

Lincoln Park Zoo

Cannon Drive at Fullerton Parkway
Chicago, Illinois

Transition Plan for Universal Access

Based on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
and
The Illinois Accessibility Code, 1997

January 12, 1998

Commissioned by Lincoln Park Zoological Society, Kevin Bell, President/CEO
Coordinated by Terrie Nolinske, Ph.D., Associate Director of Education, Lincoln Park Zoo

Prepared by
Frank E. Heitzman, AIA, Heitzman Architects, 111 North Marion, Oak Park, Illinois 60301
Mark Trieglaff, Accessibility Consultation and Training Service, Brookfield, Illinois

Costs are based on The ADA Cost Catalog for Access Modifications, by
Adaptive Environments Center, Inc., and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research,
LRP Publications, Horsham, Pennsylvania, 1994

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Summary of Findings

Rationale for Transition Plan

According to current statistics, approximately 1 out of every 5 zoo visitors has a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more major life activities. With prevailing trends in aging, the percentage of the zoo's visitors with a disability should increase to 25% by the year 2020.

Lincoln Park Zoo is a public accommodation required under the ADA to be accessible to everyone, including visitors with disabilities. The ADA requires that places of public accommodation may not discriminate against anyone on the basis of disability from the full and equal enjoyment of available services, goods, facilities, or accommodations. Full and equal enjoyment means the right to participate and to have an equal opportunity to obtain the same results as others to the fullest extent possible with accommodations that may be required by the ADA. It does not mean that people with disabilities must achieve the same result or level of achievement as people without disabilities. A public accommodation may avoid provision of an auxiliary aid only if it can demonstrate that provision of such would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, or would constitute an undue burden or expense. The ADA requires that accommodations and services shall be provided in the most integrated way possible. That is, the zoo could offer a special tour for people with vision impairments although they could not exclude a blind person from the general zoo tour.



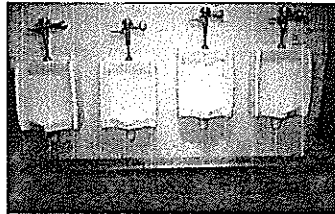
The two applicable codes which were applied against the physical observations described in the report are the ADA and its Standards (Accessibility Guidelines), and the Illinois Environmental Barriers Act and its Accessibility Code. In the case where alterations were recommended to buildings that are listed as Chicago landmarks,

the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation was consulted to guide recommendations. Furthermore, research was made into "Universal Design" concepts to aid in making decisions which would lead to a better enjoyment of the zoo by all visitors, children, unusually short or tall persons, and non-disabled elderly, as well as disabled persons. The goal of Universal Design is to accommodate as many people as possible as they pursue their activities. This conceptual approach should lead to accessibility that is seamless and invisible. Ideally, there should not be a door at the Zoo labeled "Handicapped Entrance" on it. Every entrance should be universally usable.

The ADA was the impetus for developing a Transition Plan for Universal Access at Lincoln Park Zoo. As part of the initial planning process, community members were interviewed as were access professionals from organizations including Lighthouse for the Blind, Chicago Hearing Society, Access Living, Brookfield Zoo, Illinois Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Mahalia Jackson School, and Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center. Interviewees were asked how the zoo could best make the visitor experience easier, more enjoyable and safer for people with special needs.

Timeline for Project

Gathering of preliminary information for a needs assessment was done January - March 1997. A proposal was reviewed and approved by the Executive Board at Lincoln Park Zoo in May 1997. The project was coordinated by Terrie Nolinske, Ph.D., Associate Director of Education. She hired two consultants to work on the project whose contracts were signed in July of 1997. The project was completed in January of 1998.

Room or Area	Feature	Deficiency	Proposed Alteration	Illustrations	Probability			Date Completed
					Total Cost	Level of Difficulty	Priority	
Boy's toilet room	Door	Door is propped in open position preventing visual privacy; 8 lbs opening force	Keep door closed and replace closer with delay action type set to 5 lbs maximum opening force		\$250.00	Low	1	
Boy's toilet room	Signage	None except hand-lettered paper sign	Provide proper signage wall on latch side of door		\$50.00	Low	1	
Boy's toilet room	Changing table	Plywood table 36" high with 4" high lip all around	Remove and replace with accessible changing table, maximum 34" high with 29" knee clearance under		\$250.00	Low	1	
Boy's toilet room	Electric hand driers	Driers project 7" from face of wall along a path of travel with no cane detection provisions	Remove surface mounted driers and provide recessed or semi-recessed type		\$300.00	Low	1	
Boy's toilet room	Urinals	urinals are 24" to 26" apart; low urinals are mounted at 21" to lip from floor	Rearrange urinals to provide minimum of 30" from urinal to urinal; lower accessible urinals (all of them) to 17" from floor		\$500.00	Moderate	2	

Room or Area	Feature	Deficiency	Proposed Alteration	Illustrations	Probability			Date Completed
					Total Cost	Level of Difficulty	Priority	
Snow Leopard	Signage	"Why Are Big Cats In Trouble?" has red letters on tan which are hard to read.	Recommend a stark contrast of colors. (Ex. Black letters on a white background) and a matte or dull finish.		\$200.00	Low	1	
Snow Leopard	Signage	Black graphics on red are difficult for some people to see.	Recommend a stark contrasting colors (Ex. Black sketch on a white background).		\$100.00	Low	1	
Snow Leopard	Railing	Snow Leopard railing is 39 1/2".	Recommend lowering the height of railing to 36" if OK with life safety officer and insurance carrier.		\$500.00	Moderate	2	
Snow Leopard	Signage	Snow Leopard general information sign is 7 1/2" away from the railing.	Move to railing at a center sign height of 54".		\$50.00	Low	1	
Afghanistan	Railing	"Afghanistan" railing is 40".	Recommend lowering the height of railing to 36" if OK with life safety officer and insurance carrier.		\$500.00	Moderate	2	
Afghanistan	Signage	"Afghanistan" sign is 8" away from rail.	Move to railing at a center sign height of 54".		\$50.00	Low	1	
Serval	Signage	One picture of serval is available on general information sign.	Recommend a picture or sketch of the face so guests can better see the details and dimensions.		\$200.00	Low	2	
Serval	Railing	"Serval" railing is 40 1/4".	Recommend lowering the height of railing to 36" if OK with life safety officer and insurance carrier.		\$500.00	Moderate	2	
Serval	Signage	"Serval" sign is 8" away from rail.	Move to rail at a center sign height of 54".		\$50.00	Low	1	
Black Leopard	Signage	"What Makes This Black Leopard Such A Good Hunter" has some red letters on tan which are difficult to read for some people.	Recommend a stark contrast of colors (Ex. Black letters on a white background) and a matte or dull finish.		\$200.00	Low	1	