

Municipal Partnerships to Increase Recreation Access in Rural Communities

Presented by:

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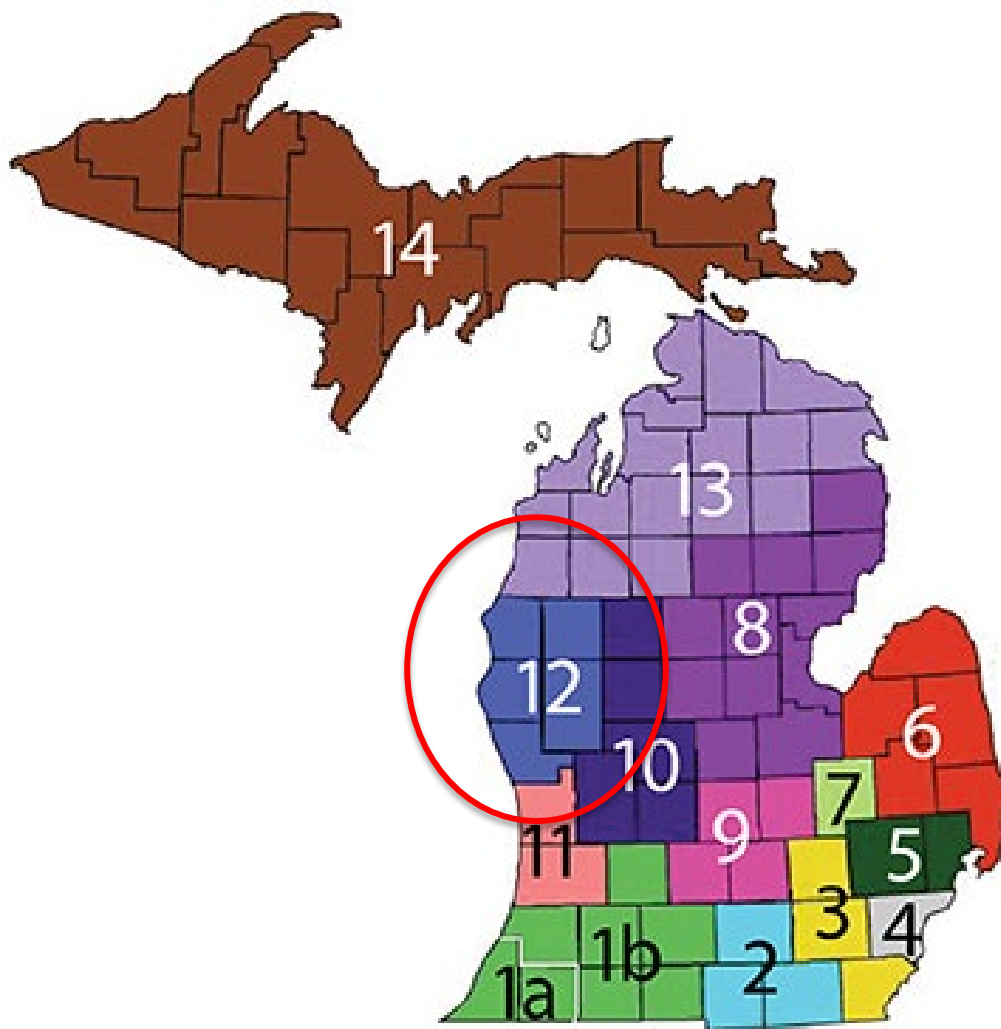
Disability Network West Michigan

Overview

- Building Capacity in Your CIL
- Building Relationships in Your Community & Getting Involved
- Developing Service Agreements
- Parks and Recreation Accessibility Basics
- Specific examples of increased accessible recreation

Disability Network West Michigan

- Serving 5 counties (Region 12)
- West Michigan is home to over 300 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, sandy beaches, lighthouses, state parks, rivers and inland lakes



