

Our Mission:

To work with each client to assure that programs, parks, and facilities are accessible to everyone in the community, including people with disabilities.

Solutions | Expertise | Service

recreation accessibility
consultants, llc



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Recreation Accessibility Consultants, LLC has the skill to aid park districts, park and recreation agencies, forest preserve and conservation districts, and special recreation agencies in their endeavors to provide recreation to "ALL" people.

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[Asheville NC Retains RAC](#)

The City of Asheville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department retained RAC for a system-wide access audit. RAC will also explore program supports that foster inclusive participation, and provide some advice regarding Department policies. "Our RFQ process rated RAC very highly and we are excited to continue our look at our parks and recreation infrastructure" said Seth Hendler-Voss, the Asheville Park, Planning, and Development Manager.

Our teams already visited North Carolina this month and audited facilities, and will return in the spring to audit parks and outdoor sites. With our therapeutic recreation and inclusion policy expertise, we are excited to work with Asheville staff to address this important aspect of diversity. Asheville has a long history as a groundbreaking civil rights community and we are glad to add to the many accomplishments of Asheville residents.

[Charleston \(IL\) Chamber of Commerce](#)

RAC President John McGovern spoke the morning of January 9 for the Charleston, IL Chamber of Commerce. The two hour workshop for businesses and nonprofits focused on ADA title III policy issues, the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, the Illinois Accessibility Code, and reinforced it all with a smattering of court and administrative decisions.

The workshop was prompted by our access audit work for the City of Charleston in 2012. It is always good to see some carryover after an access audit. Congratulations to the City for encouraging this workshop.

[Illinois Parks and Recreation Conference](#)

RAC will join the other W-T Engineering companies at the Illinois Parks and Recreation Conference in Chicago on January 24 and 25, 2013. Look for us at booth #734. The Illinois conference is arguably the largest state parks and recreation conference, and the second largest parks and recreation conference in the country, following the annual NRPA Congress.

[More Regarding Service Animals in the Water](#)

For more than a year now we have written about service animals in the water with their handler with a disability. While not required by the ADA or the Department of Justice, we continue to see states (like Illinois) make this a statutory requirement for pool operators.

We now hear from an access advocate in Virginia that the county Health Department has



agreed to allow service animals in the water with their handler with a disability.

This, my friends, is a trend. Be aware of it and think twice before saying no when pool staff are asked if the service animal can go in the water.

Accessible Parking Signs in Illinois

One of our park district clients had an interesting exchange with the Attorney General's Office regarding signs for accessible parking. The Attorney General says there must be two signs at the accessible stall in Illinois.

The first is the R7-8 sign (the wheelchair icon accompanied by a phrase such as RESERVED or ACCESSIBLE).

The second is the fine sign of \$250, unless the local jurisdiction has adopted a higher fine.

And...related to signs, the stall and its own access aisle must be 8' plus 8' for a total of 16'.

In a federal world, the 2010 Standards require three signs...the two Illinois requires, plus a third sign that says VAN ACCESSIBLE. This must go with a larger stall of 11', sharing a 5' access aisle, for a total of, you guessed it, 16'.

Thinking logically, the Illinois Attorney General says since all Illinois stalls and access aisles are 16' wide, the VAN ACCESSIBLE sign is not needed. We however note that every time the US DOJ Project Civic Access visits an Illinois agency, they require the third sign designating a stall as VAN ACCESSIBLE.

Our clients already know this, as it is one of our recommendations in our reports. For those of you readers who are not clients yet, we commend the third sign to you. The way we look at it, if it's good enough for the Department of Justice, it's good enough for you.

See 2010 Standards section 208.2 for the scoping of when a stall must be designated as van accessible. For you Illinois readers, save yourself the time and energy of a dispute and comply sooner, rather than later.

Golf and Wishful Thinking

Actually, that describes the mental aspects of many people's golf game well...swing and hope that the ball goes straight. In response to a business owner at the recent workshop in Charleston, RAC President John McGovern had the occasion to review and forward the Golf Course Operator Toolkit developed by the National Alliance for Accessible Golf. McGovern was on the Alliance Board when the Toolkit was drafted, and participated as a member of the Toolkit Committee. It is a good resource.

As golf courses prepare for the upcoming season (here is the wishful thinking part!) we urge you to visit the National Alliance for Accessible Golf and download the Toolkit. It is a great place to start, especially if you don't already have something like it for course staff and management.

Kansas Recreation and Parks Association

RAC President John McGovern speaks three times at the KRPA Conference in Manhattan, KS at the end of the month, January 29 to 31. He'll talk aquatics, the 2010 Standards, and policy and program issues.

Need a speaker? McGovern enjoys national, regional, and state association speaking opportunities. Reach him at john.mcgovern@rac-llc.com or 224/293-6451.

Aquatics and the 2010 Standards

We are two weeks away from the effective date of the portions of the 2010 Standards that apply to swimming facilities, spas, and wading pools. None of the technical requirements have changed.

Are you a business or nonprofit? At existing sites you must remove barriers, including barriers to water access, when doing so is readily achievable (see section 36.304 of the title III regulation at 28 CFR Part 36).

Are you a state or local government? At existing sites per the title II 35.105 requirement you must evaluate existing sites against the 2010 Standards. Per the 35.150 program access test, you must make **some** pools accessible. The right number depends on a host of factors.

Start, if you have not already, looking into pool lifts, drop in pool stairs, and other similar products. Need help? RAC can do that, just reach John at 224/293-6451 or Shelley Zuniga at 224/293-6452 or shelley.zuniga@rac-llc.com.

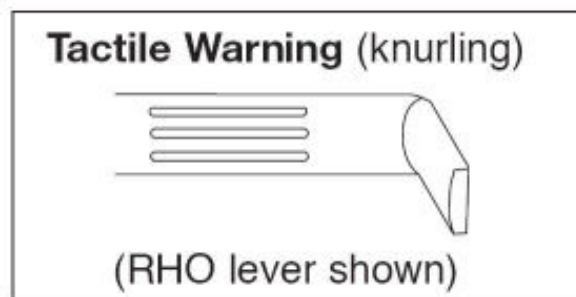
Shelley Says

Senior Project Manager Shelley Zuniga gets some of the more interesting questions we hear. She talks below about knurled hardware on doors.

WHAT IS KNURLED HARDWARE?

For those of our clients in Illinois, you will see a requirement for doors that is not in the 2010 Standards. That is the requirement that doors to spaces that are hazardous or would pose a danger to a person who is blind, such as a loading dock, boiler room, etc.

A knurled handle is one that has a rough or textured surface to warn the individual of the nature of the space they are trying to enter. In the planning process, you should look for hardware that has a knurled surface such as the one pictured below.



However, that is a costly option for the many *existing* sites that most clients manage. A great, inexpensive method for knurling existing door hardware is to purchase an abrasive tape, such as the 3M product, and affix a strip to the interior of the door lever.

adhesive tape, such as the 3M product, and attach strip to the interior of the door lever.
The 3M product comes in black, white and clear at 1" width and wider. It can be
purchased by the yard. Multiple distributors are available for this product.

For our clients out of Illinois, we recommend this as a smart practice, but do be sure to
reference your state codes as Illinois is not the only state that requires this type of tactile
warning.

Disclaimer

*Nothing in this newsletter is legal advice. It is instead a relaying of decisions and information about the
application of the Americans with Disabilities Act to public parks and recreation. Readers interested in
legal advice should seek an attorney licensed in your state that knows the ADA and can apply it to
parks and recreation.*

One Source.
Infinite Solutions.

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