

AUG 12 2002

## 1999 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2002

**TITLE:** Accessible Outdoor Minnesota  
**PROJECT MANAGER:** Greg Lais  
**ORGANIZATION:** Wilderness Inquiry  
**ADDRESS:** 808 14<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
**WEB SITE ADDRESS:** [www.wildernessinquiry.org](http://www.wildernessinquiry.org)  
**FUND:** Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
**LEGAL CITATION:** ML 1999, Ch. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. e (Environmental Education)

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**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$400,000.00**

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

There were four project results involving the inclusion of people with disabilities within outdoor recreation.

#### **Result 1**

An assessment of the inclusion of people with disabilities in Minnesota's outdoor service spectrum was conducted.

Significant findings were:

- One-third of the responding organizations said that they were making no special provisions to facilitate participation of people with disabilities.
- Funding, training and distribution of information were frequently cited as barriers to accessibility.

#### **Result 2**

To increase the inclusion of people with disabilities at community events in Minnesota, community organizers were trained and inclusive activities were offered at community events. 764 individuals were trained in 28 programs on the topics of Disability Awareness, Universal Programming and Marketing. 16,343 people participated in inclusive activities at 64 community events. Activities included canoeing and winter activities.

#### **Result 3**

58 state parks and forests were surveyed for accessibility and utilization of Universal Design Principles. Campsites, fishing piers, picnic areas, playgrounds, parking areas, restrooms and water sources were evaluated.

The data is posted on the Minnesota Guide to Universal Access in the Outdoors (<http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/mnparks/>). In May 2002, this web page received 1,048 page views in 856 visitor sessions.

#### **Result 4**

A web-based clearinghouse of inclusive outdoor recreation ([www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org)) was developed.

The website contains the following primary categories of information:

- Programs
- Places
- Products
- Publications/Research
- Training/Services
- Organizations

There are currently 80 organizations listed on [www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org). In May of 2002, the site received 14,714 hits in 1,163 visitor sessions.

### **Project Results Use and Dissemination**

#### **Result 1:**

The report was disseminated through: <http://www.accessoutdoors.org/accessible.cfm> and <http://www.wildernessinquiry.org>

#### **Result 3:**

The data was disseminated at <http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/mnparks/index.html>

This site is also included on [www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org)

#### **Result 4:**

The public was notified of [www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org) through:

- Mailings sent to 4,400 individuals and organizations.
- Search engine registration.

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Date of Report: July 1, 2002  
Date of Workprogram Approval: June 16, 1999  
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2002

### **LCMR Final Work Program Report**

#### **I. PROJECT TITLE: Accessible Outdoor Minnesota**

**Project Manager:** Greg Lais  
**Affiliation:** Wilderness Inquiry  
**Mailing Address:** 808 14<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
**Telephone Number:** 612/676-9400  
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**Web site address:** www.wildernessinquiry.org

<b>Total Biennial Project Budget:</b>			
<b>\$LCMR:</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>\$ Match:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>-\$LCMR Amount Spent 3/31/01</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>-\$Match Amount Spent</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>=\$LCMR Balance:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>=\$Match Balance:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### **A. Legal Citation: ML 99, [Chap. 231], Sec.[16], Subd. 11 e Environmental Education.**

##### **EE14 Accessible Outdoor Recreation \$400,000**

\$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Wilderness Inquiry to survey facilities in at least 50 state recreation units for the Minnesota guide to universal access, develop assessments of inclusion in recreation and environmental education activities, and provide opportunities for participation. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2002, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the work program.

- **Status of Match Requirement:** N/A

#### **II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY** **Overall Project Outcome and Results**

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#### IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

##### RESULT 1:

**Conduct a comprehensive assessment of inclusion throughout Minnesota's outdoor service spectrum.**

**LCMR Budget:** \$25,000  
**Balance:** \$0  
**Completion Date:** June 30, 2001

##### METHODS:

###### Activity 1.1

*Identify and recruit up to 20 Minnesota experts in environmental education, outdoor recreation, and outdoor education to participate in focus group(s) to identify critical issues relative to inclusion of people with disabilities in outdoor activities. Conduct focus groups and prepare summary.*

The following thirteen national experts participated in an Accessible Outdoor Minnesota focus group. Approximately 5 - 10 individuals with disabilities that participate in outdoor activities were also surveyed. Their feedback helped guide the development of the survey instrument and training tools.

Jim Bedwell, USDA Forest Service  
Cory Calhoun, Washington Interagency Committee on Persons with Disabilities  
Kay Ellis, Bureau of Land Management  
Margot Imdieke, MN State Council on Disability  
Darrell Knuffke, Wilderness Society  
Charlie Lakin, Institute on Community Integration  
Joe Meade, USDA Forest Service  
Dick Owen, MD  
Dave Park, Department of the Interior  
Todd Paxton, National Center on Accessibility  
Larry Roffee, Access Board  
Doug Staller, US Fish and Wildlife  
Janet Zeller, USDA Forest Service

###### Activity 1.2

*Based on input of respondents in Activity 1.1, develop survey instrument.*

The survey instrument was developed. A copy of the survey is included in the appendix of the summary report, which is included in the appendix of this report.

###### Activity 1.3

*Identify inclusive providers statewide and develop survey database of 75 –100 outdoor service providers. Create mailing list.*

A mailing list of over 300 Minnesota service providers has been compiled. The list includes organizations throughout the state that serve a wide population range and provide a variety of services and programming.

###### Activity 1.4

*Develop incentives for response.*

All survey participants received 3 free picturesque postcards with their survey and were eligible for a free poster once their survey was received.

#### Activity 1.5

*Create and mail surveys.*

Surveys were mailed in January of 2000.

#### Activity 1.6

*Collect, tabulate, and analyze surveys. Prepare summary report.*

Surveys were returned in February 2000. Results were collected, tabulated and analyzed. The report, *Outdoor Recreation in Minnesota: Inclusion of People with Disabilities* is included in the Appendix.

The Executive Summary from that report is included below.

#### **Executive Summary from *Outdoor Recreation in Minnesota: Inclusion of People with Disabilities***

A record number of Minnesotans are recreating at a variety of recreation areas across the state. The organizations responding to this study collectively serve nearly two million people annually, yet many are doing very little to accommodate people with disabilities at their facilities or in their programs. Roughly one-third of the responding organizations said that they were making no special provisions to facilitate participation by people with disabilities.

For the remaining two-thirds making special provisions, most do so by improving the accessibility of their facilities. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of responding organizations have adapted their facilities. Adapted programs are less common with only 50% of organizations making adaptations to their programs. Less than one third have taken advantage of easy low cost adaptations such as information in alternative formats or TTY telephone equipment.

Funding continues to be a real or perceived barrier to making physical adaptations to old facilities. While most respondents were aware of the kinds of changes needed to make their facilities accessible, many said there was simply no money available to make them. In fact, of the respondents that make no special provisions to facilitate participation, 47% state budget constraints as the reason.

Many respondents identified a need for further training in a range of issues related to people with disabilities and their participation in outdoor recreation activities. Twenty-seven percent (27%) said their organizations provide no formal training in disability-related issues.

A lag appears to exist between efforts made in recent years to increase the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for Minnesotans with disabilities and adequate publicity about what and where those opportunities are. Typically, outdoor recreation facilities make adapted equipment and other accommodations available "on request." Its availability is not publicized and therefore, said many respondents, often not widely known.

There was notable success in improving accessibility at recreation areas. As facilities are upgraded and improved as part of ongoing maintenance, many have added significant

accessible features. Many organizations partner with other organizations to expand the reach and design of their programs to people with disabilities. Organizations also cited many innovative strategies they have employed in meeting the needs of their patrons with disabilities.

Activity 1.7

*Disseminate survey results (to original consultants and survey respondents, on Wilderness Inquiry website, at conferences, etc.).*

The following dissemination techniques were used:

- Posted on the clearinghouse website from Result 4  
<http://www.accessoutdoors.org/accessible.cfm>
- Posted on the Wilderness Inquiry website: <http://www.wildernessinquiry.org>
- Distributed to the experts consulted in Activity 1.1

## RESULT 2

***Provide inclusive outdoor opportunities for 15,000 Minnesotans.*** Access Minnesota will work with communities throughout Minnesota to make their local service projects, community celebrations, and other outdoor events inclusive.

**LCMR Budget:** \$275,000  
**Balance:** \$0  
**Completion Date:** November 15, 2001

### METHODS:

#### Activity 2.1

*Compile list of outdoor community events throughout the state that serve 1,000 people or more.*

Staff consulted the Explore Minnesota website to compile a list of community events of all themes, sizes and locations. Staff personally contacted over 40 event organizers. Using this information and contacts from our database, staff compiled a list of 90 organizations interested in participating in Accessible Outdoor Minnesota training programs and workshops. Accessible Outdoor Minnesota promotional materials were mailed to all event organizers on the list including:

Aitkin Riverboat Heritage Days	American Festival in Thief River Falls
Cass Lake Water Carnival	Duluth, Park Pointe Art Festival
Ely Blueberry Arts Festival	Faribault Heritage Days
Grand Marais Fisherman's Picnic	Grandma's Marathon in Duluth
Hastings Rivertown Days	Hoyt Lake Water Carnival
Lake of the Woods Willie Walleye Day	Little Falls' Riverfest
Luverne Buffalo Days	Mankato People's Fair
Minneapolis May Day Celebration	Minneapolis Aquatennial
Moorhead River Keepers	Moorhead International Fest
Rochesterfest	Saint Paul Winter Carnival
SPAM Town USA Festival in Austin	Stillwater Lumberjack Days
Twin Cities PRIDE	Two Harbors Heritage Days
Walnut Grove, Pioneer Festival	Windom Riverfest

#### Activity 2.2

*Purchase three 24-foot "Voyageur" canoes designed for use by people with disabilities for use at community events. Also purchase one trailer for hauling canoes and gear.*

The trailer and 3 Voyageur canoes were used in all the canoeing workshops.

#### Activity 2.3

*From list compiled in Activity 2.1, select a total of five or six events – representing both the metro area and greater Minnesota. Call and/or meet with organizers of those events to discuss their needs and capabilities in relation to the inclusion of people with disabilities in their events.*

Seven event coordinators from Minneapolis, Twin Cities suburbs, Rochester and North Central Minnesota participated in a survey to help determine barriers to inclusion at Minnesota festivals. A questionnaire was developed to query the organizers needs and capabilities in relation to the inclusion of people with disabilities at their events. The responses assisted Accessible Outdoor Minnesota staff in framing the survey (outlined



in activity 1.2) and designing curricula to fit the needs of future Accessible Outdoor Minnesota participants (as outlined in Activity 2.4).

