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recreation accessibility consultants, llc

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New Access Icon!

New York City has, in cooperation with disability advocacy groups, kicked off the use of a new access icon for parking, lockers, entries, signs, and other typical uses. The new icon looks more like a stylized wheelchair user in action, instead of the staid and stationary wheelchair user. We like it.



Although current 2010 Standards requirements dictate the use of the international symbol of accessibility, we'd welcome this as equivalent facilitation for agencies that want to spike their signage up a bit.

Casey Martin Denied Use of a Golf Car... Again?

Former professional golfer Casey Martin coaches the men's golf team at the University of Oregon. Scouting and recruiting a high school player, he attended a U.S. Junior Amateur qualifier in Oceanside, CA. Not one to assume he'd be able to ride a golf car, as event rules prohibit spectators from doing so, he called the tournament organizer and was assured he'd be able to ride a golf car at the event.

In case you don't recall, Coach Martin has blood-circulation difficulties because of Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber syndrome, resulting in extreme pain when walking. He won a 2001 US Supreme Court decision that allowed his use of a golf car at PGA Tour events, when the question of whether a golf car was an unfair advantage for golfers competing for millions was resolved in his favor.

Unfortunately, another golf organizing body, the USGA,

IN THIS ISSUE

[New Access Icon!](#)

[Casey Martin Denied Use of a Golf Car... Again?](#)

[Rulemaking and Guidelines Still Underway](#)

[Boundless Playgrounds](#)

[Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Retains RAC for Training and Selected Site Audits](#)

[Shelley Says...](#)

[NRPA National Award Winners](#)

ABOUT US

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 people.

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USGA compelled the very same organizer to go out on the course and tell Martin, mid-round, he could not use a golf car to watch this prospect.

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How did Coach Martin feel? "I've never felt more discriminated against or unfairly taken advantage of in my entire life."

Will we see round two here? What advantage did Coach Martin have in a golf car?

Why do we write about it again? Our most urgent advice to you is that few rules are so important, so fundamental, that you can't waive the rule for a person with a disability. The title II requirements compel your agency to modify rules for people with disabilities. Beware of sport organizing bodies that tell you otherwise.

Rulemaking and Guidelines Still Underway

We have mentioned many times that rulemaking is still underway regarding several recreation-related topics. This of course includes several outdoor recreation assets such as trails and campsites, shared use paths, and more. We also expect some federal action regarding how many accessible golf cars are required at a golf course, and what an accessible fitness or exercise machine looks like.

But, don't forget the voluntary standard setting bodies such as the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). One of these groups, ASTM, has since 2008 been developing a standard titled "Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Universal Design of Fitness Equipment for Use by Persons with Functional Limitations and Impairments." Whew! The F08-30 Committee work, like all the voluntary standards, will eventually include definitions, a percentage of exercise machines that must be accessible, technical requirements that define an accessible exercise machine (location, height, width, hand controls, seat, moveable seat, larger LED display, sound, etc.).

For more information visit ASTM at <http://www.astm.org/>. This issue will undoubtedly become important for public parks and recreation agencies as ASTM standards have, several

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Does your agency have fitness facilities? Are you buying new fitness machines in the next several years? Don't wait, look here sooner rather than later and get ahead of the curve.

Boundless Playgrounds

The evolution of accessible playgrounds has been great to watch. Many parks and recreation agencies and some schools developed accessible playgrounds in the 80's, well before any federal guidance was available.

In the 90's, after the ADA became effective, a nonprofit motivated by the desire to create playscapes that kids with disabilities could more fully use, grew in Connecticut. Boundless Playgrounds, formed by Amy Jaffe Barzach, helped agencies from California to yes, Connecticut, better serve their communities by developing more than 200 accessible playgrounds. Remember there were no playground design standards then so there was a huge and rapidly growing demand for this service.

Eventually though, the 2010 Standards caught up to the demand. As you know, those Standards adopted both scoping and technical requirements for every playground designed or constructed after March 15, 2012. And, existing playgrounds, those designed or installed before 2012, are to be evaluated against the Standards.

So as with many things, Boundless has changed. It's mission is to assure that playgrounds enable, and facilitate, play between children with and without disabilities and their families. Partnered with PlayCore, the new Boundless will continue to develop inclusive playgrounds and encourage inclusive play opportunities.

