



Eric K. Peterson, CFP®

1334-B East Kingsley Street
Springfield, MO 65804-7223
Phone: 417-887-4950
Fax: 417-887-4931
www.petersonwealthadvisors.com
Eric@PetersonWealthAdvisors.com

September 15, 2023

I obtained my first degree at the University of Illinois in 1974 in a brand-new field called “Therapeutic Recreation.” This developing field enables people with disabilities to enjoy recreational opportunities.

I never had the opportunity to use that training until I had the pleasure of being on the Board of Directors with the Springfield Shelter Workshop, now known as SWI Industries, on which I served for 15 years. Most recently I have become involved with helping to reestablish sailing accessibility at our local Fellows Lake.

Tomorrow (September 16th) is our 2nd “Day at the Lake:” a collaboration between [Fellows Lake](#) and [empower: abilities](#), an organization that provides resources and assistance to anyone with disabilities – housing, adaptive equipment, activities, anything. Last year we had 40 participants, this year we are looking at 500, *plus* the volunteers, staff, and parents.

My particular focus is on increasing the *accessibility* of the marina equipment, and I’ve been a major supporter of facilitating the reduction of fear of transferring from a wheelchair, standing on a stable dock, or very slow walking - into a watercraft. The dock addition we have had installed does just that. Transferring is done on the stable dock surface, then the watercraft is pulled/pushed into the water down a series of floating ramps. The craft easily and comfortably glides into the water, eliminating the fear of getting into a “tippy” craft while it is floating. This clip explains the event and demonstrates the “easy dock”.

<https://youtu.be/mMEhBDg9Vz4>

You can learn more about all the amazing opportunities available to everyone in our community by visiting the [Fellow Lake](#) and [empower: abilities](#) websites. Also, [follow us on Facebook](#) for some more of these amazing photos from “Day at the Lake.”



“Investing with Integrity”™