The following conclusions were drawn from the survey results:

- Publications and marketing are frequently overlooked in relation to accessibility. Signage is habitually in a font less than 14pt. Braille packets and TDD are not available.
- Most events suffer from lack of parking for all participants. If accessible parking is provided, an unsatisfactory number of accessible spaces are available. i.e. < 2 spots/25, as required by ADAAG.
- Events outside of the metro area prove to be difficult for persons in wheelchairs to gain access, unless they are able to provide their own transportation or are assisted by others. Public transportation to events in the city of Minneapolis is available, yet there is no accessible transportation made available to persons with disabilities. A majority of events outside of the metro area do not have access by public transport.
- If there are large crowds, access is an issue for individuals who use mobility aids.
- Reserved seating would aid the situation, and few events provide this ministrations.
- Festivals do a good job of providing accessible restrooms for event participants. Ironically, structural barriers at the event site often make the "accessible" restrooms difficult to access.

Overall, there is a need for event organizers to be trained on basic issues such as disability awareness and site accessibility in order to make Minnesota community events inclusive of people of all ages and abilities.

#### Activity 2.4

*Based on input from event organizers, as well as information gathered in inclusion survey, develop a variety of potential inclusion services, which could include (but not be limited to): disability awareness training, consulting on ADA rules compliance, marketing/outreach/linkages to the disabled community, development of disability friendly signage, and the provision of inclusive activities (such as canoe, kayak, and dog sled workshops, wheelchair obstacle course, etc.).*

*Where necessary and appropriate, provide training in inclusion and disability awareness to government officials (city councils, planning commissions, mayors, etc.) involved in these events, tailored especially to their public role.*

Several inclusive activities were developed that would allow participation year round. They included the following:

- Canoeing Workshops - Participants learn the basics of paddling techniques and safety and then participate in a short canoe ride. Each participant was involved for approximately 30 minutes total. Twenty-four-foot Voyageur canoes that seat ten people were used. These canoes are well suited for inclusive activities because not all participants need to paddle, young children can also ride in the canoes and there is a variety of adaptive seating that can be used for people with disabilities
- Winter Workshops - Participants learn the basics of skiing, showshoeing and/or dogsledding and then participate in a 15-30 minute guided excursion. Wilderness Inquiry has skis and snowshoes for people ages 3 to adult. Pulk sleds were also used to pull individuals with mobility impairments who were unable to ski or snow shoe on their own. A limited amount of workshops included dogsledding because of the expense of the activity. Participants would generally take a ten-minute ride on a dogsled after receiving an overview of the activity.

Accessible Outdoor Minnesota training reflects the needs, interests and suggestions of event organizers and national experts as demonstrated in Activity 1.1 and 2.3. Training packages were created for the following topics:

- Marketing to a diverse community
- Universal Programming
- Site Accessibility Evaluation
- Disability Awareness
- Accessibility: Hands on learning with our Wheelchair Obstacle Course

The wheelchair obstacle course was completely rebuilt as an additional training tool. The course is used to help individuals who do not use wheelchairs gain an awareness of obstacles people in wheelchairs face on a daily basis. Obstacles include:

- Doorway with a hinged door.
- A series of platforms connected with curbs of increasing heights that simulate what it is like to wheel a chair up or down a curb.
- Platform covered with a length of carpet to simulate rough surfaces.
- A ramp that approximates the incline that would typically be found to enter or exit accessible buildings.

The course was utilized less than anticipated because of lack of interest, lack of time during trainings and difficulty of transportation. The course is stored in a trailer that must be towed. A vehicle was not readily available to transport the trailer to the trainings. Occasionally, a single wheelchair was taken to a training to allow the trainees to experience a wheelchair simulation, utilizing the obstacles in their own facilities.

A complete list of training programs and inclusive activities conducted is available in the tables under Activity 2.9.

#### Activity 2.5

*Develop service “packages” which offer different levels of service depending on the needs and interests of particular events/organizers. Likely “packages” would include consulting/training services only, inclusive activities only, or a combination.*

See Activity 2.4 and 2.9

#### Activity 2.6

*Prioritize events identified in Activity 2.1 geographically. Identify initial list of events/organizers to contact.*

The events were prioritized according to size of event, geographic location and, where applicable, previous year's success. The highest priority was given to organizations that also chose to participate in the training/consulting services. See Activity 2.9 for detailed lists of events.

#### Activity 2.7

*Create and disseminate brochure and/or other written outreach material to promote services to potential event “clients” identified in 2.6.*

Outreach materials were created and distributed to event organizers prior to each activity season. See the appendix for a sample of outreach materials.

### Activity 2.8

*Contact event organizers identified in Activity 2.6 to offer services of Access Minnesota. Emphasis will be on discovering the needs and interests of each event/event organizer and making a compelling case for the added value Access Minnesota can provide.*

See activity 2.7 and 2.9.

### Activity 2.9

*Contract to participate in 50 events between August 1999 and November, 2001. Due to the varying needs of community events, we expect that Access Minnesota will provide consulting/training services only to approximately ten events; inclusive activities only at approximately 30 events; and a combination of consulting/training and inclusive activities at approximately ten events. A detailed implementation plan will be created for each event, to include staffing, internal and external communication plans, equipment, logistics, and deadlines pertinent to each.*

To meet the goals of this activity, 3 categories of service were created:

Category I - Accessibility Training/Consulting

Category II - Inclusive Activity Workshops

Category III - Accessibility Training **and** Accessible Activities

#### *Category I*

A total of 728 people were trained in 23 training programs. Most trainings consisted of disability awareness. Some also included Universal Programming, Marketing to Diverse Communities and the wheelchair obstacle course. See Table 1 for a list of training sessions conducted.

#### *Category II*

A total of 15,748 people participated in 59 inclusive outdoor activity workshops, mostly at community festivals. The activities included canoeing and winter workshops. The winter workshops consisted of cross country skiing, snow shoeing and/or dog sledding. See Table 2 for a list of inclusive activities conducted.

#### *Category III*

There were 5 organizations that participated in both the inclusive outdoor activity workshops and training opportunities. A total of 36 individuals were trained and 595 individuals participated in the activity. See Table 3 for the details of these activities.

In total, 17,061 people participated in 83 events or training programs. This exceeded the goal of 15,000 people in 50 events. It was necessary to provide 68 events to reach the goal of 15,000 people. This increased number was partially because many of the inclusive canoeing activities in smaller towns produced a low number of participants, requiring additional events to be scheduled to meet the goal.

Wilderness Inquiry continued to offer events after the goals had been met because the events had already been scheduled. A total of \$83,000 was contributed by Wilderness Inquiry toward the increased number of events in this task.

There was a high response for participation in Categories I and II, showing that there is interest in both accessible activities and training in disability related areas. Category I

activities have the highest impact on accessible recreation in Minnesota. These 728 individuals trained provide recreation to thousands of Minnesotans annually. The training they received should increase inclusiveness of the programs they offer.

There was a lower participation in Category III activities. This lower participation was noticed in the second year of the grant. One reason for this lower participation may be that there are usually a small number of people organizing the community event. The first year training literature stated that the agency being trained had to secure the training location as well as have a minimum of ten people attend the training. They may not have the time to organize a training or to send a large number of their staff and volunteers to the training. To help alleviate this, Wilderness Inquiry organized a training specifically for community event organizers to be held onsite at Wilderness Inquiry. This way the agencies did not have the burden of organizing the training. They could also send one to two people to the training instead of ten. An invitation was sent to approximately 20 agencies in the metro area that participated in inclusive workshops in 2000. Only two of the agencies participated in the training. It seems a greater interest in professional development in the area of disability awareness exists in the nature centers, environmental learning centers and naturalist organizations that participated in Category I activities than the festival organizers that hosted the Category II activities.

Organizations continue to contact Wilderness Inquiry for both inclusive activities and disability related training. Through Accessible Outdoor Minnesota, the outdoor recreation community has developed an increased awareness of the importance of including the disability community in planning their activities and events. Some organizations have offered Wilderness Inquiry a fee for the inclusive activities, allowing them to be a continued part of their community events.

**Table 1: Category I, Accessibility Training/Consulting**  
**(DA = Disability Awareness, UP = Universal Programming, WOC = Wheelchair Obstacle Course, M= Marketing, SE= Site Evaluation)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cooperating Agency</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Participants</b>
8/11/99*	St Cloud	DNR	DA	150
9/24/99	St Cloud	DAPE Conference	DA	32
9/27/99*	Lanesboro	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	DA	12
1/10/00*	Minneapolis	Metro Area Naturalists	DA	17
3/8/00	Apple Valley	School for Environmental Studies	DA	46
5/12/00*	Stillwater	Warner Nature Center	DA	10
6/7/00*	Faribault	Riverbend Nature Center	DA	8
6/9/00*	Sandstone	Audubon Center of the North Woods	DA	10
6/28/00*	Marine on St Croix	Wilder Forest	DA	20
7/26/00	Central	ADA Celebration	WOC	24
8/24/00*	Central	Harriet Alexander Nature Center	DA	15
8/28/00*	Northeast	Laurentian ELC	DA	4
9/8/00*	Northeast	Audubon Center	DA	12
9/17/00*	Central	Maplewood Park And Recreation	DA	100
10/1/00*	Statewide	Girl Scouts	DA	15
10/9/00*	Northeast	Wolf Ridge ELC	DA	20
10/25/00	Statewide	DNR-State Park Naturalists	DA, UP, M	24
11/7/00*	Central	Saint Paul Academy	DA, UP, M	14
11/8/00*	Statewide	MRPA (MN Recreation and Park Association)	DA, UP, M	50
11/15/00*	Statewide	Minnesota Naturalist Association	DA, UP, M	16
4/10/01*	Central	Northwest Suburban Chamber	DA, UP, M	55
6/13/01*	West Central	YMCA Camp Ihduhapi	DA, UP, M	60
6/13/01*	South	Shokopee Parks and Recreation	DA, UP, M	14
<b>Total</b>			<b>23 training programs</b>	<b>728 individuals trained</b>

\* This training was conducted by Vinland Center.

