

Ada Township Parks & Recreation
7330 Thornapple River Drive
Ada, Michigan 40301
Site Accessibility Report

Prepared by Disability Advocates of Kent County



May 15, 2017



Introduction

Background

The Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department wishes to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment for employees, residents, and visitors to the recreation facilities in Roselle Park (1010 Grand River Drive NE), Leonard Field Park (7490 Thornapple River Drive SE), and Ada Township Park (1180 Buttrick Avenue SE). To meet this goal, Mark Fitzpatrick, Director of Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department, sought an evaluation of the accessibility of the park facilities and what needed to be done to meet ADA Standards. This evaluation follows a similar audit that was performed in 2011. Mark Fitzpatrick enlisted Disability Advocates of Kent County to evaluate the sites, and report the findings.

Disability Advocates of Kent County has over thirty-three years of experience in working with local municipalities and businesses on improving accessibility in our community. Past projects include the review of construction plans for Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Rivertown Crossings Mall, John Ball Park Zoo, and The Van Andel Arena. Additionally, site assessments were conducted for the Kent County District Library, Grand Rapids ArtPrize 7 exhibition venues, the City of Walker, and the Kent County Health Department.

How to Use This Report

The plan review and associated reports provide a snapshot in time of a facility. While some conditions such as restroom configuration, are unlikely to change without significant planning and preparation, other elements such as furniture placement, may have been altered since the time of the evaluation. This report provides a foundation on which to build. The evaluation of facilities should be an ongoing process.

This report is in no way intended to certify compliance or non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Many of the factors which can affect whether or not a facility is ADA Compliant are outside the scope of the evaluation performed by Disability Advocates of Kent County, and can include:

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- What date was the last renovation to a particular area of the facility conducted?
- If there have been renovations, what was the cost of the accessibility improvements in proportion to the overall renovation budget?
- What is the cost of accessibility improvements in relation to the overall budget of the facility or its parent organization?
- Is it possible to meet ADA Guidelines given the physical constraints of the property?
- Would meeting the technical Guidelines of the ADA reduce the overall accessibility or usability of the facility?
- If it is infeasible to meet the ADA Guidelines, have alternate means of accessibility or accommodation been implemented?

In addition, compliance with ADA technical Guidelines does not guarantee that a facility is accessible to the maximum extent possible. The ADA is intended as a baseline standard that will result in minimum accessibility at a majority of facilities. Additions or improvements to a facility may be desired to improve facility functionality for the maximum number of users.

For the purpose of this report, each element on the sites was evaluated individually. Unless specifically required by the ADA Guidelines, elements were not evaluated in relation to another. This means that, for example, while the ADA Guidelines would require that a room have at least one accessible door that adjoins an accessible route, the Disability Advocates team evaluated all doors to the room, even after it was determined that an accessible route was present.

Recommendations are divided into three levels:

- **Level 1** modifications include moving furniture, staff training, minor modifications to existing equipment, etc.
- **Level 2** modifications include purchasing equipment, significant modifications to existing equipment, or significant research or planning.
- **Level 3** modifications likely require construction and/or significant expense.

Terminology:

Unless otherwise specified, the term “slope” is used to denote a continuous change of level in the direction of travel and the term “cross slope” is used to denote a continuous change of level counter to the direction of travel.

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Process:

Between March 14, 2017 and May 17, 2017, Disability Advocates of Kent County evaluated the Roselle Park, Leonard Field Park, and Ada Township Park. This evaluation was performed by Disability Advocates of Kent County Accessibility Specialist Jackson Botsford.

The Accessibility Specialist collected measurements on the elements located in the parking lots, recreational trails, play elements, park offices, including (but not limited to) the accessible routes connecting accessible elements, entry points to structures, and the presence of clear floors spaces in restrooms, and specifications of restroom fixtures. Each measurement was then recorded and compared to the ADA Guidelines, and was given a score from 0 – 3:

- **Rating 0** indicating that an element is not at all accessible.
- **Rating 1** indicating that an element is essentially functional for most people with disabilities, but does not meet ADA Guidelines.
- **Rating 2** indicating that an elements meets ADA Guidelines but there is still room for improvement
- **Rating 3** indicating that an element meets Universal Design¹ Principals.

These individual scores area averaged into two overall scores for each area or fixture. The first score is the ADA rating which takes into account only those elements which are required by the ADA Guidelines.

¹ Universal Design: Universal Design involves designing products and spaces so that they can be used by the widest range of people possible. Universal design evolved from Accessible Design, a design process that addresses the needs of people with disabilities. Universal Design goes further by recognizing that there is a wide spectrum of human abilities. Everyone, even the most able-bodied person, passes through childhood, periods of temporary illness, injury and old age. By designing for this human diversity, we can create things that will be easier for **all people** to use. SOURCE: <http://www.universaldesign.com/about-universal-design.html>

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The second score is the Universal Design rating, which takes into account all the elements required by the ADA Guidelines, along with elements of some areas and fixtures which are not required but can significantly impact accessibility. The intent for the second rating is to help establish a “best practice” approach to accessibility.

