



For Immediate Release
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**MADIGAN ANNOUNCES 4th ANNUAL PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE
INNOVATION IN RECREATIONAL ACCESS FOR ILLINOISANS
WITH DISABILITIES**

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 5, 2007

Chicago – Attorney General Lisa Madigan has opened nominations for the 4th Annual Recreation Access Best Practices Awards, designed to recognize organizations, businesses, individuals and government agencies that have created recreational opportunities for Illinois residents with disabilities.

These awards are given as part of Recreation Access Illinois (RAI), Attorney General Madigan's ongoing, statewide effort to promote recreational opportunities for people with disabilities. The awards are intended to recognize outstanding efforts made by public and private organizations that provide recreation programs and events for Illinois' residents with disabilities.

Public and private organizations, individuals, businesses and government agencies may qualify for the Recreation Access Best Practices Awards. Applicants are asked to submit details of activities, programs, facility upgrades, events and other initiatives that illustrate unique and effective approaches to accessibility in recreation. Eight Best Practices Awards will be available, one in each of the following categories:

- Single unit of government (agency budgets up to \$1 million);
- Single unit of government (agency budgets over \$1 million);
- Two or more units of government (agency budgets up to \$1 million);
- Two or more units of government (agency budgets over \$1 million);
- Commercial for Profit (agency budgets up to \$2 million);
- Commercial for Profit (agency budgets over \$2 million);
- Not-for-Profit (agency budgets up to \$250,000); and
- Not-for-Profit (agency budgets over \$250,000).

Applicants may submit only one award nomination.

A panel appointed by the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) will review all entries and make recommendations for awards. Madigan will chair the panel, which will include a representative of a park district, a special recreation association, a not-for-profit agency, a for-profit firm and two persons with disabilities.

“The Recreation Access Best Practices Awards program has two goals,” Madigan said. “We want to recognize the work of those who promote good health and fitness in the disability community. And by doing so, we hope to encourage others to follow their lead and increase the availability of accessible recreation facilities and inclusive programs.”

Recreation Access Best Practices Awards nominations must be received by April 5, 2007. For qualifications and nomination forms call the Northwest Special Recreation Association at

1-847-392-2848 (Voice and TTY) or visit the Attorney General’s website at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/disabilityrights.html.

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