

NYS IRRC

A Year in Review 2007



Mission

To promote participation by people with disabilities in inclusive recreation opportunities throughout the state of New York

The New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center (NYS IRRC) at SUNY Cortland

Promoting opportunities for all people of all abilities to recreate and play wherever they choose

A Year in Review

Laurie Penney McGee, CTRS, Project Coordinator

Hello and welcome to NYS IRRC's first newsletter! While it is hard to believe that we are at the end of our first year, the articles on the following pages detail the great work of many people and organizations who have contributed to the project's success. The development of a state-wide resource center continues to be a work in progress, but as you will see, many changes have already occurred that make the world of recreation just a bit more accessible for all.

Focus Groups and Regional Advisory Committees: We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who have contributed NYSIRRC's work this year. We began by conducting focus groups across the state to hear from people with disabilities and their families, recreation and tourism providers, advocates, and professionals to learn about how the Center could be useful and meaningful to a broad range of people. Many thanks to all of you who hosted those meetings, and to those of you who attended and shared your thoughts and expertise with us! As a result of all the interest generated by the focus groups, Regional Advisory Committees have been created to provide feedback as the Center develops. Thank you to all of you who have helped guide us as we continue to grow!

The Inclusivity Assessment Tool: NYS IRRC's next step was the creation of the Inclusivity Assessment Tool (IAT) which is used to assess recreation programs, sites, and facilities for inclusion. The tool is based on a 22-year literature review of best practices in the field, existing Access Board standards, feedback from national experts, and extensive field testing. The tool looks not only at physical access, but also at program supports, policies and procedures that make recreation socially inclusive. To date, there have also been over 100 professionals who have given their time to participate in the Inclusivity Assessment Tool training process so that their sites can be part of NYS IRRC's database. We are grateful for their commitment to inclusion!

Inclusion U: Many people around the state have attended "Inclusion U" training to become Inclusivity Assessors and are already contributing to the list of sites that will soon appear on NYS IRRC's database. Thank you to all our assessors who are critical to the growth of our state-wide database, coming soon!

Partners: NYS IRRC is also extremely lucky to have the support of several state-wide and regional partners. I Love New York, SANYS, the NYSRPS, NYSTRA, the OPRHP, and the DEC have all been incredibly helpful in distributing our information to their members, hosting training and meetings, and providing feedback on the development of the Center.

Student Involvement: And finally, many thanks to the students who have worked to bring this project to fruition. Countless students have been involved in conducting assessments while interns Melissa Roeder, Kristen Lamphear and James Ruda have been essential in piloting and developing tools, as well as Inclusion U training. Graduate student Jackie Johnston was key in the development and research of the focus groups, and Melissa Roeder spent a great deal of time developing the Recreation Referral Service. Read on to learn more about their work this year!



We Began with Focus Groups

WHY? In order to develop an Inclusive Recreation Resource Center (IRRC) that would provide truly valuable resources to people with disabilities and their families and providers, it was essential that NYS IRRC began its work by listening to a wide variety of people. Earlier this year, IRRC staff traveled the state to conduct nine focus groups. People with disabilities and their families, parks and recreation professionals of all different levels, private recreation organizations, individuals from the tourism industry, representatives of independent living centers, self-advocacy groups, and professional organizations were all invited to share their experiences and expertise. This diverse group of people from the users to the directors of recreation facilities provided a broad picture of what people thought about recreation in their regions. These focus groups were conducted as part of a masters' thesis project completed by Jacqueline Johnston, an IRRC graduate assistant majoring in Therapeutic Recreation at SUNY Cortland. Jackie helped develop the protocol, surveys, research methods, and script use for each meeting.

WHERE? The focus groups were conducted around the state to gather information and to establish the mission of the Center and an appropriate name for the center. In addition to the four initial regions outlined in the grant (the Adirondacks, the Thousand Islands, the Catskills, and Long Island), the meetings were held in the Finger Lakes Region, as well as Buffalo and Saratoga Springs in conjunction with state conferences. Focus group members were asked for their input about the development of and function of the IRRC's database, website, recreation and referral service, and the inclusivity assessment tool. The focus groups also provided a mechanism to develop Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) through surveys provided at the end of each session. As the NYS IRRC develops in each region, people who work, live, and play in those areas are asked for feedback about the development of NYS IRRC's programs and services.