Please note that for many elements, such as a restroom mirror, the element must meet ADA Guidelines when it is provided even when that element is not required.

Recommendations for each fixture were determined based primarily on elements with a score indicating that it does not meet or exceeds the ADA Guidelines. In some instances, no recommendations for elements which do not meet ADA Guidelines were provided because it was judged likely that alterations were technically unfeasible or not worth the financial investment for a small gain. One example of this is where providing sufficient clear floor space outside of the door swing of a water closet door would involve moving the door.

In other instances, Universal Design recommendations were included despite an element meeting ADA Guidelines. One example of this is recommending the widening doorways to 36-inches.

Executive Summary

Roselle Park at 1010 Grand River Drive NE, Leonard Field Park at 7490 Thornapple River Drive SE, and Ada Township Park at 1180 Buttrick Avenue SE in Ada, were evaluated between March 14th 2017 and May 17th 2017. Existing conditions and recommendations do not encompass any alterations made after that date. Each of the sites have several barriers to accessibility with the accessible routes in the exterior spaces, primarily in sections of trails and walking paths that are adjacent to the park structures.

Ada Township Park

The spaces and park structures at Ada Township Park at 1180 Buttrick Avenue SE that may be difficult to impossible to access by persons with mobility or coordination impairments include:

- **The Parking Lot by the Baseball Diamond:** The parking lot contains 65 total parking spaces. There are no designated accessible parking spaces present. Currently, if the spots near to the baseball diamond seating are occupied, a guest with a disability may need to park in the Ada Township Parks Office lot. This is a very long distance to travel for people with limited mobility, stamina or strength. Under the ADA Design Standards, for a lot of this size, at least Three (3) designated accessible parking spaces should be present nearest to the path to the baseball diamond seating area, with at least One (1) of the spaces being designated as being Van-Accessible (**Level 2 recommendation**). The Curb Ramp that at the beginning of the path to the Baseball Diamond is damaged, with significant changes in level and fracturing. This may prevent guests with assistive technology such as walkers, wheelchairs, and scooters from passing the damaged sections of the accessible route to the Baseball Diamond, and should be repaired (**Level 2 recommendation**).

- **The Ada Township Parks Office and Les Craig Learning Center:** The Office entrance threshold and the Learning Center threshold exceeds ½-inch. The concrete pads at these entrances have a minor slope to reduce the threshold from what would otherwise be in excess of 1-inch. At least once of these entrances should have a threshold that does not exceed ½-inch. This may be accomplished by constructing a wooden, metal, or concrete threshold ramp (**Level 2 recommendation, see right**). Another more permanent option is to plan to regrade the surface of the parking lot and concrete pad at the entrances so as to ensure that the current threshold does not exceed ½-inch. This may be done at the time when the parking lot surface is repaved (**Level 3 recommendation**). The entrance ramp in the Les Craig Learning Center has no handrails. Handrails allow people to have support while moving up the ramp, and provide indications that the ramp incline is ending or beginning. Handrails should be installed along both sides of the ramp length (**Level 2 recommendation**). The accessible restroom in the Ada Township Parks Office has a wall-mounted paper towel dispenser that protrudes far out from the wall next to the sink. This fixture is in compliance with the ADA, however the device placement obstructs the clear-space in front of sink, and may block the headspace for people using the sink. To comply with Universal Design principles, the paper towel dispenser should be moved away from the sink clear space (**Level 1 recommendation**). The Mirror in the accessible restroom is mounted at 51-inches above the floor. To comply with the ADA, the mirror should be lowered to be not higher than 40-inches above the floor (**Level 1 recommendation**).
- **The Maintenance Building/Garage:** The Service Garage entrance threshold exceeds 1-inch. As the sole entrance to the structure, this element should have threshold that does not exceed ½-inch. This may



be accomplished using the same techniques presented above for the Ada Township Parks Office thresholds (**Level 2 recommendation**). The door at the entrance has a Knob-style handle. This may present a barrier to people with limited grip strength or manual dexterity from using the entrance. The door opening mechanism should be replaced with Lever-style handle, so as to enable the use of the door without twisting, grasping, or pinching (**Level 2 recommendation**).

- **The Public Park Restroom and Shelter:** There is significant fracturing and separation between the concrete floor of the Shelter and surrounding pavement. There is no significant changes in level or settling between these surfaces. To comply with the ADA, the fractures and gaps should be filled to provide a firm stable surface to transition between the Shelter floor and pavement (**Level 3 recommendation**). The Barbecue grill is located on a concrete and brick pad, which provides a stable and level surface and would be considered accessible. However the concrete and brick pad is surrounded by turf and soil. Some guest may not be able to cross over turf and soil in assistive devices such as wheelchairs and scooters. As the element is a major park structure and is a signature draw for guests, the barbecue and grill should be made accessible. This may be accomplished by connecting a firm and stable path from the existing paved routes to at least one side of the structure. This material may be concrete, asphalt, or a poured-in-place surface (**Level 3 recommendation**). The public restrooms have sinks that lack insulated pipes and plumbing. This presents a hazard from contact with extreme temperatures and impacting sharp or hard surfaces. To comply with the ADA, the under-sink plumbing should be wrapped in a plastic or foam material to prevent direct contact (**Level 2 recommendation**).

