Appendix A: Parks Division ADA Transition Plan

Purpose

The purpose of Parks Accessibility is to ensure that public recreation facilities public are useable and accessible for people with disabilities.

Background

In 2018, the Commission on Persons with Disabilities and the City of Madison Parks Division hired ADA Limited, a consultant specializing in public accommodation and the Americans with Disabilities Act, to assist in establishing a set of design standards and priorities. These standards and priorities comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and was be used for both the modification of existing facilities and the construction of new accessible facilities. The ADAAG were originally developed for buildings and structures and had to be adapted for open spaces, such as picnic areas or soccer fields.

In 2024 the City of Madison began the process of revitalizing it's ADA Transition Plan. A Transition Plan includes a self-evaluation of all programs, facilities, employment policies, and the public right-of-way. The self-evaluation process generates a current state description of compliance and potential barriers to access. The Parks department completed a self-evaluation of facilities using the 2010 ADA Design Standards Existing Facilities Checklist[1] for relevant facilities within their jurisdiction. The ADA has different standards for buildings and facilities based on when they were constructed or altered (28 CFR § 35.151(c)). The 2010 ADA Design Standards include requirements for recreation facilities such as recreational boating areas, golf facilities, play areas, swimming pools, wading pools, and spas. They also include standard building elements such as parking, approach and entrance, access to goods and services, restrooms, and shelters.

Evaluations of parks facilities were completed using a combination of methods due to the volume of facilities and availability of resources. Staff reviewed all parks via satellite imagery to assess elements related to approach and entrance. Buildings, including shelters and restrooms, were evaluated in-person. We anticipate that access barriers in parks and recreation facilities will be incorporated into our Capital Improvement Plan, and that as park facilities are replaced or upgraded, they will be brought into compliance with modern ADA standards through the City of Madison ADA Transition Plan. We expect that by identifying which barriers can be removed through existing projects and which must be addressed independent of other projects, we will have a plan that brings our parks facilities into compliance through the Transition Plan process.

Future removal of access barriers and monitoring of Parks Accessibility will be incorporated into the City of Madison ADA Transition, once approved, and monitored by the designated ADA coordinator. The ADA Coordinator for the City of Madison is:

Rebecca Hoyt
Disability Rights and Services Specialist
RHoyt@cityofmadison.com
608-266-6511

[1] New England ADA Center (2010). *ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities*. Accessed from https://www.adachecklist.org/

Standards for Park Facilities and Activities

All facilities installed constructed or altered after March 2013 will comply with the 2010 ADA Design Standards, or other current design standards. All Madison Parks Division buildings and structures will meet the physical accessibility standards in the ADAAG.

Report and Access Concern

To report a barrier to access related to parks and recreation facilities, contact 408-266-4711 or parks@cityofmadison.com. Language access services are available.