WHAT WE HEARD

- There is a great need for accurate and descriptive information about recreation programs, sites and facilities
- The meaning of "accessible" varies from one provider to the next
- Parents feel that it is important that their children with disabilities feel welcome and included at recreation programs and facilities
- Every assessor should have the same basic knowledge to accurately gather information
- Recreation providers expressed interest in making their facilities more accessible
- There is a need for centralized information (this confirmed the need for an online database)
- Many agencies would like to be educated in areas of disability awareness, behavior supports, and accessibility
- Many people are unaware of the many accessible recreation opportunities that are available, such as John Dillon Park and accessible DEC sites across the state



Kristen Lamphear & Dale Gass at the Salmon River Falls Trail

All of the information gathered was used to create, develop, and enhance the emerging services of NYS IRRC. Thank you all who attended!



Regional Advisory Committees (RACs)

Interested in becoming part of an advisory committee in your region? Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) are comprised of people with disabilities, parents, advocates, tourism professionals and recreation providers. These committees are currently being used to develop regional action plans for each region and to assist the NYS IRRC with the development of the Center. An email listserv has been created to share information and request feedback from members. Already, RAC members are contacting the IRRC to connect with people they met at the focus groups! Members of the RAC will be instrumental in creating the policies and practices which guide inclusive and accessible recreation opportunities in each region.

If your interested please contact :
Laurie Penney McGee
(607) 753-4833
InclusiveRec@cortland.edu



Laurie Penney McGee & Pat Slaski at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Inclusion U

So, you may ask, how will a database filled with information about state-wide recreation and accessibility develop? The answer is Inclusion U.

NYS IRRC has developed a curriculum, Inclusion U, so that people living anywhere in New York can learn how to collect information about inclusion using the Inclusivity Assessment Tool. The tool, based on a 22 year literature review, looks at the social, programmatic and physical accessibility of recreation programs, sites, and facilities. Inclusion U, a full-day training, covers a broad range of topics, including administrative policies, staff training, accommodations, and the effects of disability on recreation participation. Inclusion U also provides hands-on training of how to measure physical environments, such as parking lots and program areas. At the end of training, all participants take an Inclusion U final exam in order to become certified Inclusivity Assessors. Assessors then make appointments with recreation providers so that their facilities and programs can be assessed and added to the database. Inclusion U will be available on-line later next year.

Inclusion U 2007

- West Islip, Long Island Region
- Stony Kill Environmental Education Center, Hudson Valley Region
- SUNY Cortland, Fingerlakes Region
- SUNY Cortland, integrated into two college classes
- Ithaca College, integrated into one college course
- Tompkins County Community College, integrated into one college course

In addition to the above colleges, Lehman College in the Bronx, Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, and Corning Community College are already on board for Spring 2008! Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) are also available for Inclusion U!

Who should complete Inclusion U?

- People with disabilities and their families
- Park and recreation professionals
- Tourism professionals
- College students in recreation studies
- Business owners
- Advocates
- Anyone interested in making a difference in NY State!



Melissa Roeder at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge using an accessible spotting scope

Module 1: NYS IRRC Overview



Proposed IRRC logo

Module 3: What You Need to Know about Disability



Module 2: Benefits of Inclusion



Module 5: Overview of Social Inclusion



Module 6: Administrative Inclusion



Module 4: Physical Inclusion



Photo from Wilderness Inquiry

Module 7: Programmatic Inclusion



Photo from NAC, Bradford Woods

Module 9: The Inclusivity Assessment Tool & How to Use It

The Inclusive Recreation Resource Center at SUNY Cortland

Inclusivity Assessment Tool

The purpose of the Inclusivity Assessment Tool is to provide descriptive and detailed information to potential users of recreation programs, areas, and facilities so that they may make better plans for enjoyable inclusive recreation.

The Inclusivity Assessment Tool is comprised of three sections:

- Section One: Agency Information
- Section Two: Physical Inclusion
- Section Three: Social Inclusion (administrative practices, programmatic practices, & adaptive equipment)

As you complete the assessment, please use the accompanying Inclusivity Assessment Tool Guide for specific guidelines and instructions. Also, please work closely with agency personnel to gather the needed information. Some of the items can only be completed by talking with staff who know the agency/facility well, or by looking at agency written materials.

