



December Board Cycle

Milwaukee County Parks

9480 Watertown Plank Rd.
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(414) 257-PARK

Date: November 14, 2018
To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, CPRP, Parks Director
Subject: Information on a Milwaukee County Parks Partner - The Ability Center (**INFORMATION**)

Background

The Ability Center (TAC), is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose goal is to provide a higher quality of life for people of all abilities by transforming greater Milwaukee into the most universally inclusive recreation destination in the world.

TAC Mission: To provide people impacted by disabilities with a daily opportunity to be fit, active and Healthy.

TAC Vision: Building communities where all abilities are provided a universal opportunity for health, wellness, and recreation.

In support of its mission, TAC operates three primary programs: Discover Ability Open Gym (Adaptive Sports), the Adaptive Scholastic Athletic Program - ASAP (Inclusive Education) & RampUp (Universal Recreation). The Ability Center implements these programs through collaboration with community partners such as the Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC, the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee, Wauwatosa Recreation, and the Milwaukee County Parks. In the future, The Ability Center plans to build a universally inclusive fitness, athletic, and recreation facility, designed for people impacted by disabilities, but inclusive of the able-bodied public. This community center will be the first of its' kind, delivering a \$15M per year annual impact and make Milwaukee County a leader in inclusion, recreation, and play.

Milwaukee County has partnered with TAC on a number of initiatives to promote accessibility, primary of which is the RampUP MKE program.

RampUpMKE



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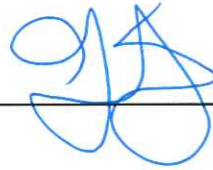
RampUpMKE is an effort to make recreation in greater Milwaukee more accessible. In collaboration with the Milwaukee County Parks, RampUp made the following parks more inclusive with over \$20,000 in investments:

- **Bradford Beach (2015):** Placed three accessible beach wheelchairs on site, and plan to add an accessible ramp and matting to the beach, potentially in 2019
- **Red Arrow Park and Wilson Park (2016):** Placed four accessible ice-skating sleds at the parks — for the first time in Milwaukee County's history ice-skating was opened to people of all abilities.
- **Veterans Park (2016):** Placed three accessible hand cycles in the park, making bicycling available for people of all abilities in Milwaukee County.
- **Future Possibilities (2019-2022):** Bradford Beach and Wisconsin Avenue Park

Recommendation

No action requested. Informational item unless further action required.

Approved By: Guy Smith, CPRP, Parks Director



Attachments (1): TAC 3 Year Action Plan

Copy:

- Chris Abele, County Executive
- Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Parks, Energy and Environment Committee members
- Supervisor Luigi Schmitt, 6th District
- Tim Ochnikowski, Director, Office of Persons with Disabilities
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
- Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Jeremy Lucas, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS



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