- **Play Elements:** The Play Elements for the recessed sand pit include sand shovels and a sand table. The sand shovels require repairs as the lever mechanisms are disconnected. The sand table is adjacent to the edge of the sand pit and the surrounding pavement, and would be considered accessible. However the edge of the pavement does not completely abut the table. The sand pit edge bows outward to table element. This creates significant gaps between the pavement and the table, with a drop in excess of 3-inches to the sand pit surface. Currently guests with assistive technology such as wheelchairs and scooters may have difficulty fully approaching the sand table, or potentially pass over the edge of the pavement into the sand pit. Ideally, pavement should extend at least 8-inches passed the front fascia under the sand table, under at least one (1) of the sand table stations (**Level 3 recommendation**).
- **Playground:** The playground is surfaced with compacted wood chips. This is acceptable, as long as the wood chips are routinely maintained to ensure that the surface is level and stable. Currently, the wood chips are not well maintained. There are frequent divots, and significant mounding can be found along the accessible routes through the playground area. To make the playground accessible, the surface should be raked to ensure that play area is level, and new wood chips be brought in to fill in the divots and holes (**Level 2 recommendation**). Ideally, the wood chips would be replaced with a poured-in-place surface. In addition to providing a very firm and stable surface, the costs associated with maintaining an accessible wood chip play surface, including cost for labor and purchasing of materials, would no longer be required (**Level 3 recommendation**). The woodchip surface is accessed by a protruding-style curb ramp near the sand pit element. This type of curb ram is acceptable. However the ramp is not very well maintained. There is a 1-inch high transition at the top of the ramp. This may prevent guests from crossing over the transition and accessing the playground surface level. This transition should be



ground do to be flush with the ramp surface (**Level 2 recommendation**). In addition, the base of the ramp abuts the wood chip surface of the playground. Care should be taken to ensure that the wood chips are well maintained and provide a level and stable space at the bottom of the ramp (**Level 1 recommendation**). The main play structure is equipped with a paved accessible ramp. Currently, the sides of the paved ramp are not protected at the top of the ramp near the transition to the play structure. At its most extreme, there is a 12-inch drop off the sides of the ramp. This may present the risk of guests rolling or falling off the sides of the ramp. Making this ramp accessible may be accomplished by either constructing a curb along the sides of the paved ramp that is not less than 4-inches high (**Level 3 recommendation**), or continuing the turf and soil so as to be flush with the edge of the paved ramp up to the existing retaining wall (**Level 2 recommendation**). There is an accessible swing set on the east side of the playground. The safety bar on one of the swings is not able to be secured and needs to be repaired (**Level 2 recommendation**). The playground has a second play structure without an access ramp. This element has a transfer platform instead. The transfer platform is has a slope that exceeds a 6.2% grade. This presents a hazard for guests who may fall off the platform. The transfer platform should be repaired so that the slope in any direction does not exceed 2.0% (**Level 3 recommendation**). The only accessible routes to the playground wood chip surface level are via the curb ramp near the sand pit, and the curb ramp near Public Restroom and Shelter. This is acceptable under the ADA. However, there is a significant distance between the ramps and the play elements on the other side of the playground, including the accessible swing set. By adding a third curb ramp near the swing set, the overall accessibility of the playground would be greatly improved (**Level 3 recommendation**).

- **Event Board by the Tennis Courts:** The board is located away from the paved path. The board is surrounded by turf and soil. This configuration may prevent people with assistive technology such as scooters and walkers from directly accessing the board. To make the event board accessible, the event board may either be moved and positioned so that it directly abuts the paved path (**Level 3 recommendation**), or have a concrete pad built at the base of the posting side of the event board with a concrete path that connects to the existing path (**Level 3 recommendation**).
- **The Tennis Courts:** The entrances to all the tennis courts are very narrow, at 30-inches wide. In addition, the points of egress require sharp turns while moving through the narrow spaces. These entrances should be reconfigured so that the route is at least 36-inches wide, and should the route make sharp turns there should be a 60-inch diameter turning space (**Level 3 recommendation**). The tennis courts south of the E.E. Locke Arboretum are surrounded by turf and soil, and as such there is no accessible route to this element from the nearest paved path. In addition to the above recommendation, there should be firm, stable, and level path from the paved route to the tennis court surface (**Level 3 recommendation**). The four tennis courts by the Ada Township Parks Office have a gate that provides an alternative means of access aside from the narrow winding main entrances. However the gate is not indicated and may be overlooked. In addition, the threshold at the opening in the chain-link fence between the paired courts is severely damaged with fracturing and pitting. This prevents access to the second tennis court from the accessible gate entrance. To make the tennis courts accessible, the gate should be marked with a sign, and the other entrances should indicate that there is an alternative accessible entrance on the east side of the court. These signs should have contrasting characters and display the Universal Symbol of Accessibility (**Level 1 recommendation**). Additionally, the threshold that separates the paired tennis courts should be repaired to provide a stable and level transition between the spaces (**Level 2 recommendation**).



