



## **ACCESS NOT EXCESS**

July 1, 2024

The working committee on ADA access to the dog beach has a number of issues with the plan put forth by staff proposing a ramp that winds through the sand dune that is directly north of the dog beach. Fundamentally, we feel that the City's proposed major plan has excessive impact on the surrounding park lands and will impact the natural and visual environment negatively.

We have developed an alternative that greatly reduces the cost and timing and preserves the dune and native habitation to the north of the dog beach. It will also help protect and preserve limited beach area on the dog beach, Evanston's most narrow beach.

Our idea is to provide ADA access by utilizing the current dog beach entrance gate and installing a portable and modular ADA access ramp in the space between the existing entrance and the metal break wall. We have reviewed this proposal with several mobility challenged people in the community, as well as a qualified and experienced ADA ramp provider in Kenosha, WI. While our proposal may still be modified, it opens the possibility of a faster, less invasive, practical, and much more affordable solution to provide access to the beach for all mobility challenged people and their dogs.

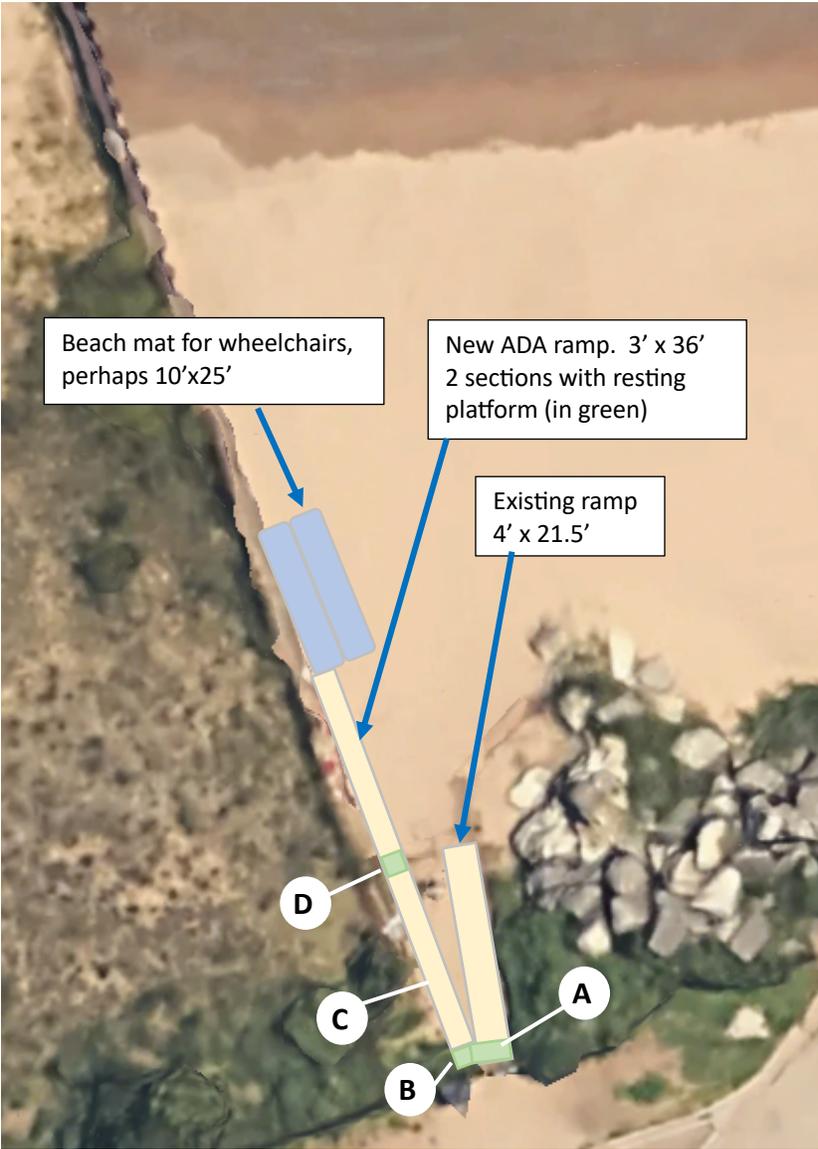
We feel that the current plans should be put on hold and that our alternative plan (attached) be reviewed for a number of reasons:

- It does not impact the natural dune to the north, leaving the native habitat untouched.
- This plan does not impact the area visually.
- It can be completed in as soon as 30 days allowing ADA access and study this summer.
- It is far less expensive, costing approximately \$30,000 vs. a permanent structure at \$800,000+.
- It is completely modular, so it can be configured and reconfigured based on usage and needs. It can also be removed and stored during the winter. And is easily maintained by City staff.
- The final landing pad envisioned by this plan is 10' by 25' and provides ample space for a number of mobility challenged users and their dogs to enjoy the beach.
- Utilizing the current access gate provides ample opportunity for handicap parking inside the security gate compared to the limited slots north of Clark Street Beach, which also provides a considerably shorter path to the dog beach than the City's plan.

**Mike Meyers, Chairman, Evanston Dog Beach Working Group**

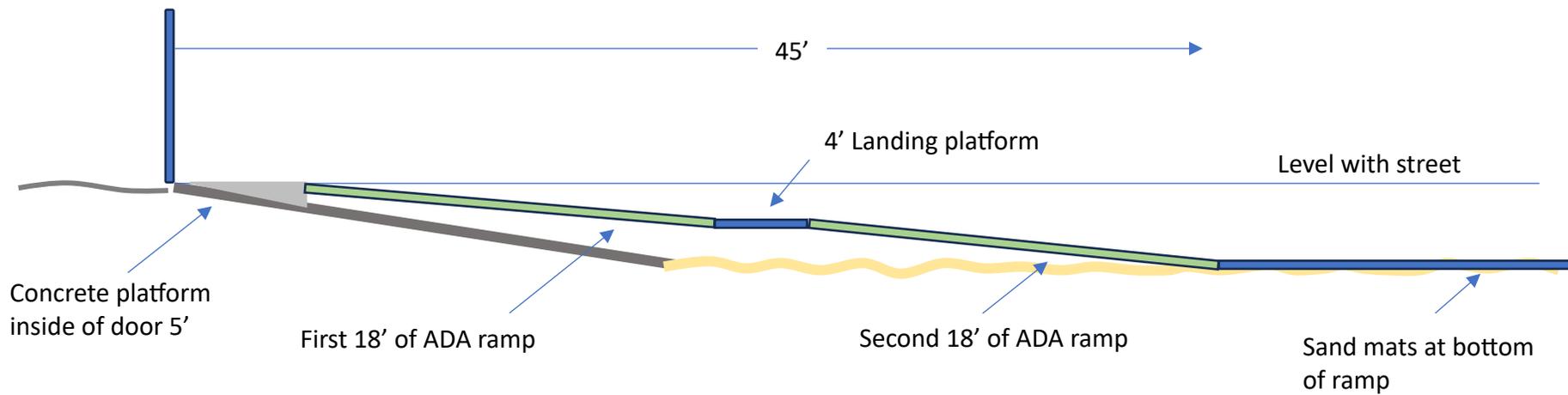
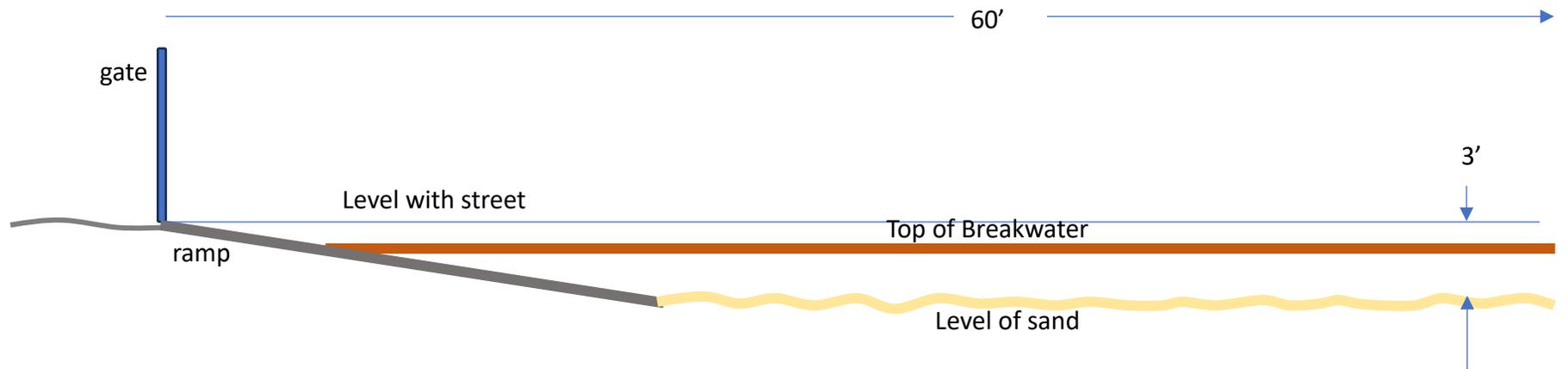
Contact: [REDACTED]