**Table 2: Category II, Inclusive Activity Workshops**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cooperating Agency</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Participants</b>
8/4/99	Minneapolis	Hiawatha Neighborhood Association	Canoeing	142
8/6/99 8/7/99	Grand Marais	Fisherman's Picnic	Canoeing	143
8/11/99	Woodbury	Woodbury Parks & Recreation	Canoeing	124
8/13/99	Minneapolis	Minneapolis Parks & Recreation	Canoeing	152
8/15/99	Rogers	Rogers Olde Tyme Days	Canoeing	23
10/16/99	Bloomington	Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Canoeing	41
1/29/00	St Paul	St Paul Winter Carnival	Winter Workshop	1044
1/30/00	St Paul	St Paul Winter Carnival	Winter Workshop	951
2/4/00	St Paul	St Paul Winter Carnival	Winter Workshop	167
2/5/00	St Paul	St Paul Winter Carnival	Winter Workshop	1048
2/6/00	St Paul	St Paul Winter Carnival	Winter Workshop	969
2/12/00	Apple Valley	Dakota County Parks	Winter Workshop	113
5/7/00	Minneapolis	Heart of the Beast	Canoeing	605
6/3/00	Oakdale	Ramsey & Washington County Watershed District	Canoeing	117
6/16/00	Mankato	SMILES	Canoeing	58
6/17/00	Rochester	Rochesterfest	Canoeing	134
6/17/00	Anoka	Mississippi River Carp Festival	Canoeing	80
6/24/00	Minneapolis	PRIDE	Canoeing	313
6/25/00	Minneapolis	PRIDE	Canoeing	151
6/26/00	Medina	Minneapolis Parks And Recreation	Canoeing	121
7/1/00	Outing	Emily/Outing Jaycees	Canoeing	20
7/4/00	Baudette	Baudette Chamber of Commerce	Canoeing	4
7/11/00	Minneapolis	Folwell Middle School	Canoeing	94
7/15/00	Hastings	Rivertown Days	Canoeing	84
7/18/00	Minneapolis	Minneapolis Aquatennial Association	Canoeing	76

7/19/00	Minneapolis	Minneapolis Aquatennial Association	Canoeing	355
7/23/00	Minneapolis	Minneapolis Aquatennial Association	Canoeing	574
7/28/00	Prior Lake	Prior Lake Park and Recreation	Canoeing	103
7/29/00	Lake George	Lake George Area Association	Canoeing	84
8/02/00	Minneapolis	Lake Hiawatha Neighborhood Association	Canoeing	149
8/8/00	Woodbury	Woodbury Park and Recreation	Canoeing	156
8/11/00	East Grand Forks	Options IRCL	Canoeing	47
8/12/00	Moorhead	River Keepers	Canoeing	159
8/22/00	New Brighton	New Brighton Park and Recreation	Canoeing	80
9/9/00	St. Paul	City of St. Paul	Canoeing	490
10/01/00	Minneapolis	St. Marks Episcopal Church	Canoeing	97
1/27/01	Saint Paul	St. Paul Heritage and Festival Foundation	Winter Workshop	850
1/28/01	Saint Paul	St. Paul Heritage and Festival Foundation	Winter Workshop	1060
2/2/01	Saint Paul	St. Paul Heritage and Festival Foundation	Winter Workshop	295
2/3/01	Saint Paul	St. Paul Heritage and Festival Foundation	Winter Workshop	920
2/4/01	Saint Paul	St. Paul Heritage and Festival Foundation	Winter Workshop	735
2/13/01	Lakeville	Lakeville - Christina Huddleston Elementary	Snowshoe Workshop	44
5/6/01	Minneapolis	Heart of the Beast	Canoeing	306
5/19/01	Oakdale	Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed	Canoeing	321
6/02/01	Minneapolis	Stand For Children	Canoeing	249
6/16/01	Buffalo	Opening Doors	Canoeing	31
6/22/01	Hawley	Freedom Resource Center	Canoeing	48
6/23/01	Pelican Rapids	Friendship Festival	Canoeing	66
6/23/01	Minneapolis	PRIDE	Canoeing	260
6/24/01	Minneapolis	PRIDE	Canoeing	227
6/29/01	Mankato	SMILES	Canoeing	131
7/20/01	Minneapolis	Aquatennial	Canoeing	107
7/22/01	Minneapolis	Aquatennial	Canoeing	313
7/27/01	Prior Lake	Prior Lake Parks and	Canoeing	94

		Recreation		
7/28/01	Lake George	Lake George Area	Canoeing	131
8/01/01	Minneapolis	Lake Hiawatha Neighborhood Association	Canoeing	108
8/7/01	Woodbury		Canoeing	127
8/10/01	Hibbing	CIL	Canoeing	61
9/15/01	Pine City	Northwest	Canoeing	196
<b>Total</b>			<b>59 events</b>	<b>15,748 participants</b>



**Table 3: Category III, Accessibility Training and Accessible Activities**  
**(DA = Disability Awareness, UP = Universal Programming, WOC = Wheelchair Obstacle Course, M= Marketing, SE= Site Evaluation)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cooperating Agency</b>	<b>Topic Activity</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Training: 4/5/00 Activity: 9/16/00	NW Company Fur Post	DA Canoeing Workshop	8 individuals trained 148 participants
Training: 4/5/00 Activity: 6/11/00	Stand For Children	DA Canoeing Workshop	12 individuals trained 263 participants
Training: 5/17/01 Activity: 2/10/01	Dakota County Parks	DA, UP, M Canoeing Workshop	1 individual trained 83 Participants
Training: 5/17/01 Activity: 6/16/01	Urban Boat Builders	DA, UP, M Canoeing Workshop	1 individual trained 81 Participants
Training: 5/24/01 Activity: 8/11/02	Grand Portage National Monument	DA, UP, M, SE Canoeing Workshop	14 individuals trained 20 Participants
<b>Total</b>		5 Organizations	<b>36 individuals trained 595 participants</b>

\* This training was conducted by Vinland Center.

**RESULT 3: Survey facilities at 50 Minnesota state parks and add the data to the Minnesota Guide to Universal Access in the Outdoors website.**

**LCMR Budget:** \$55,000  
**Balance:** 0  
**Completion Date:** June 30, 2001

**METHODS**

Activity 3.1

*Using survey instrument and process developed in a previously funded LCMR project, conduct accessibility surveys of 50 Minnesota state parks through mail questionnaires, follow-up phone interviews, and site visits by survey teams to all remaining 50 state parks.*

Based upon information gathered through the LCMR Accessibility Guidebook, it was determined that 49 state park facilities remained to be assessed. Ground assessments were conducted at all 49 of these state parks, including:

Bear Head Lake	Beaver Creek Valley	Big Stone Lake
Blue Mounds	Buffalo River	Carley
Cascade River	Charles A. Lindbergh	Crow Wing
Cuyuna Country	Father Hennepin	Forestville/Mystery Cave
Crosby Manitou	Glacial Lakes	Glendalough
Gooseberry Falls	Great River Bluffs	Hill Annex Mine
John Latch	Judge C.R. Magney	Kilen Woods
Lac Qui Parle	Lake Louise	Lake Maria
Lake Shetek	Maplewood	McCarthy Beach
Mille Lacs Kathio	Minneopa	Minnesota Valley Trail
Monson Lake	Myre Big Island	Nerstrand Big Woods
Old Mill	Rice Lake	St Croix
Sakatah Lake	Savanna Portage	Scenic
Schoolcraft	Soudan Underground Mine	Split Rock Lighthouse
Temperence River	Tettegouche	Upper Sioux Agency
Wild River	Zipple Bay	Flandrau
Franze Jevne		

In addition to the above state parks, Wilderness Inquiry has also gathered information on the following 9 State Forests:

Beltrami	Birch Lakes	Crow Wing
Kabetogama	George Washington	Nemadji
Paul Bunyun	Richard J. Dorer	Sand Dunes

Recreation areas were surveyed for accessibility and utilization of Universal Design Principles in the following areas: campsites, fishing piers, picnic areas, playgrounds, parking areas, restrooms and water sources.

Activity 3.2

*Compile data gathered and add to the Minnesota Guide to Universal Access in the Outdoors website.*

All of the data has been compiled to create an accurate picture of the features that a person with a disability will encounter. The data is posted on the Minnesota Guide to

Universal Access in the Outdoors (<http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/mnparks/>). A sample web page is included in the Appendix.

In May of 2002, this web page received 1,048 page views in 856 visitor sessions. In addition, 29 of the pages describing individual parks were in the top 100 requested pages of [www.wildernessinquiry.org](http://www.wildernessinquiry.org). These 29 web pages received a combined total of 4,247 page views.

## **RESULT 4: Establish a clearinghouse for inclusive outdoor recreation in Minnesota.**

**LCMR Budget:** \$45,000  
**Balance:** \$0  
**Completion Date:** June 30, 2001

### **METHODS**

#### Activity 4.1

*Determine computer hardware, software, and services necessary to create and easily maintain an online clearinghouse to service the dissemination of the Minnesota Guide to Universal Access in the outdoors web site.*

The URL [www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org) was selected for the clearinghouse. This site is hosted by Electronic Media Group (E-media). E-media was chosen because of their relationship with Wilderness Inquiry. E-media offered a portion of its services pro bono, making it more affordable than other options.

Wilderness Inquiry determined that it is optimal to have another organization host the web site instead of purchasing computer hardware. This change was proposed and approved; \$12,000 was shifted from 'Office Equipment and Computers' to 'Professional/technical Contracts.'

E-media performed \$56,480 worth of web development for the total cost of \$28,500. The grant paid for \$16,000 of the development costs. The remaining \$12,500 was paid for by Wilderness Inquiry.

#### Activity 4.2

*Purchase, software, and services necessary to create an online clearinghouse.*

Wilderness Inquiry implemented the website by leasing space from Electronic Media Group. See explanation under Activity 4.1.

#### Activity 4.3

*Assemble materials (facilities guide, survey results,) to include on clearinghouse web site.*

See Activity 4.4 for a description of the website content.

#### Activity 4.4

*Design and install clearinghouse website.*

The [www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org) is active. A copy of the home page is included in the appendix.

The website contains the following primary categories of information:

- Programs - Many organizations offer outdoor recreation programs -- from canoeing to rock climbing to scuba diving. Those listed on [www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org) are available for people with disabilities. Programs are included that integrate people of all abilities as well as programs that are designed to serve people with specific disabilities.
- Places - Organizations that have information about the accessibility of parks, trails and recreation areas. Some sites provide detailed information about the terrain-- including grades, cross slopes and surface characteristics --so users can determine

if the place is accessible to them. Other sites are more general, but can still help users to identify recreation options.

- Products - Many outdoor activities are accessible because of the increasing range of adaptive products available. Some highly specialized products adapt a specific activity for a particular disability; others are simple everyday products used creatively.
- Publications/Research - Users are able to find organizations whose research is advancing the field of accessible outdoor recreation.
- Training/Services - This section contains organizations that can help create an accessible program, assess an existing recreation facility, or teach how to provide adaptations for a particular activity.
- Organization - A quick scan of all organizations included in the site listed alphabetically.

The main navigational items are:

- Home
- Search
- Organization Registration
- Individual Sign up
- Contact Us
- About [accessoutdoors.org](http://accessoutdoors.org)

Other features are placeholders for additional resources that will be developed when additional funding is received:

- News Room
- FAQs
- Other Resources

Organizations are added to the site in one of two ways: The website administrator (Wilderness Inquiry) can add an organization to the site or an organization can submit a request to be included in the site. Organizations can have listings in one or all of the primary categories. Organizations can edit their information with a password protected administration function. The self-registering function allows the site to continue to grow with very little maintenance time.

