

# Executive Summary of the Report of the Recreation Access Advisory Committee

*The following is a partial summary of the recommendations of the Recreation Access Advisory Committee which I received at the chairman's award ceremony honoring the committee's members. This is not the final ADA law but only the recommendations of the committee that deals with the recreational aspect of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Some issues are still being investigated, one of which deals with use of assistive devices (wheelchairs, etc.) The GCSAA and the USGA are undertaking a joint study to determine guidelines for the use of assistive devices on the course and their ramifications. More will be published on that as it becomes available.*

*The full report of the committee will be available soon, and I will let everyone know how to get their copy. In July 1993, the Access Board established a Recreation Access Advisory Committee to obtain information and advise on issues related to making recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas accessible to individuals with disabilities. The Committee met in July 1993 in Washington, D.C.; in October 1993 in San Jose, CA.; and in January, March, and May 1994 in Washington, D.C. Members of the public were welcomed at all of these open sessions and were encouraged to comment formally during public forum segments of the meetings and to participate informally in the work of the six subcommittees which met more frequently during 1993 and 1994. Between 50,000 and 60,000 person-hours of work are estimated to have gone into the efforts to produce the report and recommendations.*

**Committee objectives.** The

committee was charged with the following objectives:

- Identify the types of recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas covered by the ADA and the Architectural Barriers Act.
- Identify the unique design elements of various specific recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas.
- Identify design issues related to providing access in various recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas.
- Review voluntary guidelines for recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas.
- Provide recommended design guidelines for making recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas accessible to individuals with disabilities.

**Summary of Recommendations.** Examples of the types of recommendations provided by the subcommittees are offered as examples of the design areas that were addressed and the diversity of the subject areas. Recommendations by the Committee are not easily translated into summary statements due to the complexity and technical nature of the report in each area. A complete review of the report will provide the reader with further background and rationale for these and other recommendations. Comments from the public are encouraged on the report which will be available in late August 1994.

The report is divided in six sections as they were addressed in subcommittees: Sports Facilities, Places of Amusement, Play Settings, Golf, Recreational Boating and fishing Facilities,

Developed Outdoor Areas.

**Golf.** Examples of facilities: 18- and 9-hole golf courses, miniature golf courses, driving ranges, practice facilities. Some of the subcommittee's recommendations include:

- An accessible route should be provided from golf car paths to the teeing ground and other accessible elements. An accessible route should not be required for playing golf through the green.
- An accessible route should be provided on a miniature golf course. Each hole on the course should be accessible.
- One teeing ground on each hole of an 18/9-hole golf course should be accessible.
- Accessibility guidelines have not been recommended for greens.
- Practice bunkers should be accessible; accessibility guidelines are not recommended for hazards on the course.

---

## Common Sense vs. Nonsense

It's unwise to pay too much, but it's worse to pay too little. When you pay too much, you lose a little money—that is all. When you pay too little, you sometimes lose everything, because the thing you bought was incapable of doing the thing it was bought to do. The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot—it can't be done. If you deal with the lowest bidder, it is well to add something for the risk you run, and if you do that you will have enough to pay for something better.

*John Ruskin (1819-1900)*