

March 23, 2009

Park and Recreation and Cultural Services Department
800 Center Street
Racine, WI 53403

Dear Mr. Snow,

I would like to request that action be taken to improve accessibility to Lake Michigan at North Beach.

My six year old daughter has Spina Bifida. I can tell you from personal experience how difficult it is to maneuver a wheelchair and stroller across sand. In the time we have lived in Racine we have only gone to the beach twice. Once when she was a baby in a stroller and the most recent time was last year in her wheelchair. Both times ended in frustration while trying to navigate getting down to the beach. As she gets older and heavier it gets harder to push her on the sand. It saddens me when I have to tell my little girl that we can't go the beach.

For those with limited mobility and for families with young children who rely on wheeled transport to access the beachfront, there are several accommodations that could be made to improve access. This would provide everyone, regardless of ability or age, the chance to enjoy our beautiful beach.

Thank you for consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gretchen C. Berthiaume
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snpkid@hotmail.com