



Sandwich Park District Retains RAC for System-Wide Access Audit

The Sandwich (IL) Park District retained RAC for a system-wide access audit and transition plan. Executive Director Sue Swithin sat in on a session regarding access audits and ADA compliance at the Illinois Parks and Recreation Conference in January. She says, "We of course knew about the requirements, and when we have renovated sites, have complied. But it was time to act with regards to our existing sites, and RAC was our choice."

We started our work in early May and look to have all reports to the District this summer.

Complaints About Service Animal Fraud on the Rise

There are too many too count! From Oregon to Maine, from Florida to Minnesota, we are reading about pet owners who have selfishly bought "service animal vests" online so they can take their pet to events, restaurants, stores, parks and recreation facilities, swimming pools, and more. **A service animal is not a pet, it is a tool.** A pet that barks or snarls at a working service animal . . . [Click HERE to read more.](#)

What is an Access Audit...an A/E Project? Risk Management? Something Else?

A municipality with a great system, award winning staff, and award winning agency too, discussed their city engineer's decision to go with an A/E firm for its access audit. That surprised us a bit. We **do** see cities, counties, and park districts from time to time make this an A/E project. **It isn't, it is more than that.**

An architect certainly ought to be able to design "new" so it

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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.

[More About RAC...](#)

is in compliance. I'll say most do so...we of course see some real horror story sites where the architect (or the contractor) is not current. But for new sites, those are the exception.

And many architects and engineers do know the black-and-white of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design.

But the evaluation of existing sites, programs, and facilities, followed by a transition plan isn't an A/E project. Why? [Click HERE to read more.](#)

Amazing Technology...a 3-D Hand?

We continue to see amazing strides in prosthetic technology. A Rockford, IL girl born without the fingers on her left hand is the beneficiary of an amazing high school project. Yes, this is from our favorite daily source of news, the Inclusion Daily Express. Rockford Boylan Catholic High School, after being approached by the father of the girl, created for about \$5 what would have cost \$50,000. [Click HERE to read more.](#)

Calumet-Memorial Park District Retains RAC for System-Wide Access Audit and Transition Plan

"We have had this on our to-do list and considered several proposals," said Eric Schneider, Director of Operations for the Calumet-Memorial Park District (IL). He added, "In the end, we liked the experience and approach of Recreation Accessibility Consultants." RAC teams start audits May 19 and we look forward to helping the District make its many opportunities accessible to people with disabilities.

Family Sues Preschool for Rejecting Son with Autism

Privately owned open-to-the-public sites, like a preschool or child care facility, are subject to title III of the ADA. And we know that there are always at least two sides to a dispute. Here, the family claims that the preschool accepted their son, but then after he was accepted, the family received a diagnosis that their son has autism. They made the preschool aware of that, and according to the family, having never met the boy, the preschool **then rescinded the acceptance.** [Click HERE to read more.](#)

Shelley Says...

WHAT IS SAFE HARBOR?

QUICK LINKS

[WTEngineering.com](#)

[BrusseauDesignGroup.com](#)

[IAD-llc.com](#)

[CDG-llc.com](#)

Unfair.

That's what you'd say if your agency built a facility in 2002, followed all of the access standards requirements, and woke up September 15, 2010 and realized the technical requirement you followed was now replaced by something completely different. [Click HERE to read more.](#)

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.



THE W-T FAMILY OF COMPANIES

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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