 picnic tables in the shelter and 3 throughout the grounds. 50% of the picnic tables are not accessible due to the lack of clear floor space around them.
- The middle of the path to the Wetlands Trail has a running slope up to 6.4%.

Recommendations

- Provide a striped access aisle for the left parking space. It should be 96" wide for a 96" parking space or 60" wide for a 132" parking space. Restripe entire area. The current sign installation complies with IAC and ADAAG standards. ADA-ABA recommends installing sign so that the bottom of the sign is 60" min above the ground. IAC requires 48"-60".
- Remove all elements of the post barrier or create another accessible curb cut from the accessible parking area.
- Correct floor of restroom not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%) in any direction. Adjust door closer to allow 8.5 lbs maximum opening force.

Provide grab bars so that there is a 1 1/2" space between the bars and the walls.

- Where two or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Replace 2 grills with accessible units on accessible routes and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Provide at least 50% of picnic tables on an accessible route with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. These tables must comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance.
- Correct slope not to exceed 5% or add handrails and landings as required for a ramp.

Rock Run Preserve – I & M Canal Access Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: June 5, 2007

General description

Rock Run Preserve – I & M Canal Access is located on Empress Road (Houbolt Road), 0.25 miles south of I-80, in Joliet. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic shelter, restrooms, drinking water and trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- There are 69 parking spaces with three designated accessible spaces. The accessible spaces are all too narrow at 185" wide maximum; none have striped access aisles. The signs are at 48 1/2" to the bottom of the signs.
- The curb cut from the parking lot does not have a landing at the top. This requires users to turn onto the sidewalk while on a sloped ramp.
- Two benches are provided along path from parking lot to picnic shelter. Neither have armrests or clear ground space for shoulder to shoulder seating.
- There is a 1" opening at the transition from the concrete path to the concrete pad of the shelter floor.
- There are 7 tables in the picnic shelter and 3 on the grounds; 5 in the shelter meet measurement guidelines but are inaccessible due to the lack of clear floor space around them.
- There are 2 grills near the picnic shelter with a top cooking surface of 36".
- The verbal description of the pictograms for each restroom sign is placed above the pictograms instead of below.
- The restroom door requires 10 lbs of force to open. The toilet is too high at 19 1/4" and too far from the side wall with a centerline of 19".
- The path to the restroom from the parking lot has a cross slope of 4%. On the north side of the parking lot, the curb cut at the end of the sidewalk has a running slope of 10.3% and cross slope of 4.2%.

Recommendations

- Restripe spaces for standard van accessible space (96" space w/ 96" striped access aisle) or universal parking space (11' space w/ 5' access

aisle) (132" space w/ 60" striped access aisle). The current installation of signs complies with IAC and ADAAG standards. ADA-ABA recommends installation of signs so that the bottom is 60" min above the ground. IAC requires 48"-60"

- Provide a landing at the top of the curb ramp that is 36" deep and at least as wide as the ramp.
- Provide at least one armrest on the bench. Add adjacent clear floor space for shoulder to shoulder seating or install additional accessible units compliant with NPRM T313 so that 50% are accessible.
- Correct opening at entrance to picnic shelter not to exceed 1/2".
- Provide at least 50% of picnic tables on an accessible route with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. These tables must comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance.
- Where two or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Replace both grills with accessible units or add 2 accessible units on accessible routes with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Replace signs so that the text descriptors are located directly below the pictograms and the centerline of the sign is 60" above the ground (ADA-ABA - tactile characters are located 48" min above the ground from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60" max above the ground from the baseline of the highest tactile character. Braille should be located directly below the text).
- Adjust restroom door closer to allow 8.5 lbs maximum opening force. Install toilet with centerline 18" from side wall and seat height 17-19" above floor (ADA-ABA - 16"-18").
- Correct running slope not to exceed 8.33% and cross slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%).