RAC President John McGovern is pleased to join the Board of Directors of Boundless Playgrounds and looks forward to continuing this good work.

Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Retains RAC for Training and Selected Site Audits

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retained RAC for audits of selected sites and staff training. Department Director Barbara Baca said "We have been following this for years and as opportunities arise, we make our new sites accessible. We have, however, more than 450 sites and we need a system and expertise for our existing sites." She added that retaining RAC makes sense because of our familiarity with training as well as access audits.

Baca is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Board of Directors. "We watch our resources carefully, and having a 5% discount in our fee because our staff or citizens are active in NRPA was important to us."

RAC starts in Albuquerque July 22.

Shelley Says...

This month Senior Project Manager Shelley Zuniga writes about passenger loading zones.

PASSENGER LOADING ZONES – Section 503

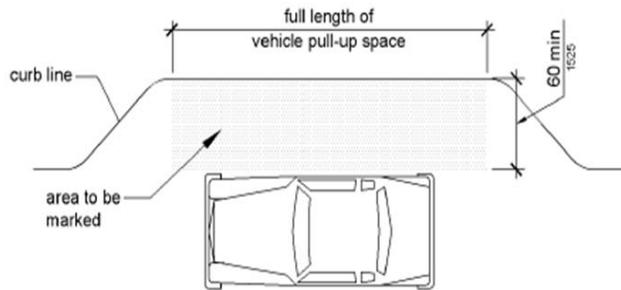
Passenger loading zones provide a convenience to patrons using a facility or park. They are an easy way to drop a busload of children off, shield from harsh weather exposure, and provide an easy route for patrons with disabilities to an accessible entrance. In most sites we have visited, the only identifier for a passenger loading zone is a sign; but in most cases there is nothing to tell a patron that this is a designated drop off area.

The 2010 Standards require passenger loading zones to have a pull-up space and access aisle. The pull-up **space** should be **8' wide and 20' long**. The **access aisle** must be adjacent to the pull-up space, and **5' wide**. Both must have a vertical clearance of 114" minimum. The access aisle should not overlap with the vehicular way, and should extend the full length of the pull-up space and be marked to be distinguished from the pull-up space.

The access aisle must also **connect to an accessible route**, so passengers can get to the entrance of the facility or park. This will typically mean the access aisle has a curb ramp at

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the space and access aisle should be firm and stable, without gaps or changes in level. That includes the surface between the pull-up space and the access aisle; no changes in level are permitted. The **slope** of the passenger loading zone **cannot exceed 1:48 (2.08%)** in any direction. Signage should also be provided to discourage regular parking in the loading zone.



So...when planning to offer a passenger loading zone, be sure to double check the Standards to provide one of an accessible design. Keeping these accessible, will be a great step towards letting all patrons enjoy your facility or park!

NRPA National Award Winners

The National Recreation and Park Association national awards have been determined and we are proud to see several of our clients in the list. No, these are not the Gold Medal Awards...look for news about that in October!

In the meantime, congratulate these people and these agencies!

- **Excellence in Inclusion Award:** Northwest Special Recreation Association, Rolling Meadows, IL **(one of our clients...policy, general consult, access audit)**
- **Facility or Park Design Award:** Smale Riverfront Park, Cincinnati, OH **(one of our clients...training, access audit strategy, transition plan strategy!)**
- **Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award:** McHenry County Conservation District, Woodstock, IL **(one of our clients...training, access audit strategy, general consult!)**

Other Award recipients included:

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Antonio Parks & Recreation, TX

- **Robert M. Artz Citizen Advocacy Award:** Dundee Jones
- **Robert W. Crawford Young Professional Award:** Tom Venniro
- **Kudos Marketing Award:** BREC, Baton Rouge, LA
- **National Distinguished Professional Award:** Seve Ghose
- **National Partnership Award:** Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, PA
- **Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt Award for Excellence in Recreation and Park Research (Individual):** Alan Graefe

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.



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For a proposal or further information, contact the industry's leading professional:
john.mcGovern@rac-llc.com

2675 Pratum Avenue
 Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
 Phone: 224-293-6450
 Fax: 224-293-6455
 Website: RAC-llc.com

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