



ADA Legislation

Federal Requirements

In 1965, an increasing awareness of the problems many Americans were encountering with barriers to accessibility led Congress to create the National Commission on Architectural Barriers to Rehabilitation of the Handicapped. The Commission's charge was to: determine to what extent architectural barriers prevented access to public facilities, report on what was being done to eliminate the barriers and propose measures to eliminate and prevent barriers. The Commission's report, issued in June 1968, laid the groundwork for succeeding legislation.

The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968 became law on August 12, 1968. By passing this law, Congress expected to make Federal facilities fully accessible to people of disabilities. Congress also expected this action to set the example for state and local governments and private industry. The ABA requires access to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with Federal funds.

Several years after the ABA had become law, Congress observed that compliance was not consistent and no initiatives had been created to move ahead with producing Federal design standards for accessibility. A central agency was needed to take charge of enforcing the ABA and development of Design Standards. In consideration of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Congress, under Section 502 of this law, created the Access Board. The Board was charged with ensuring Federal agency compliance with the ABA and proposing solutions to the environmental barriers problems addressed in the ABA.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is often referred to as the first civil rights statute for persons with disabilities. Section 504 states (in part):

No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States, as defined in section 705(20) of this title, shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance or under any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency or by the United States Postal Service.

It took effect in May of 1977, and because of the successful implementation over the next several years it helped pave the way for the Virginians with Disabilities Act in 1985 and the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

The American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, Titles I & II, was signed into law on July 26, 1990, and went into effect in 1992. The ADA is a civil rights protection that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in access to jobs, public accommodations, and governmental services and programs, and public transportation and telecommunications.

Title I of the ADA prohibits private employers, state and local governments, employment agencies and labor unions from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities in job application procedures, hiring, firing, advancement, compensation, job training, and other terms conditions, and privileges of employment.

Title II of the ADA adopts the general prohibitions against discrimination contained in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, but applies to all state and local governments, regardless of whether or not they receive federal funding. It prohibits the Park District from denying persons with disabilities the equal opportunity to participate in its services, programs or activities, either directly or indirectly through contractual arrangements.

The administrative requirements contained in Title II that apply to the Park District are:

- Designation of an ADA Coordinator responsible for overseeing Title II compliance;
- Development of an ADA grievance/complaint procedure;
- Completion of a self-evaluation of facilities, programs, services, and;
- Development of a transition plan if the self-evaluation identifies any accessibility deficiencies.

On June 20th, 2007, the Access Board issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to establish accessibility guidelines pursuant to the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) for camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, outdoor recreation access routes, trails and beach access routes that are constructed or altered by or on behalf of the Federal Government. The NPRM was based on a Regulatory Negotiation Committee Report.

The Access Board has released final accessibility guidelines for outdoor developed areas based on the NPRM and the comments on the NPRM. These new guidelines are mandated for all new or altered facilities on federal property under Title I. Guidelines for other federally funded or for State and Federal Government (Title II agencies) are forthcoming. The Park District intends to utilize these new guidelines for new or altered projects in order to comply with forthcoming Title II laws.

State and Local Requirements

Accessibility requirements for the State of Minnesota ensure that people with disabilities are provided equal opportunity to benefit from all programs, activities and services, including public transportation funded by any local, state or federal public entity. To ensure accessibility when modifying existing facilities or constructing new facilities, design standards including Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines, (ADAAG), Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards, (UFAS) or the MN State Building Code must be followed.

The Park District designs facilities under the building codes adopted by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. The 2007 Minnesota State Building Code (State Building Code) adopted 2006 International Building Code (IBC) with state amendments. The State Building Code, Chapter 1341 "Minnesota Accessibility Code" incorporates and amends, by reference, both the 2006 IBC Chapter 11 "Accessibility" and the 2003 edition of ICC/ANSI A117.1. The Minnesota Accessibility Code, with references and amendments, is closely aligned with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. However, the Minnesota Accessibility Code is, in certain instances, either more or less restrictive than the 2010 ADA Standards.

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ADA Transition Plan Public Input Survey



Three Rivers Park District ADA Transition Plan Survey

Thank you for providing us with your insight about the following questions so that we can better understand how to serve you through the update of our Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

1. While using Three Rivers Park District's system of parks and trails have you, or anyone you recreate with, encountered any of the following items that limited your enjoyment of or ability to participate in recreational activities? (Circle one for each item.)

Parking areas	Yes	No
Non-paved trails	Yes	No
Sidewalks & paved trails	Yes	No
Ramps and/or stairways	Yes	No
Doorways and gates	Yes	No
Bathrooms	Yes	No
Play areas	Yes	No
Beaches	Yes	No
Picnic areas and shelters	Yes	No
Boat launches and fishing piers	Yes	No
Cross country ski trails	Yes	No
Downhill ski and snowboard areas	Yes	No
Other: _____	Yes	No

2. If you answered yes to any of the above please let us know the location of the interfering item and what it was about it that served as a barrier. Any suggestions on how to overcome the barrier are also appreciated.

3. Have you ever encountered anything that limited your enjoyment of or ability to participate in a program offered by Three Rivers? If yes, please explain what was limiting.