Rock Run Preserve – Paul V. Nichols Access Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: June 5, 2007

General description

Rock Run Preserve - Paul V. Nichols Access is located at the intersection of Essington Road and Ingalls Avenue, 0.5 mile north of Black Road in Joliet. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic shelter, drinking water and restrooms.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The parking space is too narrow and does not provide enough width for a 96" parking space and 96" access aisle. The parking sign is installed too low at less than 48" above the ground to the bottom of the sign.
- There are 5 picnic tables in the shelter. Only 2 provide the required clear space for wheelchair seating.
- One bench is provided. The seat height is too high exceeding 19". There are no armrests. There is no clear ground space for shoulder to shoulder seating.
- The floor of the restroom has a slope exceeding 2%. The space between the grab bars and the wall is up to 2" due to the unevenness of the walls.

Recommendations

- Restripe parking spaces to provide standard van accessible space (96" space w/ 96" striped access aisle). Install parking sign at the front center of the parking space so that the bottom of the sign is 60" min above the ground.
- Add or replace tables so that 50% are accessible in compliance with requirements for height, width and knee clearance.
- Add or replace bench with at least 50% with a seat height of 17"-19", back support and at least one armrest. Provide clear ground space on one side of the bench for shoulder to shoulder seating.
- Correct floor of restroom not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%) in any direction. Provide grab bars so that there is a 1 1/2" space between the bars and the walls.

Rock Run Preserve – Theodore Marsh Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: June 6, 2007

General description

Rock Run Preserve – Theodore Marsh is located on Gaylord Road, about .5 mile north of Theodore Street in Crest Hill. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic shelter, drinking water, restrooms, a playground, which is not maintained by the District and trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The parking signs for the 2 accessible spaces are currently installed directly between the parking space and access aisle and are too low at 45" or less to the bottom of the signs. The striped access aisle has a cross slope of 2.2%.
- The ramp from the parking lot to the trailhead has a running slope up to 16.2%.
- The outdoor recreation access route between the trailhead and restroom has cross slope up to 5.5%. In front of the restroom the cross slope is 6.6%. The path between the restrooms and drinking fountain has cross slope up to 5.5%. The path to the picnic shelter has running slope up to 7.2%.
- The verbal description of the pictograms for each restroom sign is placed above the pictograms instead of below. The Braille is not located directly below the text.
- The restroom door requires 10 lbs of opening force.
- The slope of the clear ground space at the drinking fountain is 9.2%. The knee clearance at the apron of the drinking fountain is too low at 25 1/4"; the fountain requires 7 lbs of force to operate; the spigot requires 14 lbs of force to operate; the flow of water is too low at 2 3/4" and it overshoots the bowl.

Recommendations

- Install signs at the front center of the parking space so that the bottom of the sign is at 60" min above the ground. ADA-ABA recommends 60". IAC requires 48"-60". Correct cross slope not to exceed 2%. (ADA-ABA - 2.08%)
- Reroute path to provide 5% running slope. If slope is between 5%-8.33%, provide handrails and landings.

- Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%; NPRM - 3%). Correct running slope not to exceed 5% or add handrails and landings as required for ramps.
- Replace restroom signs so that the text descriptors are located directly below the pictograms and the centerline of the sign is 60" above the ground (ADA-ABA - tactile characters are located 48" min above the ground from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60" max above the ground from the baseline of the highest tactile character. Braille should be located directly below the text).
- Adjust restroom door closer to allow for 8.5 lbs of opening force.
- Regrade concrete underneath fountain to provide clear space with 2% max slope in all directions. This will provide the necessary knee clearance underneath the apron. Or install second accessible unit in the area. Adjust all controls to 5lbs operating force. Adjust low of water to 4" high min.

Runyon Preserve Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: May 3, 2007

