



MAKING WAVES September 2, 2009

Increasing Handicapped Accessibility at Racine's North Beach

In 2005, the City of Racine improved handicap access to North Beach through the construction of an ADA compliant ramp at the North Beach Oasis and a boardwalk connecting the Oasis to the 20,000 sq. ft. Kid's Cove playground. In 2010 Mayor Dickert plans, in what may be an innovative first of its kind approach on the shores of Lake Michigan, to install a user-friendly handicap pathway leading from the Oasis, across the beach sand, to the water's edge. The pathway will make the beach experience even more fulfilling to those with mobility issues that previously prohibited them from crossing the over 600 linear feet of sand.

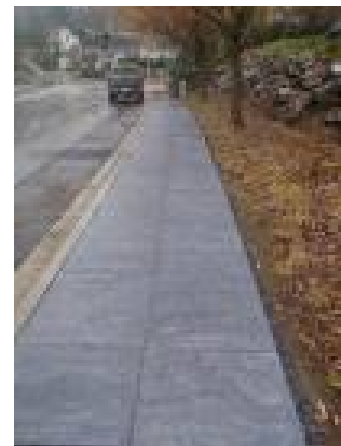


Mobi-Mat RecPath

[Photo credit: visithollywoodFL.org]

In keeping with sustainable practices already employed at North Beach, the pathway will be constructed primarily from recycled materials. Rubbersidewalks, Inc. produces interlocking, modular, 100% recycled rubber paving systems (Terrewalks™) as concrete sidewalk alternatives or for enhanced access to outdoor recreational venues where traditional paving material is impractical. By using this product the City of Racine will divert over 41,000 pounds of tire rubber and waste plastic

from landfills. To maximize the experience the Terrewalk™ system will be combined with another mobility enhancing product, Mobi-Mat® RecPath by Deschamps, which will continue access *directly to the water's edge*. Mobi-Mat® RecPath is a portable and removable rollout access pathway that can be used by pedestrians, disabled persons, wheelchair users, and parents with strollers. By combining these two state of the art technologies Racine will create an environment where *all visitors* can fully participate in a day at the beach.



Terrewalk

[Photo credit: Cassian Contracting, Ltd.]

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Sustain Our Great Lakes Workshops

Through a unique public-private partnership among ArcelorMittal, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service, *Sustain Our Great Lakes* is a regional program working on a local level to restore, protect and preserve the habitats and ecosystems of the Great Lakes Basin. The two funding opportunities under *Sustain Our Great Lakes* were highlighted in the last edition of *Making Waves*. *Sustain Our Great Lakes* is now offering workshops to help applicants through the grant application process. If you are considering applying for this funding, we encourage you to attend one of these workshops.

Workshop Dates and Locations:	
<p>September 3 10 a.m. – 12 noon CDT Discovery World 500 North Harbor Drive Milwaukee, WI</p>	<p>September 3 10 a.m. – 12 noon CDT WEBINAR Login details will be provided to those who register</p>
<p>September 16 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. EDT ArcelorMittal Dofasco 1330 Burlington Street E. Hamilton, Ontario</p>	<p>September 16 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. EDT Victor Town Hall 85 East Main Street Victor, NY</p>

To register, please email your name, affiliation, and event location to info@sustainourgreatlakes.org.

Please call Todd Hogrefe, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, at 612-713-5185 for more information. To learn more about *Sustain Our Great Lakes*, please visit <http://www.sustainourgreatlakes.org>.

NOAA Offering Three Community Grant Opportunities

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association’s “Community-based Restoration Program” is offering three different funding opportunities to help communities implement various habitat restoration projects. The grants are offered to both national and regional partners along with local grass-roots organizations. They hope to bring forth ecological benefits, technical merit, and community involvement. The *RC National and Regional*

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Partnership Grant focuses on locally-driven hands-on projects involving habitat restoration and environmental stewardship. Proposals for this grant are due September 30th. The *Marine Debris Removal Projects Grant* is looking for individual grass roots organizations to prevent and remove debris to benefit coastal habitats including wetlands, fisheries and more. These proposals are due by October 31st. Finally the *Open Rivers Initiative* is looking to fund removal programs of obsolete dams and stream barriers. The goal of this work is to improve fisheries, public safety and help boost local economies through removal of barriers. Proposals for this grant are due by November 16th. For more information on these grant opportunities please visit NOAA's website at www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

Cities Initiative Lake Superior Regional Meeting

The Cities Initiative will host a Lake Superior regional meeting the morning of Thursday, September 10, 2009 in Duluth, MN. The purpose of the regional meeting is to bring together Cities Initiative member mayors as well as potential member mayors from the area to discuss pertinent regional issues relating to the Lakes. The Cities Initiative Lake Superior regional meeting will be held before the start of the Healing Our Waters coalition meeting. If a mayor is interested in attending the regional meeting and has not received information on it, please contact Pam Kaput at pkaput@glslcities.org or 312-201-4518 for details. For information on the Healing Our Waters meeting, please visit www.healthylakes.org/09conference/.

Membership

Please join us in welcoming the City of Welland, Ontario to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative! Join the 67 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River by clicking [here](#) for a membership application. If you are already a member, please encourage your neighboring communities to join, and be sure to renew your membership when you receive your notice.

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