- **Tennis Court Seating:** There is very few seating options surrounding the four Tennis Courts by the Ada Township Park Office. The memorial bench is located off the paved path and on a berm. As this is the only seating option, this may prevent guests with assistive technology such as wheelchairs, walkers, or scooters, from spectating tennis events. Guests who are not able to move up steep inclines may also be discouraged from using the memorial bench. To make this space accessible, the bench may be moved to be directly adjacent to the paved path (**Level 2 recommendation**). Alternatively, a concrete Companion Pad may be constructed beside the existing bench.
- **The Southwest Parking Lot:** The lot contains sixty-seven (67) parking spaces. For a lot of this size, the ADA specifies at least three (3) designated accessible parking spaces. This lot contains 2 van-accessible parking spaces. At least one (1) accessible parking space should be created. This may be accomplished by marking a currently non-designated spaces and installing a sign with the Universal Symbol of Accessibility, and creating an access aisle along at least one (1) side of parking space. This aisle may be shared with another designated accessible parking space. This accessible space and aisle should be as near to the paved path to the park as possible. (**Level 1 recommendation**). There is a designated parking space with an access aisle on both sides. The ADA requires that each access aisle connect to an accessible route that measures at least 36-inches wide. This is accomplished in this lot by passing the 36-inch wide route in front of the parking space. This is acceptable under the ADA. However, one concern is that if a vehicle pulls too far forward the accessible route will be obstructed. As a practical recommendation, and to prevent this happening, there should be a parking block or wheel stop at the front of parking space (**Level 2 recommendation**).
- **The Southeast Parking Lot:** There are three (3) designated accessible parking spaces present in this lot. However, the spaces are not indicated with a sign depicting the Universal Symbol of Accessibility. Under the ADA, a painted symbol on the pavement is not adequate indication. All three spaces should have a sign with the Universal Symbol of Accessibility in contrasting colors. In addition, at least one of these designated accessible parking spaces should be

made van-accessible. The spaces nearest to the path to the park have dimensions that satisfy the criteria for van-accessible spaces. When the signage is installed, at least one should be marked in contrasting text: “Van-Accessible” (**Level 2 Recommendation**).

- **The Ponds:** There are places at the fishing pier where the board surfaces are damaged. The damage is primarily found where the wooden planks meet the asphalt pavement. The broken boards should be replaced to prevent tripping while moving through this area (**Level 2 recommendation**).
- **The Ponds, Bridges:** Each of the bridges share the same concerns. The handrails on each of the bridges are 31 ½- inches high. The handrails should be raised so as to be not less than 34-inches high and not more than 38-inches high. This may be accomplished by installing rails higher up on the balusters and posts, as these elements have sufficient height to accommodate higher railings, but were installed lower as a design choice (**Level 2 recommendation**). The approach to the bridges also have concerning elements. These routes slope up to the bridge level from the path. The concern is that the sides of the path are unprotected, with a sharp drop off near the bridge retaining wall. This is compounded by the fact that the handrails on the bridge flair outwards. A guest that is using the handrails for direction and support may mistakenly continue in the direction of the handrails and fall off the path down a significant drop. This may lead to falling into the water. The sides of the path that lead bridges should be protected. This may be accomplished by continuing the rails down the full slope of the ramps that lead to the bridge (**Level 3 recommendation**). Another option is to build up the landscape along the sides of the path up to the bridges. Planting tall, dense vegetation on this built-up landscape would provide adequate edge protection. The concern with this option is that erosion would likely occur without extending the bridge retaining walls (**Level 3 recommendation**). The thresholds at each of the bridges also show signs of damage. These transitions between the wood planks and asphalt pavement have pitting, cracking, and changes in level in excess of ¾-inches. These pose a tripping hazard and should be repaired (**Level 2 recommendation**).