General description

Runyon Preserve is located at the corner of Hamilton and Morgan, east of State Street and north of Thorton in Lockport. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic sites and shelter and restrooms.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The asphalt/gravel parking lot has 14 parking spaces with 1 designated accessible space. The access aisle is not striped and the ground surface is not firm and stable.
- The signage for the designated accessible parking space is at 48" to the bottom of the sign.
- The wayside exhibit near the parking lot sits 9" off of the accessible route.
- There is a change in level up to 1' at the entrance of the path from the parking lot. The asphalt is deteriorating. There is cross slope up to 3.7% and running slope up to 6.7%. There is a change in level up to 1 1/2" and an opening up to 1" at entrance to bridge. The slope at the start of the bridge is 7.4% and at the end of the bridge is 9.6%. The handrails added to the far side of the bridge are too high at 38 1/4". Some portions of the path between the bridge and picnic shelter have a running slope over 5%. There are openings greater than 1/2".
- There are 4 picnic tables in the shelter and 4 throughout the grounds. Only 2 of the picnic tables are accessible but they are not on an accessible route.
- There are 3 grills with a top cooking surface of at least 36". One grill is not on an accessible route. The two grills in the picnic shelter do not have adequate clear space in front of the cooking surface.
- The cross slope in front of the picnic shelter is 3.9%; on the path to the restrooms it is up to 3.5%; near the restrooms it is up to 4.7%.
- There is a change in level up to 1 1/2" into each restroom with openings up to 1". The doors to the restrooms required 12 and 15 lbs of opening force. The signage for the men's restroom is fading.
- The toilets in both restrooms are set diagonally and are not aligned to achieve the required distance from a side wall and easy use of the grab

bars. The rear grab bar in each restroom is a pipe rather than a standard bar. They are mounted too far away from the side wall (over 17") and the gap between the pipe and the wall is too wide at 2" or more. The bars on the side walls are too short and are installed too far from the rear wall.

Recommendations

- Resurface and stripe parking space for standard van accessible space (96" space w/96" access aisle) or universal parking space (11' space w/ 5' access aisle) (132" space w/60" access aisle).
- The parking signage currently meets IAC and ADAAG standards. ADA-ABA recommends installing the sign so that the bottom is 60" min above the ground. IAC requires 48"-60".
- Move wayside exhibit to be accessible from the path of travel or pour concrete to create continuous access to exhibit allowing a viewer a close approach.
- Correct changes in level not to exceed ¼" and openings not to exceed ½". Maintain surface material to be firm and stable. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%); correct running slope not to exceed 5% or add handrails and landings as required for a ramp. Install handrails on both sides of bridge at 34"-38" above the ground surface.
- Provide at least 50% of picnic tables on an accessible route with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. These tables must comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance.
- Where two or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Replace 2 grills with accessible units on accessible routes and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Correct cross slope on the outdoor recreation access route not to exceed 2% (NPRM – 3%).
- Correct change in level at restroom entrances not to exceed 1/4" and openings not to exceed 1/2". Adjust restroom door closers to allow 8.5 lbs maximum opening force. Install new signage at the men's restroom with raised letters, Braille and pictograms with accessible contrast.
- Reset toilets so that the centerline of the toilets is 18" from the side wall (ADA-ABA - 16"-18"). Replace the rear bars with standard 36" grab bars installed with one end 6" max from the side wall. Replace the side bars with 42" bars minimum installed with one end 12" maximum from the rear wall. There should be a 1 1/2" gap between the bar and the wall.

Sugar Creek Administration Building Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: December 27, 2006, January 5 & 9, 2007

General description

The Sugar Creek Administration Building is located on Laraway Road in Joliet. Here visitors can obtain information on permits, trails, facilities and programs offered by the Preserve District. The building is a model for the use of green technologies.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- Running slopes at curb cuts range from 8.9% to 9.5%. Cross slope on adjacent sidewalk ranges from 4.5% to 9.4%. Running slope in some sections of route to main entrance is 8.8%, gutters are excessively concave with slope up 16%.
- Designated accessible parking spaces are exceed 96" but there is no marked access aisle, accessible spaces are not striped with yellow paint per IAC, no designated van accessible parking designation. Bottom of parking signs are low at 44 and 44-1/2" above finished grade.
- Brick pavers at main entrance have some gaps between them that are greater than 1/2" in diameter and create a hazard for people using mobility devices.
- Door opening force of all exterior doors exceeds 16 lbf due primarily to thickness of brushes between doors and partially due to door closer setting. Several Interior doors require opening force over 11 lbs.
- Both stair landings project into lower level accessible route without cane-detectable warning underneath.
- In the employee shower room, the door requires 15 lbs of opening force; the shower dimensions are only 33"x35"; the side grab bar is only 14" long; the hooks are at 61" above the floor and the towel bar is at 58" above the floor.
- In classroom, coat hangers are at 59" aff, shelf at 60" aff; sinks have no knee clearance; paper towel dispensers over sinks are at 54" aff and 21" from edge of sink.
- The upper level reception counter is at 42" aff; lower counter is at 23" aff but approach is obstructed by literature holders. Coat hangers in reception area are at 59" aff, shelf at 60" aff.