[www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org) provides basic information about the organizations such as contact information and a brief description. The user is then provided with a link to the organization's website for the details of the service provided by that organization. This way the user is ensured the most up to date information.

The target audience (in priority) is:

- Consumers: "My personal recreation." For consumers who have disabilities (sensory or mobility impairments), families who have members with disabilities, or older people.
- Service Providers: Industry professionals who want to serve more people with disabilities.
- Land Management Agencies: Agencies responsible for programming, design, and stewardship of recreation areas.
- Researchers: Academic and community based researchers attempting to understand the impact of integrated and segregated outdoor recreation opportunities on people with disabilities, their families and society.

There are currently 80 organizations listed on [www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org). Approximately 60 of the organizations were added to the site by Wilderness Inquiry. The remaining 20 organizations

came to the site through the self-registration function. Organizations on the site are both from Minnesota and nationwide. Because the clearinghouse is web based, it is not necessary to limit the listings to those organizations located in Minnesota. Many of the resources, products, publications and training services are relative to Minnesotans even if the organizations are located outside Minnesota.

The site was launched in April of 2001. By December of 2001, the site was receiving 7,665 hits in a total of 822 visitor sessions per month. By May of 2002, the traffic had grown to 14,714 hits in 1,163 visitor sessions.

The site will continue to grow in the future as the efforts of dissemination make [www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org) the premier resource for accessible outdoor recreation. Wilderness Inquiry is currently developing a proposal to use the site to help consumers identify adaptive equipment that they could rent for a particular outdoor recreation opportunity. This would decrease the overall expense of equipment that consumers may use once or twice a year.

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## V. DISSEMINATION:

### Result 1:

The report was disseminated through the following methods:

- Posted on the clearinghouse website from Result 4  
<http://www.accessoutdoors.org/accessible.cfm>
- Posted on the Wilderness Inquiry website: <http://www.wildernessinquiry.org>
- Distributed to the experts consulted in Activity 1.1

### Result 2:

N/A

### Result 3:

The data was disseminated through the Minnesota Guide to Universal Access in the Outdoors website at <http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/mnparks/index.html>

This site is also included on [www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org)

### Result 4:

[www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org) was announced in the following ways:

- search engine registration
- It was listed in Wilderness Inquiry's 2001 Annual Report and newsletter, *The Trailblazer*, which was mailed to 3,000 individuals and organizations.
- A flier mailed to 1,200 individuals and organizations.
- Posted on Wilderness Inquiry's website ([www.wildernessinquiry.org](http://www.wildernessinquiry.org)) which receives 200,000 hits in 13,000 visitor sessions per month.
- Mailed or emailed to individuals involved in other elements of this grant (approximately 200 individuals and organizations.)

The information was not disseminated at statewide educational conferences or published.

## VI. CONTEXT:

A. **Significance:** Wilderness Inquiry and Vinland have developed models and taught inclusive environmental education and outdoor recreation to consumers with disabilities and people of color (Together Outdoors Minnesota), to K-12 students (PARTNERS), as well as to other groups. These programs were very successful; however, until we are able to facilitate broad implementation of inclusive concepts and activities at the community level, we will not succeed in our goal of *sustaining* inclusive outdoor programming.

By working with the organizers of community events throughout Minnesota to make those events inviting and accessible to *everyone*, **Access Minnesota** furthers the GreenPrint goal of making Minnesota's environmental education and recreation programs available for citizens of all ages and abilities, including people with disabilities. By surveying experts in the field, and creating an online accessibility guide and clearinghouse, **Access Minnesota** ensures that the "best practices" developed through this and other projects are available on an ongoing basis to anyone seeking information about inclusive outdoor programs, places, and opportunities.

**Access Minnesota** is based on a philosophy called Universal Design. An outgrowth of the accessibility movement, Universal Design seeks to develop program and facilities that meet the needs of broad ranges of the population – not just people with disabilities. It is based on the premise that improvements made in the name of accessibility can lead to better designed programs and facilities that benefit everyone.

**Access Minnesota** collaborators have more than 40 years of collective experience providing services which actualize the philosophy of integrating people with disabilities into outdoor recreation and education. Wilderness Inquiry is a nationally recognized leader in the emerging field of Universal Program Design. Vinland has worked with the authors of the GreenPrint to establish guidelines for people with disabilities, and has provided therapeutic recreation and "healthsports" programming for thousands of people with disabilities.

**Time:** Most Access Minnesota results were completed on or before June 30, 2001. Result 2, making 50 community events more inclusive, was not completed until November 15, 2001. The events targeted in Result 2 typically take place from May through the end of October. Due to the timing of the appropriation, we did not start on this effort until July 1, 1999--too late to take full advantage of the possibilities for 1999 events. Also, if the project ends June 30, 2001, we will be unable to take full advantage of events scheduled for July - through October, 2001.

Therefore we requested that Result 2 be extended until November 15 or until 15,000 people are served, whichever comes first.

**C. Budget context:** The appropriation is for the development and implementation of a series of activities designed to further the goal of making Minnesota a model state for inclusive outdoor recreation and education. The funds are for developing and implementing statewide assessments, inclusive programs and activities for community event organizers, and setting up a dissemination network. Once the program is developed, we believe it can be funded from private and public sources.

**TABLE 1: Budget History**

	July 1995 - June 1999 Prior expenditures on this project	July 1999 - June 2002 Project period	July 2001 - June 2005 Future expenditures on this project*
LCMR	\$ 85,000	\$400,000	\$0
Other State	\$ 250,000	\$	\$100,000
Non State	\$ 250,000	\$	\$200,000
Match	\$	\$	\$
In kind	\$	\$ 95,500 **	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 585,000</b>	<b>\$ 495,500</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

\*Our plan is to continue Access Minnesota after the LCMR project period with funding from foundation, corporation and other private grants as well as funding from state and federal sources.

\*\* Wilderness Inquiry contributed approximately \$83,000 toward Result II and \$12,500 toward Result III.

**TABLE 2 - How Funds are Allocated with the Project**

	July 1999 - July, 2002 Total LCMR requested amount distributed to:	Balance
Personnel	\$ 254,950	\$0
Equipment	\$ 20,800*	\$0
Acquisition	\$ N/A	N/A
Development	\$ N/A	N/A



Other	\$124,250	0
TOTAL	\$400,000	\$0

\* Two types of equipment will be needed for this project, both of which provide long-term benefits for project goals beyond LCMR funding. Equipment includes:

#### **1) WEB Server System**

Wilderness Inquiry decided to implement the website with out purchasing computer equipment. See explanation under Result 4. The \$12,000 was instead spent on contract services for the web development.

#### **2) \$18,000 for 3 custom 24-foot Voyageur canoes**

Access Minnesota involved many water based community events, such as the Minneapolis Aquatennial. These canoes were used at most of these events as a means to provided integrated activities. The canoes hold 8-10 people each, and they are ideal for safely integrating people with disabilities in community events. Prior to this grant, WI had 8 of these canoes that. Three more were required to effectively meet the demand of Access Minnesota. The canoes will be used to provide integrated community activities for many years beyond the conclusion of Access Minnesota.

These 24-foot Voyageur canoes are custom made by the Northwest Canoe Company located in St. Paul, MN. The nearest alternative supplier is located in Chicago, however their canoes cost twice as much and do not work as well for our purposes. Unfortunately, no leasing program exists from any of these canoe makers. To our knowledge, there is no other manufacturer of Voyageur canoes.

#### **3) \$2,800 for custom built canoe trailer**

Access Minnesota required transporting 24-foot Voyageur canoes and gear across the state. A special, custom trailer was built to haul canoes and equipment. To our knowledge there are no options to lease such a trailer, since it is such a specialty item.

All three of the equipment purchases listed above were critical to the success of Access Minnesota, not only for the duration of the project but also for its continuation beyond 2001.

### **VII. COOPERATION:**

- Vinland Center, Sue Rivard, Executive Director
- University of Minnesota, Charlie Lakin, Ph.D, Institute on Community Integration
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Tom Balcom
- Communities throughout Minnesota

### **VIII. LOCATION:**

Statewide; please refer to attached map.

### **IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Periodic workprogram progress reports will be submitted not later than every six months: January 1, 2000 through to completion of project or June 30, 2002, whichever comes first. A

final workprogram report and associated products will be submitted by the completion date as set in the appropriation.

**X. RESEARCH PROJECTS: N/A**

Attachment A Deliverable Products and Related Budget					
Access Minnesota LCMR Project Biennial Budget					
	Result 1	Result 2	Result 3	Result 4	All Results
Budget Item	Access Study	Inclusive events	50 facilities	Clearinghouse	Total
Wages, salaries & benefits	\$17,100	\$176,850	\$41,000	\$20,000	\$254,950
Space rental, maintenance & utilities	\$2,500	\$27,200	\$2,500	\$1,900	\$34,100
Printing and advertising	\$500	\$5,000	\$250	\$700	\$6,450
Communications, telephone, mail, etc	\$1,500	\$15,000	\$1,500	\$5,500	\$23,500
Contracts					
Professional/technical	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$16,000	\$16,500
Other contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local auto mileage paid	\$200	\$15,000	\$2,800	\$400	\$18,400
Other travel expenses in MN	\$500	\$11,250	\$3,750	\$0	\$15,500
Travel outside MN	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office supplies	\$1,200	\$1,900	\$1,700	\$0	\$4,800
Other supplies	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$500	\$5,000
Tools and equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office equipment and computers*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other capital equipment**	\$0	\$20,800	\$0	\$0	\$20,800
Other direct operating costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Land acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Land rights acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Buildings or other land improvement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legal fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$25,000	\$275,000	\$55,000	\$45,000	\$400,000
** 3 Voyageur canoes @\$6,000 each and 1 trailer @ \$2,800					

## Appendix

Result 1: Summary report, *Outdoor Recreation in Minnesota: Inclusion of People with Disabilities*

Result 2: Samples of outreach materials

Result 3: Sample webpage from [www.wildernessinquiry.org/mnparks/](http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/mnparks/)

Result 4: Home page of [www.accessoutdoors.org](http://www.accessoutdoors.org)

# **OUTDOOR RECREATION IN MINNESOTA: INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Prepared by Wilderness Inquiry and Vinland Center for the LCMR project:

*Accessible Outdoor Minnesota*

December 31, 2001

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## **Executive Summary**

A record number of Minnesotans are recreating at a variety of recreation areas across the state. The organizations responding to this study collectively serve nearly two million people annually, yet many are doing very little to accommodate people with disabilities at their facilities or in their programs. Roughly one-third of the responding organizations said that they were making no special provisions to facilitate participation by people with disabilities.