Section One: Agency Information

Complete Section One only once, even though you may do several different programs or facilities for this agency.

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Name of facility or agency | |
| 2 | Street address | |
| 3 | Mailing address | |
| 4 | City | |
| 5 | County | |
| 6 | Zip code | |
| 7 | Telephone number | |
| 8 | e-mail address | |
| 9 | Web page address | |
| 10 | I Live in NY region: | <input type="checkbox"/> Adirondacks <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Saratoga <input type="checkbox"/> Catskills <input type="checkbox"/> Central/Lower Hudson <input type="checkbox"/> Chautauque-Albany <input type="checkbox"/> Finger Lakes <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Niagara <input type="checkbox"/> Hudson Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Long Island <input type="checkbox"/> New York City <input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Islands |
| 11 | Type of agency or facility | |
| 12 | Activities offered | |

Anderson, Wilson, & Penney McGee (2007) Version 0

Module 10: The Next Steps

Module 8: Partnerships



The NYS IRRC's Recreation Referral Service

What is the Recreation Referral Service?

As part of her Master's Thesis project, the IRRC's Graduate Assistant Melissa Roeder, majoring in Therapeutic Recreation at SUNY Cortland, has helped develop a Recreation Referral Service (RRS). While the IRRC's database will provide descriptive information about recreation resources, some people may need additional information or assistance. For this reason, the RRS is now available to people across the state. The Recreation Referral Service can be as simple as an e-mail or a phone call with staff who provide information to someone looking for recreation resources, or it may be a more in depth interaction, depending on the needs of the individual.

How was the Recreation Referral Service designed?

The Recreation Referral Service was piloted in the Finger Lakes region with students in several SUNY Cortland classes, including Diversity and Inclusive Recreation, Advanced Methods in Inclusive Recreation, and the IRRC's Internship program. The students utilize a strengths-based approach as well as the Therapeutic Recreation process of assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation to provide assistance to participants with disabilities in finding and being fully included in recreation resources. The goal for each individual is that they can recreate as independently as possible in activities of their choosing. Each participant develops an inclusion plan with the student, which serves to guide their program. A quality of life survey is given at the beginning and the end of the service to evaluate the impact of the services on the participant's life.

How can I become involved in helping with the Recreation Referral Service?

The IRRC will be providing training at the New York State Therapeutic Recreation Association's conference in April 2008 to train individuals who are interested in becoming a recreation referral resource in their region. Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists or others interested in volunteering their expertise are welcome to contact the IRRC! Help others around the state learn about recreation opportunities in your region!

New Training!

Beginning in the spring, the NYS IRRC will be offering a new training program for people interested in working with participants in their region as part of the Recreation Referral Service (RRS). Look for RRS training at the NYSTRA conference in Saratoga Springs in April!

For details contact Laurie Penney McGee
InclusiveRec@cortland.edu
(607) 753-4833

If you or your family member needs the services of the Recreation Referral Service:

Contact Laurie Penney McGee
InclusiveRec@cortland.edu
(607) 753-4833



James Ruda & Fran Pizzola at Ship Wreck Miniature Golf in Cortland

My Internship Experience James Ruda

My name is James Ruda, a therapeutic recreation major at SUNY Cortland, and I've had the opportunity to do my internship with the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center. This experience has gone by very fast for me and has had many different opportunities for learning and growth. I've been able to take part in every aspect of the daily activities of the Center and interacted with all of the staff members. I chose to do my internship at a non-traditional therapeutic recreation site and have learned a lot from my experience that will help me greatly in my future.

One of the aspects of my internship that I have been apart of is Inclusion U. I have mostly been involved with Inclusion U at the university level, and have had the opportunity to teach sections of Inclusion U at SUNY Cortland, Tompkins Cortland Community College, and Ithaca College. This experience has been great because it gave me a chance to practice and feel comfortable talking to large audiences. It was also great to teach to people my own age, because I could relate to them and share the different experiences that I have had with them.