- At the lower level restrooms, the drinking fountain protrudes into accessible route without cane-detectable warning below.
- In all the restrooms, the rear portion of the unitary grab bar in the accessible stalls is too short.
- Permit office public counter is at 43-1/2" aff. A clipboard on the counter is provided for use by those who prefer to be seated while completing form.

Recommendations

- Repair or replace concrete to create running slope no greater than 5% or 8.33% with handrails and landings as required for ramps. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%).
- At each accessible space, provide a striped 96" wide access aisle, van accessible designation and required signage. These spaces may be in a single lot or split between both lots. Relocate signs so bottom of sign is at least 48" above finished grade; 60" above finished grade preferred.
- Modify or replace pavers at front entrance to eliminate gaps greater than 1/2" in diameter.
- Adjust door closer or trim brushes between exterior doors to allow door opening force not to exceed 8.5 lbf. Adjust interior closers to provide door opening force no greater than 5 lbf.
- Provide barrier, column or other fixed item at cane detection heights below the stair landings.
- In employee shower room, adjust door closer not to exceed 5 lbf; provide required 36"x36" stall dimensions; provide side grab bar that is 18" long; add or replace hook and towel bar with one no higher than 48" aff.
- In classroom, replace coat rack or provide additional one with coat hangers and shelf no higher than 48" aff; modify at least one sink to provide required knee clearance; relocate or provide additional paper towel dispenser no higher than 48" aff and with required clear space.
- If main reception counter is used to serve patrons, modify to comply with requirements OR implement alternative to barrier removal by enforcing policy to provide service to patrons by bringing purchases directly to them. Replace coat rack or provide additional one with coat hangers and shelf no higher than 48" aff.
- Provide a permanent cane detectable warning below the drinking fountain. Cane detectable warning element should not obstruct knee clearance at drinking fountain.
- Replace existing unitary grab bars with ones that have rear portion at least 36" long and side portion at least 42" long or provide individual grab bars of required lengths.
- If window is used to serve patrons, modify to comply with requirements OR implement alternative to barrier removal by enforcing policy to provide service to patrons by bringing purchases directly to them.

Thorn Creek Nature Center Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment dates: January 24, 2007; April 30, 2007

Nature Center Overview

At 830 acres, Thorn Creek Nature Preserve lies at the headwaters of Thorn Creek and consists of bottomlands, ravines, white-oak forest interspersed with marsh and meadows. Thorn Creek Nature Center, located within the Preserve, houses a variety of exhibits, nature displays, maps, photographic studies, and a research library.

The Thorn Creek Nature Center is an interesting place in many ways. The building, constructed in 1861 and now under the joint management and operation of the Thorn Creek Nature Center, is under 2 villages, a friends group and Will and Cook County Forest Preserve Districts.

Summary of Accessibility Assessments

Physical Accessibility

Physical accessibility deficiencies are entered into the NCA PRMS data base and include short citations of the deficiencies noted, photos taken of the deficiencies, criticality of the deficiencies (Critical, Serious, Minor), recommendations to correct the deficiencies, citations of applicable guidelines or standards and in some cases, recommendations for universal design.

Areas immediately surrounding the Nature Center (parking lot, routes, parking and picnic area) were assessed. Per agreement with the FPDWC, trails were not assessed. Exterior areas had many deficiencies, some of which were considered to be critical (6), serious (6) and minor (6). The major issues on the exterior of the building include the parking lot and pathway (accessible route) surfacing and lack of accessible emergency exit from the building.