For the remaining two-thirds making special provisions, most do so by improving the accessibility of their facilities. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of responding organizations have adapted their facilities. Adapted programs are less common with only 50% of organizations making adaptations to their programs. Less than one third have taken advantage of easy low cost adaptations such as information in alternative formats or TTY telephone equipment.

Funding continues to be a real or perceived barrier to making physical adaptations to old facilities. While most respondents were aware of the kinds of changes needed to make their facilities accessible, many said there was simply no money available to make them. In fact, of the respondents that make no special provisions to facilitate participation, 47% state budget constraints as the reason.

Many respondents identified a need for further training in a range of issues related to people with disabilities and their participation in outdoor recreation activities. Twenty-seven percent (27%) said their organizations provide no formal training in disability-related issues.

A lag appears to exist between efforts made in recent years to increase the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for Minnesotans with disabilities and adequate publicity about what and where those opportunities are. Typically, outdoor recreation facilities make adapted equipment and other accommodations available "on request." Its availability is not publicized and therefore, said many respondents, often not widely known.

There was notable success in improving accessibility at recreation areas. As facilities are upgraded and improved as part of ongoing maintenance, many have added significant accessible features. Many organizations partner with other organizations to expand the reach and design of their programs to people with disabilities. Organizations also cited many innovative strategies they have employed in meeting the needs of their patrons with disabilities.

## **Summary of Findings**

### **1. Perception of low usage by people with disabilities**

In general, respondents do not perceive that many of their patrons have disabilities of any kind (the survey listed physical, mental, cognitive, developmental, and emotional). Half (50%) said that fewer than 10% of their patrons have disabilities, while an additional 20% estimated the number of disabled patrons they serve to be 10-30%. Significantly, **more than one in five (21%) do not know how many patrons with disabilities their facility serves.**

### **2. Few resources dedicated to accommodating people with disabilities**

Consistent with their perception that few people with disabilities use their facilities, more than half (54%) of respondents said they spend less than 5% of their budget to accommodate people with disabilities, including thirteen percent (13%) who said they spend nothing.

### **3. Many recreational activities not viewed as accessible**

Of the many activities respondents' facilities offer, those least likely also to be accessible to people with disabilities include cross country skiing, bicycling, horseback riding, hunting, and "human powered" boating. Overall, when compared activity by activity, accessibility of all activities was less for people with disabilities than for nondisabled park patrons. This was an interesting contrast to most respondents' perception that their "policies and practices allow persons with disabilities to participate in all programs" (53%).

### **4. Limited Availability of disability-related staff training**

The level of staff training respondents said their organizations provide in disability-related issues varied widely. Twenty-seven percent (27%) said their organizations provide no formal training in disability-related issues. Twenty-one percent (21%) said that all staff receive such training, while another 21% said their organization provides training only for staff who interact directly with the public.

### **5. Special accommodations and adaptations are available in programs and facilities are available**

While 77% of respondents said they allow patrons with disabilities to bring and use their own adaptive equipment, **32% said that their facility, itself, makes no special provisions to facilitate participation by people with disabilities.**

Reasons most commonly given were that few people had asked for accommodations (56%), few people with disabilities use their facility (49%) and budget constraints (47%).

To facilitate participation in their programs and activities by people with disabilities, 68% of responding organizations make some sort of special provisions. Sixty-eight percent (68%) have made adaptations to their facilities, most often



accessible restrooms, buildings and docks (via ramps), and playgrounds, while 50% offer adapted programs, primarily in the form of one-on-one customization to meet the specific needs of individual patrons. Many respondents mentioned that they are in compliance with the ADA, which we would expect at state parks and other publicly funded facilities. Thirty-nine percent (39%) allow guide dogs and other "special permit" accommodations, and 32% have adapted signage and/or information available in alternative formats. Twenty-six percent (26%) are equipped to provide sign language interpreters on request, 18% have trained staff available to provide whatever assistance is needed, and 20% have TTY telephone equipment.

### Strategies for making facilities accessible to people with disabilities

Respondents cited many innovative strategies they have employed in meeting the needs of their patrons with disabilities. As noted earlier, such strategies have tended to focus more on physical adaptations than inclusive programming. As facilities are upgraded and improved **as a part of ongoing maintenance, many have added significant accessible features**, such as paved or hard-packed, accessibly graded trails, wheelchair-accessible docks, fishing piers, boat launches, scenic overlooks, campsites and fire-rings, ramped, accessible public buildings and restrooms, and handicapped-permit parking. The most dramatic physical adaptation described in the survey was made by an interpretive center which, as part of rehabbing a fire tower for safety reasons, constructed a replica of the top of the tower, which was then set in concrete on the ground. In the replica are panoramic photographs of the view from the top of the tower, as well as duplicates of the tower's interpretive panels. With this creative adaptation, the experience of going to the top of the tower has been expanded to include people with mobility impairments, balance problems, and even a fear of heights.

Funding continues to be a real or perceived barrier to making physical adaptations to old facilities. While most respondents were aware – many with a great deal of specificity – of the kinds of changes needed to make their facilities accessible, many said there was simply no money available to make them. Several respondents responsible for historic buildings mentioned the added constraints they face as they attempt to retain the integrity of original structures while complying with ADA accessibility standards.

### Strategies for making programs accessible to people with disabilities

**Working with others**, rather than as a single entity, is a strategy many organizations use to expand the reach and design of their programs to people with disabilities. Many respondents said their organizations have partnered with disability-service agencies, such as Courage Center, the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and Blind, Special Olympics, Gillette Children's

Healthcare, and Wilderness Inquiry, among others. One respondent told of moving the outdoor event she runs to a more accessible location on the advice of the People with Disabilities for Change group in her community. Other respondents mentioned being part of multi-community consortium that shares resources, including adaptive equipment and special services (such as sign language interpreters and inclusion consultants).

As mentioned earlier, most organizations tend to take an individualized, rather than universal, approach to accommodating people with disabilities. Several respondents said their staff is trained to tailor programming to their audience, and were clearly proud of creative approaches they had used to share outdoor experiences with people with disabilities. A striking example was a respondent's description of a "wolf howling" expedition in which participants made wolf-like noises that were answered by wolves howling in the wild. A deaf participant was invited to place his hands on the guide's throat to "hear" the guide's howl through the vibrations and thus participate in the experience more fully.

Many respondents described the adaptive recreation equipment – from pulk sleds and specialized off-road vehicles, to beach chairs, sling seats, and fishing gear, to adapted horseback riding and mounting equipment – they make available to facilitate participation by people with disabilities. Some said they offer a sliding fee scale to low income patrons with disabilities and/or allow personal care attendants to participate in activities at no extra charge.

Typically, outdoor recreation facilities make adapted equipment and other accommodations available "on request." **Its availability is not publicized and therefore, said many respondents, often not widely known.**

## **What more can be done**

### **1. Publicity and public information**

Many respondents indicated that they needed help in "getting the word out" about their programs and facilities to people with disabilities. Representative of this concern was one respondent who described extensive improvements her facility has made recently to make its most popular natural attractions accessible to people with disabilities. "But nobody knows about it," she said. Another respondent said his facility offers "mixed (able-bodied and disabled) ability trips that don't fill."

A lag appears to exist between efforts that have been made in recent years to increase the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for Minnesotans with disabilities and adequate publicity about what and where those opportunities are.

## **2. Better understanding of universally designed programs versus special programs**

Another ongoing theme was the "push-pull" of providing segregated activities for people with disabilities versus "universally designed" activities and facilities that could include people of all abilities. Unsurprisingly, this respondent group represented a wide range of attitude and opinion on this issue. At one extreme was the respondent who wrote, "It just takes creativity and the right attitude to make most anything work." At the other end of the spectrum was a respondent who said, "Our recreation facility is a wilderness hiking trail. It would be physically impossible, given the terrain, to make it inclusive for all people with disabilities."

Occupying the "middle ground" was a respondent who articulated his belief that "the continuum of experiences available needs to be recognized, not based solely on the ADA" and another who asked for "more extensive rating of trails and facilities to clarify the *level* of challenge and identify some simple solutions we may overlook."

Many respondents described recreational opportunities their organizations sponsor that clearly are designed for people with disabilities only - such as "deaf" sports teams, "sensing" gardens for people with sensory impairments, "sidewalker" horseback riding programs (with adapted tack), and "horticultural therapy" for people with developmental disabilities.

Similarly, as they identified adaptations they believe their facilities need to make, many respondents specifically mentioned special programs, specialized equipment, and specially trained staff that would serve people with disabilities separately from their able-bodied peers.

A few respondents took a more global view, making comments like "accessibility needs to be part of the planning when parks are designed" and "community awareness is a key factor." One respondent spoke of the far-reaching influence her community's park board chair, who uses a wheelchair, is having on the way all parks and park programs are being adapted there.

## **3. Training in disability-related issues**

Many respondents identified a need for further training in a range of issues related to people with disabilities and their participation in outdoor recreation activities. Several said they found ADA guidelines "confusing" and others said they served so few people with disabilities, they felt "out of touch" with what their needs might be.

#### **4. Soliciting input from people with disabilities about their needs**

Related to the preceding point was the desire articulated by a number of respondents to hear from people with disabilities themselves just what their needs are. As one respondent succinctly put it: "Most of the questions regarding facility access should be posed to those who use them, not to those who run them."

#### **Methodology**

An 18-question written survey was mailed to 399 park managers and other outdoor recreation professionals on February 22, 2000. Surveys were mailed in an LCMR (Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources) envelope and were accompanied by a letter on LCMR letterhead, signed by Director John Velin. Postcards featuring Minnesota nature scenes were enclosed with the survey as an incentive. In addition, respondents were offered Wilderness Inquiry's signature "wheelchair on the cliff" poster as a gift for returning their surveys.

Data were collected through March 27. As of that date, we had received 136 responses, for a response rate of 34%. Copies of the survey instrument and raw tabulations are attached.

#### **Respondent Profile**

The great majority (84%) of respondents hold management positions in their organizations, most as park managers or directors. A wide variety of other management positions were cited, such as president, vice president, executive director, camp director, program manager, site manager, trail manager, facility supervisor, recreation supervisor, and chief naturalist.

Forty-six percent (46%) of respondents have held their current position for 10 years or more; an additional 16% have been on the job for 5-10 years. Twenty-one percent (21%) have held their current job for 1-3 years. The majority of respondents supervise between 1 and 25 people (76%) and have significant budgetary responsibility for their organization's programs (68%).