Presenting at conferences has also been a great chance to practice public speaking in front of large audiences. On the fourth day of my internship, I presented a small part of a presentation at the Self-Advocacy Association of New York Statewide Conference. Since then I have had the opportunity to improve my public speaking skills and presented at the For Your Independence Conference, the Annual Downstate Recreation Conference in White Plains, the 57th annual Cortland Recreation Conference, and the Office of Park, Recreation, and Historical Preservation Park Managers' Conference. Presenting at conferences has not only given me the opportunity to practice and hone my speaking skills, but has also given me the opportunity to network with and learn from other recreation professionals in New York State.



James Ruda at Black Pond Trail, a site he assessed for inclusivity

My involvement with the IRRC's research projects has given me an appreciation of research as well as enjoyment. I have learned many things through the process of data collection and being out in the field testing the Inclusivity Assessment Tool. At times, testing took place with people with disabilities, an experience that I normally wouldn't have had on my own. I found out very quickly that accessibility is relative to a person's abilities. For one thing, a recreation facility or feature may be accessible for one person but may not be for someone else. That's one of the most important parts of the Inclusivity Assessment Tool and this entire grant project, providing enough descriptive information so that an individual can make the decision about whether or not they can use the recreation facility.

I have also been involved with pilot process for the Recreation Referral Service. Being part of the beginning stages, I've been able to see what works when working with participants and what doesn't work as well. I have worked with a diverse range of participants ranging from young to old who have different types of disabilities. I have also begun to work with a participant with a new spinal cord injury who will be moving back to the Finger Lakes Region in order help that person find recreation resources.

This entire field experience through the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center has given me a unique experience different than my peers on their field experiences. I have gained invaluable hands on experience that makes me look at accessibility and inclusion in a new way, and of course I've had fun along the way with the many people in different places, which reinforces my desire to be in this field of study.

Free *Inclusion U* Training Sessions in Winter/Spring 2008

- **Tuesday, January 29, 2008**
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, Channing Hall
405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12206
- **Saturday, February 9, 2008**
Lehman College, the Bronx (limited space)
- **Saturday, March 29, 2008**
The Saratoga Hotel
534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
*Offered as a free pre-institute at New York State Recreation and Park Society's Multi-Day Conference
- **Saturday, April 5, 2008**
The Holiday Inn
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
*Offered as a free pre-institute at New York State Therapeutic Recreation Association's Multi-Day Conference

Schedule for all dates:

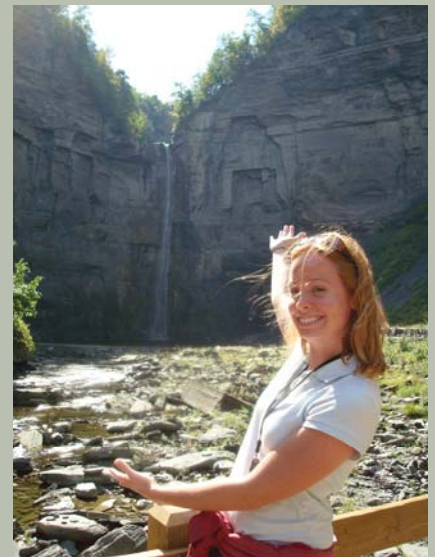
Check-in 8:00-8:30 AM
Training 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Lunch 12-1 on your own

Become an Inclusivity Assessor!!

- Learn more about providing inclusive recreation services
- Identify inclusive recreation experiences for people with disabilities
- Visit and assess wonderful places
- Earn CEU's
- FREE TRAINING



Kristen Lamphear assessing physical accessibility



Assessor Jackie Johnston at Taughannock Falls State Park

HOW TO REGISTER

Pre-register for any of these free trainings by contacting Project Coordinator, Laurie Penney McGee

InclusiveRec@cortland.edu
(607) 753-4833

If any accommodations are needed, please provide that information when you register for the training.