The Nature Center Building was built as a church in 1861, long before accessibility standards or guidelines were in existence. The three floor building would require an elevator or lift(s) to the top floor and basement in order to gain physical access. The top level is not accessible once accessed due to design as there is no accessible route (maximum width is 34"). This would require major renovation to make accessible. Likewise the lowest level is not physically accessible (no lift or elevator). This level also includes a major safety issue for people with disabilities as there is no accessible means of egress. The main level accessibility could be enhanced by constructing a ramp to the stage (including the bird watching area) and moving some exhibits to make them more physically accessible. The route to the exit door goes through the "office" and is

not accessible due to an 8 inch step up and office and exit doors that are only 28 inches wide. Stairs on the outside (emergency exit) are not accessible and create a serious accessibility safety issue.

NCA does not believe that it is either realistic or desirable to make the major changes necessary for access to the top or bottom levels of this building. Exhibits and educational areas on the top and bottom floors would need to be moved to the main level to provide access.

Program Accessibility

The Kiosk with program and trail information is not accessible (exterior). The information is not accessible to people with visual impairments and materials are out of the reach range for those using wheeled devices and the literature box cannot be independently opened (with one hand). Many exhibits on the interior of the building provide excellent opportunities for interaction, visually and tactilely. Many others are not and much of the literature is displayed too high for someone in a seated position to read and there is no audio program available for those who have a visual impairment or cannot read. There are numerous glass displays that provide excellent educational value but are not accessible to people with visual impairments and those using mobility devices would not be able to get close to. Likewise the stage area includes exhibits as well as a bird viewing area that is not accessible due to an 8 inch step.

An example of programmatic solutions would include the butterfly display. It could be supplemented with plastic or plaster models that could be available for touching and feeling. Other encased taxidermy could also be available for sensory experiences. Consideration should be given to developing an audio tour of the main floor of the Center.

NCA recognizes that the Thorn Creek Nature Center has a long and rich history and that there are significant sentimental issues involved. The commitment to the programming at this Center is obvious and the educational experiences that students receive are tremendous. Unfortunately, those with disabilities do not and cannot receive the same meaningful experience as those without disabilities. There are also significant accessibility safety issues that need to be addressed if this Center continues to be used.

Veterans Woods Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: January 22 & May 5, 2007

General description

Veterans Woods is located on Joliet Road, north of Route 53, in the Bolingbrook area. The north grove is Traders Corner and the south grove is Hassert Grove. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic sites and shelter, restrooms, drinking water, horseshoe pits and trails for hiking and cross country skiing.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The signs for the accessible parking spaces are installed too low. There is no van accessible designation.
- In Traders Corner, the curb ramp from the parking lot to the access route has a running slope of 16.8%.
- The restrooms in Hassert Grove have toilets that are placed diagonally in the corner of the room. This does not allow the required centerline or access to grab bars. One grab bar in each of the restrooms is a pipe and the bars are installed incorrectly. The restroom doors require at least 14 lbs of opening force.
- The restrooms in Traders Corner have a change in level at the entrances greater than ¼". The doors require 12 lbs of force to open. The men's restroom does not have enough clear floor space and the toilet is only 9 ½" from the side wall. The toilet in the women's restroom is placed diagonally in the corner of the room. The grab bars are not installed properly.
- 50% of the non-fixed picnic tables in both groves are not accessible or located on accessible routes.
- There are two grills located in Hassert Grove and 6 in Traders Corner; only 2 in Traders Corner are located on an accessible route and have required clear space in front but none are at the required height.
- In Hassert Grove, the non-fixed trash cans in shelter area may impede access route.
- There is no accessible route to the horseshoe pits in either grove.

- In Hassert Grove, openings at transition from parking lot to access route exceed ½". Running slope is up to 5.7%. The cross slope on route to water pump is up to 2.4%. In Traders Corner, there are 1 ½" openings in front of the information kiosk. The center of the picnic shelter has cross slope of 2.93%.