- **Pond Overlook Deck:** The asphalt pavement that leads to the Overlook Deck is significantly damaged. The roots of the surrounding trees have caused extensive cracking of the surface. The ground of the overlook has also settled, creating a slope down to the water edge. This poses a tripping hazard and may make accessing the Overlook difficult to impossible for people with disabilities. These surfaces should be repaired to create a stable and level surface. The overlook itself should have a slope and cross slope that does not exceed a 2% grade (**Level 3 recommendation**).
- **The Prairie/Fan Restoration:** The Kody Event Board is located more than 60-inches away from the side of the paved path. There is no stable or level clear-space in front of the board. This makes it difficult to impossible for people with assistive technology such as wheelchairs or walkers to get close to the display. The board should either be moved to be directly adjacent to the paved path, or a concrete or asphalt pad should be constructed in front of the event board that connects to the existing path (**Level 3 recommendation**).
- **The E.E Locke Arboretum Gazebo & The Ponds Gazebo:** The Arboretum and Ponds Gazebo each have a grill station for guest's use. However the grill stations are located away from the stable and level surface of the Gazebo floor. The Gazebos are a main feature of the park and the adjacent grill should be made accessible. As the Gazebos are primarily wood, the grills cannot be moved to be directly adjacent to the structure. However a concrete or asphalt pad should be added that directly connects with the wooden floor of the Gazebo (**Level 3 recommendation**). The grill station cooking surface is over 36-inches above the ground. This may be a barrier to guests who use assistive technology such as wheelchairs or scooters, and who may not be able to use a cooking surface that is so far off the ground, or who are unable to safely use the station with the flame element so close to the face. The grill station cooking surface should be lowered so that it not higher than 36-inches above the ground (**Level 2 recommendation**).



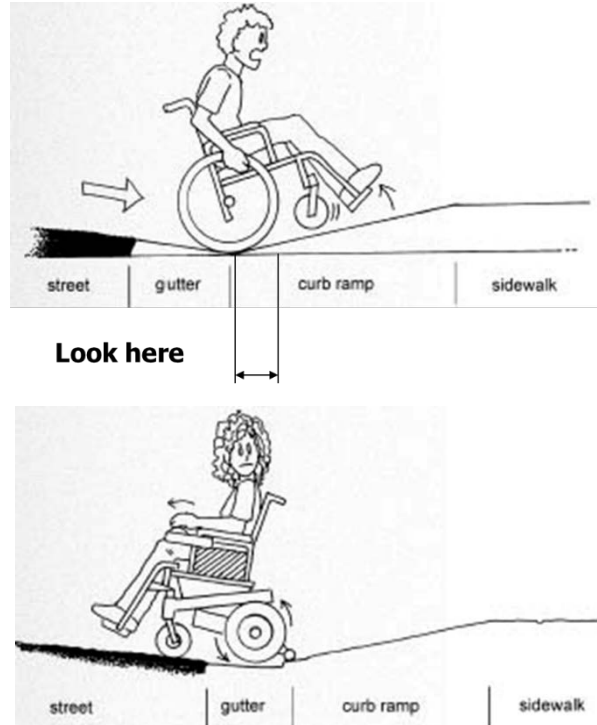
- A final note regarding the Ada Township Park is that the waste receptacles that are spread throughout the park should be placed near the paved paths. If the receptacles placed on turf or soil away from the paths, this may prevent people with assistive technology such as wheelchairs, walkers, and scooters from accessing them. Management should make it general policy to place these elements adjacent to the paved routes throughout the park (**Level 1 recommendation**).

Leonard Field Park

The spaces and park structures at Leonard Field Park at 7490 Thornapple River Drive SE that may be difficult to impossible to access by persons with mobility or coordination impairments include:

- **The Field Overlook:** The concrete pavers that compose of the surface of the overlook are uplifting due settling and erosion. In particular, the changes in level are most prominent by the picnic tables. These present a tripping hazard and should be made level. This may be accomplished by grinding down the uplifted areas to bevel the changes in level (**Level 2 recommendation**).
- **The Baseball Diamond:** Due to surrounding terrain, there is no accessible path to the field from the surrounding sidewalks and routes. People with wheelchairs, walkers, and scooters will be unable to get onto the field. In order to comply with the ADA, there should be a stable, level path from the sidewalks to the ball diamond. As the route would be unable to connect to the sidewalks along the parking lot, the new route may connect to the back of the field near the river overlook. This route may be asphalt or concrete and should be at least 36-inches wide, though a width of 60-inches is recommended (**Level 3 recommendation**). A new gate should be provided at the back of the ball diamond that is at least 36-inches wide to provide access to the field (**Level 3 recommendation**). To help direct guests, a sign should be placed near the sidewalk to indicate where the accessible entrance to the ball diamond is located. The text should be contrasting colors (**Level 2 recommendation**).

- The Parking Lot:** The parking lot is in excellent condition. However, the curb ramp located near the designated accessible parking spaces is a barrier. The ramp slope is ADA compliant. The Ramp-Gutter Transition, or the section of the ramp nearest the Gutter, is significantly steeper. This may make it difficult to impossible to use the ramp while using certain models of assistive technology. Requiring guests to use the curb ramps at the other ends of the parking lot is not acceptable. One way to