Adirondack Region

- John Dillon Park

Catskills Region

- Amapro Family Fun Center
- Catskill Outdoor Education Center (SUNY Delhi)
- Frisbee House/ Delaware County Historical Association
- Frost Valley YMCA
- Holiday Mountain Family Fun Center
- Little Pond Campground (DEC)
- North-South Lake Campground (DEC)
- State Theater
- YMCA Camp Seewackamano

Central Leatherstocking Region

- Rogers Environmental Education Center
- State Theater
- The Clayground
- The Skate Estate Family Fun Center
- Walton Lanes

Hudson Valley Region

- Town of Cortlandt Youth Center
- Mardi-Bob Lanes

Long Island Region

- Brookhaven Amphitheater
- Innovative Fitness
- Jones Beach State Park
- Pitch Put Golf at Jones Beach State Park
- Long Island Maritime Museum
- St. Josephs College
- Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center
- Town of Brookhaven Recreation Department
- Town of Huntington Heckscher Park

Thousand Island Region

- Salmon River Falls Unique Area
- Salmon River Fish Hatchery
- Salmon River Fishing Access (Port Ontario)
- Salmon River Reservoir Fishing Access
- Black Pond Trail

Finger Lakes Region

- Alliance Bank Stadium
- Art and Wine Festival of Cortland
- Beaver Lake Nature Center
- Binghamton Zoo at Ross Park
- Broome County Public Library
- Camp Barton; Boy Scout Camp
- Cass Park
- Casterline Pond
- Cayuga Nature Center
- Champions for Life
- City Health Club
- Cortland Community Children's Museum
- Cortland Repertory Theater
- Cortland YWCA
- Cortland Youth Bureau
(Teen Center and Playground Program)
- Cortlanes Bowling Alley
- Everson Museum of Art
- Fillmore Glen State Park
- Greek Peak Mountain Resort
- Green Lakes State Park
- Hangar Theater
- Highland Forest Park (County Park)
- High Lanes Bowling Alley
- Hill Center Pool at Ithaca College
- Island Health and Fitness
- Ithaca College Fitness Center
- Ithaca YMCA
- Ithaca Youth Bureau
- Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell U
- J.M. McDonald Sports Complex
- Labrador Hollow Unique Area
- La Tourelle Resort and August Moon Spa
- Laurel Bowl
- Lime Hollow Ctr. for Environment & Culture
- Michaels Craft Store, Ithaca
- Mid-Lakes Navigation
- Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
- Museum of the Earth
- Onondaga Lake Park
- Rasa Spa
- Rosamond Gifford Zoo
- Women's Rights National Historical Park
- Sap Sucker Woods
- Shipwreck Mini-golf
- Skaneateles Community Center
- Skaneateles Public Beach
- Taughannock Falls State Park
- Wikwire Pool
- Yaman Park
- 1890 House and Museum
- 6-Mile Creek Winery

Officially Trained Inclusivity Assessors

The New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center has provided Inclusion U training in many different locations. In order to become a "Certified Assessor," a person must attend training and pass their Inclusion U Final Exam. The following is a list of all those who have completed the process and are official Inclusivity Assessors, certified to use the Inclusivity Assessment Tool and to assess recreation agencies around the state! Congratulation and thank you!!!

P.S. Join the list!!! If you have attended training and have not yet submitted your exam or need another exam, please contact Laurie Penney McGee at InclusiveRec@cortland.edu

Stony Kill Training

Robert Messenger
Kate Walsh
Jayne McLaughlin
Norma Daniels
Chris O'Sullivan
Theresa Paeglow
Chris Nielsen
Jennie Sikula
Daryl Willenbrink
Wayne Harris
Dan Shiavo
Barbara Lucas-Wilson
Sue Drumgould

Ithaca College

Gabrielle Faiella
Bernard Rhoades
Phillip DeLaus
Siobhan Whalen
Ines Cordoba
Meg Wagner Maggitti
Matthew Yaeger
Jesse Provost
Ryan Deuel
Joanie Groome
Laura Shemo
Ashley Martel
Christine Partello
Patricia Clark
Samantha Puchacz
Gregory Bennett
D'Achille, CTRS

SUNY Cortland

Allison St. Denis
Andrew Dickan
Andrew Holbert
Arsenio Wallace
Caleb Vansickle
Dustin Bowser
Emily Kishbaugh
Alicia Palmer
Gabrielle Magnanti
Holley Carapella
Jamie Barrett
Jessica Newland
Joe McLaughlin
Joelle Ryals
Jordan Ferby
Joshua Eaker
Kevin Greenough
Marcie Forsythe
Matt Mintz
Matt Sheerin
Morgan Lewis
Naoko Nagasaki
Sarah Kirley
Stacey Francis
Tucker Backus