4. Do the parks and trails provide adequate directional and informational signage? If not, how could it be improved?



External Organization Survey and Focus Group Meeting Notes



Three Rivers Park District Organization Survey for ADA Transition Plan

Please provide your insight on the following questions so that we can understand how to best serve you and your organizations participants through an update of our Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

Name of Organization [Click here to enter text.](#)

Address [Click here to enter text.](#)

Contact Person [Click here to enter text.](#)

Position [Click here to enter text.](#)

Phon [Click here to enter text.](#)

Email [Click here to enter text.](#)

Name of person completing form [Click here to enter text.](#)

Name of the ADA coordinator(s) for your organization [Click here to enter text.](#)

1. What communications have you had with Three Rivers Park District to facilitate services and accommodations for individuals with disabilities and are there any ways we can improve those communications?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

2. Please describe any specific complaints or problems regarding accessibility to any of our park or trail facilities?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

3. Please describe any specific complaints or problems regarding accessibility to any of our programs, services, or activities?

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4. How can Three Rivers Park District best improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

5. What information or other resources can you supply to help educate or inform Three Rivers about your organization and your services for individuals with disabilities.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Please feel free to include any additional comments or information with this survey in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

If you have questions or comments to address directly with Three Rivers, please call Linda Seaton, Director of Facility Services and ADA Coordinator at 763.559.6702 or 763.559-6719 (TTY), e-mail at lseaton@threeriversparkdistrict.org or access@ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org.

Accessibility Focus Group May 16, 2013

Attendance

Courage Center: Jr. Mamea, Nels Dyste, Brandon (Operation Liberty)
VA Health Care: Kristin Powell
Staff: Margie Dahlof, Linda Seaton, and Tracy Tabaka

Communication

- Link on the Courage Center website to our information about equipment.
Golf – adaptive equipment available, how to request it and where they are located.
CC could help with assessment of ability – train participant on the use of the equipment and verify for park staff that the person is capable of using it independently or with a PCA. Could volunteers be available to assist?
- The importance of a welcoming environment, anywhere they go.
- Web page, under the specific activity page address the availability of adaptive equipment. Golf Page, XC Page, etc.
- Have an Adaptive Recreation page (one of the “Activity Page” bullets)
- A resource list or brochure of what equipment is available and how to request, could be part of the Adaptive Recreation brochure
- Could we list community partner information – who to contact Courage Center, etc.
- Vets – Their clients are not always from this area. They also serve outpatients a resource list would be helpful.
- Tracy – the transition from rehab to going out to a new environment is difficult. CC and VA work with clients to move them out of the indoor walls.
- CC and VA value the partnerships already developed. Importance of Park District staff going out to meet representatives of groups we are trying to reach.
- Bios of program staff who are teaching programs, a comfort level for participants and agency staff that they are experienced/qualified. Could we provide bios of our instructors? Could be included in the Adaptive Recreation facebook page.
- Equipment requirements – what is the plan for requests, does it require an assessment? 14 day notice.
- Make it easy for families to help bring someone to the park; keep it simple. Knowing the park; parking availability, restrooms, beach access, equipment available
- VA – Clinical referrals to parks/programs, does their staff know what we have available.
- Friend groups to promote programs. Wounded Warriors, Adaptive Rec Club,
- A link to an Outlook Calendar
- E-news potential specific to adaptive programming and accessibility news
- Most Vietnam Vets prefer a more personal invitation to events (phone, mail). Younger vets are OK with electronic ways of communication (email, facebook, websites, etc..)
- Suggest an annual round table for groups to get together to share ideas (find key agency people to invite)

Programs

- VA would be interested in a 6 week kayak program. They have done programming with Team River Runner (well funded, has equipment) perhaps partner with them, they have staff equipment, we have facility. Hyland/Bryant ideal location for VA programs. (note from Linda, Recreation staff has done some programming with Team River Run)

- Tracy – Outdoor Recreation School is also trying to do more outreach to schools to better serve all children. Importance of engaging children with disabilities in outdoor education/recreation.
- A mentorship program
- Have an agency day at one of the parks. Invite agency leaders to a weekday afternoon of programs at a park so they can get to know the staff and their qualifications. Agencies need to feel the parks are a safe, welcoming place to recommend to their clients, let them try out equipment and just be at the park. Increases the potential that they may come back with a group or recommend it to a client on their own time.
- Walk, Run, Roll event. Includes an information tent about the parks and accessibility information
- Group Homes – outings
- Nordic Walking Poles
- Hand out brochure of where adaptive equipment can be found, reserved, etc.

Facilities

- Where is the mobi mat, accessible pathways to the beach.
- Pontoon boat for fishing or cruising around a lake (sunset)
- Visually impaired clients – do we have tandem bikes (yes at Baker)
- Could we develop recreation partners – volunteers who will bike, ski, kayak.
- Twice a year recreation fair (10-2 or 10-4 on a Wednesday) open to people with disabilities and their families.

Barriers to participation

- Three Rivers provides good opportunities at HSSA and Eagle Lake Golf Center.
 - HSSA – Chalet is crowded. Ramps to snow from parking can be difficult for adaptive skiers. Only one shuttle is accessible with a lift. Perhaps more education for drivers at the beginning of the season would be helpful.
 - The tables at HSSA are not wheelchair accessible
 - For some clients the music and speaker announcements are too loud (difficult for people with sensory issues)
 - HSSA/Courage Center provides over 100 lessons a week.
- During the winter proper clothing can sometimes be a barrier.
- Golf courses, could more golf carts be available (Grant from the PGA or donation)
- Staff at HSSA at Eagle Lake are very accommodating and friendly. Appears that staff have had good training. (particularly mentioned Glenn Peterson and Martha Navis)
- Metro Mobility. Is there a bus line to the parks?
- Can we provide a bus/van to pick up people? Not all agencies have vehicles for transportation.
- Where can people leave service dogs when they are in a kayak/canoe?
- Capable Fishing organization (have boats)

Which parks to primarily focus our attention

- Hyland/Bryant, French, Elm Creek.

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