Accessible Recreation- Idea Development



Capacity Building: Technical Knowledge

- Train Staff on the Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act.
 - ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program (ACTCP)
 - Great Planes ADA Center at University of Missouri
 - Webinars
 - Accessibilityonline.org
 - Regional ADA Centers
 - United States Access Board
 - In person Training
 - Annual ADA Symposium
 - ADA Coordinator Conferences

Capacity Building- Advocacy Strategies

- Once the decision is made, that your CIL is ready to build focused capacity in this area, be sure to bring your board and entire team along for the ride
- Builds intentional connection and cross-training for your team

Building Relationships

- Attend community meetings:
 - Nonprofit Collaboratives
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - City/County Commission or Township Boards
- Apply to serve on municipal committees:
 - Downtown Development Authority
 - Planning Commission
 - Equal Opportunity
 - Parks and Recreation



Building Relationships

- Offer CIL Expertise
 - Introduce Your CIL and it's programs as an in-service training to your local municipality (or consider a specific focus i.e., ADA Basics, Disability Decorum, etc.)
 - Create opportunities for consumers to be part of the feedback and relationship building process
 - Write letter's of support for funding opportunities to showcase focus for increased accessibility considerations
 - Use data to highlight importance of accessible recreation in your area (Chamber of Commerce tourism data, census data, etc.)

Get Involved

- Educate Municipal Staff and Elected Officials
 - Formal presentations (as discussed on previous slide)
 - Informal discussions
- Offer Your Experience and Expertise
 - Municipal ADA Coordinators often have other primary responsibilities.
 - Governments with less than 50 employees are not required to have an ADA Coordinator.

Support for your work

- CILs are charged with resource development
- Blend into the hot topic of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (Disability is diversity!)
- There are private consultants who will charge more and have less connection to the disability community, use your CILs edge
- Stay rooted in your role of advocacy and inclusion, to support more than bare minimum compliance of ADA. Education is a critical component

Next Phase: Co-developing the “Action”

- Services Provided
 - Accessibility Reviews
 - Parks, Playgrounds
 - Public buildings
 - Public Rights of Way/Sidewalks
 - Temporary Events
 - Design reviews
 - Audit Policies and Procedures
 - Develop Transition Plans
 - Provide Technical Assistance



Accessibility Basics: Parks and Recreation

- 2 Sources for Standards
 - Americans with Disabilities Act 2010 Standards
 - Applies to “places of public accommodation, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities in new construction, alterations, and additions.”
 - Chapter 10: Recreation Facilities
 - Architectural Barriers Act 2010 Standards
 - Applies to “facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with federal funds.”
 - Chapter 10: Recreation Facilities
 - Not enforceable for Title II or III ADA entities, but still considered best practices.
- These are bare minimum standards.

ADA Chapter 10: Recreational Facilities

- Amusement Rides
- Recreational Boating Facilities
- Exercise Machines and Equipment
- Fishing Piers and Platforms
- Golf Facilities
- Miniature Golf Facilities
- Play Areas
- Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, and Spas
- Shooting Facilities with Firing Positions

ABA Chapter 10: Recreational Facilities

- Same as ADA AND...
- Outdoor Constructed Features
 - Grills, benches, picnic tables, etc.
- Parking Spaces within Camping Units and Picnic Units and Pull-Up Spaces at Dump Stations
- Tent Pads and Tent Platforms
- Camp Shelters
- Viewing Areas
- Outdoor Recreation Access Routes
- Trails
- Beach Access Routes

Writing The Report

- Notes and Photos can be added to the fillable digital checklists.
- OR You can write your own and be more helpful.
- Under Each Priority
 - Context
 - Anything someone should know about this section
 - Findings
 - All barriers encountered
 - Standards
 - Applicable standards for each barrier identified
 - Recommendations
 - How should they remedy each barrier. (think beyond compliance)

Follow Up

- Be responsive to questions or concerns
- Provide and connect to additional resources as needed
- Stay in touch and connected once the relationship is formed
 - Inquire how plans are going and how they are staying focused on improving accessibility, continue to bring identified concerns up at meetings and encourage consumers to share their voice on the issues.