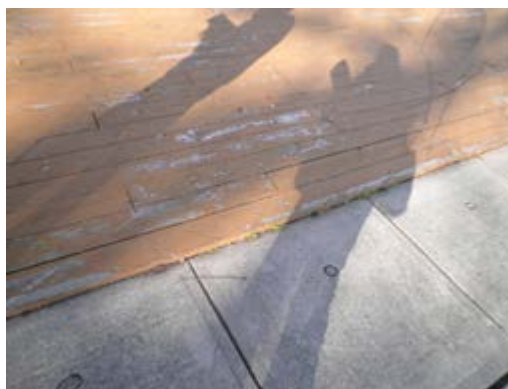


comply with the ADA is to move the accessible parking spaces to a different curb ramp. However, the current placement of accessible parking spaces is optimal, and allows for people with mobility related disabilities to exit a vehicle and be near to many different park attractions. By moving the parking spaces to different locations, the access to some features may be reduced due to increased distances. For instance, if the two spaces were moved towards the Ball Diamond Overlook, people with limited stamina or mobility would be discouraged from visiting the Covered Bridge and River Overlooks. Alternatively, by moving the accessible parking spaces to the curb ramp nearest the Covered Bridge, these same guests would be discouraged from visiting the Ball Diamond Overlook. To comply with the ADA, the current curb ramp near the designated parking spaces should be renovated to have a shallower ramp-gutter transition.

This may be accomplished by grinding down the concrete transition to make the slope less steep (**Level 2 recommendation**). This may also be accomplished by adding concrete to the transition so that it extends into the gutter further than it currently does. By making the transition longer, the slope will be reduced (**Level 2 recommendation, see right**). The transition extension should be stable and no uplifting should be present. The ramp should smoothly connect to this extension.



- **The River Overlook:** The threshold between the wood deck material and the concrete sidewalk shows extensive damage. The wood material exhibits significant changes in level and fracturing that exceeds 1-inch. In addition, significant erosion is evident, as the entire overlook is settling and sloping down towards the river edge. The high threshold may make it difficult to impossible for guests with assistive technology such as wheelchairs, scooters, and walkers to use the overlook. Making this space accessible and compliant with the ADA is difficult and the repairs may be costly. The Overlook floor should have a slope that does not exceed 2% grade in any direction. This may be difficult as the foundations will need to be repaired (**Level 3 recommendation**). The exact method for how this is accomplished goes beyond the scope of this audit. The threshold between the concrete path and the wood floor of the Overlook should be repaired so that any changes in level does not exceed ¼-inch. This can be accomplished by either beveling the surface of the wood down so as to be flush with the concrete. If it is not feasible to apply this treatment to the entire length of the Overlook, a section that measures not less than 36-inches wide should be placed nearest the parking lot and should be indicated. This indication may be colored or textured tape on the edge of the beveled section of the



wood floor. While 36-inches is permitted as the minimum wide under the ADA, it is recommended that the width of the beveled section be not less than 60-inches (**Level 2 recommendation**).

- **The Covered Bridge Path:** The ramp that leads up to the Covered Bridge has handrails along the sides of the slope length. However, the handrails have a significant opening that measure on average 8-inches from the concrete/brick floor and the lowest bar of the handrails. This presents the risk of objects rolling or falling through the gap. To make this compliant with the ADA, the lowest bar of the handrails should be lowered so that the opening at the base is not lower than 4-inches from the ground (**Level 2 recommendation**). Alternatively the edge of path may be protected with a raised curb that is at least 4-inches high (**Level 3 recommendation**). The Path to the Covered Bridge is paved with brick and concrete. This is a stable and firm surface and is compliant with the ADA. However, the brick is settling in places and the concrete is not, creating changes in level that exceeds ¼-inch high. To make the paths ADA compliant, the changes in level should be beveled smooth (**Level 2 recommendation**). This may be accomplished by grinding down the concrete where it abuts the brick sections. Alternatively, the settled substrate beneath the brickwork may be reinforced to remove the changes in level (**Level 3 recommendation**).
- **Bridge Picnic Area and Overlook:** The changes in level between the brick and concrete section of the floor are more prominent in this area, and the above recommendations for the brick and concrete paths can be applied here (**Level 2 recommendation for concrete grinding option or Level 3 recommendation for the substrate repairs**). The handrails around the Picnic Area are high, exceeding 38-inches. In addition, the handrails have a very thick upper bar. This bar is at eye level for people in a seated position and may prevent people from viewing the river which is a main attraction at Leonard Field Park. To make the Picnic Area more accessible, the handrails should be lowered to be not lower than 34-inches, and not higher than 38-inches (**Level 2 recommendation**). The handrails also have a significant opening that measure on average 8-inches from the concrete/brick floor and the lowest bar of the handrails. This presents the risk of objects rolling or falling through the gap, and should be addressed as

recommended for the handrails along the sides of the path to the Covered Bridge (**Level 2 recommendation for lowering the handrail bar, or Level 3 recommendation for constructing a new curb**).