Recommendations

- Install parking signage designating accessible parking spaces at min 60" from finished grade to bottom edge of sign. Include "van accessible" designation.
- Correct curb ramp in Traders Corner parking lot with slope not to exceed 8.33%.
- Reposition toilets in Hassert Grove restrooms so that they sit perpendicular to the back wall with 18" centerline from side wall. Install grab bars with 1 ¼" to 1 ½" diameter, mounted at 33" to 36" from floor. Ensure side grab bar is 42" min. and extends 54" min. from rear wall. Ensure rear grab bar is 36" min. mounted at 6" max from side wall. Ensure 1 ½" gap between grab bars and wall. Adjust door opening force to 8.5 lbs max.
- Due to the extent of repair required for the Traders Corner restrooms, consider consulting with architect for redesign of structure.
- Add or replace tables so that 50% are accessible in compliance with T306 with at least 40% of those picnic tables on an accessible route with 36" of clear space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat. These tables must comply with the requirements for height, width and knee clearance.
- Where two or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. At least 40% of those grills should be on an outdoor recreation access route. At Hassert Grove, replace both grills or add 2 additional grills. In Traders Corner, replace 3 grills with accessible units on accessible routes and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Relocate trash cans from picnic shelter to ensure 36" min clear width for access route throughout shelter and picnic area and to be useable from the access route.
- Provide an accessible route to sport activity field for horseshoe area and viewing area.
- Correct openings not to exceed ½". Correct running slope not to exceed 5% or 8.33% with handrails and landings as required for a ramp. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA 2.08%; NPRM Outdoor 3%).

DuPage River Greenway – Whalon Lake Accessibility Assessment Summary Report

Assessment date: June 6, 2007

General description

Whalon Lake is located on Royce Road, west of Route 53 in Naperville. The amenities in this area of the preserve include parking, picnic shelter, restrooms, drinking water, a dog park and trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing. There is also a Polebarn for employee use.

The following is a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the National Center on Accessibility based on the accessibility assessment conducted on the above referenced date. It should be noted that this is a snap shot of the conditions for that time. Any alterations affecting access to the preserve or facility after the assessment date are not reflected in this report. For more complete details on all barriers identified at the time of the assessment and recommendations for this preserve, refer to the detailed accessibility condition assessment report.

Key findings

- The parking lot near the Polebarn has a gravel surface which is not accessible. There are no designated accessible parking spaces.
- There is a 4" step from the gravel lot into the Polebarn. The door hardware is a knob with a twist lock. A padlock that requires a key also secures the door.
- At the parking lot near the picnic shelter, there are three designated accessible parking spaces. The signage for these spaces is installed too low at 44 1/4" or less to the bottom of the signs.
- There are 10 non-fixed picnic tables in and around the picnic shelter. Only two have required space for wheelchair seating.
- The two grills in the shelter have cooking surfaces that are too high at 32"-37 1/4".
- The controls for the drinking fountain require 17 lbs of force to operate. The controls for the spigot on the side of the unit require 14 lbs of force to operate. The water spout overshoots 2".
- The slope in front of the spigot on the side of the drinking fountain unit is 9.5%.
- There are 3 benches near the information kiosk. Two have no armrests. The one with armrests is too low with a seat height of 16".
- The running slope from the shelter to the trash receptacles is up to 5.8%. The cross slope of the sidewalk near the east curb cut is 8%.
- The trash and recycling receptacles are out of reach from the accessible route.
- The verbal description of the pictograms for each restroom is placed above the pictograms instead of below. The Braille is not located directly below the text. The restroom door requires 13 lbs of force to open.

- The running slope at the outside gate of the dog park is up to 8.2%. The concrete does not continue to the small dog entrance creating a change in level. The entrances to the large dog area and the training area are not level surfaces because the concrete does not span the entire clear width of the entrances.
- The exit gate for the large dog area cannot open to 90 degrees to provide the necessary clear width of 32".

