

June 29, 2007

Ms. Cindy Burkhour, Manager  
Access to Recreation Initiative  
2454 Lamplighter Drive  
Jenison, MI 49428-9127

Dear Ms. Burkhour:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit this proposal for an Illinois Access to Recreation Initiative grant on behalf of The DuPage Community Foundation and the many residents who would benefit from the projects for which we are applying.

Enclosed you will find one original, six copies and an electronic copy of the proposal/supporting material as requested.

When Jane Hodgkinson of the Western DuPage Special Recreation Association (WDSRA) first mentioned this potential opportunity to me several months ago, I was excited for a number of reasons:

- ∞ I have a son who has participated in special recreation programs and I know the value of such programs
- ∞ Before coming to the Foundation more than nine years ago, most of my not-for-profit experience was in raising funds and advocating for people with disabilities at Clearbrook Center in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, and at the Guild for the Blind in Chicago
- ∞ The DuPage Community Foundation is participating in the Grand Victoria Foundation's Communityworks initiative and has learned so much about our community, our grantmaking strategy, and opportunities to be conveners and leaders. The Access to Recreation initiative affords yet another opportunity for that type of presence in the community

Working with Mark Trieglaff has been invaluable. Moreover, to be supported by the four special recreation associations in DuPage County gave me the confidence that we could find the right projects and be successful in raising funds for and implementing them.

One of our first five grants 20+ years ago was to the Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association (NEDSRA), and our commitment to funding in this area has not wavered. We also have a donor-advised fund in memory of a child with a disability that has made grants to Easter Seals DuPage, NEDSRA and Ray Graham Association for People with Disabilities.

In addition, The DuPage Community Foundation manages an endowment fund for WDSRA and helps them with their planned giving program. Lastly, one of our Legacy Society members has named the Foundation the beneficiary of a six-figure gift to benefit people with disabilities.

We are indeed excited by the opportunity to partner with the Midwest Community Foundation Ventures and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in adding value to two well-planned parks in DuPage County, and we hope that we are chosen to participate in this incredible initiative.

I have no doubt that the two communities in particular and the County in general will rally around the fund-raising requirements of the project and the endowment, and that our Board will embrace the ongoing commitment to fund development and grantmaking to enhance accessible recreation opportunities.

Regardless of the outcome, the Foundation has already benefited in reconnecting with the special recreation associations, met and interacted with park district directors in a new way, and learned about ways we can be partnering with area agencies to accomplish their objectives and our grantmaking strategies. Personally, I will never again take for granted any public park now knowing what goes on behind the scenes to make it available for our enjoyment!

Thanks again and we look forward to hearing from you next month.

Sincerely,

David M. McGowan, CFRE  
President