Commenting specifically on their familiarity with the needs and concerns of people with disabilities, most respondents said they had received education and training relevant to these issues (62%) and/or had had on-the-job experience working with people with disabilities (56%). Thirteen percent (13%) identified themselves as personally having a disability, and 30% said they have a close friend or family member who does. A significant minority (19%) said they have had little or no personal experience working or interacting with people with disabilities.

#### **Facility Profile**

Reflective of the make-up of the mailing list we used, more than half (60%) of the facilities from which we received responses were state, regional, or municipal

parks. Most (64%) serve more than 20,000 patrons annually; fewer than a quarter (24%) serve under 10,000.

## **Appendix 1: Accessible Outdoor Recreation Work Program**

1999 Minnesota Laws: CH. 231, Sec. 15, Subd 11e by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources from the Minnesota Future Resources Fund and by the St. Paul Festival and Heritage Foundation.

### **RESULT 1:**

**Conduct a comprehensive assessment of inclusion throughout Minnesota's outdoor service spectrum.**

### **METHODS:**

#### Activity 1.1

Identify and recruit up to 20 Minnesota experts in environmental education, outdoor recreation, and outdoor education to participate in focus group(s) to identify critical issues relative to inclusion of people with disabilities in outdoor activities. Conduct focus groups and prepare summary.

#### Activity 1.2

Based on input of respondents in Activity 1.1, develop survey instrument.

#### Activity 1.3

Identify inclusive providers statewide and develop survey database of 75 –100 outdoor service providers. Create mailing list.

#### Activity 1.4

Develop incentives for response.

#### Activity 1.5

Create and mail surveys.

#### Activity 1.6

Collect, tabulate, and analyze surveys. Prepare summary report.

#### Activity 1.7

Disseminate survey results (to original consultants and survey respondents, on Wilderness Inquiry website, at conferences, etc.).

## Appendix 2: Outdoor Recreation Inclusion Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The information you provide will help make outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Minnesota more welcoming and inclusive of persons with disabilities.

To better understand the issues and concerns of outdoor recreation service providers as they seek to facilitate participation in their programs by patrons with disabilities, we would like to know a bit about you and your organization. This information will be treated confidentially and will be used only in combination with other responses. **(Unless directed otherwise, please circle the letter that best indicates your answer.)**

1. Which of the following best describes your organization? (Circle one.)
  - A. National park/forest
  - B. State park/forest
  - C. County park/recreation area
  - D. City park/nature center/recreation area
  - E. Environmental learning center
  - F. Private camp/outdoor recreation facility
  - G. Local or regional outdoor event
  - H. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is your job title?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How long have you held your current job? (Circle one.)
  - A. Under one year
  - B. 1-3 years
  - C. More than 3 but less than 5 years
  - D. More than 5 but less than 10 years
  - E. 10 years or more
4. How many people do you supervise? (Circle one.)
  - A. None
  - B. 1-10
  - C. 11-25
  - D. 26-50
  - E. More than 50
5. How would you describe the level of budgetary responsibility you, personally, have for your organization's programs? (Circle one.)
  - A. Significant budgetary responsibility
  - B. Limited budgetary responsibility
  - C. No budgetary responsibility
6. How many people does your organization serve annually? (Circle one.)
  - A. Fewer than 1000
  - B. 1,001 - 5,000
  - C. 5,001 - 10,000
  - D. 10,001 - 20,000
  - E. More than 20,000
7. Of this number, about how many are persons with disabilities of **any kind** – physical, mental, cognitive, developmental, and/or emotional? (Circle one.)

A. None	E. 51 – 80%
B. Fewer than 10%	F. 81 – 100%
C. 10 – 30%	G. Don't know
D. 31 – 50%	
8. What activities do visitors to your facility and/or programs participate in? (Circle all that apply.)

A. Festivals/Events	H. Power boating
B. Camping	I. Hunting
C. Wildlife viewing	J. X-country skiing
D. Trapping	K. Picnicking
E. Bicycling	L. Fishing
F. Horseback riding	M. Human-powered boating
G. Interpretive programs	N. Off-road driving
O. Downhill skiing	

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
9. In which of the activities you circled in Question 8 can persons with disabilities fully participate? (Circle all that apply.)

A. Festivals/Events	H. Power boating
B. Camping	I. Hunting
C. Wildlife viewing	J. X-country skiing
D. Trapping	K. Picnicking
E. Bicycling	L. Fishing
F. Horseback riding	M. Human-powered boating
G. Interpretive programs	N. Off-road driving
O. Downhill skiing	

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you allow persons with disabilities to bring and use their own adaptive equipment to aid them in participating in your programs & activities? (Circle one.)
  - A. Yes
  - B. It depends on what the equipment is
  - C. No
  - D. Don't knowComments: \_\_\_\_\_

**MORE ➡**

11. What (if any) special provisions does your organization make to facilitate participation in your programs and activities by persons with disabilities? (Circle all that apply.)

12. If your organization has not had the opportunity to make provisions for participation by people with disabilities, would you say it is because:  
(Circle all that apply.)
- A. Very few persons with disabilities have sought to use your programs or facilities.
  - B. Very few persons with disabilities have asked for accommodations to use your programs or facilities.
  - C. Your budget is not large enough to make the adaptations necessary to meet the special needs of persons with disabilities.
  - D. There are other programs and facilities in your area that meet the needs of persons with disabilities.
  - E. Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

14. How would you describe your personal level of familiarity with the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities? (Circle all that apply.)
- A. I am a person with a disability myself.
  - B. I have a close friend or family member with a disability.
  - C. My education and training has included relevant information about the needs of persons with disabilities.
  - D. I have on-the-job experience working with persons with disabilities.
  - E. I have little or no personal experience working or interacting with persons with disabilities.
  - F. Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

15. How would you describe your organization's philosophy on serving persons with disabilities? (Circle one.)
- A. Our policies/practices allow persons with disabilities to participate fully in all programs.
  - B. We work with persons with disabilities individually as they arrive for our programs.
  - C. Persons with disabilities are welcome to participate in our programs that are specifically for persons with disabilities.
  - D. Our outdoor recreation programs are too challenging for persons with disabilities to participate fully.
  - E. Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

16. How would you describe the training staff receive about how to include persons with disabilities in your organization's programs and activities? (Circle one.)
- A. **All** staff are trained to consider the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities in the development and delivery of programs and activities.  
Please describe training: \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Staff who interact directly with the public receive training in how to include persons with disabilities in programs and activities.  
Please describe training: \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- C. It is up to each supervisor to decide if staff need training in disability-related issues.
- D. We provide no formal training for our staff in disability-related issues.
- E. Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**MORE →**



## Appendix 2: Outdoor Recreation Inclusion Survey

**! IMPORTANT !**

17. Please describe any innovative strategies you have employed to include people with disabilities in your organization's outdoor environments and recreational opportunities: \_\_\_\_\_

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18. Please elaborate on what, if anything, you think could be done to facilitate enjoyment of your programs and facilities by persons with disabilities: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank you for participating in this survey!**

☐ Please check here if you would like to receive a thank-you gift for completing the survey – a dramatic poster of an outdoor enthusiast in a wheelchair rappelling down a cliff. We need to know your name and address to send you the poster – but please be assured, your response to the survey will remain confidential.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

If you know other people whose input on this survey could be valuable in making outdoor recreation opportunities more accessible and available to persons with disabilities, please enclose their names and how to contact them when you return your survey. Please return your survey in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

**Vinland Center**  
P.O. Box 308, Lake Independence  
Loretto, MN 55357  
(612) 479-3555 Voice or TDD

### Appendix 3: Tabulated Results

Outdoor Recreation Inclusion Survey Results					
		136 respondents		Number of Responses	% of all respondents (136)
1.	Which of the following best describes your organization?				
	A.	National park/forest		3	2%
	B.	State park/forest		49	36%
	C.	County park/recreation area		10	7%
	D.	City park/nature center/recreation area		32	24%
	E.	Environmental learning center		10	7%
	F.	Private camp/outdoor recreation facility		7	5%
	G.	Local or regional outdoor event		4	3%
	H.	Other (please specify)		21	15%
2.	What is your job title?				
	(see attachment)				
3.	How long have you held your current job?				
	A.	Under one year		10	7%
	B.	1-3 years		29	21%
	C.	More than 3 but less than 5 years		12	9%
	D.	More than 5 but less than 10 years		22	16%
	E.	10 years or more		63	46%
4.	How many people do you supervise?				
	A.	None		8	6%
	B.	1-10		73	54%
	C.	11-25		30	22%
	D.	26-50		16	12%
	E.	More than 50		9	7%
5.	How would you describe the level of budgetary responsibility you, personally, have for your organization's programs?				
	A.	Significant budgetary responsibility		93	68%
	B.	Limited budgetary responsibility		40	29%
	C.	No budgetary responsibility		3	2%
6.	How many people does your organization serve annually?				
	A.	Fewer than 1,000		10	7%
	B.	1,000 - 5,000		12	9%
	C.	5,001 - 10,000		11	8%
	D.	10,001 - 20,000		16	12%
	E.	More than 20,000		87	64%
7.	Of this number, about how many are persons with disabilities of any kind - physical, mental, cognitive, developmental, and or emotional?				
	A.	None		2	1%
	B.	Fewer than 10%		66	49%
	C.	10 - 30%		27	20%
	D.	31 - 50%		2	1%
	E.	51 - 80%		2	1%
	F.	81 - 100%		7	5%
	G.	Don't know		29	21%
		Left blank		1	1%

### Appendix 3: Tabulated Results

			Number of Responses	% of all respondents (136)	
8.	What activities do visitors to your facility and/or programs participate in?				
	A.	Festivals/Events	87	64%	
	B.	Camping	74	54%	
	C.	Wildlife viewing	89	65%	
	D.	Trapping	6	4%	
	E.	Bicycling	81	60%	
	F.	Horseback riding	29	21%	
	G.	Interpretive programs	85	63%	
	H.	Power boating	21	15%	
	I.	Hunting	15	11%	
	J.	X-country skiing	81	60%	
	K.	Picnicking	97	71%	
	L.	Fishing	82	60%	
	M.	Human-powered boating	46	34%	
	N.	Off-road driving	1	1%	
	O.	Downhill skiing	7	5%	
		Other	62	46%	
		Left blank	2	1%	
9.	In which of the activities you circled in Question 8 can persons with disabilities fully participate?				% of respondents offering the activity
	A.	Festivals/Events	80	59%	92%
	B.	Camping	61	45%	82%
	C.	Wildlife viewing	72	53%	81%
	D.	Trapping	1	1%	17%
	E.	Bicycling	39	29%	48%
	F.	Horseback riding	14	10%	48%
	G.	Interpretive programs	73	54%	85%
	H.	Power boating	15	11%	71%
	I.	Hunting	4	3%	27%
	J.	X-country skiing	27	20%	33%
	K.	Picnicking	88	65%	91%
	L.	Fishing	61	45%	74%
	M.	Human-powered boating	22	16%	49%
	N.	Off-road driving	0	0%	0%
	O.	Downhill skiing	5	4%	71%
		Other	45	33%	72%
		Left blank	9	7%	
10.	Do you allow persons with disabilities to bring and use their own adaptive equipment to aid them in participating in your programs & activities?				
	A.	Yes	105	77%	
	B.	It depends on what the equipment is	27	20%	
	C.	No	0	0%	
	D.	Don't know	4	3%	
		Comments (7)			

