



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO ENJOY GILLSON PARK AND BEACHES

Access to Wilmette's Gillson Park and Beach has been enhanced by a number of options available to persons with disabilities who wish to enjoy the lakefront. The Wilmette Park District and the Wilmette Commission for Persons with Disabilities would like to call attention to some improvements that can make a trip to the beach or park more fun and less frustrating.

Two plastic beach mat runners, in place throughout the summer season, make it possible to navigate over sandy terrain. A 250-foot long mat runs from the beach house to the shore on the swimming beach, offering mobility-impaired sunbathers and swimmers a flat, supportive, surface to transverse the beach to the water edge. A similar 300-foot long plastic mat is on the sailing beach to assist mobility-impaired sailors, family or patrons.

An all-terrain manual wheelchair (beach access chair), designed to negotiate sand, water and pavement, is available to patrons who want to assist disabled friends or family members in the enjoyment of the beach and water. The beach access chair provides transport from the parking lot directly into the water. The beach access chair is available upon request in the beach house. Supervision is required. Coast Guard Approved Life Jackets are also available for adults and children throughout the season upon request at the beach house.

(MORE)

Planning a picnic in the park with family and friends? Wheelchair accessible picnic tables are available at the south and north ends of the Gillson Park Overlook Drive. Each table is adjacent to handicapped parking spaces. A seasonal lakefront parking decal, or Village of Wilmette sticker, is required for vehicles parked on the Overlook Drive. Without a decal or sticker you risk receiving a ticket.

For additional information on these lakefront resources from the Wilmette Park District, please contact Lakeview Center at 847-256-9656, or Lakefront Manager Holly Specht at 847-256-9659.