



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MAR 23 2007

P4217 (0008)
0008-15-07
PCR-07-02

Ms. Terri Leist, Assistant Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
1111 East Broad Street, Suite 200
Columbus, Ohio 43205

Dear Ms. Leist:

As you are aware we are in receipt of a disability rights complaint against the City of Columbus, Ohio, Department of Parks and Recreation. The following concerns are alleged:

- Champions Golf Course uses a designated accessible EZ-60 model golf cart that is unsafe because it has a tendency to roll over.
- Champions Golf Course does not have wheelchair accessible entry into the golf clubhouse and does not have an accessible restroom.
- At Champions Golf Course, an individual in a wheelchair is not able to register, pay, inquire as to tee times, or purchase merchandise.
- Champions Golf Course staff indicated that disabled golfers may not play at the course.
- Raymond Memorial Golf Course does not have wheelchair accessible entry into the golf clubhouse and does not have an accessible restroom.
- Turnberry Golf Course is inaccessible inside the clubhouse because of merchandise blocking the counter.

This complaint was accepted for review pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Respectively, these laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in federally assisted programs of this Department and State and local governments, whether or not

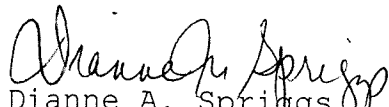
they receive Federal assistance. The National Park Service (NPS) has jurisdiction for all public entities for which it has administered Federal assistance and for those complaints which are delegated to it by reason of the Department of the Interior (DOI) being a designated enforcement agency under Title II of the ADA.

It is a reasonable modification to provide specialized golf carts for individual players with disabilities when carts are made available to other players without disabilities. In fact, with recent design developments for modified and single rider carts, there may be less wear and tear on tees, fairways, and greens than that caused by conventional carts and tires. It is an acceptable reasonable practice to provide sign language interpreters, elevators and/or lifts, designated parking spaces, assistive devices, and other modifications for successful program participation. Unless it can be demonstrated that to do so would change the fundamental nature of the game of golf or cause an undue burden when the total resources of the entity are considered, we believe that public entities, which rent golf carts, must provide modified carts to golfers with disabilities for the same rental fee charged for conventional carts.

Please provide this office with a self-evaluation and transition plan as to how you can ensure your golf courses will be more accessible for individuals with disabilities. Please provide this information by April 27, 2007.

If further information is needed, please contact David Quirino of this office at (202)354-1871.

Sincerely,


Dianne A. Spriggs
EEO Program Manager

cc: Complainant
Director, Office of Civil Rights