City of Whitehall Agreement

- Accessibility Reviews
 - City Hall
 - Downtown Sidewalks, On Street Parking, Storefronts
 - Public Parking Lots
 - 7 Parks
 - Sports Facilities
 - Playgrounds
 - Municipal Marina

Goodrich Park/White Lake Municipal Marina

WHITE LAKE MUNICIPAL MARINA

- 50-slip marina for seasonal and transient boat
- Restrooms and showers for marina users
- Wi-Fi access for boaters

GOODRICH PARK
120 S. Lake St., Whitehall

- Restrooms for park users
- Picnic tables
- Grills
- Picnic shelter with electricity
- Playground equipment
- Gazebo
- 960 foot bicycle/pedestrian path
- Benches and a parking/viewing area

Other labeled locations on the map include: Gazebo, Pedestrian Path, Whitehall Municipal Marina, Big John's Pizza, Armstrong bait N Sport, W Colby St, White Lake Moorings, Dunesore Boating, and City of Whitehall logo.



State Wide Activities Creating Local Impact

Here a new establishment uses our suggestion for the “GoLogo” signage over the traditional.



Boardwalks installed at 2 popular beach destinations

DNWM successfully completed campaigns for the installment of 2 boardwalks: Pere Marquette Beach in Muskegon & Stearns Beach in Ludington.



Increasing Recreational Opportunities and Quality of Life in our Communities

In one of our more rural communities, we successfully advocated for the installment of this beautiful boat launch on the Muskegon River. Annually, we host a **Vote & Float** event at this location.

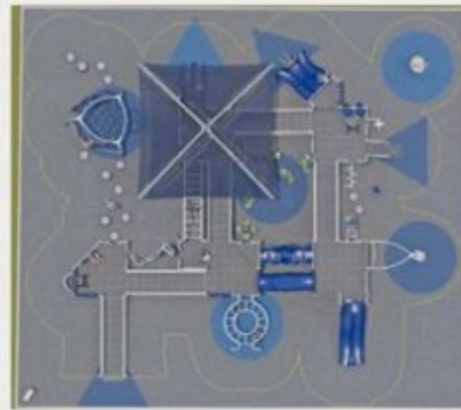


Pere Marquette Accessible Playground & Upgraded Restrooms Installed

As soon as we heard the original playground was being updated, advocacy began to ensure children and families with disabilities were considered. DNWM hosted a public input session led by the designer of the new playground. Our ED and project designer presented input to the Public Works Staff charged with the project and advocated for increased accessibility efforts. Project was completed Summer of 2019.

www.disabilitynetworkwm.org

Reese
Playground
Option
3



City reach out to DNWM for input.

The city requested in their most recent RFP that this design provide optimum accessibility. There were 3 proposals and the one we recommended was also the public favorite and provides ramped access to the entire structure.

Questions?

Contact Info:

- Brad Hastings
 - Advocacy and ADA Coordinator
 - bradh@disabilitynetworkwm.org
- Diane Fleser
 - Chief Executive Officer
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Capacity Building: Advocacy Strategies

Do:

- Build Relationships
- Talk about personal examples
- Be prepared
- Keep it short
- Be Clear
- Be honest
- Be informative
- Be Convincing
- Be On time
- Offer Solutions

Don't:

- Be Rude
- Lie
- Insult people
- Exaggerate
- Make threats
- Give up!

*Filing formal complaints should be a last resort.

Other Accessibility Components

- Must have Accessible Parking.
- Accessible Routes must serve all elements within a site.
- Restroom Facilities must be accessible.
- Drinking Fountains must be accessible.
- Offices or Lodges must be accessible.
- Areas of Sport Activity.
 - Accessible Route to both sides of player and spectator seating.
 - Wheelchair spaces at player and spectator seating

Doing an Accessibility Review

- Tools
 - Checklists
(www.adachecklist.org)
 - Software
 - Notebook/Tablet/Computer
 - Tape Measure
 - Smart Level
 - Pressure Gauge/Fish scale
 - Camera