- **The Covered Bridge:** The surface of this space is damaged along the thresholds at either ends of the bridge. The damage is primarily at the far end of the bridge across the river from the main park. The damage includes gaps in the floor that exceed 1-inch across. The wooden surface is also weakening around these openings. The damage floorboards should be repaired so that there are no gaps or openings. This may be accomplished by replacing the floorboards (**Level 2 recommendation**). The Covered Bridge does not extend the full width of the river, and the handrails and edge protection are present along the sides of the path with the intention to protect guests from falling over the sides into the river. Currently, there bar rail of the handrails are greater than 8-inches above the ground. This may be a danger to guests with assistive technology who may lose their equipment over the sides of the bridge without a form of edge guard . To make this connection to the Covered Bridge more accessible and comply with the ADA, care should be taken to ensure that the edge protection of the handrails is not higher than 4” from the ground (**Level 2 recommendation**).

Roselle Park

The spaces and park structures at Roselle Park at 1010 Grand River Drive NE that may be difficult to impossible to access by persons with mobility or coordination impairments include:

- **The Resource Center:** There are two entrances to the building. The Main Entrance door requires 7-pounds of force to open. While the ADA does not place a limit to the amount of force required to open an *Exterior* door, the weight of the door may be a barrier for people with

limited strength or mobility. Making the door easier to operate may be accomplished in a couple of ways. The ideal option is for the entrance to be outfitted to open by a powered door. However, as installing a powered door is a significant investment this



may not be feasible in the near future. The other option is for the Main Entrance Door door-closer mechanism be re-tuned to require less force to open. The hydraulic device at the top of the door may be readjusted to make the door require not more than 5-pounds of force to open (**Level 1 recommendation**). 5-pounds of force is the standard limit for interior doors, and is supported by the ADA as being an operable door weight for people with limited stamina or strength. The Patio Entrance requires 6-pounds of force to open. If the Main Entrance Door is readjusted, the Patio Door does not need to be. Ideally though, the door closer mechanism may be re-tuned to require no more than 5-pounds of force to open (**Level 1 recommendation**). The Banquet Hall¹ Double-doors off the main hall require 8.6-pounds of force to open. This is a significant weight and is a barrier to people with limited strength and stamina. In order to make this means of egress into a main feature of Resource Center accessible, the door closing mechanism should be readjusted to require no more than 5-pounds of force to open (**Level 1 recommendation**). The Banquet Hall has two Climate Control panels. One of the panels has operable

¹ “BANQUET HALL” is the term used as a placeholder, as the intended name for the room is unknown. All instances of “BANQUET HALL” in this report should be replaced with the actual designation as determined by Park Management.

parts that are 51 ¼-inches above the ground. People with limited reach may find this fixture difficult to impossible to use. In order to make this panel accessible, the control panel operable parts should not be higher than 48-inches above the ground (**Level 2 recommendation**). Under the ADA, all fixed rooms should be indicated with a sign. The Banquet Hall should be have a sign at the door leading from the Main Entrance. The sign should be mounted on the Left Door to the Banquet Hall on the Main Entrance Hall side. This sign should be mounted so that the baseline of the lowest characters are not more than 48-inches from the ground and the baseline of the highest character are not more than 60-inches above the ground (**Level 2 recommendation**). The characters should be raised and contrast with the sign field. Braille is recommended.

- **The Resource Center Restrooms:** The Restroom doors require 9-pounds of force to operate. To make this space accessible, the door closer mechanism should be readjusted so that the door requires no more than 5-pounds of force to open (**Level 1 recommendation**). In the Accessible Stall, the Grab Bar along the back wall of the toilet measures 19 ¾-inches between the open end of the bar to the center line of the toilet. This may not provide enough support for people transferring on and off the toilet from assistive devices such as wheelchairs or scooters. To make this space accessible, the rear wall grab bar extend at least 24-inches from the centerline of the toilet to the open side of the toilet (**Level 2 recommendation**) (**To clarify, the open side of the toilet is the side of the toilet that is not next to a wall, and has space for an assistive device such as a wheel chair to pull over next to the toilet. The closed side of the toilet is the side of the toilet that faces the wall**). The force required to operate the soap dispenser is 8-pounds. To make this device accessible, the force to operate should not exceed 5-pounds. This can be accomplished by oiling the lever on the dispenser (**Level 1 recommendation**).

- **Roselle Park Trails:** The Woodrick Memorial Wildlife Observation Deck is a wood bi-level platform with a ramp to the upper level. The upper level has a bench, while the lower level does not. While there is ample room on the lower level for assistive technology such as wheelchairs and scooters, people who do not use these devices yet may not have the strength or stamina to stand for extended periods of time will be required to climb stairs to find a place to sit. In addition, ambulatory guests may wish to observe the surrounding grounds with their friends or family who require the use of assistive technology and have no seating options on the lower level. To make this space equally usable for people regardless of ability, there should be a bench on the lower level of the observation deck (**Level 2 recommendation**). The Elevated Wetlands Observation Deck has a gently sloped wooden deck path up from the paved trail. The slope is shallow enough to not be considered a ramp. There is edge protection along both sides of the deck path. However the edge protection is not present on Northwest side of the observation platform by the seats. Edge protection prevents devices from rolling over the sides of an element, and provides warning that a drop-off is beyond that point. In order to make this space comply with the ADA, the edge protection should be continued along the Northwest side of the observation platform (**Level 2 recommendation**). The Barrier-Free River Overlook is accessed by a paved path. However, the path is sharply narrows towards the threshold of the Deck. The complication is very similar to what is encountered at Ada Township Park the Ponds Bridges. There is a sharp drop off the side into the river that is not edge protected. To protect guests from moving off the edge of the path into the water, a form of edge protection should be installed along the drop-off near the river. This may be accomplished by constructing a curb that is not lower than 4-inches high (**Level 3 recommendation**). Alternatively, the Overlook handrails may be extended along edge of



