



Thursday, April 6, 2023

The Naperville Accessible Community Task Force (ACTF) is a citizen committee formed in August 2016 to complement the efforts of Naperville's Advisory Commission on Disabilities. The mission of the ACTF is to enhance the quality of life for persons with cognitive, physical, mental, and developmental disabilities living, working, or visiting Naperville.

The ACTF is so glad you are pursuing a development project here in Naperville. Naperville has many wonderful amenities to offer residents, businesses, and visitors. We are fortunate to be often recognized on national lists and rankings. Among our proudest achievements is the fact that Naperville is a community committed to being accessible and inclusive - to provide everyone access to enjoy all the benefits the community has to offer.

Did you know, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nationally, more than 26% of the population has some type of disability, and more than 13% have a mobility disability that affects walking or climbing stairs?¹ According to Naperville's 2016 Community Survey, nearly 10% of households reported having someone in the household having a disability as recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).²

To that end, accessibility is a critical consideration for any successful project. Accessible features improve access to your development project for everyone, not just those with disabilities. This is an especially important fact in Naperville, given our sizeable senior and young family (stroller-bound) populations.

Compliance with the requirements of the ADA and the Illinois Accessibility Code is a baseline for providing accessible development. This letter encourages you to consider opportunities to look beyond minimum requirements and respect not only the letter of the law but its spirit. **Visitability** is an inclusive design approach integrating a few core accessibility features as a routine construction practice. Examples of **visitability** are:

- A zero-step entrance
- Minimum 36" widths for ground-floor doorways and hallways
- Ground floor bathroom with blocking added to the underlying structure to ease the future installation of grab bars³

Visitability allows a home to be visited by relatives, friends, and others who may have disabilities, accommodate short-term occupancy by people with disabilities, and facilitate additional adaptations that may be needed by an individual.

We are grateful for your leadership in helping to build a more accessible and inclusive community and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Naperville Accessible Community Task Force

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/infographic-disability-impacts-all.html>

² <https://www.naperville.il.us/globalassets/media/annual-reports/report---city-of-naperville-jan-4-2017.pdf>

³ <https://youtu.be/ezMrrShwhqc> (demonstration and explanation of best practices for blocking)