Possible option for Dog Beach ADA ramp using standard ADA ramp units that slope down 36' to drop from parking lot level to beach (~3' drop). At the outer end, there will be a standard beach mat large enough to accommodate several wheel chairs. There could also be a bench or two.



- A A level concrete platform would be built up on existing concrete ramp to accommodate a landing spot for a wheelchair just inside the door.
- B Landing spot inside door (5'x5') would bridge to top of ADA ramp also a horizontal level platform.
- C 18-foot sections of ADA ramp. See <https://handiramp.com/sectional.html>
- D Landing platform

Dog Beach ADA access ramp — side elevation



Note: Ramp will be an ADA compliant structure 36" wide with handrails. Beach mats 5' wide will be added under the ramp to increase stability and reduce chance of sand erosion.



Cade Sterling &lt;csterling@cityofevanston.org&gt;

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**Fwd: Follow up to meeting you and dog beach!**

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Mon, Jul 1, 2024 at 3:31 PM

To: Cade Sterling &lt;csterling@cityofevanston.org&gt;

Dear Preservation Commissioners and City staff -

I just read in Evanston Now that there has been a brief postponement in the possible ADA ramp for the dog beach. So I thought I'd send my thoughts, as a disabled resident. Too me, the design appears ridiculously expensive and over designed for it's purpose.

I incurred a spinal cord injury in May 2020 which I was not allowed to have treated due to COVID. When it became very serious, I finally was allowed surgery and came out of it paralyzed below the waist. I've spent the last 4 years, as my nerves regenerated to some extent, learning to walk again. At this time, I wear ankle-foot orthotics (AFO's) and need a walker.

For those of us who are disabled, but not in wheelchairs, our ability to remain upright for extended periods of time is usually limited. If such a ramp happens, I would want it to be as short as possible, so I could use my energy when I got to my destination, not in getting to my destination. Which is why accessible parking is close to the destination.

The single biggest limitation/obstacle for my ability to walk outdoors in Evanston is the sidewalks. Walker/rollator wheels catch in broken patches, areas raised by tree roots, on stones, etc, which stops them dead in their tracks.

In my case, if I'm not careful, I would have a debilitating fall forward.. So...I look down at the sidewalk all the time, which is exactly contrary to what I am trying to do, which is walk in as upright a posture as possible with eyes forward. Which negates the therapeutic value of my walks and reinforces poor form. **Therefore, I do not walk as much as I should in my recovery as it's too dangerous in Evanston.**

**At times I walk in the street, as those surfaces are generally better, but that also has obvious risks.**

There are other suburban areas which are much safer for sidewalk walking with assistive devices. Examples are Glenview and Gilson Park in Wilmette.

I've wondered why I don't see 'more people like me' walking around Evanston....and I know this is the reason...it isn't safe, aside from requiring a huge use of energy just to be cautious.

We need our energy to recover or gain strength.

Not to mention the plight of the general public who trip on our sidewalks, often leading to at least a short term disability..

Let me know if I can help in any way.

Sincerely,  
Jane Hampson