the drop-off (**Level 3 recommendation**). The Warren Eagle Troop Bench and Event Board is located over 48-inches from the side of the paved path on tall grass and soil. Guests with assistive technology may not be able to access these elements. To make this feature accessible, the bench and event board may be moved to be directly adjacent to the paved path (**Level 2 recommendation**). A final note regarding the Roselle Park Trails is that the entire length of trails is a considerable distance. There are benches present along the trails that can function as respite areas. However these fixtures are spaced far apart, particularly along the paths in the area north of the Wetlands Restoration. Additionally, many of the paths do not have companion pads at the sides of the benches. To comply with the ADA, these spaces should have a firm stable surface for an assistive device to pull off of the path that measures at least 32-inches wide by 48-inches long (**Level 3 recommendation**). The Prins Memorial Benches along the river are located over 60-inches from the paved path. This may be a barrier to guests with assistive technology that cannot cross turf and soil safely. To make the benches accessible, an asphalt or concrete path and pad should be constructed to connect the bench space and the paved paths (**Level 3 recommendation**), or the benches should be moved to be directly adjacent to the paved path (**Level 2 recommendation**).

- **The Silo Observation Tower:** Observation Tower has a live camera feed for people who may not be able to access the viewing platform of the structure by the stairs. The viewing monitor is on the ground level. However, the camera is currently disconnected due to maintenance difficulties. In the past, the camera on the viewing platform has experienced malfunctions due to weather and repairing device was costly. The park was unable to continue offering the use of the camera to the guests. To ensure that guests with assistive technology are able



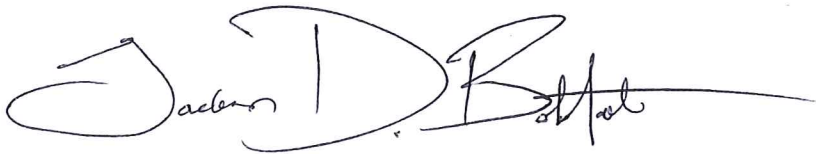
to experience the parks attractions in an as equivalent a manner as possible, the camera functionality should be restored (**Level 2 recommendation**). However, in order to avoid the difficulties that were encountered in the past, the camera may be moved so as to be sheltered from the elements and inclement weather. This may be accomplished by placing the camera under an overhang (**Level 2 recommendation**). Alternatively, the camera may be placed in the Silo interior and face out the windows. Care should be taken to ensure that the images from the camera are clear if this option is pursued (**Level 2 recommendation**). The camera may be configured to be only operable when needed, instead of being active all the time. If a guest would need the use of the camera, the guest may be able to turn on the device, and turn the camera and monitor off when finished (**Level 2 recommendation**). The ground floor has poor illumination. Improved Lighting should be integrated to ensure that people with visual impairments are able to navigate the area (**Level 2 recommendation**). There is currently no seating options on the ground floor. This may present a barrier for guests with limited stamina or strength, but do not use a wheelchair or scooter. At least one (1) seat should be placed on the ground floor for people who are using the viewing monitor (**Level 1 recommendation**). There is an accessible-style picnic table located outside the silo entrance. However, this element is on turf and soil, which may be a barrier to people with assistive technology. The accessible-style picnic table should be moved so that the accessible station is directly adjacent to a stable, level floor surface.

- This may be accomplished by either moving the table to have the accessible station directly connect to the paved path (**Level 2 recommendation**), or by extending a paved path and concrete pad to be under picnic table space (**Level 3 recommendation**).

Ada Township Parks & Recreation | Park Site Accessibility Report

In the coming years, Disability Advocates of Kent County offers to continue advising and assisting the Ada Township Parks & Recreation with improving accessibility at Ada Township Park, Leonard Field Park, and Roselle Park. We offer our expertise in helping make future projects at these locations welcoming and inclusive spaces for all people, regardless of ability. If Ada Township Parks & Recreation has any questions or concerns, I am able to be reached at the phone number 616.949.1100 ext. 250, or by email at Jackson.B@DAKC.us. Thank you for inviting Disability Advocates of Kent County to participate in the vision for increasing accessibility at the parks in Ada Township.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackson D. Botsford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Jackson D. Botsford, Accessibility Specialist
Disability Advocates of Kent County
3600 Camelot Drive SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546