Cortland Training

Kristin M. Fitzgerald, MA, CTRS
Kathleen Robinson
Gillian Albicker
Rick Fitzgerald
Rob Ferri
Jonathan Ward
Dana Poulin
Dru Nordmark
Denise Horton
Heather Lott

Long Island Training

Dr. Gail Lamberta
Dr. Ori Coroleo
Vinnie La Rue, CTRS
Vanessa Smith
Linda Spence
Dom D'Achille
Jennifer Dasch
Vinny A. LaRue, CTRS
Gail Lamberta
Vanessa Smith
Linda Spence

TC3 Training

Michael Benz
Adam Prue
Jonathan Wetzel
Bethany Harris
Michelle Weaver
Dennis Decloux
Timothy Webb
Tom Zackoski

The Inclusive Recreation Resource Center at SUNY Cortland

Inclusivity Assessment Tool

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As you complete the assessment, please use the accompanying *Inclusivity Assessment Tool Guide* for specific definitions and instructions. Also, please work closely with agency personnel to gather the needed information. Some of the items can only be completed by talking with staff who knows the agency/facility well, or by looking at agency written materials.



Section One: Agency Information

Complete Section One only once, even though you may do several different programs or facilities for this agency.

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Name of facility or agency | |
| 2 | Street address | |
| 3 | Mailing address | |
| 4 | City | |
| 5 | County | |
| 6 | Zip code | |
| 7 | Telephone number | |
| 8 | e-mail address | |
| 9 | Web page address | |
| 10 | I Love NY region | <input type="checkbox"/> Adirondacks <input type="checkbox"/> Capital-Saratoga <input type="checkbox"/> Catskill <input type="checkbox"/> Central-Leatherstocking <input type="checkbox"/> Ch... <input type="checkbox"/> Finger Lakes <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Niagara <input type="checkbox"/> Long Island <input type="checkbox"/> New York City |
| 11 | Type of agency or facility | |
| 12 | Activities offered | |



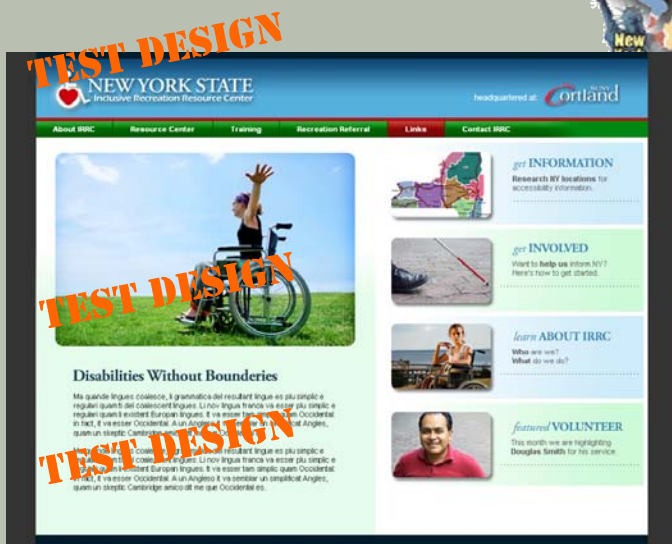
The Online Database

The New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center's website and online database is currently under development. In early 2008, the database and many other resources will be available on the website.

The information collected by certified Inclusivity Assessors, using the Inclusivity Assessment Tool, will be entered into the online database, and after review by the NYS IRRC staff, and will be available for access by anyone looking for accessibility information to help them plan their recreation experiences. The information will be available by tourism region, aligning with the I Love NY Tourism online database. The following descriptive information will be in the database:


- Agency information
- Physical access information
 - Approach (transportation, parking, etc.)
 - Enter (stairs, ramps, doors, etc.)
 - Use (reception/check-in, bathrooms, elevators, locker rooms, etc.)
- Social access information
 - Administrative practices (marketing, registration, policies, procedures, staffing, etc.)
 - Program practices (adaptations, supports, accommodations, staffing, etc.)
 - Adaptive equipment inventory

The information in the database will be linked to other web sites with general information about the agency, such as the I Love NY Tourism site, the New York State Parks site, the DEC site, and more.



Changes Made and Contributions

As a result of participating in the Inclusivity Assessment Tool process, several agencies have already begun to make policy and facility changes in order to provide more inclusive recreation services. Disability awareness and activity modification training have been added to staff development at two agencies. Information about person first terminology has been shared with several sites. At two agencies, marketing materials have been altered to reflect a willingness to accommodate disabilities and to increase use of adaptive equipment.