### Appendix 3: Tabulated Results

			Number of Responses	% of all respondents (136)	% of those offering special provisions (93)
11.	What (if any) special provisions does your organization make to facilitate participation in your programs and activities by persons with disabilities?				
	A.	Adapted programs (described or circled)	68	50%	73%
	B.	Adapted facilities (described or circled))	93	68%	100%
	C.	Adapted signage/information (described or circled)	44	32%	47%
	D.	Special permits or authorization to use aids and equipment (such as guide dogs, motorized vehicles, etc.) not normally allowed at your facility	53	39%	57%
	E.	Transportation to your facility and/or onsite for persons with disabilities	20	15%	22%
	F.	TTY telephone equipment	27	20%	29%
	G.	Sign language interpreters available on request	36	26%	39%
	H.	Staff trained and available to provide whatever level of assistance is needed	25	18%	27%
	I.	Other	18	13%	19%
	J.	NONE - PLEASE ANSWER Q.12	43	32%	
12.	If your organization has not had the opportunity to make provisions for participation by persons with disabilities, would you say it is because:				% of those NOT offering special provisions (43)
	A.	Very few persons with disabilities have sought to use your programs or facilities.	21	15%	49%
	B.	Very few persons with disabilities have asked for accommodations to use your programs or facilities.	24	18%	56%
	C.	Your budget is not large enough to make the adaptations necessary to meet the special needs of persons with disabilities.	20	15%	47%
	D.	There are other programs and facilities in your area that meet the needs of persons with disabilities.	5	4%	12%
	E.	Other (please explain)	9	7%	21%
13.	Approximately what portion of your program budget is spent to accommodate persons with disabilities?				
	A.	0	17	13%	
	B.	Less than 5%	56	41%	
	C.	6 - 10%	5	4%	
	D.	More than 10%	8	6%	
	E.	Don't know	32	24%	
		Write-ins (2 @ 100%; 1 > 50%; 1 @ no program budget)	4	3%	
		Left blank	14	10%	

### Appendix 3: Tabulated Results

			Number of Responses	% of all respondents (136)	
14.	How would you describe your personal level of familiarity with the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities?				
	A.	I am a person with a disability myself.	17	13%	
	B.	I have a close friend or family member with a disability.	41	30%	
	C.	My education and training has included relevant information about the needs of persons with disabilities.	84	62%	
	D.	I have on-the-job experience working with persons with disabilities.	76	56%	
	E.	I have little or no personal experience working or interacting with persons with disabilities.	26	19%	
	F.	Other	2	1%	
		Left blank	2	1%	
15.	How would you describe your organization's philosophy on serving persons with disabilities? (Circle one)				
	A.	Our policies/practices allow persons with disabilities to participate fully in all programs.	72	53%	
	B.	We work with persons with disabilities individually as they arrive for our programs.	49	36%	
	C.	Persons with disabilities are welcome to participate in our programs that are specifically for persons with disabilities.	7	5%	
	D.	Our outdoor recreation programs are too challenging for persons with disabilities to participate fully.	4	3%	
	E.	Other	20	15%	
		Left blank	2	1%	
16.	How would you describe the training staff receive about how to include persons with disabilities in your organization's programs and activities? (Circle one)				
	A.	A staff are trained to consider the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities in the development and delivery of programs and activities. (Described or circled)	28	21%	
	B.	Staff who interact directly with the public receive training in how to include persons with disabilities in programs and activities. (Described or circled)	28	21%	
	C.	It is up to each supervisor to decide if staff need training in disability-related issues.	17	13%	
	D.	We provide no formal training for our staff in disability-related issues.	37	27%	
	E.	Other (please explain):	17	13%	
		Left blank	11	8%	

#### Appendix 4: Respondent Job Titles

Job Title	1A -1G	1H (other)
		CIL
	D	
	E	
Acting Park Manager	B	
Adapt Rec Spvsr	D	
Adaptive Rec Spvsr	D	
Adaptive Services Coordinator	D	
Admin Aide	D	
Advncd Certified Instructor; Brd		T/R Horseback Riding
Assistant Director	D	
Assistant Manager	B	
Assistant Manager	B	
Assoc Director of Operations	F	
Camp Director	F	
Camp Director	F	
City Council Woman		Regional Bike Trail
Curriculum Coordinator	E	
Development Coordinator	G	
Development Specialist		State Trail
Director		Univ Outdoor Pgm
Director		Arboretum
Director	C	
Director	D	
Director	D	
Director	E	
Director	F	
Director of Parks & Recreation	D	
Director of Parks & Recreation	D	
Disability Coordinator		ComEd, Adults w/disa
Environmental Officer	D	
Envr. Education Director	E	
Event Services Manager	G	
Executive Director		Private-nonprofit co
Executive Director		City trail/info ctr
Executive Director	E	
Executive Director	F	
Executive Director	G	
Facility Spvsr	C	
Festival Director	G	
Forester/Park Planner	D	
Information Technician	E	
Manager	B	
Manager	B	
Mgr, Educ Partnership	A	
Natural Resource Specialist	B	
Natural Resources Supv II	B	
Naturalist	D	
Naturalist (Chief)	D	

## Appendix 4: Respondent Job Titles

[illegible]

#### Appendix 4: Respondent Job Titles

Park Ranger	B	
Park Ranger	B	
Park Ranger/Naturalist	B	
Park Recreation Supervisor	D	
Park Supervisor	B	
Parks & Rec Spvsr	C	
Parks Manager	C	
President		Chamber
President	E	
Program Coordinator		ComEd, Adults w/disa
Program Coordinator		Community Education
Program Coordinator	E	
Program Director		Community Recreation
Program Director	E	
Program Director	F	
Program Director/Riding Instructor	F	
Program Spvsr (ACCESS)		ComEd, ACCESS Prog
Program Supervisor	D	
Rec Prgm Spvsr	D	
Recreation Center Director	D	
Recreation Director	D	
Recreation Director	D	
Recreation Leader	D	
Recreation Specialist	D	
Recreation Supervisor	D	
Recreation Supervisor	D	
Recreation Therapist	C	
Recreation Therapist	D	
Secretary-Treasurer		Jaycee Comm Svcs Org
Site Manager		Historic Site
Site Manager		State historic site
Spec Projects Coord, MPRB	D	
Spec. Svcs Coord.	C	
State Park Manager	B	
Trail Manager		City/County trail
Vice President		Local Business Assoc
VP of Operations		Zoo



# Paddling Event Overview

Each paddling event lasts from 4 - 8 hours and can accommodate a maximum of 900 participants. Although Wilderness Inquiry (WI) events take place throughout the day, each individual will participate for approximately 30 minutes.

## The Role of the Cooperating Agency

Community festivals, park and recreation associations, and schools are just a few examples of organizations who cooperate with Wilderness Inquiry to arrange events in their area. Cooperating agencies are responsible for reserving the event site, securing necessary permits, publicizing the event, recruiting participants and working with the event coordinator to ensure the overall success.

## Participant Recruitment and Registration

Prior to the event, groups of 5 or more people may call Wilderness Inquiry to reserve a time to participate. Participation is not limited to pre-registered groups. Wilderness Inquiry events are open to people of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds on a first come, first served basis.

During event hours, people can register to participate at any time. When 6 - 8 people are registered they will:

- Be fitted for a lifejacket and paddle
- Receive brief safety and paddling instruction
- Participate in on-the-water fun and instruction

Approximately 5-10 people can paddle a Voyageur canoe, including 1 WI staff member who will provide instruction while steering the boat. Participants will spend approximately 15 minutes on the water before returning to shore.

## Staffing

Events are staffed by trained and certified Wilderness Inquiry outdoor educators with the assistance of Wilderness Inquiry volunteers. WI staff arrive approximately 1 hour before the event start time. Staff will evaluate the site for safety concerns, unload gear, and set-up. All gear and staff is provided by Wilderness Inquiry however, we welcome the assistance of cooperating agency volunteers and staff.

## Location/ Site Information

Events need a minimum of 60 feet of shoreline. Ideally the shoreline will not be a cement bulkhead, will not require access by stairs and will not be rocky. Preferably the event site will be near major pedestrian traffic flow areas. At a community festival or event Wilderness Inquiry would like to be located near other popular family events. At a park and recreation location WI would prefer to be located near the swimming beach.

## Cost

Events are provided at no cost.\*

## To Request an Event

Complete the event request form and return it to Wilderness Inquiry before the deadline.

*\* Funding for this project approved by the Minnesota Legislature, 1999 Minnesota Laws, Ch.231, Sec. 16, Subd. 11e as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources from the Minnesota Environmental Trust Fund.*

## Wilderness Inquiry

808 14th Ave SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
Attn: Workshop Coordinator  
amyscheller@wildernessinquiry.org

In the Twin Cities, call:  
(612) 676-9400 (Voice or TTY)

Outside the Twin Cities:  
(800) 728-0719 (Voice or TTY)

Fax: (612) 676-9401

On the web: [www.wildernessinquiry.org](http://www.wildernessinquiry.org)

EVENT

OVERVIEW



**For Details, Contact:**  
Amy Scheller  
612-676-9412  
amyscheller@wildernessinquiry.org

**Wilderness Inquiry**  
808 14<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
612.676-9400 or 800.728.0719  
612.676.9401(fax)  
www.wildernessinquiry.org

## Universal Program Training Overview

Wilderness Inquiry (WI) wants to help you include people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities in your community through our universal program training.

WI training coordinators will work with you to design a program that addresses your needs. Generally we hope to help participants gain a better understanding of how to better serve community members with disabilities.

Training programs are designed for groups of 10 - 75 event organizers, event employees, government officials, event volunteers, park and recreation associations, educators, and students. Training programs are scheduled year-round. An average training session lasts 1-2 hours. The following are just a few popular training topics:

- Marketing your festival to a diverse community
- Inclusive Programming
- Disability Awareness
- Accessibility: Hands on learning with our Wheelchair Obstacle Course

### **Your Role as the Cooperating Agency**

To request a Wilderness Inquiry training session, we ask that the cooperating agency:

- Complete appropriate training request form included in this packet and mail to Wilderness Inquiry
- Once you have received confirmation of your request you will need to:
  - Recruit a minimum of 10 participants for a training session
  - Confirm participant attendance on the training date
  - Reserve the training site

### **Cost of Training**

Training programs are provided at no cost. \*

\* Funding for this project approved by the Minnesota Legislature, 1999 Minnesota Laws, Ch.231, Sec. 16, Subd. 11e as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources from the Minnesota Environmental Trust Fund.