Recommendations

- At the Polebarn, add 1 designated accessible parking space striped for a standard van accessible space (96" space with 96" access aisle) or for a universal parking space (132" space with 60" access aisle). Replace gravel with a surface that is firm and stable. Install signage at 60" min above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide additional van-accessible signage at van accessible spaces.
- Provide a 5'x5' landing at the door with a 4' ramp with edge protection. Replace door hardware with a lever handle with a push button lock.
- Install parking signs at the front center of the parking spaces near the picnic shelter so that the bottom of the sign is 60" min above the ground.
- Add or replace picnic tables so that 50% are accessible and comply with requirements for height, width and knee clearance. At least 40% of those picnic tables should be on an accessible route with 36" of clear floor space around the usable portion of the tables, measured from the back edge of the seat.
- Where 2 or more grills are provided, at least 50% but no fewer than 2 of the grills must have a cooking surface between 15" min and 34" max above the ground. Add or replace 2 grills with accessible units on accessible routes and with a clear space of 48"x48" in front of the cooking surface.
- Adjust controls on drinking fountain to allow 5 lbs max operating force.
- Correct slope around drinking fountain not to exceed 2%.
- Provide at least 50% of benches with a seat height of 17"-19" high with back support and at least one armrest.
- Correct running slope not to exceed 5% or add handrails and landings as required for ramps. Correct cross slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%; NPRM - 3%).
- Locate trash and recycling receptacles so that they are within reach range and usable from the accessible route.
- Replace restroom signs so that the text descriptors are located directly below the pictograms and the centerline of the sign is 60" above the ground (ADA-ABA - tactile characters are located 48" min above the ground from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60" max above the ground from the baseline of the highest tactile character. Braille should be located directly below the text). Adjust door closer to allow 8.5 lbs of opening force.

- The ground within the maneuvering clearance on both sides of a door or gate should be level, with slope not to exceed 2% (ADA-ABA - 2.08%). Extend concrete at all interior gates to provide level maneuvering clearance on both sides of gates.
- Repair exit gate of large dog area to open at least 90 degrees.

Appendix C

Guidelines and Standards

Reference Documents & Rationale for Use

NCA used the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) to assess parking areas, buildings, restrooms, and concession facilities.

However, ADAAG only addresses a small portion of the recreational opportunities afforded to the citizens of the Forest Preserve District of Will County. To provide the most effective and accurate accessibility assessment of all Preserve facilities and elements, several sets of guidelines were utilized in addition to the current Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (**see Table 1**).

- A. The newly revised Americans with Disabilities Act/Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADA/ABA.) On July 23, 2004, the U.S. Access Board issued new accessibility guidelines under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Architectural Barriers Act. The new guidelines are a culmination of more than 10 years of work by the Access Board to harmonize the current Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) with other model building codes. While still in the rulemaking process under the Department of Justice, these revised guidelines will likely become enforceable standards in the near future. Noticeable changes in the revised accessibility guidelines include:
 - a. Revised scoping sections
 - b. A new numbering system more consistent with other model code documents
 - c. Inclusion of the previously released rules covering play areas and recreation facilities

In addition to buildings, restrooms, concessions, and parking areas, utilizing the ADA/ABA will allow NCA to use the best available information in identifying physical accessibility barriers at children's play areas and boating and fishing facilities. These facilities, while covered by the ADA, are not currently identified in ADAAG.

- B. The U.S. Access Board's Regulatory Negotiation Committee Final Report on Outdoor Developed Areas (ODA) and the current Notice of Proposed Rule Making (7/07). The U.S. Access Board is currently developing accessibility guidelines for access to outdoor developed areas under the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), including scoping and technical provisions for campgrounds, picnic areas, scenic

overlooks, trails, benches and beaches. These guidelines, when passed as final rule, will also become part of the ADA/ABA accessibility guidelines and standards when approved by the Department of Justice.

The use of the Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report and the Access Board's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, will allow NCA to use the best available information in identifying physical accessibility barriers at the various campgrounds, picnic areas and scenic overlooks provided by the District. These facilities, while covered by the ADA, are not currently identified in ADAAG.

- C. The Illinois Accessibility Code (IAC, 1997) will be used in cases where standards/codes are different but as stringent as federal guidelines or where they are more stringent (e.g. parking, door opening force (exterior), detectible warnings for stairs/doors, and elevator handrails).

Table 1 – Accessibility guidelines used to assess physical accessibility of preserve elements

	ADAAG	ADA/ABA	ODA
Buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parking Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Restrooms	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Concession Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Children's Play Areas		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Boating and Fishing Facilities		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Picnic Tables			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Benches (outdoor)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Grills			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Campgrounds			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>