- Dr. Anderson completed the Inclusivity Assessment Tool with Greek Peak Sports for the Disabled Adaptive Snowsports Program. As a result of the assessment, the board received a Community Foundation grant and installed an automatic door! But the more exciting thing is the use of person-first language. The organization gets its name from being affiliated with Disabled Sports USA. The name of the organization, Greek Peak Sports for the Disabled (GPSD), is the official chapter name. However, in order to reflect person first language, the organization has now changed its name to GPSD Adaptive Snowsports, and its web page and all written materials now use person first language.
- 
- The image shows three individuals in a snowy forest setting. One person is standing on skis, another is standing in a red jacket, and a third person is seated on a specialized adaptive ski chair. A sign in the background reads 'HELP AN AMERICAN SKI! SKI!'.
- Janet Clark of the Long Island Convention and Visitor Bureau attended a focus group in Nassau County. After learning that there is not enough parking or accessible grilling facilities at a local park, she phoned the park and is now working with them to change signage and make 50% of the grilling areas accessible.
 - John Dillon Park, after participating in the Inclusivity Assessment process, is modifying some of its practices. The park is developing alternative forms of communication for registration, bathrooms, and some of the other aspects of the park.
 - An article in the Cortland Press highlighted a new collaboration between the Cortland County Youth Bureau and Access to Independence of Cortland. An access coordinator met a youth bureau director at a focus group and at an Inclusion U training and they are now working together to assess programs for inclusion and increase the number of youth with disabilities served in Cortland. The newspaper article encouraged parents of children with disabilities to register their children for summer programs.
 - Molly Elliot of the National Institute for Recreation Inclusion contacted Dr. Lynn Anderson to let her know that the IRRC's Inclusivity Assessment Tool was used to assess the hotel and surrounding areas to assure that their 2008 national conference in Eugene, Oregon will be accessible!
 - Many thanks to the first trained assessors who completed Inclusivity Assessments!!
 - Dr. Gail Lamberta of St. Joseph's College, Long Island Region
 - Vinnie La Rue, CTRS Long Island Region
 - Dr. Ori Coroleo of Lehman College in the Bronx, New York City Region
 - Susan Drumgould, CTRS, Hudson Valley Region



Dr. Lynn Anderson, CTRS, CPRP is a professor and chair of the Recreation and Leisure Studies Department at SUNY Cortland, and Project Director for the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center. Lynn has her master's degree in outdoor recreation and park management from the University of Oregon and her Ph.D. in therapeutic recreation from the University of Minnesota.



Dr. Susan Wilson, CTRS is an associate professor in the Recreation and Leisure Studies Department at SUNY Cortland, and is a project faculty member for the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center. Dr. Wilson received her master's degree in recreation administration at Central Michigan University, and her Ph.D. in therapeutic recreation from Clemson University.



Laurie Penney McGee, CTRS is the full-time Project Coordinator for the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center at SUNY Cortland. Laurie received her bachelor's degree in political science from Glassboro State College, and her master's degree from SUNY Cortland in therapeutic recreation.



Dr. Vicki Wilkins is a professor, internship coordinator, and international coordinator in the Recreation and Leisure Studies Department at SUNY Cortland, and is a project faculty member for the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center. Dr. Wilkins received her master's degree in therapeutic recreation at Florida State University, and her Ph.D. in therapeutic recreation/family development from Penn State University .



Melissa Roeder is a graduate assistant doing her Master's project with the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center and majoring in therapeutic recreation. Her master's project is developing a pilot for the Recreation Referral Service. She has her bachelors degree in social work from Ohio State University.



Jacqueline Johnston is a graduate assistant majoring in therapeutic recreation and doing her Master's project with the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center. Her master's project developed the focus groups and contributed to the development of the Center. She has her bachelors degree in political science and sociology from SUNY Buffalo.



James Ruda is a senior, majoring in therapeutic recreation. During his internship, he assisted in designing and developing training, completed numerous inclusivity assessments with agencies across the state, has worked 1:1 with people with disabilities who needed more intensive assistance in recreation inclusion, and developed management and marketing skills.