### **To Request a Training**

Complete the training request form in this packet and return it to Wilderness Inquiry.

*Share the Adventure!*

Wilderness  
Inquiry





*Share the Adventure!*

# Paddling Is For Everyone

*Upcoming community canoe events for 2000!*

*Join us for  
a great time  
on the water  
at one of the  
following  
FREE  
events in  
your area!*



## *Year 2000 Event Calendar*



Aug. 20, Sunday	French Regional Park - Plymouth "Paddling in the Park"*	12:00 - 3:00
Aug. 22, Tuesday	New Brighton - Long Lake	12:00 - 4:00
Sept 9, Saturday	St. Paul - Harriet Island Harriett Island Grand Opening Celebration	12:00 - 7:00
Sept. 16, Saturday	Pine City - NW Co. Fur Post "Family Fun Day!!"	10:00 - 5:00
Sept. 17, Sunday	Chippewa Falls-Camp Kenwood "Fishing Has No Boundaries Celebration!"	10:00 - 3:00
Oct. 1, Sunday	Minneapolis - Loring Park "Blessing of the Animals"	2:00 - 5:00

\* Park Entrance Fees Apply.

*Families, individuals, school groups, group homes, and people of  
all ages and abilities are welcome at Wilderness Inquiry canoe workshops.*

- What to do:**
- Meet at the location indicated above for each event or call Wilderness Inquiry for directions.
  - Look for the Wilderness Inquiry banner at the site
  - Advance registrations are not required for individuals.
- Groups:** We welcome your family or group to participate in our events. To register your group of more than five, please call or e-mail us at least 3 days in advance.
- When:** Sessions run continuously during the scheduled time of the event. Each participant will participate for a total of 30 minutes. Bring a book, frisbee or a picnic lunch in case you have to wait.
- Cost:** FREE! This event is partially supported by the 1999 Minnesota Laws, CH.231, Sec. 15, Subd 11e by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources from the Minnesota Future Resources Fund.
- Note:** Wilderness Inquiry offers a full range of world-wide wilderness trips. For more information call or write:

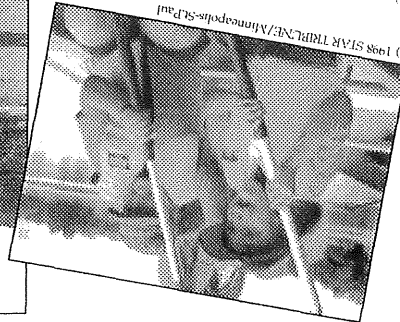
WILDERNESS INQUIRY • 808 14TH AVE SE • MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414  
(612) 676-9400 • (800) 728-0719 (VOICE OR TTY) • WWW.WILDERNESSINQUIRY.ORG

Wilderness Inquiry  
808 14th Ave SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

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*Share the adventure with Wilderness Inquiry*



Julie Green



Chris Elder

*Fun for all ages & abilities!*

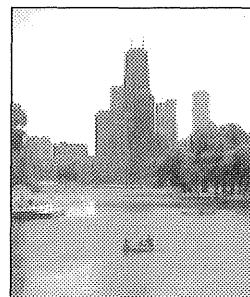
*FREE and open to the public!*

**Join the fun this summer with Wilderness Inquiry!**



Ellen Lock


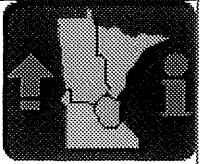
*Paddle and Play in the Park!*



Wilderness Inquiry

*Outdoor adventure close to home!*

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### Gooseberry Falls State Park (DNR Parks)

3206 Highway 61 East  
 Two Harbors, MN 55616  
 (218) 834-3855 (218) 834-3787 (fax)

**Directions:**

From the town of Two Harbors, follow State Highway 61 northeast approximately 13 miles to the park.

**Open:**

Visitor center and office is open daily, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open extended hours in the summer.

**Admission:**

Daily: \$4.00  
 Annual Pass: \$20.00

**Description:**

[Click Here](#) to go to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources web page for Gooseberry Falls State Park.



**Camping:**



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**Campground - Site #44:** Elements within this campground provide good levels of accessibility; however, we have listed elements below that do not meet ADA recommended guidelines and may be difficult for some people to use. **PICNIC TABLES:** The minimum clear knee space provided is 39"x30"x14.5". The toe clearance at 9" above the ground is only 14.5" due to a metal bar. There are no trash containers provided at this site. **Pedestal Cooking Grills** are not available at this site. **FIRE RINGS:** The mechanisms for adjusting the fire rings require two hands to grasp. There is no tactile surface change provided around the fire rings. **WATER FAUCETS:** Grate openings are greater than .5" apart. **DRINKING FOUNTAINS:** The controls require grasping and twisting to operate. **TENT AREA:** There are no raised tent pads.

**Picnic Areas:**



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**Picnic Area - Adjacent to parking lot:** Elements within this picnic area provide good levels of accessibility; however, we have listed elements below that do not meet ADA recommended guidelines and may be difficult for some people to use. **PICNIC TABLES:** The minimum clear knee space provided is 38 1/2 x 30 1/2 x 14 inches (width X height X depth). The toe clearance at 9" above the ground is only 14" deep. The clear ground space around the table has slopes exceeding 3% . The trash containers provided at this site are dumpster-style only. **PEDESTAL COOKING GRILLS:** The cook top does not rotate. The mechanisms for adjusting the cooking surfaces require grasping to use. **FIRE RINGS:** The fire ring grates are located 5-6" above the ground. The fire building surface is located below ground level.



**Lakeshore picnic area #3:** Elements within this picnic area provide good levels of accessibility; however, we have listed elements below that do not meet ADA recommended guidelines and may be difficult for some people to use. **PICNIC TABLES:** The clear ground space around the table has slopes exceeding 3%. The trash containers provided at this site are dumpster-style only. Pedestal Cooking Grills are not available at this site. **FIRE RINGS:** The fire ring grates are located 8" above the ground. The fire building surface is located at ground level. There is no tactile surface change provided around the fire rings.

## Parking:



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The parking areas throughout Gooseberry Falls contain 394 parking spaces, of which 0 are designated accessible. The parking areas are unimproved, unmarked and contains no accessibility features.

## Restrooms:



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**MODERN --** The modern restrooms in Gooseberry Falls State Park have a moderate rating for accessibility. All entrances into restroom buildings have minimum clear openings of at least 32 inches. Shelter A has a 1 inch threshold to enter the facility. Restroom doors to the stalls measure at least 31 inches; however, the stalls measure 36 inches wide and there is not 48 inches of clear space directly in front of the toilets, so getting a wheelchair in the stalls and closing the door is nearly impossible. All toilets have horizontal grab bars. Sinks are slightly lacking knee clearance and the mirrors, hand dryers, and soap are mounted higher than is recommended for folks in a seated position. Also, female and male changing rooms are provided but are not universally accessible (i.e. they have steps to enter).

## Water Source:



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This water sources throughout Gooseberry Falls meet ADA recommended guidelines, except for the following features which may be difficult for some people to use. **WATER FAUCETS:** The spouts are located 25-33" above the ground. Many of the controls require twisting to operate. Grate openings are 1.5" apart. Occasionally, the drainage platforms can have lips on them between 1" and 6" in height. The drinking fountain at Gooseberry tend to provide excellent levels of universal access. However, some of the spouts are located higher than 36" in height, and the slopes may exceed 3% in some locations.

## Trails:



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**Falls Area -- Lower and Upper --** Gooseberry Falls State Park is an extremely popular park. Its southern location along the North Shore drive (Highway 61) makes it an extremely convenient park to reach by tourists and day users, who desire to see the dramatic falls features. A new, fully accessible visitor and interpretive center was recently completed. To compliment this center, as well as to recognize the diversity of visitors, the park has substantially improved the accessibility of trails that lead visitors to view the popular Upper and Lower Falls areas.

**Fifth Falls Trail --** This challenging, yet scenic loop awaits park visitors wishing to move beyond the crowds which stop at the more convenient and accessible Upper and Lower Falls. Those desiring more solitude in which to enjoy and experience the dramatic and awesome Fifth Falls will want to venture out on this clockwise loop (this is NOT the Fifth Falls Trail designated on the park map). The rewards are worth the effort. However, plan to travel in teams of two or three as the terrain will challenge even the most experienced hiker, who has mobility limitations.

**Upper Rim Trail --** This trail serves as a convenient connection and scenic alternative (vs. the roadway) between the campground and the visitor center.

**Agate Beach Trail --** Agate Beach is a popular destination for park visitors, especially those who hunt the elusive agate deposited at this, the mouth of the Gooseberry River. The Beach sits next to a calm bay, unconcerned about the more turbulent and dramatic action of its waters 3/4 mile upstream. The occasional sea kayaker can be seen "beached" along the shoreline, resting before it ventures out into Lake Superior once more.

**"Superior Overlook" Trail --** On the eastern-most point of the park, visitors can marvel at the awesome size and power of Lake Superior, as it stretches in front of them.

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# ACCESS OUTDOORS

Attaining Accessible Outdoor Recreation World-Wide

search our site:



Access Outdoors' website is an information resource for persons with disabilities who are looking for trips, destinations, products and services related to accessible outdoor recreation.

Access Outdoors Consulting: Training, Consultation, and Assessment Services

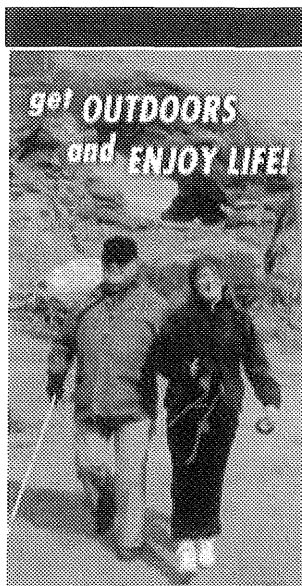
**Access Outdoors Consulting (AOC)** provides outdoor recreation managers, designers, and service providers with a full range of services aimed at improving service to people with disabilities, the elderly, and families with small children.

## FEATURES

### INTRODUCING ACCESS OUTDOORS!

Welcome to Access Outdoors! This new website is growing every day. Continue to visit us as we add links to information about accessible outdoor recreational. If you would like to list your organization on [accessoutdoors.org](http://accessoutdoors.org), please

[register.](#)



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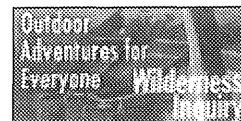
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